

MATTOLE MEANDERINGS

News and inspirations from The Mattole Council & Mattole Camp and Retreat Center

AUTUMN 2014



One foot in front of the other...

NOTES FROM THE CHAIR... David Goodman

This year has seen significant changes for many, and council make-up and responsibilities are no exception! With great “thanks”, we sent Wayne and Pat Johnson off into a more full sense of retirement after serving on the council since it was established. We also lost our bookkeeping services of June Kesterson as she stepped down from the council. Needless to say these losses created a large hole in our administrative activities. Thank you Jennifer Callen for taking on the large responsibility of keeping our books and being our Treasurer. We are eagerly seeking individuals to serve on the council so that the numerous tasks may be spread out more and not fall on the few. We are searching for ways in which members could participate in council meetings without having to travel long distances. Don't be shy! If you have a real interest in camps and retreats, this council offers an opportunity for you to make a difference.

On a lighter note, we had a good early summer work week at the camp, accomplishing some of the important issues at hand in terms of maintenance and development.

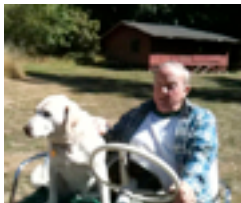
And looking forward we are hopeful that a new year will bring new faces as well as many of those who hold dear their experiences at the camp. We encourage you to share your experiences with others so that THEY will reserve time and come to know that special place we call “Mattole Camp”.



OH! THE MANY HATS!!! Jennifer Callen

I'm dating myself by using one of my all time favorite quotes from the Grateful Dead, “What a long, strange trip it's been” but it's TRUE! This past year (or past couple of years since we published the previous newsletter) has had it's fill of UPS and DOWNS... Starting back in Sept '13, our caretaker Richard had his truck AND dog stolen from the parking lot at Winco. After a few days of combined efforts by many, owner and dog were joyfully reunited and shortly after that, the truck showed up, empty, and no more worse for wear. All's well that ends well...

THEN we received the news that not only June (our esteemed bookkeeper) was retiring, but also Wayne and Pat Johnson! Wayne wore the “Camp Mattole” Council Chair hat around 1998 then eventually traded that hat in for the Treasurer's hat. Though he wore many hats throughout his tenure, the one he wore best was the one shaped like a big heart. If there is ONE word I can use to describe the incredible Wayne and Pat duo, it is FAITH. Those two BELIEVED that GOOD things happen, and they did!



Even during hard times or questionable times, I could just look across the table at them and know we were going to get through it. I miss them both! Their love, passion, dedication and faith stimulated the council with a constant HOPE for a brighter future. And dear June, with her number skills, Quickbooks and her keen ability to teach me everything she knows in a matter of a 30 minute phone call. I now wear her “bookkeeping hat”

proudly along with Wayne's Treasurer's hat. This all while continuing to wear the Marketing and Secretary hats. (whew!). And then we welcomed Gin Green to the council who has agreed to take the Secretary hat with a willingness complimented by a fresh spark of energy! Although I LOVE all my many hats, the one I love the MOST is the sun hat I wear during the early summer Harmony Makers volunteer week (yes, there CAN be 10 days in a week!) when we're all working together to make Mattole Camp a safer and structurally sounder place of joy and worship. I feel so proud to be a part of such an eclectic group of folks from all corners of California with their talents, creativity, strong hard-work ethic AND positive attitudes! This year's projects seemed daunting and challenging (especially with the unseasonably warm weather) yet once again, we managed to complete them (well, ok, we still have a little ways to go with the shop roof) with a great sense of accomplishment, smiles and full hearts! THANK YOU to Mimi and Allan, Bonnie, Rick, Pam, Lee, David, Richard and Bill. We could always use MORE hands out there so if YOU are interested in volunteering your services please e-mail us at info@mattolecamp.com

AND, we invite you to join the Mattole Council! Our meetings are held the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 5:00 in Bayside, CA. We welcome your ideas, interests and talents!

Cheers! And here's to a brighter, wetter, calmer & MORE CAMPERS in 2015!

...Mattole Camp's private swimming hole (late Spring 2013) --->



Harmony Makers of Humboldt make magic happen AGAIN!

This years projects exceeded all our expectations!

