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**From:** AMY LEWIS [strategycommunications@cox.net]  
**Sent:** Friday, May 02, 2008 3:47 PM  
**To:** Amy  
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### Message from AMY:

## Fleet Week festivities launch this weekend

By **PRITISH BEHURIA**, The Daily Transcript  
Thursday, May 1, 2008

With the Sea & Air Parade set to kick off this year's Fleet Week San Diego 10:30 a.m. Saturday, this year's opening weekend, boosted by the addition of the Red Bull Air Race World Series event, is set to be one of the biggest starts to Fleet Week ever.

"We know it's different and it's going to be exciting," Fleet Week Director Sharon Cloward said. "Visitors will be coming from all over the world and it's a great way to showcase our military and it gives the region a chance to shine."

The Sea & Air Parade will feature the U.S. Navy parading down "the Big Bay" displaying six warships and 14 aircraft. The six ships include one cruiser, one frigate, two destroyers and two amphibious ships.

This year's parade will also include three mock battles involving two Tall Ships -- The Californian and the HMS Surprise -- between noon and 1 p.m.

The Californian is the official Tall Ship of California and is based on the C.W. Lawrence, a Gold Rush-era vessel. It carries 7,000 square feet of canvas, measures 145 feet in length, weighs 130 tons and is armed with four six-pound deck guns.

The HMS Surprise is a replica of the HMS Rose, which participated in the American War for Independence. It is 179 feet in length and unmatched in its authenticity and attention to detail. It was also featured in the movie, "Master and Commander."

"We were lucky enough to have these two ships home-ported at the Maritime Museum here," Cloward said. "It's an entertainment break from the main parade for everyone to get excited about."

Spectators can view the Parade on the waterfront or Shelter Island or Ferry Landing, SDG&E Park and Centennial Park in Coronado. Officials mentioned the lawn area next to the Fish Market restaurant and Harbor Island, next to Island Prime Restaurant as ideal spots for viewing.

The Red Bull Air Race World Series will be part of the opening weekend of Fleet Week for the first time this year.

To be held on May 3 and May 4, the event will feature high performance race planes competing against each other. Race pilots will achieve gravity-defying speeds in their attempts to maneuver planes through a series of inflatable "air gates" over the Big Bay.

If this year's air races are anything like last year's events, businesses in the region are reportedly also set to

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profit.

“Last year, Seaport Village ran out of products because they were selling so much,” Cloward said. “This year, tenants understand how to manage this event, and restaurants are opening early.”

This week’s events are the first of San Diego Fleet Week 2008, which will stretch until November. Bands & Booms -- a performance by the San Diego Symphony to mark Annual Fourth of July celebrations -- is the next Fleet Week event of the year.

Embarcadero Marine Park and Coronado Beach will host spectators for the event, while San Diego Harbor Excursion has organized a spectator cruise at the foot of Broadway at 1050 N. Harbor Drive. Tickets for the cruise are at \$30 for adults and \$15 for children.