



**FRIENDS
OF
CHINA
CAMP**

Newsletter

Summer 2018

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In this edition of the Friends of China Camp Newsletter:

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FOCC Continues to Grow, Improve and Thrive. Read On.

High Fives!

Thank You Volunteers! Note from the Chair



On Memorial Day Weekend, we celebrated our volunteers at China Camp Village. Volunteers

are the lifeblood and muscle of China Camp State Park. They perform tasks as disparate as trail repair, grounds maintenance, providing cultural and natural history programs, staffing the cafe, greeting guests at the Visitor Center, hosting the campground and calming traffic on the multi-use trails.

Our community park has never looked better or been more vibrant. Visitorship is at an all-time high and continues to increase yearly.

This success would not be possible without the passion, dedication and comradery of our volunteers. Our volunteers are the best, and we cannot thank you enough!

Steve Deering
Board Chair
Friends of China Camp

Our Precious Ecosystem

An EASY Call to Action Keep our Park Free of Debris



By Sarah Ferner, Education Coordinator of the [San Francisco Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve \(NERR\)](#).

Has this ever happened to you? As you open the car door, a gust of wind rushes in and before you can grab it, a piece of trash from inside your car flies out the door and sails away down the road. This kind of accidental littering is one of the causes of 'marine debris' because the fly-away trash eventually lands in a storm drain or stream, is washed into the bay, and then into the ocean.

A couple of years ago, I saw a presentation about the many ways plastic ends up in the ocean.

After watching my own plastic seaweed container sail away on the wind, I was inspired to pay it forward by picking up litter when I find it on the trail and by avoid the purchase of single-use plastics, like straws and those sneaky seaweed snack packs.

Perhaps because of the windy days lately, a few friends of China Camp have noticed an increase in plastic trash in the park. We are putting up more signs as gentle reminders to pick up garbage that pollutes the ecosystem. Please take these signs to heart and encourage others to do the same (when it is safe). Also, make sure the lids are closed on the recycling bins after using them.

For more ideas on how to protect China Camp and the ocean from trash, check out the beautiful interpretive sign at China Camp Point or [watch the NOAA Marine Debris Trash Talk video](#).

FOCC also recommends the following article for a another compelling reason to keep plastics out of the park and in particular out of our fragile salt marshes, [National Geographic article](#).

Up Close and Personal Experience with Our Wetlands



On the morning of May 12th, a group of eager participants gathered at Buck's Landing in Santa Venetia to participate in Friends of China Camp's first ever kayak fundraiser event. The tour was guided by world renowned kayak instructor [Sean Morley](#), and the educational portion was provided by [Sarah Ferner](#), the Education Coordinator of the [San Francisco National Estuarine Research Reserve \(NERR\)](#).

Beginning at Buck's Landing, participants got an up close look at the sensitive salt marshlands within Santa Venetia Creek. While Sean gently guided the group along the route, Sarah explained the fascinating intricacies of the marshland ecology and how NERR conducts its crucial research within this sensitive habitat. The group then made its way out to the sparkling open bay waters which afforded stunning views of the rolling hills of China Camp. Participants spotted a number large birds including Brown Pelicans, Pelagic Cormorants, Red Shouldered Hawks, and an American Kestrel. Some even caught a glimpse of river otters!

This event would not have been possible without [101 Surf Sports](#) in San Rafael, who generously donated the use of the kayaks and equipment for the day. They are a great place to rent a paddleboard or kayak when heading out to China Camp, check them out!



Also Friends of China Camp is very grateful to Sean Morley and Sarah Ferner for leading such a fantastic trip! If you are interested in more kayak tours in the bay area, Sean also provides water sport tours with [Point Reyes Outdoors](#). Check out their website!

Congressman Huffman and Marin County Supervisor Visit China Camp State Park



Congressman Huffman, SF Bay NERR Coastal Resilience Specialist Stuart Siegel and SF Bay NERR Director Mike Vasey.

China Camp State Park and our key partners at SF Bay NERR (San Francisco Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve) hosted a visit with U.S. Congressman Jared Huffman (D-2nd District), Marin County Supervisor Damon Connolly, and Audubon California Representatives Rebecca Schwartz-Lesberg and Andrea Jones on June 15th.

The goals of the visit included sharing and discussing the unique and valuable tidal marsh resources of China Camp State Park, brainstorming around some of the challenges facing the marsh, looking for birds and having fun.

One of the challenges in the park relates to the Marin County road, North San Pedro Road, that crosses through the marsh and the park and negatively affects the ecological function of the marsh and its ability to adapt to sea level rise. This road is also subject to frequent tidal flooding which impacts community access and poses emergency response and safety concerns. The California State Parks and FOCC are part of a diverse stakeholder group organized by NERR and Marin County to develop and evaluate both short and long-term solutions to these problems.

California State Parks representatives are happy to be working with so many forward-thinking partners on this multi-faceted issue.

[NERR thanks Congressman Huffman](#)

Recognizing Extraordinary People!

Jeff Craemer



China Camp has a number of angels; one of them is named Jeff Craemer. Jeff is generously assisting FOCC to foot the bills for desperately needed capital projects around the park – repairing the burned bathroom building at Bullhead Flat as well as repairing several other structures affected by wood rot and faulty plumbing. His philosophy toward China Camp is, “If you need something, let me know.”

Jeff Craemer was born on July 2, 1948, raised in Marin County, and received all of his education in the Bay Area. In the 1950s, Jeff’s parents would take him to China Camp. Jeff remembers the stacks of boats for rent and the members of the Quan family and their cousins who lived in China Camp Village. He also remembers many more small cabins on the

hillside just like the two that still remain to this day.