- Replaced 6x18' boards & refinished the Main Lodge deck ✓ done
- Main Lodge office and library completely cleaned out & reorganized! ✓ done
- Sun-Down East back deck steps torn down, rebuilt ✓ done
- Sun-Up/Sundown duplexes windows glazed & painted ✓ done
- Sun-Up back cabin ceiling replaced-entire room sealed & painted ✓ done
- Sun-Down duplex painted! ✓ done
- Shed cleaned out and organized ✓ done
- NEW FREEZER for the Main Lodge! ✓ done
- Main Lodge PIANO TUNED!!!! ✓ done
- Caretakers residence DSL installed (whew!) ✓ done
- Main Lodge perimeter landscaped (replanted) ✓ done
- Main Lodge file cabinet condensed from 4 to 1 drawer ✓ done
- Work Shop (aka Dem Barn) reproofed & painted ✓ done
- Main Lodge new mirror installed in boys bathroom ✓ done
- Caretaker's front door replaced w/ new old door ✓ done
- Seldom Inn replaced handrails and balusters ✓ done
- River path cleaned and rock swept for safety ✓ done
- Main Lodge kitchen reorganized ✓ done
- Main Lodge wooden toy box cleaned out ✓ done
- Main Lodge bookshelves secured to wall ✓ done
- Main Lodge new shelf built in office ✓ done



Star light, star bright, first star I see tonight. I wish I may, I wish I might have this wish come true tonight!

☆ a Grant Writer ☆ fresh rock for the driveway ☆ Solar panels ☆ NEW cabins ☆ a labyrinth ☆ Can you help these wishes come true for us? We welcome your participation! Contact me at 707 822-2854 or e-mail at info@mattolecamp.com THANK YOU! Jennifer

A Day in the Life of a Mattole Camp Volunteer

The day starts early, just after the sun rises... The breakfast bar is set with a variety of goodies, fruit, granola, yogurt, juice coffee, toast. One might hear some soft guitar music and singing outside on the deck. It's quiet and peaceful as we welcome the new day together. We'll take a moment to discuss the projects for the day, who's doing what & what's needed before we go our separate ways. There will be a mid morning "hydration break" then around noonish (heavy on the ISH) there'll be a "1/2 hour til lunch" holler to allow some "wrap it up" time. We join together for a hearty lunch, share some stories and return to the work at hand. Mid afternoon "snackdration" break and then, around the 4:00 hour, it all winds down. By 4:30 we're down at the river, basking in the sun, wandering through the water, swimming in the holes, enjoying the relief from a full day of work. We stay down til the sun falls behind the hill, then head on up the trail to engage in the evening festivities beginning with nice hot showers, "decktails" all followed by just another million dollar Mattole Madness meal skillfully prepared by whoever's on the schedule. We dine casually on 5 star cuisine. Everyone pitches in with clean-up and the rest of the evening is filled with live acoustic music, jigsaw puzzles, quite conversations, games, star gazing, whatever tickles the fancy. We're in bed in time to watch the night sky show, sleep peacefully only to awaken to another day... The work is hard, but when we work together, there is a sense of community and camaraderie and especially an overall feeling of love and respect for the magic that is Mattole Camp!

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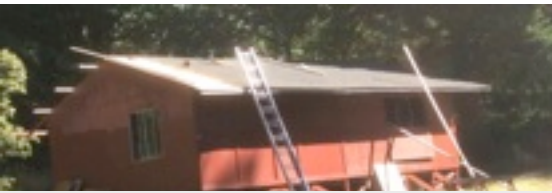
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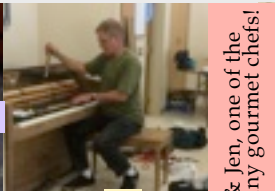
We wish to thank all the wonderful volunteers who worked so hard to get it all done! Rick Duke from Big Bear, CA, David Goodman Bayside, Allan and Mimi Dodd Santa Cruz. Bill Ryder Arcata, Pam Sommers Rohnert Park, Bonnie Cyr Eureka. not pictured: Lee Dedini Bayside, Jennifer Callen Arcata. What a TEAM!



Mimi, Rick & Pam ~ PAINTERS



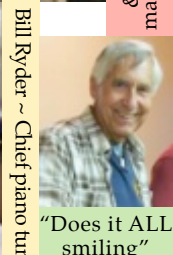
Allan & David are up there somewhere, hammering away!



& Jen, one of the many gourmet chefs!

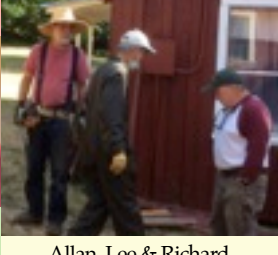


Bonnie aka Paper Queen!



Bill Ryder ~ Chief piano tuner

"Does it ALL smiling" David...



