

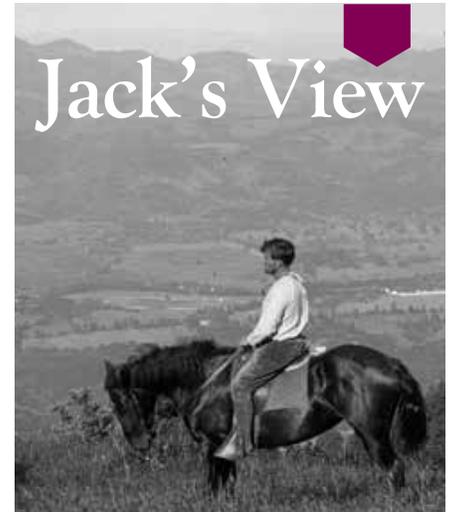


JACK LONDON STATE HISTORIC PARK

Moon Letter

Operated by Jack London Park Partners

Spring 2017



News from the Park

JACK LONDON PARK PARTNERS CELEBRATES 5TH ANNIVERSARY OF PARK MANAGEMENT!

2012 was a watershed year for the Valley of the Moon Natural History Association – soon to become Jack London Park Partners – when the crisis of park closures became the opportunity for qualified nonprofits to enter operating agreements with State Parks to keep them open.

Born out of an urgent need, the experimental private/public park management model has evolved over the past five years to make the park a more relevant community resource and successful by every measure. Annual attendance has a little more than doubled with a diversity of visitors – young and old- who make the park a destination not only to learn more about Jack London but to “get that something out of nature we all need” as Jack was fond of saying. Thanks to visitor and community support, we are financially self-sustaining, ending each year with a small surplus. A little over 400 volunteers help carry out the essential functions of the park and create a welcoming, hospitable culture that has 89 % of surveyed guests ranking their overall experience as excellent.

This year we will also wrap up a capital campaign and design plans for a marquee capital improvement – the redesign of exhibits within the House of Happy Walls. The goal is to tell London’s story in ways that inspire visitors to live their life at full measure by example of Jack’s amazing life of innovation and achievement.

Jack London lived his short life true to his credo that the purpose of man is to live and not just to exist. Even in childhood he possessed an endless curiosity, not only of the world around him but also of the rest of the world he hoped to explore. Thus began the yearning of a life full of adventures. As he grew into manhood he became focused on learning and achievement. His goals proved to be limitless as he also possessed an endless number of interests, many of which included adventure. When he focused on a project, he drove himself to produce the highest results attainable.

As a young man Jack learned to be an expert sailor of small crafts. As a hobo, tramping across the country, he learned to survive by hiding on freight cars and living on food he was given at the doors of strangers. At twenty-one,

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A Note from the Executive Director



Plans are underway to replace the outdated displays in the House of Happy Walls with state of the art exhibits to inspire people to "discover their own call of the wild" just as Jack and Charmian did. The upper floor will be devoted to telling Charmian's story in ways that encourage women to celebrate their true selves and embrace their important journey of self-discovery.

Charmian was the epitome of the new progressive woman - finding creative expression in a society bound by the pruderies of the Victorian era by staying true to her authentic self. Her determination to embrace life on her own terms will inspire women of all ages to do the same.

Imagine the possibilities associated with immersive learning experiences that empower young girls by virtue of one of the Valley's most inspirational role models, Charmian London!

We have established a Charmed Circle - a group of women who understand how stories can be transformational, evoke imagination and make the emotional connections that move us to action. Circle members contribute support to make the floor's design a reality.

Tjiska Van Wyk
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Volunteer Spotlight



Richard Smith

Talk about Connections!

Richard was born in San Francisco (just like Jack!). During college, he rented a cottage on Hill Road, next to Jack's first property and bought a horse to ride all over the Park, without paying! He became a volunteer six years ago, his way of paying back. "It is a pleasure to share stories about Jack and Charmian with visitors while conducting tours and interpreting the cottage. The more I learn about the London's, the more I want to learn. A memorable moment for me; A French film crew was at the cottage making a documentary about the London's life. Watching the actors made me feel, just for a moment, that Jack and Charmian were there, the ultimate connection! I am proud and grateful to be part of the team of volunteers who are helping keep this cherished park open and thriving".

...and With Special thanks !



A very special Thank You to Klean Kanteen for donating their water bottles for the winners of The Klondike Challenge. Klean Kanteen is a company who is devoted to producing reusable, non-toxic / BPA-free products to reduce single-use plastic bottles. Please visit their website for more information at: www.kleankanteen.com

Jack's view continued from page 1

he survived the harsh Yukon Territory environment in his quest for gold. In becoming a writer, he meticulously studied the style and structure of the writers he admired most to continually improve his own skills. He drove himself to write twelve hours a day to work on fiction and non-fiction while developing a strong faith in his ability to produce worthwhile manuscripts that would sell. His faith was severely tested as he received hundreds of rejections from publishers during the first few years of his writing career. Along with the faith in himself, he also possessed an inner determination that rejected defeat.

