



In this edition of the Friends of China Camp Newsletter:

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A Thriving 2018 Sets the Stage for a Successful 2019

Note from the Chair

Onwards and Upwards to 2019

As 2018 comes to an end, we can look back on many success in our efforts to keep China Camp State Park open and thriving (see Community Meeting article within).

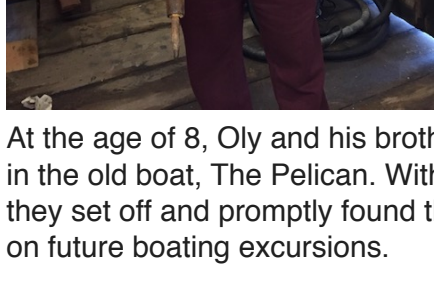
In 2019, we will continue to expand educational and volunteer programs, enter into a new multi-year partnership agreement with the California Department of Parks and Recreation, and initiate a capital campaign to ensure long term financial sustainability.

We encourage you to join us in our efforts! Click here for details on how to become engaged. Happy Holidays, and I hope to see you at the Village or on the trails in the new year.

Steve Deering, Board Chair Friends of China Camp

Remembering Oly Quan

China Camp was His Childhood Home



Oly (Henry) Quan passed away on December 6 at the age of 80. True to his environment, he had a good, old-time childhood, running the hills of China Camp, fishing in the bay, and living at China Camp village with his siblings, Frank and Milton, Bertha, cousin Georgette, and her family. All the children of China Camp, as well as the McPhail, McNear, and Webber children, attended a one-room schoolhouse south of the Village. Oly learned to hunt and fish and care for the rental boats that his mother, Grace, and Aunt Alice managed. After school all the children had jobs to do, e.g. cleaning up the boats and sorting the catch Uncle Henry brought in. The boys were good with rifles, bringing in both duck and deer to help feed the family. When Oly joined the army it was his skill with a rifle that awarded him a commendation.

At the age of 8, Oly and his brother, Milton, age 11, asked their mother if they could go out in the old boat, The Pelican. With their mothers permission and direction to "Be careful", they set off and promptly found themselves in the path of a huge tanker. That put a damper on future boating excursions.

After his stint in the Army, Oly spent many years as a carpenter with Al Villa, Builder in San Rafael.

Oly was known to be friendly and generous. He provided extra walkers to residents of a care facility. He and his wife, Carol, opened their home to their cousin, Georgette, after her knee injury and provided care. He was also well loved as witnessed by the many friends attending his funeral, including classmates from San Rafael High, friends from his carpenter days, friends who knew the family from China Camp, friends from hunting and fishing days, neighbors from his home in Petaluma.

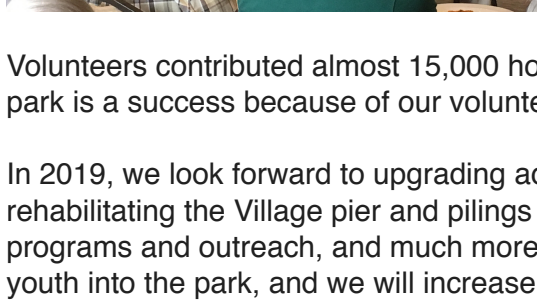
The Quan families have held many family dinners and picnics at what is now called "Grandma's house" close to the beach at China Camp Village. FOCC hopes this tradition will continue. Our condolences to the Quan family.

See the Independent Journal Obituary.

Annual Community Meeting

Lots to Share at the Community Meeting

It was a very good year!



FOCC's Annual Community meeting, held in November, was well attended, and a great opportunity to share our reflections on 2018 accomplishments and aspirations and plans for 2019.

FOCC is ever closer to achieving financial sustainability. In addition, we will pursue a new 5-year partnership agreement with the State Department of Parks and Recreation in the coming year.

Volunteers contributed almost 15,000 hours of work individually and in work crews. The park is a success because of our volunteers!

In 2019, we look forward to upgrading additional stretches of the Shoreline Trail, rehabilitating the Village pier and pilings under the museum structure, expanding our public programs and outreach, and much more! FOCC will add a Boat Building Program to bring youth into the park, and we will increase outreach to diverse communities. Projects large and small will surely fill our "To Do List"!

