



aboard the tanker **MARY A. WHALEN**  
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**For Immediate Release**

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**OpSail 2012 brings 10 ships to Brooklyn! Tall ships and Navy Ships!  
More than any other NYC OpSail location!**

**PortSide NewYork steps up to serve as OpSail liaison to Brooklyn and  
organizes related events and promotions.**

A spectacular array of ships will make the Red Hook, Brooklyn waterfront the place to be on Memorial Day weekend.

Thanks to an OpSail and US Navy partnership, New York City will enjoy a week of ship events aboard seventeen tall ships and ten warships, domestic and foreign.

Ten of those ships will be docked in the Port Authority Red Hook Marine Terminal in Brooklyn, more than at either the Manhattan or Staten Island OpSail locations in NYC.

The ships will be open for free public tours on Saturday, Sunday and Monday of Memorial Day weekend on Piers 7 and 8, from 10am to 4pm, accessed from the Congress Street gate on Columbia Street.

OpSail is the nation's premier tall ship event. OpSail began in New York City 50 years ago, and has not been in New York City since 2000.

In 2012, the Navy and OpSail are partnering to celebrate the bicentennial of the War of 1812 and the writing of The Star-Spangled Banner to unite this diverse array of international ships.

**OpSail arrival and parade of ships through Upper Bay and Hudson River**

Celebrations start on Wednesday, May 23 at 8:00am when the ships will sail into New York City crossing under the Verrazano Bridge. The tall ships will lead the flotilla of twenty-seven vessels past the Statue of Liberty and proceed up the Hudson to the George Washington Bridge. At the bridge, the tall ships will turn and head down river. At 12:00a.m. the southbound tall ships will pass the northbound warships near

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Intrepid Sea-Air-Space Museum while military aircraft fly over. The ships will then head to their respective berths for the rest of the week.

Ships are due to arrive at their assigned berths between 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Brooklyn Bridge Park's Pier 6, at the foot of Atlantic Avenue, will be a good spot to see the fleet arrive in Brooklyn.

### **PortSide role: information, promotions, and outreach to Brooklyn**

PortSide NewYork, a waterfront-themed non-profit organization, has taken the week off from our urgent search for a new home for our historic ship, the tanker [Mary A. Whalen](#), and stepped up to serve as OpSail's liaison to Brooklyn.

PortSide is spreading the word via press releases to media, emails to all Brooklyn blogs and has worked with the local community to create related restaurant discounts, free street music, and more. Updates at [www.portsidenewyork.org/OpSail2012.htm](http://www.portsidenewyork.org/OpSail2012.htm)

PortSide has created a guide to the OpSail 2012 ships docked in Brooklyn, how and when to see them and directions for getting here. Get it at [www.portsidenewyork.org/PortSide-OpSail-2012-Bklyn-Complete-Guide.pdf](http://www.portsidenewyork.org/PortSide-OpSail-2012-Bklyn-Complete-Guide.pdf)

PortSide NewYork and Casa di Campagna restaurant have created the first comprehensive visitor guide to the Columbia Waterfront, so visitors to the ships, and the ship crews, can find the right place to dine, drink and shop while in the area.

Outside the entry gate to the ships, PortSide is providing a **Tourist Info table** marked by a six-foot tall, red velvet hook with our guide to Columbia Waterfront and guides to Red Hook, business discounts and more.

A special PortSide webpage [www.portsidenewyork.org/OpSail2012.htm](http://www.portsidenewyork.org/OpSail2012.htm) provides information on the ships, what to do in nearby Columbia Waterfront District, Red Hook, Brooklyn Bridge Park and Governor's Island, and has directions to all of it. The webpage will also have information on where to see the ships in Manhattan and Staten Island.

PortSide NewYork director Carolina Salguero said about OpSail 2012, "PortSide is all about connecting people and ships, so we are very excited to have OpSail visit NYC-- and especially Red Hook. We are proud of Red Hook's assets that make us a perfect home for OpSail. We have deeper water than Manhattan and piers built for ships. PortSide salutes the Port Authority for embracing this historic maritime event and opening the containerport to the public. We stand by to help in whatever way possible. We hope thousands will come enjoy these ships, discover the unique appeal of our area and come back again."

### **Red Hook Marine Terminal Ship Schedule & Visitor Information**

The Brooklyn ships will be open only during the weekend, **Saturday, May 26, Sunday May 27, and Monday, May 28 from 10am to 4pm.** (The ships in Manhattan and Staten Island will also be open on Thursday, Monday and Tuesday or May 24 through May 29.)