Jack London's first published works were short stories in 1899 and a book of short stories in 1900. As he achieved acceptance and some popularity, he finally started to earn money which allowed him to pursue more adventure and to also experience cultures in many parts of the world. He accepted an offer from William Randolph Hearst in 1904 to become a war correspondent to cover the war between Russia and Japan which was taking place in Korea and Manchuria. Three years later, Jack and his wife, Charmian, made their attempt to sail around the world on the Snark, a boat designed by Jack. The voyage ended after eighteen months due to the serious health issues Jack contracted in the Solomon Islands.

Upon return to Glen Ellen from the Snark voyage, Jack concentrated on building a dream home called Wolf House. With construction started under the guidance of Eliza, Jack's step-sister, Jack and Charmian left in the summer of 1911 on a 1300-mile wagon trip over dirt roads into Central Oregon

and back enjoying the beauty of the coast and also Crater Lake. They were off again in 1912 for a five-month voyage on a sailing ship from Baltimore around the horn to Seattle. The next year, the "fireproof" Wolf House burned down on August 22, 1913. The year 1913 truly became a bad year for Jack when his doctor told him that his kidneys were in such bad condition that his life would end within a few years. This news prompted Jack to engage in his last great adventure, the rapid development of his "Beauty Ranch." He envisioned a ranch that would be the finest possible in the growing of crops and the breeding of animals. His ranch spending escalated during this pursuit, requiring him to obtain advances from his publisher for unfinished books. A model ranch based on sound farming knowledge and experimentation became his final great goal, with writing the sole purpose of achieving that goal.

Jack London truly lived his short forty years of life at high speed, achieving much in adventure, writing, travel, and learning. He lived up to his credo:

I would rather be ashes than dust!

I would rather that my spark should burn out in a brilliant blaze than it should be stifled by dry-rot.

I would rather be a superb meteor, every atom of me in magnificent glow, than a sleepy and permanent planet.

The function of man is to live, not to exist.

I shall not waste my days trying to prolong them.

I shall use my time!

Lou Leal, Park Historian

With Gratitude

Contributors January 1 – February 28, 2017

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Tom and JaMel Perkins
Tom Peterson
Kim Schuh
Harvey and Deborah Shein
Tina Shone
John and Kathryn Stephens
Nicolet Sullins
Laney Thornton
Valley of the Moon Lions Club
Lucy Weiger and Robert Crane



Senator Bill Dodd recently presented Karen Collins, the "Woman of The Year" award at our annual reception to thank supporters of Jack London State Park for their financial contributions.

Upcoming Events

see our website for
details visit:

