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Fort Ross and Salt Point parks have benefited greatly from many dedicated volunteers and staff who have given generously to these parks. Board of directors from FRIA and FRC have fundraised, organized events, overseen volunteers, spearheaded interpretation and restoration projects, and offered substantial support to California State Parks across many decades.

These digitized newsletters capture the activities over the following historic periods:

- Fort Ross Interpretive Association (FRIA): 1976 - 2012
- Fort Ross Conservancy (FRC is the same legal entity as FRIA but the organization changed its name): 2012 - present

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Fort Ross Conservancy, a 501(c)(3) and California State Park cooperating association, connects people to the history and beauty of Fort Ross and Salt Point State Parks. © Fort Ross Conservancy, 19005 Coast Highway One, Jenner, CA 95450, [707-847-3437](tel:707-847-3437) www.fortross.org

Drifts of wild daisies are blooming in the grass at Fort Ross - a sure sign that it is time for the Annual Meeting. Plan to meet us at 11:30 p.m. on April 27th at the Coddinstown Community Meeting Room, Santa Rosa. Each board member has been asked to bring a regular member, and the Advisory Committee members are especially invited. Michael Tucker, Interpretive Curator from the Sacramento Office of the Parks and Recreation Department, will give us some ideas for projects to be developed within the stockade at Fort Ross. He has done extensive research on the types and locations of the cannon at Fort Ross and will give a half-hour slide show that will help us visualize what was at the Fort and what visual impact can be created by restoration. Mike also expects to discuss the plans to furnish the Kuskov House and other buildings. The Department Budget for this is only \$25,000 so money and labor are needed from the Association. Please come prepared to present your ideas and the work you will be willing to contribute.

Another date to save this month is the weekend of April 21-22. A two-day long open house and Cultural Fair will be held at Ya-ka-Aga, the Indian Cultural Center on Trenton Road between Santa Rosa and Guerneville. Laura Somersall, who teaches basket-making at the Center, will demonstrate her art and there will be dancing and all kinds of good things to eat and enjoy.

Genny Marrufo was appointed Cultural Coordinator of Indian Events at the Board Meeting March 16th to work along with Eve Crittenden. Mrs. Marrufo has been helpful in arranging for the Interpretive Association to purchase four outstanding examples of Pomo Indian basket work which can serve as a beginning of an eventual display of Indian history at the Fort. One oval basket is decorated with 28 quail topknot feathers. There is a three inch basket with an ant-hill design in black, and two smaller baskets with leaf and bar designs. The Interpretive Association also has some wonderful Pomo baskets for sale. They range in price from \$50 for the tiny thimble size to \$250 for an especially fine 4-inch example.

The visit of Peter Kalifornsky was all that we had hoped. After a tour of the Fort with Bud Luckey, Mr. Kalifornsky charmed a standing-room-only audience at the Fort Ross School the evening of February 24th. About fifteen Kshaya attended the lecture and invited Peter to visit the reservation - a high point of his trip to California. His great-great grandfather was brought to Fort Ross by the Russians and on his return to Alaska founded a village named in honor of California.

Thursdays and overnight at the Fort are devoted these days to the Environmental Living Program directed by Marina Ilvin. Fourth and fifth graders from the Bay Area are discovering how life was in the early days. Lots of fun is had by all - including Marina, the parents who get to accompany their children and the teacher.

Eve and Abe Crittenden have written exciting letters from New Zealand and Australia. The trip will be over soon after the annual meeting since they hope to be home at Plantation around the first of May. They will spend their final two weeks at the Asia Center in Tokyo.

Betty Musser has charted where the Association membership comes from in preparation for the annual request for memberships. Fifty-five members live in the Fort Ross-Gualala area and 49 are from Bay area. Santa Rosa can claim 24 members, Los Angeles 6 and other California towns 11. Other states have contributed 13 members, 5 of whom are from Alaska. And Switzerland, Canada, England and Australia each have one member of the Interpretive Association.

Membership in the Fort Ross Interpretive Association expires March 31 of each year
\$3.00 - single \$5.00 - family Dues are paid _____ Dues are not paid _____
Make check for membership payable to: Fort Ross Interpretive Association, Inc.
MAIL TO: Betty Musser, 9532 Clint Court, Cazadero, Ca. 95421

Best wishes from your temporary editors - Norah Barr, Joyce Constant and Betty Musser