San Juan Island

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

San Juan Island
National Historical Park

2012 Program Guide

Weekly Programs

Weekly programs scheduled below also are available on request. For information, call 360-378-2240, ext. 2233, or go to www.nps.gov/sajh and click "contact" in left-hand column of our home page. You can also find us on Facebook.

Pig War Story Guided Walk — Park rangers and volunteers describe events leading up to and including the Pig War and the peaceful joint occupation of San Juan Island by English and American troops. **Saturdays, 11 a.m. to noon, June 9 to September 1, American Camp.**

Captain Delacombe's English Camp Guided Walk – Join NPS Volunteer Paul Kitchen for this guided walk and learn how the Royal marines lived during the 12-year joint occupation. ***Saturdays, 11a.m. to 12:30 p.m., June 9 to September 1, meets in the English Camp parking area.***

Wildlife in the San Juan Islands —- Puzzled by an animal or bird? Wolf Hollow Wildlife Rehabilitation Center Education Coordinator Shona Aitken answers questions and uses a variety of media to talk about wildlife in the San Juan Islands. ***1 to 3 p.m., Fridays, June 8 to August 31, English Camp barracks.***

Living History: Life during the Joint Military Occupation on San Juan Island — Park rangers and volunteers recreate military and civilian life during the island's early pioneer period. ***Saturdays, noon to 3 p.m., June 9 to September 1, English Camp parade ground.***

Field Work with Rangers: Prairie Restoration — The prairie at American Camp is one of the last natural prairies in the region. Join Park Rangers as they gather native plant seeds, cultivate them in tubes or plant the seedlings in designated plots. Learn about the prairie's past and how you can play a role in its future. ***Saturdays, 2 to 4 p.m., June 9 to September 1, meets at American Camp visitor center.***

Birding in the Park — The forests, prairies and lagoons of American Camp attract a variety of birds throughout the summer, and offer a prime birding and hiking experience. Join park staff in enjoying this wonderful island resource. ***Fridays, 8:00 to 10 a.m., June 8 to August 31, meets at American amp visitor center; or by appointment. Call 360-378-2240, ext. 2228 for details.***

A Walk to the Salmon Bank — Accompany a park ranger or volunteer on this cross-prairie journey to the historic Salmon Bank at South Beach, where springs attracted Indians and Europeans alike. This activity can be strenuous. ***Thursdays, 2 to 3:30 p.m., June 7 to August 30, American Camp parking area, or by request. Call 360-378-2240, ext. 2233.u***

Contra Dancing at English Camp — Folk singer Michael Cohen and local folk musicians present an evening of traditional folk tunes and dancing for those wishing a turn on the floor. Cohen plays regularly at the San Juan Farmer's Market. He has worked with the Smithsonian in cataloging American folk music. ***Mondays, 7:30 p.m. to 9 p.m., June 18 to August 20, English Camp barracks.***

Young Hill/Royal Marine Cemetery Guided Walk — Serious hikers will enjoy this 2-hour journey, led by Park Historian Mike Vouri up the slope of 650-foot Young Hill, where the summit offers splendid views. See the Royal Marine Cemetery and the Garry oak woodland. ***Sundays from 2 to 4 p.m., June 10 to September 2, meets at the north end of the English Camp parking area.***

Frazer Homestead Walk — Many of today's island families are descended from U.S. Army soldiers. Join Park Historian Mike Vouri and learn more about how American Camp's "frontiersmen in blue" played a key role in pioneering Euro-American settlement on San Juan Island. ***Wednesdays, 2 to 4 p.m., June 6 to August 29, meets at the American Camp visitor center.***

Jakle's Lagoon Walk - The Jakle's Lagoon loop trail offers a chance to experience mixed forest and prarire environments and splendid views—all within a 1.5 mile loop! Join a park ranger or volunteer to learn about the plants and animals found in each of these environments. ***Tuesdays, 2 to 3:30 p.m., June 12 to August 28, meets at Jakle's Lagoon trailhead.***

