

PRESS RELEASE
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Cannon Salute to Kick Off Naval Base Point Loma Annual Freedom Festival
Friday, July 4, 2008

SAN DIEGO, CA (June 13, 2008) – MWR’s Fourth of July Freedom Festival blasts off this year with a cannon salute from the decks of the *Californian*, one of a trio of historic sailing ships from the San Diego Maritime Museum. At 3:30 p.m. on 4 July, the *Californian* will sail by the shore of Naval Mine and Anti-Submarine Warfare Center (NMAWC) in Point Loma, and begin the day’s festivities by firing off its four cannons (all firing blanks, of course).

In July 2003, the *Californian* was designated the Official Tall Ship of the State of California, the only ship to carry this prestigious title. She received this designation when she was launched with great fanfare for the 1984 Summer Olympic Games in Los Angeles.

The *Californian* is a replica of a revenue cutter that patrolled the coast during the California Gold Rush. A topsail schooner built for speed, *Californian* carries 7,000 square feet of canvas on 100 foot tall masts, measures 141 feet in length, and weighs 130 tons. *Californian*’s top speed is 16 knots and she is armed with four six-pound deck guns and two smaller swivel guns. She casts a distinctive and instantly recognizable silhouette, and has become one of the most well-known tall ships in America.

The *Californian* was built from the ground up in 1984 at Spanish Landing in San Diego Bay. Since her launching in San Diego the ship has played host to thousands of adventure travelers, sailing enthusiasts, students and history buffs up and down the West Coast. She has also made voyages to Hawaii, Mexico and the East Coast of the United States.

MWR’s Fourth of July party on the shores of Point Loma is open to all MWR patrons, families and escorted guests. Celebrate America’s independence and honor our military heroes and their families who have sacrificed so much for our freedom.

Highlights of this year’s event include live entertainment, “Fun Zone” inflatables, full-sized Ferris wheel, carnival games, stilt walkers, balloon & caricature artists, the Second Annual All-American Classic Car Show, vendor fair, and arts and crafts for the kids. Break out your lawn chairs and picnic blankets, bring a few dollars for food, or enjoy your own picnic lunch; however, no personal BBQ’s are permitted on the Admiral Kidd Club lawn. Summer treats and novelties will also be sold on site.

Mark your calendar for a day full of fun; but if you can only stop by for part of the celebration, don't miss out on San Diego's most amazing fireworks show, beginning at 9:00 p.m. The Fourth of July Freedom Festival is presented by MWR, SDG&E and SeaWorld. Additional sponsors include Navy Compass, EDCO, Universal Studios, the San Diego Zoo, Navy Dispatch, Navy Federal Credit Union, The Home Depot, Lorimar Group, Inc. and SOCAL Photos.

Though not open to the general public, Naval Base Point Loma welcomes all media outlets to cover this great tribute to all military service members and Department of Defense employees. Media who wish to attend, please contact Naval Base Point Loma Public Affairs Office at (619) 553-7175, or Navy Region Southwest PAO (619) 532-1430.

For more information, please contact (619) 524-0961 or (619) 553-9138. For directions, MAPQUEST the following address: 32444 Echo Lane, San Diego, CA 92147.