Dear Friends,

Welcome, Labor Day weekend! According to the weather service, the summer season is going out with a bang. While it's unseasonably warm on the coast I dare say it's more pleasant than the interior - our friends at Sutter's Fort in Sacramento report a scorching 108 degrees today, and we say -- come west and put your feet in the cool waters of the Pacific. Or as the Tidewater stamp so cheerfully says, "Let's Get Associated!"

September of course means the school year is gearing up and the FRC team is busily preparing for the Environmental Living and Marine Ecology programs. This year alone several thousand kids will spend time learning about the people and natural environment at Fort Ross and Salt Point. If you know of a school that would like to participate in our outdoor education programs but need financial assistance, let us know. Scholarships and fee waivers are available. The great outdoors is the best classroom!

Our July Fort Ross Festival was absolutely a pleasure. We all had a great time and the vibe was fantastic family-friendly fun. If you were one of the 350 dedicated volunteers who made the day possible, I applaud you. FRC is now working on Harvest Festival and we’d love to have you join us. It's a mellow day, we will be pouring fantastic local wines, carving pumpkins and enjoying the last cool days of Autumn. Ticket information below, or contact Melissa if you want to volunteer your way into the event.

Especially now, I’m grateful to work with generous and caring individuals in a place rich in beauty and abundant in stories. Thank you all for being part of the Fort Ross community.

Wishing you a safe and enjoyable long weekend,

Всего доброго,

-Sarah Sweedler
Join Fort Ross Conservancy and the Fort Ross-Seaview Winegrowers Association for an incredible day of world-class wine tasting, delicious local foods, historic crafts and music, all set on the spectacular Sonoma Coast at Fort Ross State Historic Park.

Enjoy the Wine Tasting Tent with wines from the internationally acclaimed Fort Ross-Seaview Wine Growers.

The Harvest Festival is a family friendly event, with gentle apple picking in the historic orchard, live music, and seasonal activities.

Prices: Fort Ross-Seaview Wine Tasting is $40/person and includes general admission to Harvest Festival when purchased in advance.

General Admission to Harvest Festival is $20 PER CAR - Does not include food or beverage.

Get your tickets at Eventbrite!

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**Weekend Activities at Salt Point**

**Saturday, September 2nd**

**11am-12pm**

**Junior Ranger Program**

6-12 yr. olds

Scavenger Hunt
At Stump Beach
Meet at Stump Beach

Saturday Night Campfire- 7:30pm
Park or Walk to Woodside Day Use Parking
Campfire in Hike & Bike Area near Firewood Sales
Bring: Folding Chairs, Flashlights, Drinks, Blankets

Sunday, September 3rd - 1:30pm
Family Hike to Stump Beach
Meet at Gerstle Cove Visitor Center for a two hour round trip hike
Spectacular Geology, Local History & Marine Life

Park entrance day use fees apply. California State Parks supports equal access. Prior to arrival, visitors with disabilities who need assistance should contact 707-847-3221.

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Call House Museum is Open This Weekend

The Calls built this residence in 1878 as a headquarters for the ranch and shipping operations and a home for their family, which eventually included nine children. The Call House, which is open to the public for guided tours only, is an excellent representation of the coastal Ranch era. Its artifacts and renovation were done by park staff and volunteers, with grants from the Sonoma County Landmarks Commission and the Mercedes Pearce and John Stafford Trust. This house was first open to visitors in May, 2003. Volunteers maintain the historic garden and give guided tours on the first weekend of each month from 1 to 4 PM. Many of the furnishings belonged to the Call family.

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Educators, Parents and Students:
The Fort Ross Classroom
There are still a few slots available for the 2017-2018 **ELP season**. Apply soon before they are all snatched up. Fill out our online **ELP/ELDP Reservation Form** here.

We are also booking **Marine Ecology Programs** throughout the year, so if you're interested in mixing things up - camping on the coast under the stars and exploring our beautiful ocean and the critters living in them - the MEP is just for you! Fill out our online **MEP Reservation Form**.

I look forward to working with you to schedule a wonderful and memorable outdoor education adventure.

Questions?
Contact Director of Programs Sondra Hunter sondrah@fortross.org

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**Tidewater Oil Company**
"Let's Get Associated" Poster Stamps

A good friend of FRC recently sent us this interesting 1930s stamp which we will keep in our library. According to Wikipedia, Tidewater Oil Company (1887 to 1936) was a major petroleum refining and marketing concern in the United States for more than 80 years. Tidewater was best known for its Flying A-branded products and gas stations, and for Veedol motor oil, which was known throughout the world. Flying A Gas "Let's Get Associated Poster Stamps were issued in the 1930s as part of the then Tide Water Associated Oil Co's "Let's Get Associated" Series.

Flying A Gas, "Let's Get Associated" Poster Stamp Collection, F/VF, MNH:
Notice that the chapel has four windows. When the chapel was restored in 1916, construction deviated from the chapel's original appearance. Apparently the importance of the trinity in Russian Orthodox construction was not known to the workers and they added the fourth window to better stabilize the structure. This alteration remained for nearly forty years. As public interest grew and the chapel's building construction became better understood, State Parks was persuaded to bring the building into closer conformity with the original. Finally, in 1955, a second restoration was funded and the walls of the chapel were rebuilt to showcase three windows, as it stands today.

--Sarah Sweedler