

Mattole Meanderings

News and inspirations from *The Mattole Council~Mattole Camp and Retreat Center*

Autumn 2012



We give THANKS!

As this goes to print, we observe how the days are getting shorter and the summer foliage, once their appointed color of green, now turns to yellows and reds. It is fall and with it comes the harvest and time to be thankful.

Mattole Camp and Retreat Center has so much to be thankful for.

This past summer we tackled some major repairs on the Sun-Up cabin, returning it to a useable unit. This was accomplished with a gift of \$1,500.00 from the North Coast Presbyterian Parish to purchase materials.

Of course all the volunteers helped with the task.

We are grateful for ALL the groups that return each year to use the facility and those "first timers" who leave with thoughts of returning. The camp has hosted at least two weddings this year which usually brings people from all around.

These celebrations are wonderful events allowing many to find out what our facility has to offer.

Without the support of our fall campaign contributions, the camp would not be able to continue. With sincerity and gratitude, we give thanks for each "Friend of the Mattole" that supports the camp.

It is with all the help from the board members and ever faithful volunteers that makes it possible to accomplish what we do.

Foremost, we give thanks for all that our caretaker/director Richard does to make our visitors welcome with his assistance and warm hospitality, beyond our expectations! His dedication to the life and care of the camp is paramount!

It is the hope of the entire board that you too embrace the Thanksgiving season sharing the richness and gratitude with us.

Blessings to you all!

David Goodman ~ Mattole Council Chair



As the N.C.P.P. camp director, Mattole Kid's Camp 2012 was a fantastic experience full of life, love, wholeness, and high amounts of energy. Our week had two main parts to it: adventure and discipleship. The adventure was filled with long river hikes leading to a 25 foot jumping rock into a swimming hole. We played high impact games involving water balloons, running, and something called "pacos tacos" [just ask your camper]. In the midst of God's creation, we facilitated space for conversation about God and discipleship between students, counselors and Christ.

Because of late night talks in cabins about our relationship with Jesus, morning devotional times followed by an hour of quiet space, sharing meals together, and night time campfires filled with personal stories, music, and skits, we saw a healthy change in every child who came. Camp is important in a kid's life. It is paramount we find more ways to get kids to camp. Powerful discoveries can happen to a child at camp, no matter what age, when they choose to spend a week away from the normal rhythms of life. I observed most of the kids discover their need to respect others and themselves and their need for a relationship with Jesus. In my experience, Mattole Camp is a needed place for life change to continue to happen in the years to come.

Jason Cseh ~ Pastor of the Catalyst Church

{We are thankful for Jason and his wife Bethany for their stewardship to the camp and directing the N.C.P.P. Mattole Kid's Camp!}



How we wish upon a star!
 The Mattole Camp and Retreat Center
 is in need of the following...
 Can you help us?

Fresh "rock" for the driveway
 Redwood lumber for deck repairs
 Any GRANT WRITERS out there?
 A new deck for the Directors residence-
 NEW CABINS!
 (well, a girl can dream, right?)



SIMPLIFIED PRICING ADOPTED BY THE COUNCIL!
 Beginning January 2013, we're implementing our new pricing structure for Mattole Camp and Retreat Center! And it's SO easy!
 It will be just a flat rate of \$25.00 per person per night.
 No more extra charges for the lodge or cabins!
 You asked for it... We delivered!



\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$ **MATTOLE'S FINANCES** \$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$

As treasurer I am very proud of the accounting of the funds that flow through our bank account. Now that may sound like a strange statement so let me share with you some of that process. First, as treasurer I am part of a team that handles those funds. June, our bookkeeper, does the recording of all income and expenses through a QuickBooks program. I make the payments for our expenses and receive the income. The records are given to June who enters that data into the program. Several reports are submitted to the Presbytery Office who monitors our flow of money and quarterly sends Mattole a \$500 grant. We received \$2000 in 2012 from them.

Monthly reports are presented to the Council that show balances of the checking and savings accounts. Also, periodic evaluations are reported of the financial status based on the budget that was approved by the Council for the fiscal year.