In addition to Jeff’s generosity toward FOCC, Jeff also supports the Marin History Museum, the Kentfield Greenbrae Historical Society, the San Quentin Museum, Friends of Mt. Tam, and Trinity Lutheran Church.

Jeff Craemer loves Marin’s history, and he is eager to pass on the historical legacy of China Camp and the other places he loves so much to future generations.

Rotary Club Fundraiser



On May 22 at the Marin Yacht Club, the Rotary Club of San Rafael, the Rotary Club of San Francisco #2, and Rotary

China all underwrote a fundraising event to benefit FOCC’s China Camp Village preservation efforts. Featured at the event was a pre-released, abridged screening of the PBS documentary “The Chinese Exclusion Act”. Ed Lai and Heidi Kuhn hosted the \$75 preticket event. More than 70 people were in attendance, and net proceeds from the event exceeded \$6,500. FOCC would like to express its appreciation to these three Rotary Clubs for being valued partners.



A BENEFIT FOR CHINA CAMP
All proceeds will go to Friends of China Camp

You are cordially invited to a private screening and dinner
May 22nd, 2018 - Marin Yacht Club
Hosted by Ed Lai & Heidi Kuhn

5:00pm - Registration 6:00pm - Chinese Dinner
7:00pm - Presentation and Private Screening of
The Chinese Exclusion Act, an upcoming PBS Special

RSVP Required to Friends of China Camp by May 15th
Call or email: 415.456.0766 - chinacamp.programs@gmail.com
\$75 per person (includes dinner and wine), no-host bar



Announcements

Welcome Barbier Security

The next time you're in the park, say hello to FOCC's newest partner, Barbier Security Group. BSG is a local Marin organization with a great deal of experience providing security in a variety of environments. They work closely with the Marin County Sheriff, and their goal is to provide a safe and comfortable environment for our visitors. They are also FOCC Partners, committed to keeping the park open and thriving, donating much of their service to Friends of China Camp.

You can help our security agents, staff and volunteers keep the park safe by remembering to:

- Use the designated parking lots if possible, rather than parking on the shoulder. In all cases, lock your car and keep your valuables out of sight. Occasionally, cars parked along North San Pedro Rd are broken into, usually by windows broken on the shoulder side of the parked car. We have had almost no break-ins involving cars parked in the lots – another reason to buy that pass!
- Keep your speed low on North San Pedro Rd, because hikers, bikers and wildlife are on the road at all hours.
- Dial 911 immediately, if you ever witness a dangerous situation or medical emergency.

If you have questions, please ask our security team, dressed in black and driving black SUVs with the Barbier logo. Also, don't hesitate to ask for help from on-duty volunteers and staff, wearing FOCC patches and ID badges.



Be Prepared for Wildfires

The geography, weather patterns, open-space, and vegetation in Marin makes us particularly vulnerable to wildfire. To help educate property owners and residents in areas most at risk, [Fire Safe Marin](#) has developed a [preparedness plan](#) for you and your family in the event of a wildfire. Check out this [downloadable Fire Evacuation Checklist](#) to help you and to give your home the best chance of surviving a wildfire.



Watch FOCC's New Video

Let this 2 1/2 minute video introduce you to the history and wonders of China Camp State Park. Be prepared to discover many new and fascinating facts about this small community treasure.

Thank you to the producers and donors of this video, Sheila Coll, Mike Coll and June Miller. [Click here to view the video.](#)



We Love Being the Best!

For the third year in a row, China Camp State Park has won the Pacific Sun Best of Marin award for Best Bike Route / Trails and for the first time, Best Park / Open Space.

Please give the FOCC staff and volunteers a big round of applause for all their efforts to maintain and improve the park.



We are Flushed with Excitement

The Bullhead Flat Bathroom is open! In October of 2017, the bathroom at Bullhead Flat suffered severe damage as the result of a fire, necessitating its closure until funds could be raised and repairs could be done.

Thanks to Jeff Craemer, who provided the funds and the services of his contractor, the building has been restored. The ugly temporary porta potty has been removed. Yay!



UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday Morning Hike

July 14, 21, 28 9:30 am - 11:00 am

Book and Author Discussion

July 14, 6:00 - 7:00 pm

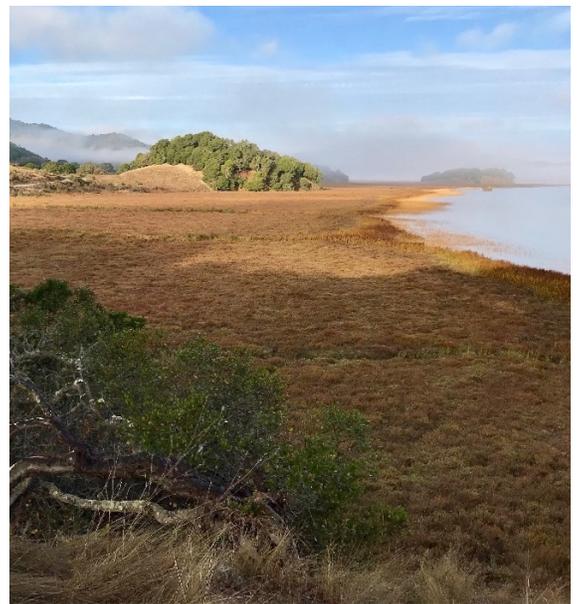
Book Club in the Park

July 22, 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Champion Work Day

Date Pending

[SEE ALL UPCOMING EVENTS](#)



How You Can Help

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