Allan, Lee & Richard CONSTRUCTION

\$\$\$ *Treasurer's Report* \$\$\$

It was one year ago that I agreed to take over as the Accountant AND Treasurer for the Mattole Camp and I'm awfully glad I did! I've learned SO much about the ins and outs and where the strengths (and weaknesses) stand, not to mention, learning my way around QuickBooks 2014 for Mac (and I thought learning French was challenging). But I couldn't have done it without the support and help of June Kesterson and Judith Kale and especially, my dear friend Linda Mortenson who sits by my side monthly, overseeing the reconciliation of the bank statements and helps me fix my mistakes while reminding me the differences between assets and liabilities and equities OH MY!

Of course this year has been one of our more challenging years as far as INCOME goes...

(income |'in,kəm -| **noun - money received, esp. on a regular basis, for work or through investments**)...
Thank you Mr. Webster!

Curiously, this year, our income from "user fees" (the money we receive from campers) is down about 25% from previous years. So needless to say, it's been a bit stressful which inspired me to use creative bookkeeping skills and financing. We had to purchase a new Freezer last summer which took a whole day! First I had to FIND one (have you ever tried to find a commercial grade freezer locally and have it delivered the next day?) Finding Waldo on a page of Waldo look-alikes would have been easier! Actually, it couldn't be done - finding the freezer that is - so then I needed to confirm that we were REQUIRED to have a commercial grade freezer (that only took 5 phone calls) and once I received confirmation the search became easier. Of course the matter of COST was a huge hurdle. My "almost 60" years of making ends meet has made me a pretty good haggler and haggled I did! We ended up with a GREAT price, with excellent financing terms of 0 down/0% interest! It doesn't get much better than that! And THANK YOU to David who picked it up and delivered it JUST IN TIME for the volunteer work week!



We just sent out our annual "Friends of Mattole" solicitation letter and have already received over \$1,200!! Oh my gosh our hearts are full of gratitude for your generosity! THANK YOU! We so appreciate those who contribute year after year and warmly welcome those NEW to donating to the camp! In fact, I'm most happy to report that our "Labyrinth Fund" has climbed to over \$2,000. We just might build that Labyrinth yet! (Thinking of you Wayne Johnson!!!) With gladness we look forward to more donations! Your support really makes a difference!!! Cheers! Jennifer Callen



The Dedimi Family Gathering

Mattole Camp is PERFECT for Family Gatherings!

Jill Dedini

Each summer our family spends a few days together in a special location. One year we were in a house in McCloud, another we stayed on an organic farm near Orleans, and one year we stayed in a house near the river and riding ring. It's a time for grandparents, children, and grandchildren to be together away from our normal environment, including TV, telephone, computer and all. This year we chose Mattole Camp. It was perfect. Such an easy-to-use kitchen, plenty of room for tents or for indoor sleeping, a nice walk to beautiful swimming holes, and plenty of room for any kind of indoor and outdoor activities. All of us, from age three to sixty-four, loved it and were refreshed by our time there. It's a treasure and only two hours from our home in Bayside.



REBRANDING Mattole Camp in 2015!

We're looking forward to developing a NEW LOGO to be used on tee shirts, hats & postcards. The rendering to the left is the FIRST mock up of what's to come!



We welcome Gin Green to the Mattole Camp Council

A Humboldt County gal since 1964, Gin is newly retired from working for the County from 1999-2013. She brings a lot of joy to the council along with great people, marketing & secretarial skills! We look forward to working with her!!!

EVERYONE is welcome at Mattole Camp!



Back in May of 2013 we were the host camp for the law enforcement agencies assigned to the manhunt for Shane Miller, the prime suspect in the



deaths of his wife and two young daughters.

PLEASE SHARE YOUR GROUP!!!

We are interested in becoming familiar with your group and hearing about your experiences out at Mattole Camp for our newsletter! All contributions (photos/articles etc) may be e-mailed to info@mattolecamp.com



MATTOLE CAMP AND RETREAT CENTER
36841 MATTOLE ROAD, PETROLIA, CA

The Mattole Camp Council created this newsletter to inform the community of current events, projects and future plans for Mattole Camp. The Mattole Meanderings is published semi-annually and is available free of charge.

Mattole Camp & Retreat Center is a non-profit organization owned by the Presbytery of the Redwoods and managed by the Mattole Council in Bayside, CA. Please check out our website!

www.mattolecamp.com



The
Mattole Camp
Council

If you have any questions or would like any information about the camp, or would like to contribute to the newsletter, please feel free to call:

707 629-3308

or e-mail:

info@mattolecamp.com

David Goodman, Lee Dedini, Jennifer Callen, Gin Green, Kathy Goodman, Richard Gillespie (Caretaker) & Rusty