Now all of this might seem pretty dry to the average user of Mattole, but for your treasurer it is very fascinating. The QuickBooks program is so detailed that every dollar coming in and going out of Mattole is accounted for. I hope this gives the folks who use the camp and those supporting the camp with their time, abilities and dollars, a great confidence that their support is well received and utilized.

Each year for Mattole varies with respect to users and costs. This year we were blessed with user dollars that exceeded our budgetary forecast. We had income from two weddings that were not expected, but made up for some lower attended camps. We know of a group that normally comes in February has been dissolved and will never return.

Some of our facilities are starting to need major repairs. Sun-Up Cabin required quite a bit of work before it was usable for the summer season. Sun-Down Cabin will need some major work soon. Seldom Inn could use some TLC. Even The Lodge had door problems this summer. On it goes. Keeping the Camp functioning requires supplies and skilled labor.

We do celebrate the existence and use of Mattole Camp as a place where people meet God. We do celebrate the support that so many give for the upkeep and operation of the Camp. We do celebrate the hope we as a Council have for the success for a new camping season for 2013.

Wayne Johnson ~ Treasurer

Volunteers work hard, but when evening rolls around they do enjoy some well deserved fellowship on the deck!



Thank you to Avalon and Emily for repainting the greeting sign on the driveway!





Thank you Rick, for painting and pitching in where needed. And making merry music!



Thank you to Mimi for the landscaping, window washing, KP duty and keeping me moving forward with your inspiring motivation!



Thank you to Deb and Bonnie for working together so well and finishing all the fresh curtains for the cabins!!!



Richard, David and Allan spent several days repairing the Sun-Up Cabin... And the work goes on... We dream of grants and limitless donations to one day, replace ALL the cabins... Perchance!



Jennifer & Allan & Mimi toast to another successful year of quality friendship, work and Mattole Camp and Retreat Center! CHEERS!

WHAT AM I THANKFUL FOR??

Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving is two words. Thanks is a term of being grateful for something, be it a service, or some tangible item like food or drink, or something you can touch. Something real. We all have experienced such a moment. There is also a "thanks" that is more spiritual, such as being thankful that there are no soldiers or tanks or war raging in our neighborhoods. For that I am very thankful. But also for this beautiful place that is my home. Mattole Camp. And the fellowship that has been shown me by the Council Members and the wonderful people that come here to experience the beauty and solitude of Nature.

Giving is to deliver, bestow, hand over, communicate, donate, or provide, that service or tangible item to another person or organization. So I am also thankful for having enough to give.

Richard Gillespie ~ Camp Director/Care" giver"



...and Jennifer sez "thank you!" For several years now, When June rolls around, a very special volunteer group known as The Humboldt Harmony Makers gathers at Mattole Camp, some traveling from as far as Southern California!. They bring along tools of their trade, whether carpentry, painting, sewing, gardening or "whatever", all wrapped in shrouds of support, positive attitudes and a willingness to work like dogs! We review the projects list and like a well-oiled machine, move forward through the tasks at hand... Our motto is, "WORK HARD PLAY HARDER!" And we DO!

There is something very special about working together. And it's even *more* special when the work is all done and we can sit back and marvel at our accomplishments... Like the motto, "many hands make for lighter work". or my personal favorite, "No one can whistle a symphony. It takes a whole orchestra to play it". It is truly a delight to work with such a wonderful group of individuals and I am thankful of each and everyone of them! To you ALL, I give THANKS!!! And look forward to doing it all over again next year!

Cheers! Jennifer Callen ~ Outreach Secretary



Thank you to Allan for replacing both Main Lodge doors and for his helpful expertise with the Sun-Up Cabin!!! You ROCK man!

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.

If you have questions, contributions or comments about the newsletter or Mattole Camp and Retreat Center

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

Please check out our website!

www.mattolecamp.com



If you 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

The Mattole Camp Council

(back) Wayne Johnson, Lee Dedini, David Goodman (middle) Pat Johnson, Kathy Goodman, June Kesterson, Richard Gillespie / caretaker-director
(front) Jennifer Callen



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