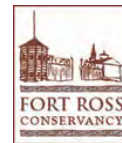


# Fort Ross Festival Volunteer News



June 2015

This issue features:

Fort Ross Festival Volunteer Letter

WELCOME  
ДОБРО ПОЖАЛОВАТЬ  
FORT ROSS FESTIVAL  
Saturday, July 25, 10:00-6:00



Fort Ross is open  
Friday - Monday  
10am-4:30pm  
The Call House Museum and Garden is open first weekend of each month from 1 to 4 PM. Please visit our website for more information on the park hours.

Fort Ross Conservancy  
501c3 / California Cooperating Association  
www.fortross.org  
707-847-3437  
info@fortross.org  
Tours in English & Russian  
Information on special events  
Visitor Center and sales

California State Parks  
Interpreters at Fort Ross  
Fort Ross State Historic Park  
www.fortrossstatepark.org  
ELP, ELDP, & School Groups  
Junior Ranger & Boy Scout programs  
Talks at the fort compound  
707-847-4777

Recommended Websites

Dear Fort Ross Festival volunteers,

July is almost upon us and we are only a few weeks away from [Fort Ross Festival](#). We are always happy to welcome our volunteers and friends to Ross, and particularly grateful that our dedicated volunteers will help us make this day memorable for all our visitors. We'd like to let you know about a few special additions to this year's event. Following this note is a letter from Robin that covers compound logistics, so do read on.

We are very excited to welcome the [St Petersburg Horn Orchestra](#), a unique horn ensemble playing instruments designed in the style of 19th century Imperial Czarist Russia. They will perform two 45 minute sets in the fort compound, without amplification. We hope to make their second set a master class so that the audience can learn more about these unique and demanding instruments. We're always happy to have our beloved [Kedry](#) families back, and a smaller contingent from [Kitka](#). With help from FRC Advisor Lauren Peters, Alaska Natives will be better represented at FRF this year: in the compound we'll watch expert builder Marc Daniels work on the nigliax (baidara, or large open kayak), and thanks to the Aleut Foundation, Unangax Becky Bendixen and her daughter will visit from Alaska to demonstrate Bering Sea style headdress beading. It is shaping up to be a great day in the fort compound!

Outside the compound, Lynn Rudy and our wonderful ranch era volunteers will open the Call House from 1 to 4pm, and Su Nu Nu Shinal will be performing on the Ocean Terrace.

This year the US State Department is supporting Fort Ross Festival by

California State Parks Foundation  
Sonoma Birding  
Wikipedia on Fort Ross  
California State Parks  
Salt Point State Park

sponsoring a well-known Russian TV station, Rossiya24, to film a Fort Ross feature, including filming at this event. The US State Department is also sending 12 Russian high school students to Fort Ross Festival as part of their Fort Ross Quest contest. Not surprisingly, these kids speak English, so if you are coming to FRF with your teenager it would be nice to introduce them so that they can be acquainted with their American peers.

Register or Update Your Email  
Address

We are bringing back the beer garden, this year pouring brew from Sierra Nevada and Lagunitas, hard cider from Tilted Shed, and we are still on the lookout for serving homemade kvass.

## Contact Us

Fort Ross Conservancy  
Fort Ross State Historic Park  
19005 Coast Highway One  
Jenner, CA 95450

info@fortross.org  
707-847-3437

Fort Ross Website

Fort Ross Festival is a partnership between Fort Ross Conservancy and California State Parks. Fort Ross Conservancy is funding this event through a grant from [Renova Fort Ross Foundation](#), with additional international travel for the St. Petersburg Horn Orchestra provided by Russia's Ministry of Culture.

If you have any questions or concerns about the event please feel free to contact me at [sarahs@fortross.org](mailto:sarahs@fortross.org) or give me a call 415/203-7393. I'm looking forward to seeing you at the fort.

Sarah Sweedler  
Fort Ross Conservancy President



Dear Costumed Volunteers in the Fort Compound,

Thank you for signing up to volunteer at the Fort Ross Festival 2015. We are grateful to the many dedicated and committed volunteers that create the living atmosphere of Colony Ross. There will be many craft demonstrations, performances, costumed snippets and militia drills in the fort compound. Fort Ross Festival is a unique festival tradition—and we appreciate your role in making it so!

This letter includes information about the event, the schedule, details our fort compound volunteers need to know, and more. Please have this letter handy to answer any needed questions you might have or contact me at [robinjoy.wellman@parks.ca.gov](mailto:robinjoy.wellman@parks.ca.gov) for more information.



As is our tradition, we will continue to focus on the everyday inhabitants and cultural aspects of this settlement. We ask our volunteers to not just "look good" but also give voice to the past, sharing your knowledge of the cultural diversity, crafts, arts, architecture, history and traditional activities of the early 19th century Ross inhabitants and neighbors.

