



FORT ROSS  
CONSERVANCY

# NEWSLETTER

[www.fortross.org](http://www.fortross.org)

Volume 2 | Issue 1

Spring | 2013

## Silver Linings

We all remember the news from July 2012: After 70 parks were placed on the closure list for lack of funds, it was determined that California State Parks and Recreation had hidden \$20.5 million in funding. Not a happy time for the Department, State Parks staff, or non-profit coops such as FRC who work hard to support and protect our wonderful California resources.

Work quickly began in Sacramento to determine how to proceed. In September 2012, Governor Brown signed into law Assembly Bill 1478 – a bill that directed how CSP would spend the discovered funds. The bill states ... *the revenues that were collected by the department but which were not disclosed should be used exclusively to help keep parks open and, where appropriate and necessary, to match moneys from third-party donors and partners that entered into agreements with the department to help keep one or more state parks open.*

*These funds should be used to help establish a sustainable, long-term funding strategy. A preference for such funds should be established at parks where donors have contributed nonstate financial resources.*

The bill divides the \$20.5M into three pots: approximately \$10M to keep parks on the closure list open, \$10M to aid parks at risk to stay open through July 2014, and \$500,000 for the Department to pay for on-going audits and investigations.

FRC falls into the first category and comes after the parks on the closure list have had a chance to determine what they require. CSP can match dollar amounts documented by a donor agreement donated since July 1, 2012 with an equal dollar amount of service. The donated dollar amount may be for any service or program but

the State Parks “match” must be spent to keep the park open.

**We have submitted a donor agreement outlining \$62,550 that FRC has donated to State Parks between July 1, 2012 and February 15, 2013. With the help of our wonderful State Parks Liaison, Andrea Mapes, we are negotiating with Russian River District to get Sacramento to match these funds. And if Sacramento bureaucracy works in our favor, these matching funds will keep Fort Ross open up to an additional 59 days over the year beginning July 1, 2013.**

Assembly bill 1478 has provided us with a wonderful opportunity to work closely with Russian River District towards the shared goal of unlocking the gates at Fort Ross. And that definitely is good news.

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#### FRC FUNDED PROJECTS ELIGIBLE FOR DONOR MATCH

- |  |            |
|--|------------|
| • Orchard Tree Planting                      | \$ 750.*   |
| • Orchard Vegetation Removal                 | \$ 1,950.* |
| • Orchard Fence Repair                       | \$10,660.* |
| • Park Sign on Highway One                   | \$11,948.* |
| • CSP Staff Support for Bicentennial Weekend | \$ 8,240.  |
| • Donation to FR Interpreters                | \$ 5,000.  |
| • Historic Well Restoration                  | \$24,000.* |

\*Funded by generous grants from the Renova Fort Ross Foundation.

# 2013 FORT FESTIVAL ROSS

[www.fortross.org](http://www.fortross.org)

A unique multi-cultural music festival with the Pacific Ocean as its backdrop: world-class live music, dance, costumed re-enactments, historic crafts, militia cannon firings, marketplace, kids' games and more...



### Inna Zhelannaya

Russia's premier world music star, known for combining Russian folk songs with modern music productions



### Northern Rainbow

A folkloric song & dance ensemble from Vologda, with thanks to the Vologda regional government



### Su Nu Nu Shinal

Members of the local Kashia Pomo tribe performing traditional song and dance

## Help us welcome

Fort Ross into its 201st year by volunteering at **Fort Ross Festival**, Fort Ross Conservancy's weekend celebration on July 27th and July 28th. We are looking for volunteers to help us throw a world-class event. Here's what we can offer you:

If you work four (4) hours a day:

- Free Admission to the Festival on the day you work
- Free Parking
- Lunch the day you work
- 15% discount coupon to use in the Visitor Center Gift Shop.

If you work eight (8) hours a day:

- Everything listed above AND
- One year free membership with the Fort Ross Conservancy
- Dinner Saturday night.

Volunteering provides a great way to meet new people, fulfill community service hours, and get outside to enjoy our public lands. We need your help to make this event a success and keep the spotlight on Ross for another year.

