

SAN PEDRO'S TALL SHIPS FESTIVAL

Piquing duck

At six stories tall — not to mention cute — bathtub toy is talk of the town

By Donna Littlejohn
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The potential scene-stealer in this week's Tall Ships Festival remains under wraps today, hidden — if you can hide something that big — in the darkened depths of a port terminal.

It's an unlikely show stopper.

Made of bright, yellow vinyl and standing 61 feet tall — equivalent to a six-story building — the inflatable, floating rubber duck is generating a buzz of its own. The giant bathtub toy already looks guaranteed to be the most photographed participant in the festival that kicks off Wednesday.

"It's just enormous," said Craig Samborski, a festival spokesman. "People will be shocked at how big it is."

It's so big that Samborski said it will be "at least as tall if not taller" than the Angels Gate Lighthouse, the landmark it will be towed to as the parade of ships begins at 2 p.m. Wednesday.

"I mean, it's big," he said.

It takes two machines and three hours to pump up the sculpture that rides along the water on a steel, pontoon-style platform.

"That's a lot of hot air," Samborski noted.

The giant rubber duck — this is a new, bigger version than others used in the past at various events around the world — is the creation of Dutch artist Florentijn Hofman who was looking for a way to spread global joy with the idea he hatched in 2001.

Since then it has swept thousands up in its wake with visits to Hong Kong, Beijing, Sydney and Taiwan, where it's been a big tourist draw. Smiles and snapping cameras greet the iconic floating sculpture wherever it goes.

"Hong Kong has been changed forever," the artist declared in May 2013 at the duck's welcoming ceremony in Hong Kong, according to

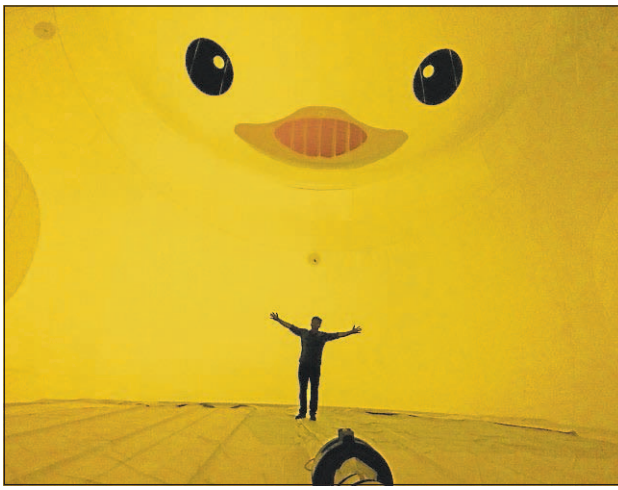


PHOTO COURTESY SEDONA BASHER

A man stands inside the 61-foot-tall inflatable rubber duck that will float in San Pedro's Tall Ships Festival. His arms are outstretched to show the scale of the giant fowl.

GRAND PARADE OF SAIL

Reservations are still available to watch Wednesday's Grand Parade of Sail procession opening the Tall Ships Festival from the Los Angeles Maritime Museum on San Pedro's waterfront.

For a one-time donation of \$50 to the museum, participants can have a close-up view of the ships as they pass by shortly after 2 p.m. Included are a lunch, free parking pass and a duck souvenir.

The festival runs through Sunday.

For reservations, call 310-5438-7618 or visit WWW.LAMARITIMEMUSEUM.ORG/DONATE/

— Donna Littlejohn

a story by CNN.

The appeal of this whimsical, low-tech floating giant, fans say, transcends age, culture and geography.

"It's just one of those things that you can look at and everybody in the world can look at and know what it is," Samborski said. "Your life is crazy, but this is a simple, iconic piece that connects us all globally."

A slightly smaller version of the duck made its U.S. debut last September in Pittsburgh.

Snagging what will be only the second U.S. appearance of the giant duck at this week's Tall Ships Festival was something of a coup for the Port of Los Angeles.

Constructed in Brunswick, Ohio, and nearby Ontario over the past six weeks, the duck was secretly inflated before dawn Saturday.

It makes its formal debut Wednesday when it will first be towed under the Vincent Thomas Bridge that morning to the Downtown Harbor plaza and a few hours later towed out to the breakwater, where it will lead the procession of ships into the harbor. After that, it will return to the Downtown Harbor plaza next to the Los Angeles Maritime Museum at Sixth Street and Harbor Boulevard, where it will remain for the duration of the five-day festival that ends Sunday.

A smaller, 10-foot-tall promotional "baby" duck, which has been making the rounds in Los Angeles on a Tall Ships publicity tour, will join up with the mother version at the festival, bringing up the tail of the tall ships parade.

But there will be no touching allowed at the floating display. The inflatable ducks have sometimes proven to be tempting targets for vandals in other parts of the world. A 20-foot perimeter and other security features will be set up around the duck's berth space.