Before the Event:

- Please take some time to brush up on your Fort Ross background history. Contact park staff if you have specific questions or visit our website at [www.fortrossstatepark.org](http://www.fortrossstatepark.org). Also there are many wonderful books available in your local library and bookstores.
- Many of you have already signed up for your own interpretive activity approved by the Fort Ross interp staff. Thank you. Some of you will be assigned a craft station to assist us with: basket making, rope making, or candle making. For volunteers that are registered in advance, this is what they will receive:



If you work four (4) hours:



- Free Admission to the Festival
- Free Parking
- Sandwich bar lunch
- 10% discount coupon to use in the Visitor Center Bookshop.



- Militia: You MUST check in with any personally owned arms. Our militia lead is Aaron Haiman. Aaron has been volunteering at Fort Ross since he was a young lad, and carrying around a musket as soon as he could hold one. He is active and passionate about history and we are pleased to have his assistance as the lead. Thank you to Phil Rayment who gets our muskets ready for us each year, cleaning them and making sure they fire well.



- Costumes: Please take time to develop your own character and costume. Be prepared for warm or cool weather. And remember a hat and sunscreen! If you are borrowing a costume please check it out on Friday between 3:00 pm and 8:00 pm or Saturday before 9:00 am. After 9:00 AM they will be put away and not available.
- Arrival: please check in at the fort compound from Friday 3:00 pm to 7:00 PM or Saturday from 7:00 am to 10:00 am. When you check in you will receive a ticket for your lunch.
- It is important that you arrive early, unload your gear if needed, park in the upper parking area, and be at the fort compound by 9:30 for the opening ceremonies. Please have your parking pass ready and show it to the Kiosk staff as you enter the parking area; then place the pass on your dash.



- Our Opening Blessing is Saturday at 9:30 for all volunteers. The blessing is offered by our Kashaya friends. We encourage you all to attend as it really offers us all a small moment of silence together, to take in all the people you are working side by side with, and a glimpse at all the talent around you. We also offer details about the day and updates.
- Accommodations: Please note that accommodations in the immediate area of Fort Ross are very limited. You are welcome to stay overnight in the fort compound. If you are staying overnight please try to arrive before 10:00 pm on Friday as the car traffic, the car lights, and the movement is uncomfortable for those trying to sleep in the same areas that you are setting up. For those sleeping in the fort or on the terrace your gear will need to be cleaned up and you will need to have your car moved to the main parking lot by 8:00 am each morning.

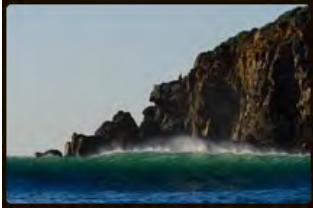


- Meals: We will be serving tea, coffee, and water all day behind the Officer's Barracks for your comfort. Remember to bring your own water bottle to refill at the water station. Lunch will be provided between the hours of 11:00 am and 2:00 pm also behind the Officer's Barracks. You must sign in and be on the volunteer list in order to receive lunch. FRC is funding the interpretive food to be prepared in the compound throughout the day. This food is available to volunteers after the event to share as part of dinner, but you may want to bring food to share as well.

#### Fort Ross Festival Event Details:

- Rossiya24, a Russian Film Company will be filming throughout the park. If you do not want to be filmed please stay out of the camera limelight.
- Fort Ross will be host to 12 Russian students and English Chaperones who participated and won the US Embassy Fort Ross Quest program.
- Fort Ross will be host to 18 youth and adults from the Vologda Region.
- Traditional song and dance with Kedry and Kitka
- Kashia Su Nu Nu Shinal will dance in their dance circle in the late afternoon.





- Traditional horse and carriage will transport visitors from Visitor Center to Fort Compound.
- Ranch era Call House will be open for walk through.

All volunteers need to sign a waiver upon arrival. To save time at check-in, here's the wording in advance for your review:

#### AGREEMENT, WAIVER AND RELEASE OF CLAIM

1. That I am volunteering my services for the above-described event on a voluntary basis without anticipation of payment of any kind;
2. That I will perform assigned tasks which are within my physical capability to the best of my ability, and that I will not undertake tasks that are beyond my ability or physical capability;
3. That I am familiar with the safe operation and use of equipment and tools that I may utilize in connection with this volunteer activity, and that I will not undertake to use any equipment or tools with which I am unfamiliar or do not know how to operate safely;
4. That I will perform only those tasks assigned, observe all safety rules, and use care in the performance of my assignments;
5. That I understand there are risks and hazards associated with my participation;
6. That I hereby release and discharge, agree to indemnify and hold harmless, the State of California, the Department of Parks and Recreation, and their agents, employees and representatives, from all claims, demands, actions or judgments which I, or my heirs, executors, administrators or assigns, may have for any and all injuries and damages, known or unknown, caused by or arising out of the above-described activity;
7. That I specifically acknowledge that I am engaging in this activity as a volunteer, at my own request and risk, and not as a State of California employee, agent, official, officer or representative, and further acknowledge that I am not entitled to any compensation, benefit or insurance coverage from the State of California or the Department of Parks and Recreation, nor will I make any such claim;
8. That I have read this agreement, waiver and release of claims, and understand its terms, and I voluntarily execute it with full knowledge of its significance.



Robin Joy Wellman  
State Park Interpreter

---