

North River Historic Ship Society



PRESS RELEASE

Working Harbor Committee of NY/NJ

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Tugboat Race & Historic Ship Rally, Sept. 5th & 6th at Pier 84 at 44th Street

Hudson River Park Site of 17th Annual Labor Day Weekend Maritime Festival

New York, NY, August 17: The Great North River Tugboat Race and Competition - one of New York City's most popular Labor Day weekend events - returns for the 17th year on September 6th!

This time the event includes a huge bonus - the opportunity to explore and enjoy free rides aboard historic workboats the day before the race. The festival is co-sponsored by The Working Harbor Committee of New York and New Jersey, the North River Historic Ship Society, and the Friends of Hudson River Park.

Weekend events include:



- **Saturday, September 5 - Free tug- and fireboat rides** (noon until 3 p.m.) **and tours of historic vessels** (11 a.m. until 5 p.m.). Reservations for boat rides should be made in advance at the North River Historic Ship Society website, www.nrhss.org.
- Rides will be aboard three vintage vessels—the 102 year-old tug *Pegasus*, the retired fireboat *John J. Harvey* and the 60-year-old tug *Cornell*.
- The 95-year-old *Waterfront Museum and Showboat Barge* (a.k.a. *Lehigh Valley # 79*) will be open for tours as will the century-old tugboat *Urger*, the flagship of the New York State Canal System, and the *Day Peckinpough*, a 259-foot cargo carrier that is now owned by the New York State Museum
- Saturday festivities will also feature maritime exhibits, kid's activities, food, and music by the Mercantillers, who will perform a colorful mix of sea chanteys, folk songs and rock 'n roll.
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Sunday, September 6 - Great North River Tugboat Race and Competition (9:30 a.m. until 2 p.m.). More than 20 boats are expected to participate in a race from roughly 72nd to 44th Street along the Hudson River.

After the race, the tugs will test their strength in nose-to-nose pushing challenges (kind of reverse tugs of war) and crews will act like maritime cowboys as they try to lasso a huge cleat on the pier. After the on-the-water competition, the boats will nose up to Pier 84 where crews will come ashore for lunch while judges select the best-looking tug, the best crew tattoo and more. There will also be maritime exhibits, food, children's activities and a spinach-eating contest for all would-be Popeyes.

The tugboat race will take place rain or shine. There will be shore-side viewing from Hudson River Park and Pier 84, as well as from Riverside Park South. Best viewing will be from a Circle Line spectator boat that will follow the race and all on-the-water activities. The spectator boat (\$35 for adults; \$30 for seniors and children) will depart at 9:30 a.m. sharp; the tugboat parade and race will begin at 10. For more information and to buy spectator boat tickets, contact www.workingharbor.org or 212-757-1600.

The festivities are part of the Quadricentennial Working on Water Tour. Many of the historic vessels will head upriver after the race to participate in the Waterford Tugboat Roundup, September 11, 12 and 13. The fleet is expected to tie up at the Historic Kingston Waterfront Museum on September 19 and 20.

Photographs of the ships and of the 2008 tugboat race and competition are available upon request.

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