www.jacklondonpark.com

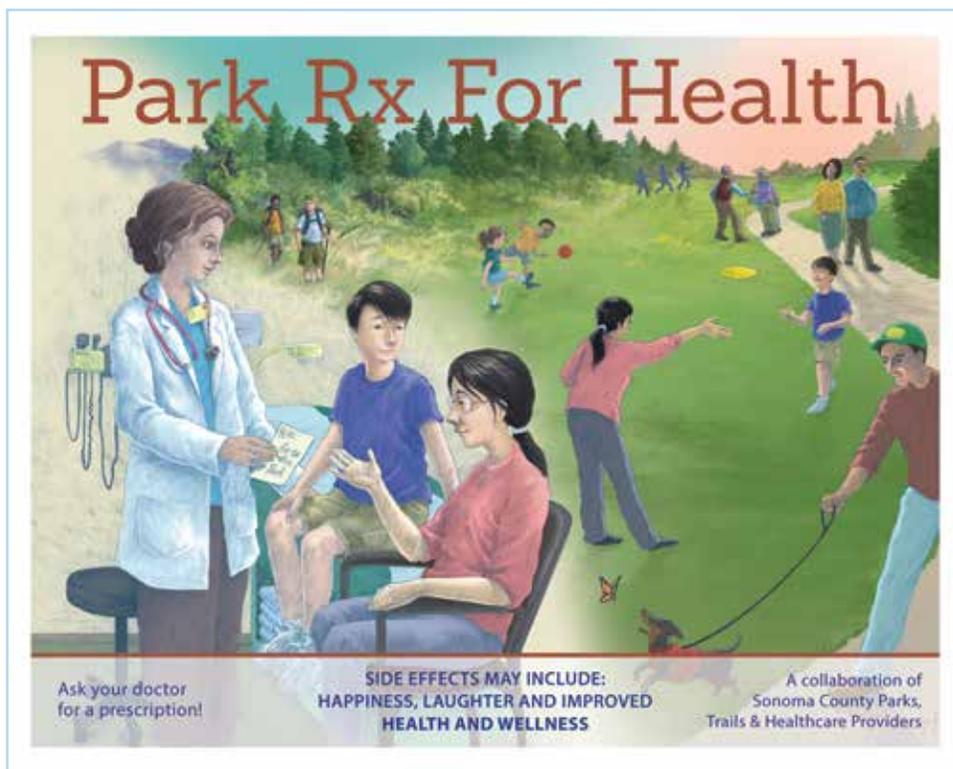
APRIL- JUNE

- April 1:** Wildflower Hike to Eliot Loop
- April 1:** Jack London Volunteer training
- April 8:** Short Story Read Aloud
- April 8:** Family Fun Day
- April 8:** Jack London Volunteer training
- April 9:** Wildflower Walk
- April 15:** Wildflower Hike
- April 23:** Park Rx
- May 6:** Flower Photography Workshop Week 1
- May 6:** Volunteer Interpretation workshop
- May 13:** Flower Photography Workshop Week 2
- May 13:** Family Hike
- May 14:** Piano Concert
- May 20:** Short Story Read Aloud
- May 27:** Hike



JUNE - JULY

- June 10:** Hiking For Fitness #1
- June 10:** Family fun Day
- June 16:** Broadway Under the Stars opens
- June 17:** Hiking For Fitness #2
- June 24:** Hiking For Fitness #3
- July 8:** Hiking For Fitness #4
- July 10-14:** Summer Camp
- July 15:** Hiking For Fitness #5
- July 17-21:** Summer Camp
- July 24-28:** Summer Camp
- July 29:** Photography: Art of Seeing



ParkRx for Health – Launch April 23

ParkRx for Health aims to help improve the well-being of Sonoma County residents through regular exercise in Sonoma County parks and on Sonoma County trails. By “nature” a collaborative program, health care professionals “prescribe” park provided monthly activities to their patients which encourage physical activity, stress reduction and social interaction from engagement with nature. Participating hospitals include Kaiser Permanente, Sutter Health and the Sonoma Valley Outpatient Rehabilitation Department. Sonoma County parks will be participating by offering self-guided easy, moderate and strenuous hikes and guided hikes such as “Walk with a Doc”, Mindful hikes and forest therapy hikes. Activities can be found at www.parkrx-sonomacounty.org



Welcome Kristi Lanusse, Executive Assistant / Donor Relations Manager



Kristi has lived, worked and raised her family in Sonoma over the past 20 years. 8 years spent volunteering at her children's schools led to her love of working with non-profit organizations, 10 years of customer relations and marketing have brought her to this beautiful environment

that is Jack London Park to assist with wider outreach efforts. Free time is spent with her family, hiking, travelling and nurturing her love of good food and good wine.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE TOURS AND EDUCATION PROGRAM?

The education department is excited to announce several spring activities and events, beginning with culmination of our 2nd annual Young Author's writing contest. We have received short stories from students all over Sonoma and Napa counties and judges are busy reading now! The winners will be recognized at a special breakfast picnic in April.



Kristina Ellis
Tours and Education Manager

Welcome Aro Andersen Maintenance Team

We are very excited to have Eric "Aro" Andersen joining the maintenance team. He has an extensive background in open space maintenance and natural resource protection work, including work at the Ocean Song Land Trust Preserve. A short conversation with Aro will reveal his extensive knowledge of Sonoma County's rich diversity of plants and animals. His passion for preservation work, and hands on backcountry skills make him an excellent addition to our team. Welcome aboard Aro!



We are also excited to announce our new family programming for spring and summer called Family Fun Days. There will be 4 events geared towards young learners (pre-k-2nd grade). Each event will celebrate a different theme, combining natural science, art, and sustainability. While activities and learning levels support young adventurers, kids of all ages are welcome to join us as we explore forest trails and learn about nature through fun hikes, games and hands-on activities.

Docent enrichment workshops are underway and volunteers can still sign up for our May 6th session titled, Learning Through Play. This interpretive workshop offers a fun and interactive exploration into how to effectively lead programs for young audiences and school groups.

Finally, keep your eyes peeled for summer camp sign ups! Jack's Adventure Writing Camp is an active week-long day camp exploring the creative writing process. Honoring Jack's spirit of adventure, rising 6th- 8th graders will enjoy a schedule of daily hiking excursions, group games, nature journaling, and other writing-based activities designed to support them in developing rich storytelling skills. Registration opens April 1st.

3 - week-long sessions to choose from

Session 1: July 10-14

Session 2: July 17-21

Session 3: July 24-28

CONTRIBUTORS

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