

Mattole Meanderings

News and inspirations from THE MATTOLE COUNCIL

SPRING 2009



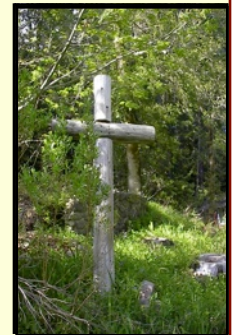
Electricity goes LIVE to the tree deck!



FROM THE BOOKKEEPER

I am still fascinated by posting and watching the progress, growth and development of Mattole Camp. With generous donations, increased users and user fees we are very optimistic for 2009. Our board continues to monitor use and spending with a definite “hands on” technique. Our director, Richard Gillespie, works with us directly, listens to our input, uses his own talents and gets great results. Our board takes a personal interest in the workings of the camp and it shows in our very successful 2008 year.

June
Kesterson



FROM THE CHAIR

Spring is upon us already. The grass is growing and the wild iris will be flowering at Mattole Camp. It is a wonderful time of the year. During the winter months the council has worked on making improvements in various areas. Thanks to Jennifer Callen we will have an improved and updated web site and we are “at the printers” with our updated brochures. We have chosen some projects to work on this year. One is the leveling of Seldom Inn. Another is building a storage shed near the lodge. Also we will have electrical power to the tree deck. This will make power available for functions such as weddings, receptions and family gatherings.

We are pleased that Seldom Inn has been used by a couple of small fishing groups this past winter, as well as a small men’s group for a weekend retreat. I’m looking at the calendar for the coming year and it is filling up nicely. August is totally booked.

This year when you visit Mattole Camp with your activity group, it is a good way to introduce people to lasting memories.

I am grateful for all the volunteers who keep the spirit of Mattole Camp alive!

Enjoy your summer. David Goodman



FROM THE CORRESPONDENCE SECRETARY

I'm actually writing this while sitting on the deck of the Tan Oak Lodge here at Mattole Camp. It's early morning. Well, I'm not really sure how early it is as time is of no importance when one is sitting on the deck, having coffee and listening to the birds chirping. As the river is babbling on I can't think of anywhere else I would rather be.

I am here with fellow Council members David Goodman, Lee Dedini and our Director/Caretaker, Richard Gillespie. Last week a ditch was dug from Seldom Inn to the deck under the trees (300ft.) to run electrical conduit and wire. Yesterday we pulled the wire through conduit ten feet at a time, connected it to the boxes and ZAP! POWER! We were inspired to accomplish this for a May wedding so their band could play from the deck.

This is what the Mattole Council does: determines the needs, how we can meet them, and rearrange our schedules to get the jobs done. But it's not a thankless job as we appreciate what a great place this is. We appreciate each other and the talents and expertise we offer each other and the campers. We are thankful for the opportunity to just BE HERE, work hard and celebrate the many accomplishments. We get the chance to acknowledge what an incredibly special place this is.... We dream about how to improve it if we only had more bucks in the bank....If only.....WOW!... Imagine ...New cabins on solid level foundations!.. A Labyrinth! Raised planter boxes with fresh flowers and herbs. A new house for the Director/Caretaker...Ahh, to dream, perchance to dream. And meanwhile I continue on as correspondence secretary etc... And I'M LOVIN' IT! Cheers!



Jennifer Callen



FROM THE TREASURER

We were blessed with a very large financial carryover from 2008. This has enabled the camp to purchase a new riding mower (\$1200) as the old one wore out. Also, we purchased the new storage shed materials for the work group from the Northminster Presbyterian Church led by the Rev. Jeannie Shaw. Cost- somewhere around \$1200. Another project recently completed, the electrical power to the deck under the trees next to the athletic field at \$1200. As you can see some \$3600 went to capitol improvements. How fortunate we

are to be able to accomplish these projects before summer.

At the beginning of each year the camp usually has little or no income until the late spring early summer campers come. With the excess from 2008 and a reserve fund we have been able to be in a good financial situation. Anticipating a slow year due to the economic situation we have been surprised how quickly the summer months are being booked. Also, we have initiated lower winter and spring rates and have found many taking advantage of this. Richard, our Director/Caretaker, has followed up on previous user groups and has been filling in the 2009 calendar. We look to 2009 as a positive financial year and feel very blessed as we keep moving ahead with faith that we are doing God's work and sharing His facility with others. We are truly blessed with great leadership, eager volunteers and a fantastic Director/Caretaker.

Wayne Johnson

FROM A COUNCIL MEMBER

What a treat for me to join with the Council
as we meet monthly.

They are excited, supportive and eager to respond to any camp need. Functioning as a real team, each member has different talents and are happy to share them. The camp shows the love and hard work of each of the Council members. Collectively the Council exhibits the talent of creative thinking to look ahead and plan for needed improvements and see that they are their work plan.

Pat Johnson
(Also on the Council are Lee Dedini, TJ Harris and Montana Jones who contribute their talents to Mattole Camp's success)



FROM THE MATTOLE COUNCIL SECRETARY

MATTOLE! What a wonderful place to renew your spirit! The ladies of the Presbyterian churches are coming to visit Mattole Camp in the fall. It will be a grand gathering.

There will be ladies from all over the Presbytery.

The days are warm; the nights are cool and clear. The night sky will be glorious and throughout the weekend God's presence will be felt at every turn. God has a wondrous way of making his glorious presence known, gently and lovingly. It doesn't matter if it's in a presentation or on the labyrinth.

It might be in a small group discussion
or a time alone under a tree.

I have always felt God's presence at Mattole during the nearly thirty years that I have been able to partake of the camp as it is a very special place for me. I hope to see many ladies from the Presbytery take advantage of God's special spot. For more information, call me 707-822-6970. Kathy Goodman



The Mattole Camp Council created this newsletter to inform the community about of current events, projects and future plans happening at Mattole Camp.

The Mattole Messenger is published semi-annually and is available free of charge.

If you have any questions, concerns, contributions or comments about the newsletter or Mattole Camp and Retreat Center, please call (707) 629-3308

or write to:

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Mattole Camp and Retreat Center is a non-profit organization owned by the Presbytery of the Redwoods, Presbyterian Church and managed by the Mattole Council in Bayside, CA .

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