

**FRIENDS
OF
CHINA
CAMP**

Newsletter

Summer 2016

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Lots has Happened at China Camp in Just 3 months!

In this edition of the Friends of China Camp Newsletter:

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The Grace Quan Returns Home!



The Grace Quan Chinese junk has returned to China Camp and is moored at the Village pier for our visitors to see. She was built by a team of National Park Service volunteers and staff and launched in October 2003. Chinese junks are sailing vessels that have been in use since the second century. The design for the Grace Quan was derived from historic photographs and archaeological information. Traditional materials such as

redwood planking, forged nails, and caulking made from lime and linseed oil were used by the boatbuilding crew, as were traditional Chinese boatbuilding techniques such as bending wood with fire, and nailing planks to each other along the plank seams.

The cotton canvas sail was treated using the traditional method of boiling the newly made sail in a vat of hot water and the crushed dried bark of tanbark oak trees.

The Grace Quan will spend the summer at China Camp and then return to the San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park in the late fall. Don't miss the opportunity to see Her for yourself.

Another Ranger Joins the FOCC Team



In June, Ranger Cecilia Rejas returned to China Camp as part of the DPR Service staff. She brings with her a several year history of working previously at China Camp and a strong background in natural history programming. We are delighted to welcome her back. She will be working half time at China Camp and half time at Mt. Tamalpias. Ranger Rejas has been instrumental in developing and conducting popular natural history tours and programs at China Camp, including campfire talks, Jr. Ranger programs and nature walks. In addition, she has presented captivating talks on American Indians. Ranger Rejas will be starting the Jr. Ranger program in July and has planned many fun and educational programs in the coming months. She will also be training new natural history docents to support the increasing demand for nature tours and programs at China Camp. She knows the park well and will be a wonderful addition to the team.

If you are interested in becoming a Natural History docent, go to the [FOCC Volunteer web page](#) to let us know of your volunteer interests.

Please join us for our July 9, Campfire Program starting at 8PM. Volunteer Larry Brodtkin will present a starlit Astronomy event. On July 17 from 9:00 - 9:45AM, Ranger Rejas is leading a Junior Ranger Program on Animal Life at China Camp. For additional information about upcoming events [click here](#) or call us at 415-456-0766 for information or requests.

Add Some Science to Your Beach Day

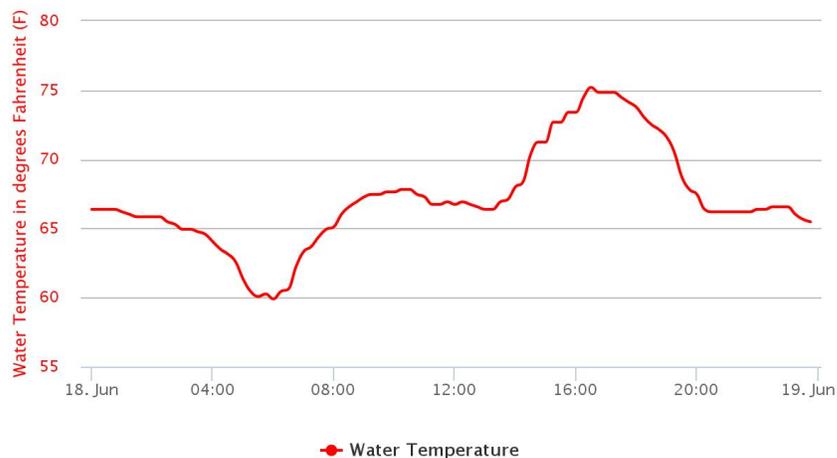
By Sarah Ferner, San Francisco Bay NERR

Strong swimmers and curious toddlers alike frequent China Camp Beach in the summer. Sometimes, though, swimmers arrive to find the water uncharacteristically cold and families ready to explore find the tide so high there is little beach left to search. Visitors can check both of these things – the water temperature and depth – before heading to the beach by creating a quick graph online. [Click here](#). The website allows visitors to easily graph water quality data that are collected by NOAA's National Estuarine Research Reserve System primarily to help scientists monitor and understand changes in the nation's estuaries. The China Camp Station (CA, San Francisco Bay, China Camp) records water depth, temperature, salinity, dissolved oxygen, murkiness, and more every 15 minutes from a fixed location near the beach. Besides checking conditions before your visit, the website is also a great way to incorporate science and math into your summer adventures. Why did the water seem to cool down during your visit?

Make a quick graph of water temperature and another factor – like depth or salinity – to piece together an answer. Is the water less salty this year because we had more rain? Compare graphs from last summer and this one to find the answer. If you find an interesting trend, or are stumped by a science question, post your graph and questions on the [San Francisco Bay NERR Facebook page](#) so the scientists can check it out with you.

The water temperature can change a lot during a day at China Camp.

San Francisco Bay, CA > China Camp
6/18/2016 – 6/18/2016



What time of day do you think was best for a swim?

Who are FOCC Volunteers?

Meet Blair Ogden, Museum Docent and Trail Ambassador.

Blair is originally from the Blue Ridge Mountain area of Virginia, and graduated from Washington and Lee University with a degree in geology. He came to California in 1960, married, and has 3 adult children and 6 grandchildren - whom he enjoys immensely. They all live near his home in Lucas Valley.