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Special Programs

Ancient Visitors: Tracing the Pre-history of San Juan Island Through Archaeology — University of Washington archaeologist, Dr. Julie Stein, traces ancient habitation of San Juan Island in this guided walk on the American Camp prairie. ***10 a.m. to noon, Saturday, June 2, South Beach. Meets at Alaska Packer's Rock at the end of the Salmon Banks Road. Park in the main parking area.***

The Birds of American Camp — Come join San Juan Island bird expert and former national park ranger Barbara Jensen for a colorful 90-minute walk through American Camp's prairies. The program is suitable for beginning as well as veteran birders and provides insights into the park's rich flora and fauna. ***7:30 to 10:30 a.m., Sunday, June 3, American Camp visitor center.***

America's Pastime at American Camp — It is likely that the new game of base ball (two words then) was played by the soldiers posted at American Camp. Join Park Ranger, and cofounder of the annual vintage base ball matches at Fort Vancouver NHS, Doug Halsey for a workshop on this gloveless game, where unruly "cranks" (fans) could be fined by the umpire! You will be surprised at the other differences, and similarities, to today's rules***. Time, date and venue to be announced.***

Northwest Pioneer Folkways Demonstrations — Janet Oakley, author and former education coordinator for the Skagit County Historical Museum in LaConner, demonstrates pioneer folkways from butter churning to Dutch oven baking and other tasks. ***Noon to 3 p.m., Saturday, June 30, English Camp parade ground.***

Pickett's Irish: The Irish in the U.S. Army in the 1850's — Folk musician Michael Cohen and historian Mike Vouri bring back this popular program that takes a closer look at the Irish in the 19th-century U.S. Army in words and song. ***7 to 8:30 p.m., Saturday, July 21, San Juan island Library.***

Encampment 2012 and Henry M. Jackson Centennial Celebration — Park staff, volunteers and re-enactors from throughout the Pacific Northwest and Canada recreate life on San Juan Island at mid-19th century. This year's activities include black powder demonstrations with 19th-century weapons. The event also will commemorate the centennial of U.S. Sen. Henry M. "Scoop" Jackson who co-wrote the legislation creating the park. The major highlight of the weekend will be the Candlelight Ball, an evening of dancing and refreshments, scheduled 8 to 10 p.m. on Saturday. ***All day, Saturday and Sunday, July 28-29, English Camp parade ground.***

A Weaving Weekend — Weavers from throughout San Juan Island and Washington State will gather for the weekend to demonstrate how European and American Indian techniques melded to create woven objects and clothing unique to the Pacific Northwest. Cowlitz Nation weaver Judy Bridges and Fort Nisqually interpreter and storyteller Karen Haas will show how it was done with all-natural fibers, including wild reeds. The San Juan spinners and weavers, as well as islanders Anita Barreca and Roger Ellison will also join in. ***All day, Saturday and Sunday, August 4-5, English Camp parade ground.***

Safe Passage: The U.S. Coast Survey Steamer *Active* on the West Coast in the 1850s — The Coast Survey Steamer *Active* not only performed hydrographic surveys on coastal and inland waterways, but also played a key role in the settlement of the region. Historian Mike Vouri presents this Power Point slide program based on current research. ***7 p.m., Saturday, August 11, San Juan Island Library.***

A Prairie's Life: A Continuing Dialogue — In a region known for its ample amount of rainfall, lush forests and coastal climate, American Camp's prairie is unique in the Puget Sound/Salish Sea Basin. Join Park Historian Mike Vouri and Integrated Resources Chief Jerald Weaver for a journey across time as they explore changes in the resource from the ancient continental ice sheet to today's restoration efforts. Weaver and Vouri also will have the latest information and will take questions concerning the park's plans to restore this valuable resource. ***7 to 8:30 p.m., Wednesday, August 29, San Juan Island Library.***

All programs are free and open to the public, except where noted. Programs are subject to change without prior notice. For updates on additional programs and accessibility information, call San