Until then, Samborski said, it will remain under cover in its secret location, "on its platform and ready to go."

And the itinerary after L.A.?

There are some "tentative plans," Samborski said, but nothing concrete yet.

Water bond

FROM PAGE 1

executive director of the Council for Watershed Health in downtown Los Angeles. "This is a good investment by the public in our water infrastructure, and in our natural landscape."

While the bill doesn't earmark specific projects, it sets aside millions or billions for certain categories. Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti lobbied for groundwater cleanup, water recycling and river restoration funds. Nothing in the water bond, though, would pay for replacing aging pipes like the one that ruptured and flooded UCLA last month.

Public officials and non-profit executives are readying their plans, in case the measure passes in November.

The Los Angeles Department of Water and Power has some of the region's most expensive proposed projects. In the San Fernando Valley basin, the DWP plans to spend between \$600 million and \$900 million on groundwater treatment facilities to clean up chromium and other pollutants left by aerospace companies and others.

"Our projects are large, so they have a big price tag," said Marty Adams, DWP deputy senior assistant general manager. "Because they're large, they also have the broadest benefit."

The basin accounts for more than 80 percent of the city's local water rights, but about half of its wells are unusable because of contamination.

That one project could be large enough to suck up the entire \$900 million set aside for the prevention or clean up of groundwater contamination, but the Legislature required that at least half of a given project be paid for with local funds — unless it serves low-income areas. Also, if polluters are able and willing to pay for cleanup, or the EPA has not yet identified polluters, then a project would get a lower priority. Ratepayers would have to make up the difference.

Officials at the San Gabriel Basin Water Quality Authority were rejoicing Thursday because of the groundwater funds. They have been building treatment plants to clean up toxic chemicals such as perchlorate, a component of rocket fuel that can interfere with the thyroid.

"This is historic," said Gabriel Monares, a consultant for the WQA. "This is the first time they are able to give us money to actually run our treatment plants."

He estimates the agency needs \$600 million over



RICH PEDRONCELLI — THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Gov. Jerry Brown, joined by Assembly Minority Leader Connie Conway, R-Tulare, and Senate President Pro Tem Darrell Steinberg, D-Sacramento, right, signed a \$7.5 billion water bond measure Aug. 13 that will go before voters on the November ballot.

the next 30 years to keep treatment plants operating.

"This increases our water supply," Monares said. "It is drought insurance. And it can keep the cost of actual water low."

Recycled water

During the severe drought, as groundwater aquifers drop, local utilities are also increasingly looking to build expensive water recycling facilities and pipelines. The Legislature set aside \$725 million for recycled water projects.

Again, the DWP has one of the largest projects in the category, at \$400 million, already planned. The Donald C. Tillman Water Reclamation Plant Groundwater Replenishment Project would add another layer of treatment to sewer effluent. From its location near the 405 and 101 freeways, it would pump or drain water into the San Fernando Valley groundwater basin.

The Commerce-based Central Basin and the nearby Water Replenishment District also will be competing for bond funds to build more "purple pipes," which deliver the treated water. The WRD recently signed a 30-year deal to fill groundwater with recycled water that serves 4 million people, and it will be looking to do more, officials said.

The Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District, which supplies wholesale water to 1 million residents, is planning a recycled water project to recharge the basin with 10,000 acre feet a year of recycled water. An acre foot is equal to the water used by two families in Southern California per year.

The \$50 million to \$75 million project would move treated water from the Sanitation District's San Jose Creek Water Reclamation Plant in Whittier eight miles north to existing recharging areas that feed the porous San Gabriel River. It would reduce dependency on imported water by 25 percent,

said Shane Chapman, US-GVMWD general manager.

Stormwater

Legislators also want to see more stormwater conserved, instead of lost to the ocean. The bond measure carves out \$810 million for water conservation and stormwater capture, with \$98 million of that for the Los Angeles and Ventura subregion.

Stormwater picks up copper, zinc and mercury from streets and parking lots, and bacteria from animal feces, and sends it down urban rivers into the ocean. Untreated stormwater, or urban runoff, is the top source of pollution for the region's beaches and oceans, according to Heal the Bay.

Some of the water floods streets, too. Los Angeles has 400 locations that chronically flood, said Adel Hagekhalil, assistant general manager at the Los Angeles Bureau of Sanitation. Projects that reuse that water could be ideal for the bond money, he said. Some designs also incorporate grassy bioswales that live up neighborhoods.

"We're able to come in and improve the flooding and provide them something they can enjoy," Hagekhalil said.

But Monrovia Mayor Mary Ann Lutz, a former member of the Regional Water Quality Control Board, said the stormwater price tag for cities in L.A. County is \$120 billion, so the bond measure falls short of a solution.