We need you to sign up whether you're new at this or are one of Fort Ross' dedicated costumed craftspeople. Please join us — go to our website [www.fortross.org/festivalvolunteer.htm](http://www.fortross.org/festivalvolunteer.htm) to sign up.

**See you at Fort Ross Festival!**

## Where?

Fort Ross State Historic Park  
19005 Coast Highway One  
Jenner CA 95450  
707-847-3437 | [info@fortross.org](mailto:info@fortross.org)

**Advanced Purchase Pricing**  
\$15/person Saturday July 27  
\$12/person Sunday July 28  
\$25/person both July 27 & 28  
FREE for children 13 and under

**Tickets are available at**  
[fortrossfestival.eventbrite.com](http://fortrossfestival.eventbrite.com)

Day of event ticket price: \$20/person per day.

FRC offers bus service from the Bay Area. For bus fees and other event details visit [www.fortross.org/festival.htm](http://www.fortross.org/festival.htm)

**Food available for purchase.**  
**Parking is limited.**  
**Carpooling is encouraged and rewarded!**



## Saturday, July 27

10am to 7pm

### Inna Zhelannaya

Russian folk music with a psychedelic twist, with thanks to Russia's Ministry of Culture

### Aleksander Liapin

Master guitarist and musical innovator

### Slavyanka Chorus

Folk and Orthodox liturgical music

### Northern Rainbow

A folkloric song & dance ensemble from Vologda

### Carlos Reyes

Brilliant Latin Jazz and traditional folkloric music

## Sunday, July 28

10am to 4:30pm

### Inna Zhelannaya

Russian Folk Music with a psychedelic twist

### Northern Rainbow

A folkloric song & dance ensemble from Vologda

### Su Nu Nu Shinal

Members of the local Kashia Pomo tribe performing traditional song and dance

### Los Cenzontles

A celebration of Mexico's rural roots music

### Kitka

Exquisite harmonies from Eastern Europe and beyond

### Cossacks

Hand-to-hand combat demonstrations by students of Stanislav Holodkov, the Ataman of Cossack National Union

Event greening services by Green Mary; BYO water bottle.



[www.facebook.com/FortRossPresents](https://www.facebook.com/FortRossPresents)



**Sponsors**



# Ranch Era Reunion

Recently Fort Ross received a special visitor, Steven Pearce, who is the great-grandson of G.W. Call. Mr. Pearce spent much of his childhood at Fort Ross but circumstances kept him away for several decades. FRC was pleased to have him reconnect and visit Fort Ross once again, and we are especially grateful that he is sharing family artifacts and stories from his childhood, including this anecdote from the early 1960s.



Steven Pearce in front of the Call house.

## LIFE AT ROSS IN THE EARLY 1960s

*I was born in May of 1947 and my first trip to Fort Ross was the summer of 1947. Naturally I don't remember that. My father and Carlos were close, and we made fairly regular trips to "the Fort " over the years. I would get car sick every time we went but all was OK when we got there. I loved going up in the woods and riding in the back of Carlos's pick up or in the Jeep. We always went for a ride somewhere on the ranch.*

*As I got older, maybe 14, my father would take me to the ranch and leave me there during the summers. I would help Carlos as best as I could. During sheering season after the sheep were sheered Carlos and I would sort, brand and dose them. One time, Carlos wanted me to gather some sheep out of the coast field just outside the fort and move them up the road to another field. Carlos gave me two dogs, one of his and one that belonged to Harry, and he told me to keep them on chains since there were visitors in the fort and Harry's dog could get mean. We started through the fort when a tourist stepped out in front of the sheep to take a picture. The sheep, being sheep, startled and scattered all through the fort. The*



Fort Ross Chapel, 1934.

*Commandant's house was a museum back then and some of the sheep went inside, as well as up in the blockhouses. I had to carry them down the stairs from the block houses while the park ranger, Mr. Bishop, was yelling at me to get them out of the museum. I finally had no choice, I turned the dogs loose, so Carlos's dog could drive them while Harry's dog would hold them. I finally got them all together when I heard Harry's dog growling—he had rounded up the tourists and was holding them in a corner of the fort. I can only imagine my father and Carlos laughing watching all this.*

# Calendar of Events

## June 1 & June 15:

### Marine Mammal Monitoring

Join us as we monitor the largest of the sea lions, the Steller Sea Lions, found here on our Sea Lion Rocks just north of Fort Ross.

