

NEWSLETTER

FOCWA to Visit 8th Grade Classes in Palo Alto

FOCWA member Steve Johnson was contacted by a social studies teacher in Palo Alto who had seen the FOCWA website. She was interested in making a connection with the history of Alcatraz and the Civil War to their studies of the American Civil War in the classroom. Steve suggested classroom visitations combined with a field trip to Alcatraz Island in February. With the approval and support of Ranger Marcus Koenen this will occur at the end of February. Steve will be visiting the 8th grade classes of Jordan Middle School in Palo Alto over a two day period and will spend an hour with six classes, telling them about California's role in the Civil War and the part that Alcatraz played in that story. Later that week the classes will arrive by chartered buses and will be met by Steve and Paul Vivian, an NPS volunteer who also does Civil War programs and has agreed to help with this endeavor. The students will learn about the architecture, armaments, soldiers' duties, and will do a cannon drill. They will also visit the tunnel and learn why it was built. At the end of their visit they will take a quick survey to show what they learned and their favorite part of the experience. You will read these results in the next newsletter.

Dates to Remember

February 9
FOCWA Board Mtg.
11 a.m. on Alcatraz

February 27 & 28
Visitation by Jordan
Middle School
to Alcatraz Island

April 5
Living History Day
on Alcatraz

FOCWA Members at Fort Point, January 25th

Members of FOCWA participated in the Living History Day at our sister fort, Fort Point, on Saturday, January 25th. Under unusually warm, blue skies members greeted visitors, gave talks about sea-coast fortifications, and participated in the flag ceremony in which the garrison flag was raised while the Fort Point Brass Band played the national anthem. Participants also included members of the American Civil War Assn., The California Volunteer Fife & Drum Corps, and the California Historic Artillery Society. By the end of the day, the fort had received over 3,000 visitors, many of whom thanked us for bringing the old fort to life again.



Photo Credit: Dave Rauenbuehler

Agave Trail to Close

The Agave Trail on the island will soon be closed due to the beginning of bird season. Many visitors have taken advantage of the nice weather to walk this trail.

Did You Know?

The original fog bell on the island weighed 1,000 lbs. and its clapper, 30 lbs. The bell was struck every 8 minutes using a weight and pulley system; it took 45 minutes to wind it up, and lasted for 5 hours.