"Eight hundred million is not enough to make a difference," Lutz said. "It is not the answer."

Conservancies

The bond measure also includes money for local conservancies, which buy, preserve and manage hillside and coastal lands as parks. The Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, the largest urban conservancy in the nation, and the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy each would be allotted \$30 million.

PARKING LOCATIONS FOR THE TALL SHIPS FESTIVAL L.A. 2014

LOT/LOCATION	DAYS LOT OPEN	PRICE
1. Cruise Center	Wed. - Sun.	\$8
2. Ports O' Call	Wed. - Fri.	\$5
3. 22nd St. overflow	Wed. - Sun.	\$5
4. SSA	Wed. - Sun.	\$5
5. Berth 46	Wed. - Sun.	\$5
6. Signal Street	Wed. - Sun.	\$5
7. 22nd St./Miner St.	Wed. - Sun.	\$5
Harbor College (Wilmington)*	Wed. - Sat.	Pay on-site
LA Export Terminal (Terminal Island)*	Wed. - Sun.	Free

Note: Except for Harbor College, festival parking can be paid in advance. *Off-site
 Source: Port of Los Angeles

For more information go to: www.tallshipsfestivalva.com/festival-info/parking/

PAUL PENZELLA/LANG

Tall Ships

FROM PAGE 1

maid" to be projected onto the large sail of the Freda B, a San Francisco-based 78-foot-long classic schooner, at 8 p.m. Friday.

The main festival venue will stretch between the new Downtown Harbor plaza and inlet at Sixth Street and Harbor Boulevard north to the World Cruise Center near the Vincent Thomas Bridge. Most of the ships will be berthed along that area, just north of the USS Iowa.

The SS Lane Victory Merchant Marine vessel also will be towed Tuesday from its home berth in the outer harbor to join with the tall ships venue.

The festival grounds will be gated, so visitors need to buy tickets either in advance — at [## MORE ABOUT THE FESTIVAL](http://www.Tick-</p>
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- Paid parking will be available in lots throughout the waterfront and there will be free shuttle service.
- Strollers and wheelchairs are not permitted on board ships. Those going on ship tours or day sails must walk up a gangplank.
- No coolers, cans, bottles or beverages will be allowed within the festival grounds other than for medical-related conditions.
- No dogs, other than service dogs, are allowed, and no backpacks can be brought into the festival grounds. Purses, diaper and camera bags are subject to search.
- To follow ongoing news and to find more helpful links for the festival, follow @TallShipsLA on Twitter

etFly.com or by calling 877-4-FLY-TIX — or when they arrive if they're willing to wait in what could be long lines. A single-day dockside festival pass is \$7. Other ticket packages vary.

Wednesday's opening 2 p.m. parade into the harbor — led by the duck — will feature all of the ships sailing into the Main

Channel, their crews, many in historic uniform, sitting atop the tall masts. Several parking areas are set up to handle the expected influx.

"I have 80 kegs of beer ready," said James Brown, who will be among shore-side vendors with his San Pedro Brewing Co. brews on tap. "It's going to be nuts."

PASSAGES

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Lois M. Muehlebach

Muehlebach, Lois M. passed away on August 16, 2014. She is survived by her son Paul Muehlebach (Judy); daughter Jane Reiter (Ken); grandchildren Kathie, Jennifer, and Courtney Muehlebach; Greg and Caitlin Reiter. She loved her Dodgers, even when they played in Brooklyn. While not rich, she supported many charities, including several for veterans. Donations may be made in her name to the Press-Telegram's Send-a-Kid-to-Camp fund, which she supported for many years. Born in Long Beach March 2, 1920, she lived here all her life. She is now reunited with her husband of 54 years, Vince, who passed away in August 2001. No services. Please sign the guestbook at www.presstelegram.com/obits.

Richard R. Fox

1925 - 2014

Richard Ray Fox was born the 11th of 12 children of Lindsey July and Hattie Fox on March 22, 1925, in Newport, Nebraska.

In June of 1943 he joined the Marine Corps and served in the Pacific aboard the battleship USS North Carolina where he became an anti-aircraft gunner and was credited with shooting down an attacking Kamikazi airplane before it could hit the ship.

He was married in Long Beach to Esther (Bette) Sill in 1947 and in 1951 they moved to Lakewood, where they resided for the rest of their lives. Richard worked 35 years for Procter & Gamble in Long Beach. Bette preceded him in death in 2010.

Richard is survived by his daughters Marilyn Fox of Cypress and Janis Fox Thompson of Huntington Beach, son-in-law Bruce Thompson, granddaughters Katherine Fox-Glassman of New York City and Jacqueline Thompson of Oxford, England and sister-in-law Evelyn (Sill) Morgan of Sun City, CA.

He died peacefully in his sleep August 11th of natural causes. Please sign the guestbook at www.presstelegram.com/obits.

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