## June 8th:

### Big Time

The Kashaya will be joined by neighboring tribes for dancing and gaming at Metini/ Fort Ross.

## June 15th and 16th:

### One or Two Day Plein Air Painting Workshop

See Fort Ross through the eyes of an artist. Featuring Russian American artists Valeriy Kagounkin and Tamara Magdalina.

## June 23rd, 1pm:

**Poetry at Fort Ross**, featuring Pulitzer Prize Winning Poet Gary Snyder & Kashaya Pomo poet Martina Morgan.

## July 27th & July 28th:

### Fort Ross Festival

Help us welcome Fort Ross into its 201st year by joining us for a weekend celebration.

## October 19th:

### Harvest Festival

## Every month, 2nd Saturday:

### Fort Ross Windmill Turning

Our website is updated daily.

For event details and fees, go to:

<http://www.fortross.org/events.htm>



Su Nu Nu Shinal & Kedry dancers at Fort Ross.

### FRC Board of Directors

Sarah Sweedler, President & CEO

Jan Phelps, CFO & Treasurer

Michael Dewees

Konstantin Kudryavtsev

Mikhail Pashkov

Emilio Valencia

Tom Wright

### FRC Advisory Committee

Irina Dyatlovskaya, Jeanne Milligan,

Ellyn Moscowitz, Susan Rudy

### FRC Staff

Sarah Sweedler, President & CEO

Jan Phelps, CFO & Treasurer

Sarjan Holt, Operations Manager

Hank Birnbaum, Programs Manager

Susanna Barlow, Salt Point Interpreter,

& Visitor Center staffer

Lake Perry, Visitor Center staffer

Sondra Hunter, Executive Assistant & Buyer

# In Memoriam

## **BARBARA SWEETLAND SMITH 1936-2013**

It is with great sadness and a sense of real loss that we learn of the death of Barbara Sweetland Smith, a noted scholar of the history of Russian America, on March 12, 2013 in Portland, Oregon. Barbara had an early California connection in her undergraduate studies at Mills College in Oakland and then went on to further education at Columbia University and the University of Washington. Although she specialized in the history of the Russian Orthodox church in Alaska, her breadth of interest in Russian America was very extensive. Based in Alaska and working for the Anchorage Museum of Art, she utilized her international contacts to put together remarkable travelling exhibits. In October 1991, she brought the exhibit, "Russian America: The Forgotten Frontier" to the Oakland Museum. The opportunity to see many invaluable artifacts, especially key paintings and drawings, was very exciting. Although most of them had been published at one time or another, the chance to see the actual pieces was a rare opportunity since no reproduction could fully capture their critical details. Accompanying the exhibit was a volume of papers written by the top researchers of the time. My copy is very well-thumbed as I use it often in research.

Then again, at the turn of the millennium, Barbara developed another breath-taking travelling exhibit called "Science Under Sail: Russia's Great Voyages to America, 1728-1867" which appeared at the California Academy of Sciences. Here again, Barbara was able to arrange for the exhibit of many really remarkable artifacts. I was especially drawn to the original copies of the drawings of Mikhail Tikhonovich Tikhanov of the Indians at Bodega Bay in 1818. John Middleton was instrumental in helping to put together this exhibit and bringing his own knowledge of the history of Russian sea-faring to bear in the preparation of many of the exhibit layouts and panels. Barbara's talent for obtaining the loan of so many wonderful artifacts from museums all over Europe and Russia was truly a diplomatic tour-de-force and we all benefited greatly from her efforts.

On the rare occasions when I would run into Barbara either in California or Alaska, I always found her to be not only wonderfully knowledgeable, but also very gracious in her helpfulness to myself and other researchers, as well as personally interested in the well-being of her many California friends. The field of research on Russian America is definitely poorer for her passing. I take the opportunity to repeat a notice in her obituary that appeared in The Oregonian on March 17, 2013 that donations in her honor can be sent to the Portland State University Monroe M. Sweetland Endowed Community Leadership Scholarship Fund.

