

NEWSLETTER

Friends of Civil War Alcatraz

APRIL 2015

EDITOR: Steve Johnson

Citadel to Open for Tours The GGNRA has given the green light for guided tours of the Citadel, starting in May. Guides will need to be trained in safety procedures, group management, interpretation of the citadel's history, and knowledge of the different rooms and structures. The rangers will be providing training materials for those who wish to give tours. Guides will have to be certified by giving a tour to the public in the presence of a ranger. Recently Ranger Lori invited historian and FOCWA member John Martini to give a tour of the citadel to interested volunteers. John pointed out the most interesting features of the citadel, including early graffiti, latrines, kitchens, prison cells, remnants of stairs, iron shutters, etc

Dates to Remember
April 19, 10 a.m.
Meeting of the Board of Directors, 223 Halleck, Presidio of San Francisco

Any members of FOCWA who are already NPS volunteers and who would like to become guides should contact Ranger Lori so she can arrange for you to take a tour of the Citadel, receive the guidelines packet, and schedule a day on which you would like to do a practice tour. The limit for tour groups will be 10 persons plus the guide, and once you become certified you can lead as many tours as you like. No doubt these tours will become very popular once the word gets out!



John Martini leads a group of volunteers on a tour of the Citadel

FOCWA Members visit Alcatraz Model Several members of the FOCWA board met with Ranger John Cantwell on the pier adjacent to the Alcatraz landing, where there is a workshop that houses a model that was originally designed just to show the roads and Agave Trail around the island. The model, which is about 8 feet by 3 feet, could easily become a model of Fort Alcatraz during the Civil War. The model builder proposes to show all the cannons, cannon emplacements, buildings, roads and the pier that existed on the island in the 1860's. The model builder, who is a master of detail, estimated the cost of completing the model, including the supporting table and the cover, to be \$20,000.

Ranger Marcus Koenen has said that funds may be available for part of the cost, and member Steve Johnson has volunteered to write a grant proposal to the Civil War Trust for additional funding.

The model would be the most prominent feature of the Civil War Room planned for China Alley, and would be a visually stunning portrayal of how Alcatraz Island looked in the 1860's. The FOCWA board will discuss this project at the next board meeting.



Members of the Board inspect the model of Alcatraz Island with the model makers