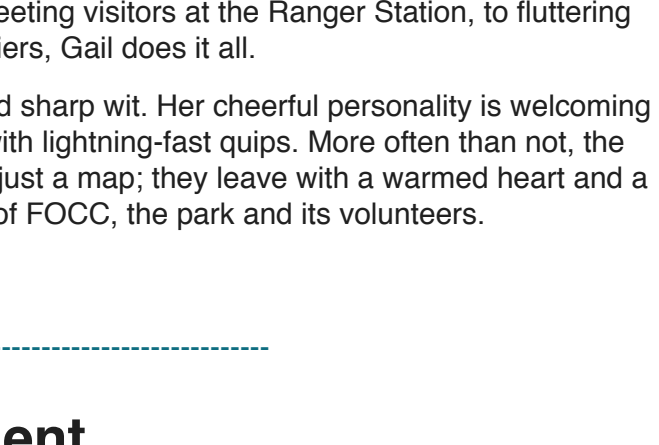
Please join us as a volunteer and/or member. Click here to contact us.

Volunteers are the Heroes of FOCC

Volunteer of the Quarter

Gail MacMillan- Guardian of the Park

- Visitor Center Lead
Kiosk Volunteer Lead
Trail Ambassador
Print Media Distributor
Park Angel



Gail (also known as 'MacBird' for her enduring love of all avian creatures) has a rare quality about her that allows her to see exactly what is needed in any situation and to jump in to help.

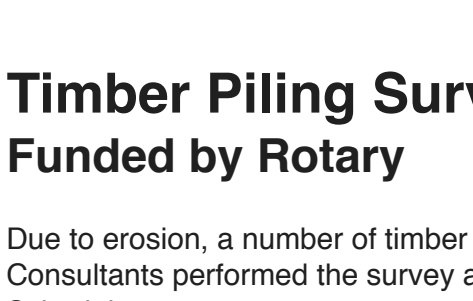
From efficiently leading volunteers, to greeting visitors at the Ranger Station, to fluttering about the park to post upcoming event fliers, Gail does it all.

Gail lights up the room with her smile and sharp wit. Her cheerful personality is welcoming and she regularly makes visitors laugh with lightning-fast quips. More often than not, the public leaves the ranger station with not just a map; they leave with a warmed heart and a deeper understanding and appreciation of FOCC, the park and its volunteers.

...READ MORE...

Volunteers Recruitment

Wanted: Kiosk Angels



Did you know...that if everyone who used the park paid the parking and trail fees China Camp wouldn't have a budget deficit?

In 2012, when Friends of China Camp took over the park, the board members purposely decided to keep the trail fees low and affordable, ensuring equitable access for everyone.

Even with a low \$3 trail fee, not everyone pays, and thus some revenue opportunities are lost. We have a few ideas to remedy this:

- Educate the public about the importance of fees to our park! We need to share our story far and wide; we are a community supported park!
Kiosk Angels, we need YOU! We need shining faces to be present at our kiosk to collect trail fees. We need people like you to share your love of China Camp and to make sure we keep our gates open.

Join the team! A couple of hours a month would be a huge help!

Piers and Pilings, Oh My

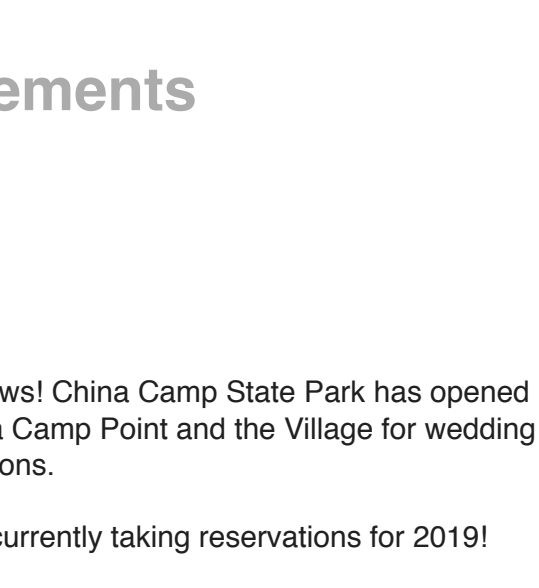
Timber Piling Survey

Funded by Rotary

Due to erosion, a number of timber pilings in China Camp Village require repair. Noble Consultants performed the survey and produced a Preliminary Pile Plan and Repair Schedule.

Once Noble's Pile Plan and Repair Schedule is finalized, FOCC will seek cost estimates from contractors offering a variety of repair techniques. Then, FOCC will review the set of possible solutions with the State of California Department of Parks and Recreation to develop an action plan.

