

Antarctic Gathering in Connecticut: Friday-Sunday, 4-6 June 2021

If you plan to attend the Society's Antarctic Gathering in Mystic, Connecticut, 4-6 June 2021, please read this article and take the actions indicated!

Mystic Seaport Museum is producing a major exhibition, *Discovering Antarctica 1820-2020*, to coincide with the 200th anniversary of the 1820s-era first sightings of Antarctica by, among others, Nathaniel Palmer of nearby Stonington, Connecticut.

Our Society will hold an Antarctic Gathering on the Museum premises for Society members and their families and friends over the weekend of Friday through Sunday, 4-6 June 2021. This date is changed from the date in the January 2019 newsletter.

Here are treats in store just for us, all included in the \$130 per person fee, which you pay in advance (more on that below):

- Friday-Sunday: Campus-wide admission throughout the weekend to Mystic Seaport Museum, established in 1929. This fabulous facility is "America's Museum of the Sea," the Nation's largest maritime museum. It gets a quarter-million visitors a year. Its fleet includes four vessels designated as National Historic Landmarks of which one, the *Charles W. Morgan*, built in 1841, is America's only surviving wooden whaler. The *Morgan* is in the water and operable. And you will see the major Antarctica exhibition. See the Museum's web site for more: <https://www.mysticseaport.org>
- Friday evening, 5:30 pm: A 2-hour tour on the scenic Mystic River aboard *Sabino*, a Museum vessel and the Nation's oldest wooden, coal-fired steamboat in regular operation. An on-board catering staff will provide cocktails and heavy appetizers. Only the first 72 people to sign up will be able to go; the ship cannot take more.

- Saturday morning: Continental breakfast and coffee service in the Tom Clagett Boat Shed. The boat shed with tables and chairs will be our very own designated headquarters for the entire weekend.
- Saturday morning (time to be announced): An explication by museum staff, just for us, of the Antarctic exhibition in the Thompson Exhibition Building.
- Saturday evening: A banquet just for us in the boat shed, followed by an Antarctic speaker (to be announced).
- Sunday morning: A tour of the Nathaniel Palmer House and Museum in Stonington, 3 miles from Mystic.

What to do now:

- Sign up at <https://www.antarctican.org>. Pay online there, or by mailing a check (payable to Antarctic Society) to Tom Henderson at his address shown on page 1:
 - \$130 for all the above-listed events, Friday-Sunday. Or,
 - \$85 for the Saturday and Sunday events, but not the Friday evening boat trip. Or,
 - \$80 for just the Saturday events.
- Reserve your accommodations in the Mystic area (a list of hotels is on our web site or available from the Editor, address on page 1). You are on your own for this.
- Arrange your transportation from your home to Mystic and back.
- Be prepared to handle your local transportation in the Mystic and Stonington area.
- At Mystic, you'll be on your own for Saturday lunch and Sunday breakfast. The Museum campus has, on site, the Galley (for the quick and casual bite), Schaefer's Spouter Tavern (riverside lunch), and the Cake & Bake Shop.

The Antarctic Society

The \$130 price is a bargain. It includes \$23.95 per person for all three days (Friday-Sunday) admission to Mystic Seaport Museum. (The normal admission rate to the Museum for individuals is \$28.95 per day or \$26.95 per day for seniors over 65!). If you were to go on your own to the Mystic Seaport Museum and spend three days there, you'd spend \$86.85 (\$80.85 if a senior) just to get in.

With the Antarctic Society group, for \$130 you'll get the three days of admission plus the Friday evening boat ride with heavy hors d'ouvres plus breakfast and banquet dinner Saturday plus a group introduction to the Antarctic exhibition plus half-price entry to the Palmer House (\$5 vs. \$10) plus being with Antarctic Society colleagues.

- Sign up early. The *Sabino* steamboat capacity is 72 people. If you are not among the first 72 to sign up for that, you will not be able to go on the Friday evening boat ride on the historic Mystic River, you will be on your own for Friday supper, and you will receive a refund of \$45 if you signed up for the boat ride.

The Museum has reserved the weekend for us. We have to do our part by showing them our members will be there! Sign up soon, but not later than 1 June 2020. Be especially quick if you want to join the limited-capacity boat ride on the Mystic River on Friday evening, 4 June 2021.

The Mystic event is a new opportunity for Antarctic Society members. Tell your polar friends: if not members already, for \$13 they can join and get all advantages *and* be able to sign up for the great Mystic gathering.