Glenn Farris



## **JEANNETTE ROSSON**

The Fort Ross community has lost several strong and dedicated people who worked in various capacities with us. We wish to acknowledge Jeannette Rosson who was an active member of the Fort Ross Advisory Committee from its inception, and a board member of the subsequent Fort Ross Interpretive Association until she retired in 1997. She was instrumental in the Call House reconstruction fundraising efforts and enjoyed working in the Call family gardens. Born September 11, 1918, Jeannette Rosson passed on June 12, 2012.

## **GLORIA FROST**

Gloria Frost passed away recently on May 6, 2013. For many years she was a board member and membership chairperson as well as very active in the Call family gardens. There will be a memorial on June 29. For more information, please contact David Frost at (707) 695-7960.

## Ship Building at Ross

Fort Ross was the first site of ship building in California, which was integral to Russian American maritime exploration. We have reprinted an excerpt from Captain-Lieutenant Mikhail Vasilyev, "Remarks on California" (from Fragments of Draft Notes on the round-the-world voyage of the sloops *Otkrytie* and *Blagonamerenny* in 1819-1822. Because of the abundance of timber near Fort Ross, the Russian American Company held high hope for the development of ship building at the colony. This was a reasonable goal, given that ships were necessary to facilitate both trans-Pacific trade and communication. Three brigs and a schooner were built at Fort Ross cove over an eight year period. However, ship building at Ross was thereafter abandoned because the oak used was too freshly cut and would rot quickly.

*My choice of the port of [San] Francisco to rest the crews of the ships was guided further by the fact [that] it was known to me that north of this port at \_\_\_\_\_<sup>1</sup> in Bodega Bay and somewhat to the north of i[t] the Russian-American Company had established the settlement of Ross, which was managed by Commercial Counselor Ivan Aleksandrovich Kuskov. In 1806 Nikolay Petrovich Rezanov, the plenipotentiary of the American company, traveled from Kodiak to California on the ship \_\_\_\_\_<sup>2</sup>, whose commander was Lieutenant Khvostov. They were at the port of [San] Francisco, and [Rezanov] went to Monterey. After becoming acquainted with the governor, [Rezanov] desired to marry his daughter.<sup>3</sup> The outcome of this was the fact that in the following year, 1807, Mr. Kuskov was sent with some Russian promyshlennik[s] and some Konyaga and Aleut fa[m]ilies to settle at Bodega.<sup>4</sup> It was reckoned that the advantage of this, of course, was the fact that this place abounds in timber for shipbuilding and ships could be built here.<sup>5</sup> The climate of 38° [N] latitude is far better than Kodiak's or Sitka's; the soil produces everything in abundance; the savage Indians are a well-behaved people and timid compared with the Koloshes; [and] there is [sea] otter hunting along the coast of California, as well as in [San] Francisc[o] Bay. On the largest rock of the Farallones [Southeast Farallon] there is a sea lion rookery and fur seal hunting. It seems that for all of these very favorable reasons the company founded the settlement of Ross, and Mr. Baranov, the governor, sent his assistant, Kuskov, there. Before the governor at Monterey was replaced [in 1814], we enjoyed all of these advantages, and we caught [sea] otters at the port of [San] Francisco its[elf] and on the coast towards Monterey, neither the Spaniards nor the Indians engaging in such hunting. Upon the ascension [to office] of the present governor, Don Pablo Vicente de Solá, he enquired by what right the Russians had settled in California on land belonging to Spain. Although the Spaniards had never settled north of the port of [San] Francisco, the governor did not want to have such neighbors. [He] prohibited hunting by us along the coast of California and halted all contact with Kuskov. But Kuskov stayed at his post and the governor did not hound him any more.*

1 Presumably the latitude and longitude of Ross were intended to fill this long gap in the manuscript.

2 *Yunona*.

3 Vasilyev is mistaken. Rezanov did not travel to Monterey, and he hoped to marry the daughter of the commandant of San Francisco, not of the governor.

4 Vasilyev is again mistaken. Kuskov's first expedition to Alta California occurred in 1808-09, and its purpose was not the founding of a settlement on Bodega Bay.

