

MATTOLE MEANDERINGS

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

AUTUMN 2015



THANK YOU
RICHARD
and
RUSTY!!!

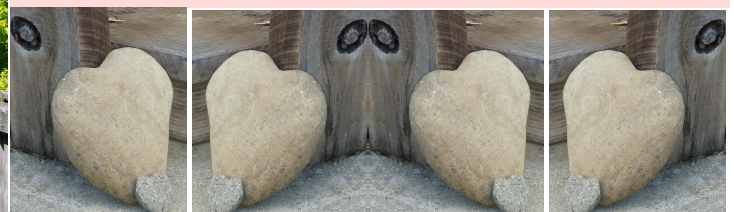


WE WISH YOU THE
VERY BEST!!!

IT IS WITH GREAT HONOR
AND APPRECIATION
THAT WE BID A
FOND FAREWELL TO
RICHARD GILLESPIE
WHO, AS OF OCTOBER 31,
RETIRED AS THE
CARETAKER/DIRECTOR OF THE
MATTOLE CAMP & RETREAT CENTER...



AND WE WELCOME THE LACY FAMILY
TO THE FOLD! CURTIS, CINDY,
BRAYDON, ABIGAIL, DOMINICK &
"BABY MAKES SIX"!!!



Harmony Makers STRIKE again!

THANK YOU ALL

At the end of every volunteer week, we all leave with the thought, "oh my gosh it can't get any better than this" and that sentiment held true for this year! For this years projects we; cleaned out the conversation hut, cleaned out and built new shelving in the shop, replaced a window in the Seldom Inn. PAINTED the Seldom Inn, CLEANED OUT the Seldom Inn, spruced up the Main Lodge landscaping and the trail down to the river, took truck loads of junk to the dump, replaced boards and restained Main Lodge decking, washed windows, cleaned cabins, cleaned out around the lower deck area, cleaned off both conversation decks, bucked up and removed a fallen tree, weeded volleyball court and more... I'm happily exhausted by just REMEMBERING what we did! A HUGE thank you to all who participated this year, David Goodman, Rick Duke, Mimi & Allan Dodd, Pam Sommer, Lee Dedini, Deb Perry, Mary Wheatley and Richard Gillespie.



Rick Duke, Mimi Dodd, Pam Sommer, David Goodman, Allan Dodd & Abby SELDOM INN painting crew!

One of three loads taken to the dump after cleaning out the Conversation Hut and the shop!
And here's Allan, and his newly installed window!!!



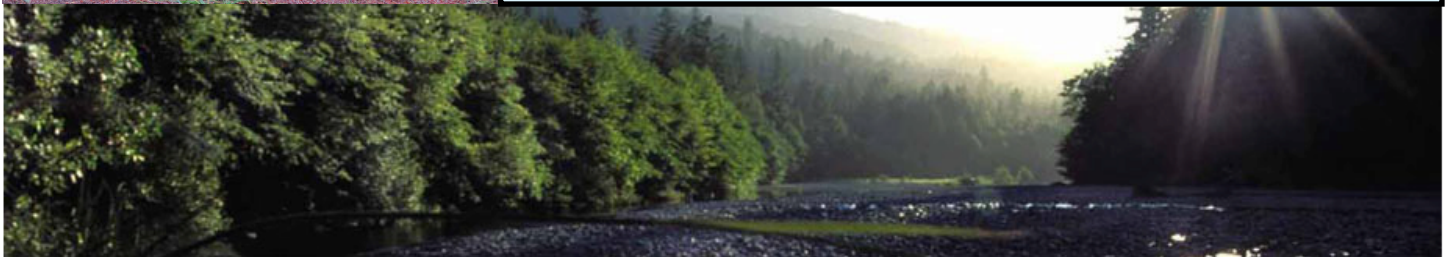
RETREAT! Nor Cal Writers Seek Solitude on the Lost Coast

Writers have been coming to Mattole Camp with one organization or another for more than twenty years. Drawn by the natural beauty, most discover that it's the quiet isolation that brings them back. It's said among the members of my group of campers, **North Coast Writers Retreat**, that at camp you face your muse: you can't hide from her and she can't hide from you. I know that since I first began coming to Mattole Camp with the Redwood Writing Project in the mid 90's my week at camp has always been my most inspired and productive week of the year. In some busy years of balancing career, family, and life I wrote more during that one week at camp than I did the entire rest of the year!

It seems a little ironic, but the remoteness and isolation (no cell service, no internet, no TV, no . . . civilization!) actually make things more social—allow for more of a sense of connection with one's fellow campers. If you choose you can spend an entire afternoon without seeing or speaking with another person as you feverishly finish that story you know will get published this time, but when it's finally done or you hit a snag, there are your colleagues gathering at the lodge, eager to hear what you've been doing and help you if they can. As a fellow writer observed years ago, it's like living in a writing workshop! And a beautiful workshop it is.

So, while the word "retreat" is right there in the name of the group I camp with, I have come to think of going to Mattole Camp as anything but an escape. It is an arrival. It always feels like coming home.

