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Fort Ross & Salt Point News January 2012

Fort Ross Interpretive Association

A California State Park Cooperating Association

1812 - 2012



After much anticipation we finally welcome 2012, the bicentennial of the founding of Fort Ross. This year provides a powerful opportunity to showcase Fort Ross and continue our work on preserving its legacy.

We have a full year of exciting events scheduled, starting with our FRIA Fundraiser scheduled for January 26, 2012, at the Russian Consulate in San Francisco. We have a wonderful evening planned with fantastic food, entertainment, & music by members of Quartet San Francisco, so please join us and show your support -- tickets cost \$125 and are

tax deductible. **The Russian consulate has generously donated the venue and food, so all proceeds will be used to create programming at Fort Ross.** Tickets are available from our website.

Fort Ross & the California State Budget Crisis

These are difficult times for Fort Ross. Funding for California State Parks has been cut 37% in just the last three years, including an \$11 million cut from last year's budget. While we weren't on the official closure list, Fort Ross was open less than 1/2 the calendar year, which certainly took a chunk out of our gift shop revenue and disappointed a lot of visitors. But even this state of affairs could get worse: if voters don't support Gov. Brown's proposed November ballot initiative, there will be a further 20% cut to CSP rangers and the elimination of lifeguards.



This ongoing financial crisis illustrates that FRIA, and Fort Ross, need a broader base of support. We must create public/private partnerships and cultivate more active volunteers. Please encourage your friends to become members, and check with your employer to see if they have a matching gift program. We need to grow our organization so that it is a strong, self-sufficient non-profit able to assist CSP operate the parks under our supervision (Fort Ross, Reef campground, Salt Point, Gerstle, and Woodside campground). FRIA is working on a 5 Year Strategic Plan which we'll publicize over the coming months to address this new paradigm.

We also want to acknowledge the support we've received from the Russian Federation, the Renova Fort Ross Foundation, Chevron, California State Parks Foundation, and of course, California State Parks. We wouldn't be this far along without their support. Thank you!

2012 Calendar



Budget problems aside, this is our bicentennial and we're working hard to prepare an exciting and inspirational calendar of events. The 2012 calendar offers everything from historic hikes, glamorous galas, and learned lectures, with events held around the extended bay area over the course of the year. To see what's in store, please visit the FRIA website, and check back often for updates, since some events (such as bringing Juno & Avos to San Francisco) are still jelling. Better yet, join us on facebook where you can post photos, comments, and queries about all things Fort Ross. (Friends of Fort Ross group.)

As we begin this most auspicious new year, we once again thank the many dedicated individuals who support us in so many ways.

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