

NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR "TALLSHIPS LA" EVENT AUGUST 11-14, 2005



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After 5:00 p.m.:

310/732-3500

SAN PEDRO, CA – Volunteers are needed to welcome the tall ships of the world to Los Angeles for the TallShipsLA festival, Thursday, August 11, through Sunday, August 14, as part of the ASTA Pacific Coast 2005 Tall Ships Challenge® Series co-hosted by the Los Angeles Maritime Institute (LAMI) and the Port of Los Angeles.

Novice and experienced volunteers are needed to assist on shore and aboard the ships. Volunteers will have an opportunity to work with ship liaisons and visiting crews, helping the public to board ships, staffing booths, selling merchandise, providing information, running nautical demonstrations and entertainment, and taking care of lost and found, ships' mail, ship tours, day sails and crew hospitality. Spanish speakers are encouraged.

An array of tall ships is scheduled to participate in the TallShipsLA four-day event. The *Cuauhtemoc*, a 297' Mexican Navy barque will be the largest of the visiting ships, *R. Tucker Thompson* from New Zealand is sailing from the longest distance, along with *Kaisei* sailing under the Antigua flag. Ten other great ships expected at the weekend event include Los Angeles Maritime Institute's brigantine, the *Exy Johnson*, which home ports in San Pedro.

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TallShipsLA Volunteers

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A mandatory TallShipsLA volunteer orientation will be held Thursday, July 21, 7- 8:30 p.m. in the TopSail Room at LAMI, Berth 84 (at the foot of 6th Street and Harbor Boulevard), in San Pedro. Sign up through the toll-free number 877-TAL-SHIP (877-825-7447) or with the LA Maritime Institute (LAMI) office at (310) 833-6055.

The Tall Ships Challenge® is the American Sail Training Association's series of Tall Ships Races and port events. ASTA's mission is to support character-building sailing adventures and education under sail, preserving maritime heritage, the environment and traditions of the sea. The Port of Los Angeles was an official port in 2002 and now again in 2005.

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