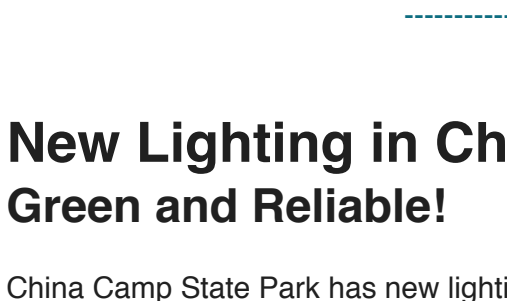
FOCC would like to acknowledge the generosity of the Rotary Club of San Rafael, the Rotary Club of San Francisco #2, and Rotary China for organizing a fundraiser in the spring of 2018 to support China Camp's piling repair program.



Announcements

Weddings in the Park

Tie the Knot at China Camp



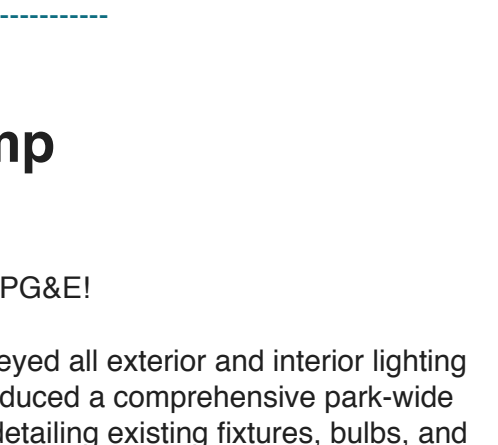
Good news! China Camp State Park has opened up China Camp Point and the Village for wedding reservations.

We are currently taking reservations for 2019!

The Point is the perfect place to exchange vows with bayside views, and easy access to the historic China Camp Village and it's facilities.

China Camp Village's rustic ambiance is ideal for evening receptions with views of the bay and beach access.

If you are Interested, please contact Sheila Coll, Friends of China Camp Program Director for more information or call 415-456-0766

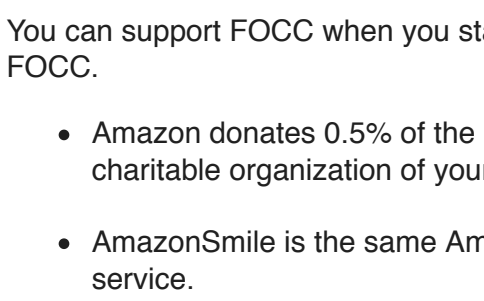


New Lighting in China Camp

Green and Reliable!

China Camp State Park has new lighting...thanks to PG&E!

In partnership with PG&E, Eco-Green Solutions surveyed all exterior and interior lighting throughout the park in January 2018. The survey produced a comprehensive park-wide energy audit detailing existing fixtures, bulbs, and wattages and the energy savings that would be created by an LED/VFD retrofit.



Returning to China Camp in December with a crew of eight installers, Eco-Green Solutions performed the free-of-charge retrofit. This project will reduce FOCC's electricity bills and bulb purchases, and we now have more reliable, non-flickering lighting.

Thank you, PG&E!

Donate to FOCC While Shopping at Amazon

It is easy!

You can support FOCC when you start your purchase thru Amazon Smile, and designate FOCC.

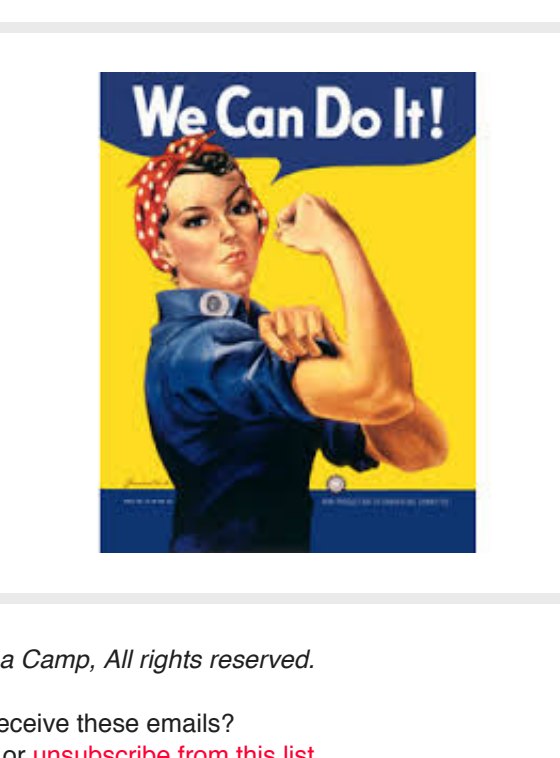
- Amazon donates 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to the charitable organization of your choice.
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UPCOMING EVENTS

- New Years Day Hike
Easy Turtleback Trail Hike
Champion Work Day
Village Talk: Coyotes
King Tide Hike



HOW YOU CAN HELP

- DONATE
VOLUNTEER
BECOME A FRIEND