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Visitors enter the Port Authority [Red Hook Marine Terminal](#) gate at Congress Street gate on Columbia Street near the foot of Atlantic Avenue. Due to the presence of Navy vessels and the need to secure an active containerport, you must show a government-issued photo ID and pass through metal detectors.

There will be **four tall ships, four foreign navy vessels** and **two US Coast Guard** cutters. PortSide NewYork's guide to the ships with directions and viewing hours is at [www.portsidennyork.org/PortSide-OpSail-2012-Bklyn-Complete-Guide.pdf](http://www.portsidennyork.org/PortSide-OpSail-2012-Bklyn-Complete-Guide.pdf)

**TALL SHIPS:**

*Juan Sebastian de Elcano*, Spain  
*Cuauhtemoc*, Mexico  
*Etoile*, France  
*Belle Poule*, France

**NAVY SHIPS:**

*HMCS Iroquois*, Canada  
*JS Shirane*, Japan  
*FNS Pohjanmaa*, Finland  
*RFA Argus*, United Kingdom

US COAST GUARD: USCG Cutter *Seneca* and USCG Cutter *Willow*

**How to make a day of it, what to do near Red Hook Marine Terminal, directions**

The neighborhoods ringing the Red Hook Marine Terminal provide the perfect context for the appreciation of historic ships. The historic Columbia Waterfront District and Red Hook neighborhoods offer visitors a mix of modern maritime activity and the artistic, entrepreneurial energy of Brooklyn's creative crescent.

In addition to PortSide's historic tanker *Mary A. Whalen*, Red Hook is home to the historic barge *Lehigh Valley 79* of the [Waterfront Museum](#) (at the foot of Conover Street, open Saturday only from 1:00 to 5pm) as well as containerships, cruise ships, tugboats, the huge cement ship Loujaine near the Columbia grain terminal, and the Red Hook homeport of New York Water Taxi, the official water transportation of OpSail.

The low-rise shoreline of the Columbia Waterfront District and Red Hook makes this big sky country with views of blazing sunsets, the Statue of Liberty and the Manhattan skyline. Relax in five community gardens in the Columbia Waterfront near the tall ships, or enjoy free kayaking with the Red Hook Boaters in Valentino Park on Sunday.

The 20th Annual spring [BWAC art show](#) will be in full swing with three floors of art. Antiques and vintage shops line Atlantic Avenue and are sprinkled through Red Hook and the Columbia Waterfront District. Red Hook has an IKEA and the 40,000 square-foot Fairway Market. In this historic waterfront crescent, you can dine on some of the best of Brooklyn's artisanal food, eat Latin American food outside at the [Red Hook Food Vendors](#) in the ballfields, and listen to bluegrass at the [Jalopy Theatre](#).

The tall ships are a short hop by ferry from [Governors Island](#) or an easy stroll from the new [Brooklyn Bridge Park](#). Or, come on the IKEA ferry, walk and munch your way through Red Hook or take a short ride on the B61 bus to the OpSail ships.

**Local events and promotions**

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PortSide has spread the word to local businesses and tour guides and expects to announce more related discounts events soon at our special OpSail webpage [www.portsidenewyork.org/OpSail2012.htm](http://www.portsidenewyork.org/OpSail2012.htm).

- [Casa di Campagna](#) Italian restaurant offers "PortSide promotion," 15% off all dine-in meals w/coupon. Coupon [here](#)
- [Winkworth](#) lingerie offers 10% discount to sailors in uniform or showing military ID.
- [Lilla Cafe](#) offers 10% discount to sailors in uniform or showing military ID.
- [Margaret Palca Bakes](#) is creating a line of ship-shaped cookies for the kids.
- [Freebird Books](#) offers 10% off all books on Saturday and Sunday (closed Monday).
- [Jalopy Theatre](#) will have musicians busk outside the PortSide SOS Pop-Up at 145 Columbia
- See the flotilla from the water and support PortSide NewYork:

*See the parade of ships from a [Classic Harbor Line](#) yacht, and say "PortSide referred me," and we will get 50% of the ticket price donated to us! Tickets are \$120 for the 4.5 hours and include a boxed lunch. Sail on the new America 2.0 or Adirondack for the full show from 8am to 12:30pm. If you want a shorter cruise, go on the motor yacht Manhattan from 8:30-1015am for \$85.*

### **Volunteer opportunities**

OpSails seeks volunteers, especially volunteers who can speak the languages aboard the foreign ships. More info at [www.portsidenewyork.org/OpSail2012VolunteerCall.pdf](http://www.portsidenewyork.org/OpSail2012VolunteerCall.pdf)

PortSide NewYork seeks volunteers to staff a tourism info table and PortSide's SOS Pop-Up at 145 Columbia Street. For more info, email us at [research.portsidenewyork@gmail.com](mailto:research.portsidenewyork@gmail.com)