Blair is now retired from Kemper Insurance Group where he was a claims adjustor and supervisor. The company paid his way to law school, and when he passed the bar, they had him open an in-house law office in San Francisco. Blair also managed a satellite office in San Jose. He defended policy holders against personal injury and property damage in lawsuits and worker's compensation claims. He retired in 2003.

Blair was drawn to China Camp by the beauty of the area and the cultural history of China Camp - the last of the Chinese fishing villages around San Pablo Bay. He had hiked or jogged the trails just to enjoy the beauty of the bay, hiking occasionally at sunrise. He particularly likes the Oak Ridge and the Bay View trails, entering the park from Knight Drive.

He joined the Museum Docents in 2010 and the Trail Ambassadors in 2012. He signed up as a Village Docent at one of our Heritage Days! He now enjoys giving tours of the Village area to school children and other interested groups.

In his "spare time," Blair delivers Meals on Wheels for Whistlestop two times a week. He notes that often he is a welcome visitor to lonely adults who cannot get around easily anymore. Blair feels it is important to keep up physical exercise and read challenging material to keep his body and mind active as he grows older. He also enjoys classical music, symphonies, plays, and eating at local restaurants with family and/or friends.

Lastly, Blair is a corporate Director and Secretary to the California-Engels Copper Company, a publicly traded company with copper mining properties in Plumas County near Greenville. Copper was successfully extracted from 1870 to 1930, when the Depression brought about the closing of the mines. Recent exploratory work reveals a distinct possibility of the resumption of mining in the next decade.



Earthday at China Camp, a Huge Success



In April, FOCC participated in the international Earth Day events for the first time, with a volunteer event to build food storage lockers for our campground and craft activities for children and families. The food storage locker building event was done in partnership with California State Parks Foundation, who not only awarded us a \$3000 grant, but did most of the recruiting, advertising and provided lunch. It took us many hours of preparation including purchasing supplies, cutting and building sections of the lockers and organizing them for assembly Ikea-style.

The volunteers divided into teams, each building one locker. In the end, 10 lockers were built. If purchased, the lockers would have cost Friends of China Camp (FOCC) \$6000. Some, but not all, have been installed (which is another project!) Come on out camping to see and use the glowing redwood lockers.

The craft event was held at the historic village, and kept numerous children and families entertained with zodiac sign stamping (using recycled Chinese newspapers), animal track prints stamped in clay and origami shrimp and boat making.

Thank you to all the volunteers who helped make this event a success. For more photos [click here](#).

FOCC Hosts Volunteer Leaders from Parks Throughout California



On April 30, our workday included volunteer core leaders from parks throughout California, sponsored by the California State Park Foundation. Core Leaders organize and run the events at each of their respective parks. They came to China Camp to meet one another, to camp together, to share volunteer leadership ideas and to work restoring our trails. Their work was supplemented by our Fabulous Faithful trail maintenance volunteers, 4 PG&E volunteers and 4 volunteers new to China Camp, totaling approximately 290 volunteer hours! One team restored a badly eroded switchback on

Oak Ridge and installed drainage, making the trail meet the new standards for park trails. Team Two groomed several hundred feet of Oak Ridge trail by removing duff from the uphill side of the trail and widening the trail to its original width. Team Three replaced approximately 90 feet of split rail fencing. The day concluded with a group BBQ, trail tales and laughs. For more photos [click here](#).



5000 Years at the Park

Chapter Three: Chinese Camp Fishing Village

Chinese immigrants, who were leaving work on Placer mines and the railroads, migrated to the Bay Area. Some were seaman from the Canton area of China, and found the San Pablo Bay similar to their former home. By 1870 the shrimp fishing industry flourished, and the Village was built to accommodate families and business needed to support the growing community. The history of the village is a microcosm of the legal and social attitudes during that period. As the fishing enterprise became more successful, laws were enacted discriminating against Chinese and restricting fishing methods, employment and immigration. The community gradually dropped from around 500 in 1880 and the residents scattered throughout the Bay Area. Frank Quan, a descendent of the original inhabitants, continued with fishing on a smaller scale and remains a resident of China Camp Village where he operates the family snack shop. [Click here](#) to learn more.



The China Camp Village Museum is open daily for self-guided tours. Group docent Tours may be arranged by

UPCOMING EVENTS

Astronomy Program

July 9 - 8:00 pm - 10:00 pm

Junior Ranger Program: Animal Life

July 17 - 9:00 am - 9:45 am

Park Champion Volunteer Work Day

July 30 - 9:00 am - 4:00 pm

[SEE ALL UPCOMING EVENTS](#)



The Volunteer Members of Friends of China Camp Operate the Park

Since July 2012, Friends of China Camp (FOCC) has operated China Camp State Park in cooperation with the California State Parks. FOCC and our State Parks partners are creating a partnership model that will have an impact on the future of the entire California State Park system.

China Camp State Park is a community-funded park. It is kept fully open and thriving solely on its own revenue (camping, day-use, annual passes, special events) and contributions to Friends of China Camp, as well as thousands of hours contributed by our volunteers. All fees collected at China Camp State Park stay within Friends of China Camp for use in operating the park. While working to increase park visitations and fee collection revenue, FOCC continues to be ever-mindful of maintaining equitable public access for the park's visitors.

[See more information about how the partnership works.](#)

How You Can Help

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