5 Vasilyev is mistaken once more. Timber was lacking near Bodega Bay.



Unfinished Watercolor of New Archangel (Sitka) Harbor, by Pavel Mikhailov, 1827. The Brigs *Buldakov* (center foreground) and *Kyakhta* were built at Fort Ross.

*Being now so close, I wanted to see Mr. Kuskov, as an oldtimer, to obtain trustworthy information about his settlement and about California, and, as I had been told that the Indians were favorably disposed towards us and were related to the Konyagas and Aleuts through intermarriage, [to learn whether or not] he had [heard through them] any rumors of Europeans residing to the north. But for him it was a difficult p[a]ss[a]ge to us by kayaks in the open sea — a four-day trip in winter — and it seemed that neither the governor nor even Kuskov himself wanted this, and we did not meet. [I] satisfied my curiosity partly through correspondence with him: three times he sent kayaks to us with various green vegetables, for which I was extremely grateful to him.*

*The settlement of Ross lies at latitude 38° in a small cove on the very ocean; there are up to 20 Russian promyshlenniks, who are engaged in shipbuilding. So far they have built the two-masted ships *Ilmena*, *Chirikov*, *Rumyantsev*, and *Buldakov* and are building one more [the brig *Volga*].<sup>1</sup> The shipwright [is] one of the promyshlenniks [Vasily Grudinin], who learned shipbuilding from an American [Lincoln] serving the compan[y] at Sitka after leaving an American ship out of dissatisfaction. After five years he [Lincoln] went to Canton, and his apprentice continued his shipbuilding experimentally. I know not whether they have been built properly — only that they sail, one in the spring to Okhotsk and the other to the Aleutian chain and the Fur Seal [Pribilof] Islands, as well as to Kodiak and California year round. For several years already [they] have been so fortunate that not a single vessel was wrecked. Then just last year, 1820, in the month of June the ship *Ilmena* under the command of the navigator\_\_\_\_,<sup>2</sup> with the manager of Sitka Counter, Kirilo Timofeyevich Khlebnikov, on board, bound for grain at Monterey, was wrecked on 19 June on Point Arena, running aground under topsail with a favorable wind. All of the cargo and men were saved, and then the ship was dismantled. This ship, the *Ilmena*, ought to have stopped earlier at Bodega to take from Kuskov the newly built two-masted ship *Buldakov* and go together to Monterey for wheat. Owing to the accident, they went to Monterey for wheat in one ship, the *Buldakov*. After having exchanged their goods for up to seven thousand puds of wheat — paying the governor 25 percent, they say — they set out to sea on 22 September from Bodega, but their\_\_\_\_ was damaged by strong winds, and they went down to Santa Bárbara. After having made repairs, they reached Sitka on 24 November.*

1 Vasilyev is partially mistaken; the *Rumyantsev* and the *Buldakov* were built at Ross but the *Ilmena* was bought from an American Nor'wester and the *Chirikov* was built at Sitka.

2 Charles Stevens.



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CONSERVANCY**

19005 Coast Highway One  
Jenner, CA 95450  
[www.fortross.org](http://www.fortross.org)

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## Contact Information

**Fort Ross Conservancy**  
19005 Coast Highway One  
Jenner, CA 95450, USA  
[www.fortross.org](http://www.fortross.org)  
[info@fortross.org](mailto:info@fortross.org)  
(707) 847-3437

Photos by Paul C. Miller

## Highlights of Upcoming Events:

**Saturday, June 8: 10 am**  
Big Time at Fort Ross

**Saturday & Sunday, June 15 & 16**  
Plein Air Painting Workshop at Fort Ross

**Sunday, June 23: 1-4 pm**  
Celebrate Poetry with Gary Snyder and  
Martina Morgan

**Saturday & Sunday, July 27 & 28**  
**FORT ROSS FESTIVAL**

A unique multi-cultural music festival with the Pacific Ocean as its backdrop: world-class live music, dance, costumed re-enactments, historic crafts, militia cannon firings, marketplace, kids' games and more...

**Saturday, October 19th: 10 am**  
**HARVEST FESTIVAL**