**PortSide NewYork** is an innovative waterfront-themed, non-profit organization. Our mission is to show NYC better ways to use the BlueSpace, or water part of the waterfront, and to help revitalize our home neighborhood of Red Hook, Brooklyn while doing that. We use a historic ship, the coastal oil tanker [Mary A. Whalen](#), as a museum ship, mobile cultural platform and teaching tool. She was built in 1938 and is 172' long. For over six years, we have looked for a home for the ship and its programs. Recently a real estate agreement fell through after 3+ years of work. We urgently need a publicly accessible home to make us sustainable as an organization. More at [www.portsidenewyork.org](http://www.portsidenewyork.org) and our petition supporting our search for a new home and the need of all historic ships in NYC is at <http://chn.ge/PortSideSOS>.

**Operation Sail, Inc.** is a non-profit organization established in 1961 with the endorsement of President John F. Kennedy backed by a Joint Congressional Resolution. OpSail's mission is to advance sail training and promote goodwill among nations. OpSail has produced five international sailing events in 1964, 1976, 1986, 1992, and 2000, each tied to a patriotic or historical event.

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## Official OpSail Press Release

<http://www.opsail.org/press-releases/47/opsail-bringing-17-tall-ships-to-new-york-for-fleet-week-2012>

OpSail Bringing 17 Tall Ships to New York for Fleet Week -- PARTNERS WITH U.S. NAVY FOR BICENTENNIAL OF WAR OF 1812 -- -- 10 Navy and foreign warships will join May 23-29 events --

NEW YORK -- (April 12, 2012) -- Seventeen tall ships and 10 warships will mark the beginning of OpSail 2012 and Fleet Week New York, the executive director of Operation Sail Inc. announced today.

"OpSail is bringing the tall ships of the world back to New York," said Chris O'Brien. "Majestic tall sailing ships have always been a centerpiece of joint OpSail/U.S. Navy commemorations and the bicentennial of the War of 1812 and the writing of The Star-Spangled Banner provides the perfect context for this memorable occasion." O'Brien made the announcement at the South Street Seaport Museum against a backdrop of historic tall ships.

"New York is where OpSail began 50 years ago, when it was the vision of a few men led by Peter Stanford and the late Frank Braynard, who together had led the creation of the South Street Seaport.

"Mr. Braynard, with the endorsement of President Kennedy, traveled the world securing commitments from the few nations that still operated the great sail training ships. His hard work succeeded in time for the New York World's Fair in 1964 -- and OpSail became a New York tradition."

OpSail events have celebrated patriotic American milestones in New York Harbor in 1976, 1986, 1992 and 2000, O'Brien said.

"New York has always been our base and New Yorkers have always welcomed sailors and their ships. We are upholding tradition here as we unveil the names of the great sailing ships participating in OpSail 2012," he added.

The tall ships include the U.S. Coast Guard Cutter EAGLE; KRI DEWARUCI of Indonesia; JUAN SEBASTIAN DE ELCANO of Spain, GLORIA of Colombia, GUAYAS of Ecuador, CISNE BRANCO of Brazil, CUAUHTEMOC of Mexico, and ETOILE and BELLE POULE, both of France.

"The excitement will begin on the morning of May 23 when a flotilla of tall ships and warships sails under the Verrazano-Narrows Bridge and up the Hudson River to the George Washington Bridge, where they will turn and proceed to their respective berths," he said.

All of the tall ships and military ships will be open for no-cost public visitation at piers in Manhattan, Brooklyn and Staten Island, O'Brien said.

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The New York port call is the second d stop of the national OpSail / Navy joint effort that will see similar events in New Orleans (April 17-23), Norfolk (June 2-12), Baltimore (June 13-19), Boston (June 30-July 5) and New London (July 6-8).

O'Brien noted that OpSail events contribute to the economy of participating port cities through increased hotel bookings, restaurant reservations, new infrastructure and other spending.

"We are exceptionally fortunate to have the strong financial support of Capital One Bank," O'Brien added. "We also enjoy a partnership with New York Water Taxi, the official water transportation of OpSail. And we are happy to have onboard the pop artist Charles Fazzino, who created the official OpSail commemorative poster." About Operation Sail, Inc.

Operation Sail, Inc., a non-profit organization established in 1961 with the endorsement of President John F. Kennedy, is backed by a Joint Congressional Resolution. Its mission is to advance sail training and promote goodwill among nations. OpSail has produced five international sailing events in 1964, 1976, 1986, 1992, and 2000, each tied to a patriotic or historical event. For more information, visit [www.opsail.org](http://www.opsail.org).

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