

1850 HOUSE OF MYSTIC

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VOLUME III—FIRST ISSUE SPRING-SUMMER 2010



What's New in Mystic?

As New Englanders we are typically focused on our heritage, charm and history. Rarely is the word New a popular concept. That's not to say we are stagnant or stodgy, although little does change and change take a long time. But in Mystic we have achieved a responsible balance between retaining our historic nature while being one of the regions major tourism destinations. So when we say New we mean interesting and exciting. Our two primary cultural institutions, The Mystic Seaport Museum and the Mystic Aquarium are continually creating new, interesting and relevant exhibits. These new exhibits coupled with the missions of the organizations are one of our hallmarks of success. So here's what's new.

At the Mystic Seaport Museum there is a new exhibit titled TUGS

In May 2010, a brand-new exhibit in the [R.J. Schaefer Building](#) will bring the fascinating story of American tugboats to Mystic Seaport members and visitors.



You are greeted at the Main entrance with the Tugboat Roan perched prominently for all to see.

Every day tugboats move millions of tons of cargo, escort cruise ships, save lives during maritime disasters, conduct environmental clean-ups, and salvage wrecks. Yet, many people still think of tugs as the cheery, coal-smoke bellowing little ships from children's storybooks. This exhibit will explore this "invisible industry" of maritime towing, a key component of every cargo port in the country, from Portland, Maine to Portland, Oregon. It will introduce the kinds of work that tugboats do and how they've changed over the past 150 years in their design, operation, and use. Visitors will also learn why today's tugs are stronger, safer, and more efficient than ever, and how tugs might change in the future.



The exhibit will explore key themes such as:

- The history, present, and future of tugs and towing in America
- The many types of tugs and their different jobs
- The vital role of the tug and barge industry in the U.S. economy
- Tugs' relevance today in light of globalization, port and homeland security, and the push for clean energy within the transportation industry
- The place of tugs in popular culture, from children's books to music
- Important innovations in tug design, propulsion, and engineering
- The jobs aboard a tug and the people who perform them
- Inspiring stories historic tugs that have been saved and restored by individuals and organizations.

Our plans for the exhibit include several interactive components, including

The Mystic Seaport Museum opens at 9am and closes at 5pm.

MYSTIC WEB SITES

Visit the following web sites for
[Calendar of Events](#)

Mystic Aquarium and Institute for Exploration
www.mysticaquarium.org

Mystic Seaport
www.mysticseaport.org

Denison Pequotsepos Nature Center
www.dpnc.org

Mystic Chamber of Commerce
www.mysticchamber.org

Sea Everything
www.mystic.org

Lyman Allyn Museum
www.lymanallyn.org

[Other interesting Mystic Web Sites](#)

Live Mystic Web Cam
www.sectlive.com

Schooner Amistad
www.amistadamerica.org

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www.1850house.com

radio-controlled model tug demos and workshops, a mock tug bridge, a CAD design work station, and hands-on activities exploring the physics of propulsion and bollard pull.

A colorful, inviting exhibit designed for family audiences and school groups, but with plenty of content to satisfy even the most knowledgeable maritime expert, it will include hands-on activities as well as material drawn from [Mystic Seaport's rich collections](#) - historic photographs, paintings, models, and manuscripts about important Tug-related people, places, and events. The Museum hopes to host visiting tugboats on our waterfront campus, and will develop interpretive programs for visitors of all ages.

Just up the road a bit, the Mystic Aquarium has several new exhibits - Jellies, Sharks, Barracuda and More

This spring, changes to Mystic Aquarium's main exhibit floor create new worlds of experience. New exhibits allow guests to have close encounters with sharks, see jellies from around the world, learn about marine animal senses and get an up-close look at moray eels and barracuda.

"The new exhibits are fun, exciting, refreshing and a reason to visit," said Dr. Stephen M. Coan, president and CEO of Sea Research Foundation, Inc. "Where else can you touch a shark? Guests will see a lot of other



improvements at the aquarium, including more value for admission and membership than ever before."

Jellies: The Ocean in Motion

At the new "Jellies: The Ocean in Motion" exhibit, opening by Memorial Day, guests will be transported to a world of jellies, complete with lighting that creates the effect of moving water and a two-sided water wall, featuring streams of water trickling over hand-blown glass fish and jellies created by renowned local artist Jeffrey P'an of Prescient Studios. From the outside, the exhibit will appear to be a 20-foot tall sea nettle floating on water. Inside, five species will be on exhibit, including moon jellies, upside down jellies, sea nettles, comb jellies, which appear to have electrical currents running through them, and blue-spotted, or lagoon, jellies. Species in this ever-changing exhibit will vary throughout the year.

Shark Encounters

At the new "Shark Encounters"



exhibit guests can walk right up and touch the backs of white-spotted bamboo sharks as they glide by. The shallow pool al-

lows for easy reach of these docile, bottom-dwelling sharks. The pool houses six sharks, all one to three feet in length.

"Conservation of sharks is an important issue right now. Some populations have declined as much as 80 percent in recent years," said Dr. Romano. "This exhibit provides a great opportunity for guests to cultivate a bond with these animals while learning about



the threats various species are facing in the wild."

Moray Eels and Barracuda

The moray eels and barracuda exhibit, which opened in February, houses 40 purple-mouth moray eels, four green moray eels and 20 barracuda. A model of the U.S. Coast Guard Cutter Duane, which was intentionally sunk off the coast of the Florida Keys to create an artificial reef, serves as a hiding spot for the eels while showing how artificial habitats can help marine life flourish. Children can crawl into the adjacent Kids' Cave for an up-close look at the exhibit, with only glass separating them from the eels and barracuda.

The full story of these exhibits is available on the respective web sites for the Mystic Seaport and Mystic Aquarium.

The Aquarium is open daily from 9am to 6 pm with the last admission at 5pm. Get your hand stamped so you can continue your exploration the following day.

Visit the Mystic Aquarium as our guest

As your 1850 House hosts we are offering two complimentary admission tickets to the Mystic Aquarium and Institute for exploration with your weekly reservation.

Calendar of Mystic Events

Summer Pops—Westerly, RI Jun 19
www.chorusofwesterly.org

Sailfest New London—July 9-11
www.sailfest.org

Mystic Outdoor Art Festival—Aug 14 Mystic Chamber web site

Taste of Mystic—Sep 10-12 Mystic Chamber web site

Mystic Weekend of Rowing—Sep 18-19
www.mwor.org