



**FRIENDS
OF
CHINA
CAMP**

Newsletter

Winter 2017-2018

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In this edition of the Friends of China Camp Newsletter:

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Keeping the Park Open and Thriving

As operators of China Camp State Park, FOCC continues to keep the park open and available to all despite a \$140,000 annual revenue shortfall. How do we do it? With the help of donors, volunteers, partners and service projects, we continue to meet the challenge. It's our neighbors and the businesses in our community who deserve the thanks.

Donors

An Anonymous Donor and Her Story

Friends of China Camp is pleased to announce that it has received a \$15,000 gift from a dear local woman.

She writes: My mom and dad were friends of the Quan family, attending school with "Frankie" and siblings. I never heard talk of Chinese prejudice. The Quans were old family friends (my grandparents were friends with Frankie's parents). Mom said China Camp was the "hot spot" to go to in the 40's. My folks moved to Glenwood in 1958, when it was new and very small. Peacock Gap was a cow pasture, and kids played in the old dairy barn and abandoned houses there. The open hills were our back yard and playground. There were no maintained trails, just fire roads and deer trails. We did bike riding all over the hills on 50s-60s bicycles, and if one had a 3 speed, that was high brow. Parents didn't worry about kids playing in the hills and rarely

knew exactly where we were; we just had to be home before dark. My sister and I often rode our horse and donkey there, but seldom saw anyone. It seemed like a place of the past.

Helen Young

Helen, a neighbor of China Camp State Park, has graciously donated several hundred dollars worth of office furniture and equipment to FOCC. This comes at a particularly welcome moment, with our wobbly folding tables (desks) and tired desk chairs adding to the challenge of getting office work done. Thanks to Helen for her community spirit and wonderful support of FOCC.

The Giffra Family Trust

FOCC has received a substantial donation from the Giffra Family Trust for trail maintenance equipment and supplies. The Giffras commented that "having the right tools and supplies, for example the gas powered auger [aka post hole digger], gets much more done on trail maintenance work days." The Giffras are neighbors of the park and active volunteers. As we continue to work on the trails, we thank the Giffras for helping us to be more efficient and effective.

Another Anonymous Donor

An anonymous FOCC member and loyal volunteer has generously donated a substantial amount of stock in support of keeping the park open and thriving. As a trail maintenance volunteer, she has been out on the trails helping us groom, rebuild and restore our trails to current state standards. She has seen first hand the amount of effort and number of hours of work it takes keep the trails open and in good condition. She also recognizes that there is much yet to do and that vehicles, tools and equipment are an essential part of the work. Her donation will be a huge help with this effort.

More Donors?



Keep on Truckin'

In early 2017, California State Parks requested that FOCC hire park staff directly rather than utilize State Park employees. As part of this transition, California State Parks removed all state-owned tools and equipment from China Camp, including lawn mowers, weed whippers, hedge trimmers, chain saws, ATV Kubota, tractor and maintenance truck.

We've had some generous donations to replace some of these items, and we've applied for grants to replace others, but our most pressing need is a 3/4 to 1 ton 4-wheel drive new or late

model pickup or stake body truck.

If you can help us with a donation of a truck or funding for the purchase of this truck please contact, Martin Lowenstein, Executive Director at mlowenstein@friendsofchinacamp.org or (650) 343-1822.

\$ FOR \$ Challenge

The Clock is Ticking

QuarryHouse of San Anselmo, a major supporter of Friends of China Camp, has challenged the FOCC community to raise \$5000 in donations in the next 30 days. If we at FOCC are able to achieve \$5000 in donations by **March 31, 2018**, QuarryHouse will match that amount with another \$5000.

Ed Westbrook, CEO of QuarryHouse and board member of FOCC, regularly leads our trail crews to take on formidable tasks, like the repair of the Shoreline Trail landslide. Our intrepid volunteers met that challenge with picks and shovels; now we're rallying you, our Fabulous Faithful, to meet this new challenge with checks and credit cards!

[Click Here](#) to help match that \$5000 from QuarryHouse!

Volunteers

Volunteer of the Quarter

Ernie Stanton: The Money Man

You want to know how the park has handled its finances without paid staff since the 2012 government park closure?

Look no further than this guy here.

If you go down to the village on most weekends, you are likely to find Ernie Stanton enjoying a sandwich by the beach and exchanging the latest baseball stats with local beachgoers. Don't be fooled by his relaxed demeanor: Ernie has been one of the most hardworking volunteers since Friends of China Camp took over operations of the park in 2012.

