



Short Wave

San Juan Island National Historical Park

www.nps.gov/sajh



THIS WEEK: JUNE 27-JULY 4, 2011

Special Programs

How did the San Juan Islands get their name? Who was Juan de Fuca? Why are there so many Spanish names around here? If these questions have puzzled you, plan on attending a talk by local author and tour guide Mark Billington at **3 p.m., Sunday, July 3, in the English Camp visitor center.** Billington has researched and self published a bi-lingual book, *The Bells of Rosario*, which documents the 18th century Spanish explorations of the Pacific coast. These voyages began in San Blas, Mexico (where Billington and his



Two Spanish ships anchor off the port of San Blas on the west coast of New Spain. Founded in 1764, San Blas was the port from which Spanish voyages of exploration and colonization embarked for the Pacific Northwest. Mark Billington will discuss the Spanish naming of the San Juans in a Sunday program at English Camp.

daughter lived each winter for six years) and “not only carried monks to set up California missions, but also continued into the Pacific Northwest, leaving their names,” Billington said.

Eaglets near to fledging in time for Fourth of July

It could not be more appropriate. American Camp’s two eaglets are predicted to fledge sometime around July 4. We’ve been excitedly sharing views of the nest with park visitors these past two months.

The eaglets have been stretching their wings and being quite vocal when the adult eagles bring them something good to eat. All of this is in preparation for fledging – the moment when the eaglets spread their wings and take to the air for the first time. The timing could not be better. The Bald Eagle was cho-

sen as our national emblem in 1782 when the great seal of the United States was adopted. The embodiment of pride and strength, the Bald Eagle was the perfect representative for this young nation.

Take Pride in America Volunteer in the park

Summer is an especially busy time for park staff and sometimes we need help! If you are interested in history, plants and animals, hiking, and sharing your knowledge of the islands, we want you!

As a Park Volunteer, you can don period dress and participate in living history, monitor bald eagle nests, maintain trails, plant native species in the prairie, monitor beaches for stranded marine mammals, or hike

the park trails and talk with visitors. For more information, contact park staff at 360-378-2240 ext. 2233 or take a look at the park website: www.nps.gov/sajh/supportyourpark/volunteer.htm.

The Park and the Fourth of July— Our 1860s color guard will appear in the Orcas Fourth of July celebration at 10 a.m., Saturday, July 2 in East Sound. The group will reappear for the Friday Harbor parade, scheduled 10:30 a.m., Monday, July 4. A living history display follows at the Pig War Picnic at the San Juan Historical Museum.

For dates and times of weekly programs go to www.nps.gov or visit us on Facebook or Twitter.

English Camp Visitor Center
3905 West Valley Road
(360) 378-4409, Open 9-5 Daily

American Camp Visitor Center
4668 Cattle Point Road
(360) 378-2240, ext. 2233, Open 9-5 daily