Ernie was one of dozens of steadfast volunteers who scrambled to raise funds and spread public awareness to keep the park open during the 2012 closure crisis. [READ MORE](#)



Carl Holmes 1935 - 2018

Carl Holmes, one of the first FOCC Cultural History Docents and Board of Director members, passed away January 5, 2018. He started his volunteer work at China Camp in 1994. He and Bill Cox pioneered together with a few other volunteers to create a docent program. He not only told the history of China Camp to visitors, but also changed light bulbs, fixed the projection equipment and kept the museum humming. Carl loved children and school groups; their simple but provocative questions and the unending energy kept Carl energized.

When no visitors were in sight, Carl loved to sit on a bench in the sun and read. He also would stop by just to chat with Frank Quan. As a member of the Board of Directors, his ability to remember past decisions made the board successful.

[MarinIJ obituary](#)



Partners



San Rafael Yacht Harbor, Matt Butler

With a 300-foot long historic pier and miles of shoreline, China camp needs a friend with a crane barge to replace piles, remove debris, and rescue grounded vessels. Matt Butler of the San Rafael Yacht Harbor is just that friend. He has been a huge support to us, generously offering his expert maritime services time and again, helping us to preserve our beloved village pier and keep our boats afloat. Matt and team, we don't know what we would do without you!



Bartlett Tree Experts

During strong December winds, a large madrone tree toppled in the park yet remains suspended by a nearby tree 15 feet above Echo Trail. To bring this tree down to earth without damaging the trail below was a job for professionals. FOCC reached out to Bartlett Tree Experts, who generously offered their services pro bono. Thank you, Bartlett!



Mike's Bikes

Friends of China Camp is proud to announce that Mike's Bikes on 4th Street in San Rafael will be the first retail store to sell China Camp annual Trail Passes. Mike's Bikes is happy to be able to offer its customers the convenience of purchasing a China Camp Trail Pass in their San Rafael location, and FOCC is grateful to Mike's Bikes for being the first location outside of the park, where Trail Passes are available for purchase. Until now, Trail Passes have been available for purchase only in the park and on the FOCC website.

Service

The Eagle has Landed



San Rafael's Boy Scout Troop 2000

We love it when our community steps up to support our park. We love it even more when young members of our community get involved. And we love it most of all when it makes the [front page of the IJ](#).

Meet Jesus Parra (middle back row), who decided that his Eagle Scout project would be building five heavy duty, raccoon-proof trash containers for China Camp State Park. Jesus spent hours consulting with rangers and maintenance staff, designing the containers, negotiating with local merchants for discounts and donated materials, organizing fellow scouts and their parents to build the containers, and delivering and installing the containers in the park.

With young men like Jesus in our community, the future of China Camp State Park is in good hands.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday Hike Program

February 17, 9:30 am

Village Talk: Miwok History

February 17, 5:30 pm - 6:30 pm

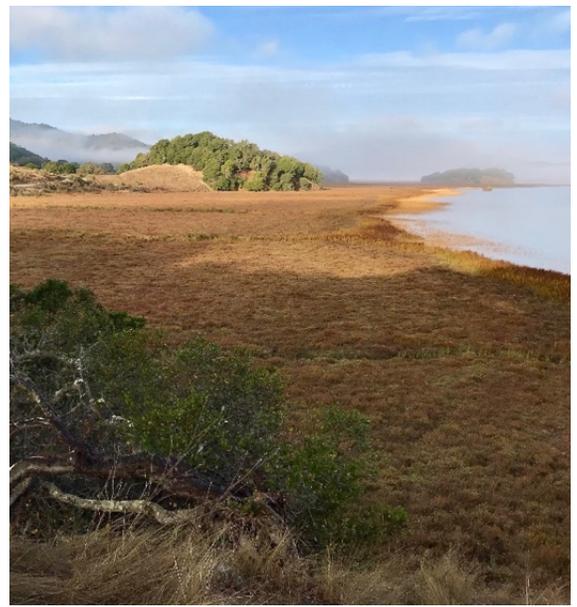
Turtleback Walk for Families

February 18, 9:30 am - noon

Champion Trail Work Day

February 19, 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

[SEE ALL UPCOMING EVENTS](#)



How You Can Help

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