Michael Bickford



Centering Prayer, a silent meditation group has been doing 3-4 day retreats in the spring and fall at Mattole Camp for about 7 years. Rev. Ken Meece, much beloved Spiritual Director of St Joseph's Hospital for 16 years, started our retreat. When he died, it was continued by our dear Teaching Elder Paula Yoon. Now we carry on in their memory. We love the peace and beauty of Mattole Camp. There is a mid-day break in our schedule that allows time for outdoor exploration. Many people have had life-altering experiences with us. We have a core group that comes every year, depending on the retreat to keep our lives going well all year. We also have several opportunities to better maintain our practice during the year with several weekly Centering Prayer and meditation groups. On Wednesday nights some of us meet in the "Meditation Room" upstairs at the First Presbyterian Church in Eureka from 5-6 pm. (You can come late if you work 'til 5:00.) There are also two groups in Arcata. For more information contact Cat McAdams at 445-8596, or Susie Laraine at 441-1343 or slaraine@suddenlink.net. I don't think I can express in words how grateful I am for our experience at Mattole Camp. Our Retreat is a deep, joyful, and many-layered event.

Cat McAdams

A NOTE FROM THE CHAIR`

November marks the month of Thanksgiving for us. In a way, it is also a time of reflection and a time to sum up in a fashion as to what has been happening over the past year. As chair of the Council I can honestly say we have had an unusual year with significant changes along the way.

Our caretaker of eight years, Richard, retired at the end of October along with his sidekick Russ. Thank you Richard for serving! Enjoy being able to do whatever is on your agenda whether it's mushroom gathering, fishing, or watching the grass grow.

This year we have gained three new council members! We welcome Michael Bickford, Carrie O'Neill and Kathy Schmidt. Thank you for joining and helping out!

Financially we are grateful for meeting our anticipated income from user fees, contributions from our Friends of the Mattole campaign and the financial assistance from the North Coast Presbyterian Parish and the Redwoods Presbytery. We are still open for business! Thank you!

We are exceedingly thankful for finding a replacement caretaker! And so we welcome Curtis and Cindy Lacy family to our team!

A group of wonderfully dedicated workers spent a week freshening up the inside of the caretaker's residence in preparation of their moving onsite. It is difficult to express what a difference it made. Thank you to all that participated in this project!

Mattole Camp & Retreat Center is unique in a number of ways and like all facilities of this nature, it faces many challenges. I have personally been associated with the camp in some form for FIFTY years! It is most appropriate to express extreme gratitude for all the blessings that have come about this year. With joy in my heart, my hope is that we shall move this inspirational facility through another successful year.

Peace be with you and thank you.

David Goodman

Mattole Camp is in need of a few items...
Here is our WISH LIST..

ROOFING SHINGLES/NAILS, a new apple computer, GARDEN TOOLS, road rock, LUMBER, a ping pong table (a girl can dream can't she???), 2 new kitchen faucets (the hosey kind that swivel all around to hit all three sinks please), a wood stove (to heat the 1000 sq. ft caretaker's residence, and lots and lots of happy campers for our 2016 up and coming season!!! THANKS!

When you wish upon a star
Makes no difference who you are
Anything your heart desires
Will come to you!

Star light, star bright first
start I see tonight I wish I
may I wish I might, have
the wish I wish tonight

\$\$\$ AND A NOTE FROM THE TREASURER \$\$\$

Oh my gosh this has been the most challenging year! From leaky shop roofs, to downed trees, to broken windows, to squirmy septic surprises, to last minute cancellations, to the retirement of Richard, it just felt like the bad news would never end. On the dark side, it meant "KA CHING KA CHING KA CHING" (that's the sad sound of money slipping through our bank account). And on the BRIGHT side, it meant another coming together of all our glorious volunteers to make all the necessary repairs while celebrating our time together out at the camp. A perfect balance of the "ick" and the "incredible"... (There's got to be a song in here somewhere!!!)

Bottom line? Financially, the bottom line is good, regardless of the expense for all the repairs. My gratitude goes out to YOU, dear Friends of the Mattole! And a generous donation from the North Coast Presbyterian Parish and the support from the Presbytery of the Redwoods. To you all, I tip my hat, bow deeply and embrace your generosity!

So now, we have a new caretaker, Curtis, with his wife Cindy and their adorable children! They bring many blessings to our camp! Curtis is a man of many tools and carpentry skills and is willing to make necessary changes to enhance the camp and make it safer for all! Cindy is a wonderful mother with extensive experience in business and customer service! We have the hands, so to speak, and as always, we're in need of the money to accomplish some urgent repairs; shoring up the garage, re-roofing both the caretaker's residence and garage, the list goes on and on...

I graciously ask that you please consider all this when you receive our annual "Friends" letter. We are in need of some extra finances to ensure the camp's repairs are completed so we all can continue to enjoy and indulge ourselves in it's bounty!

Thank you! May your holidays be filled with light, music, laughter and love!

Jennifer Callen

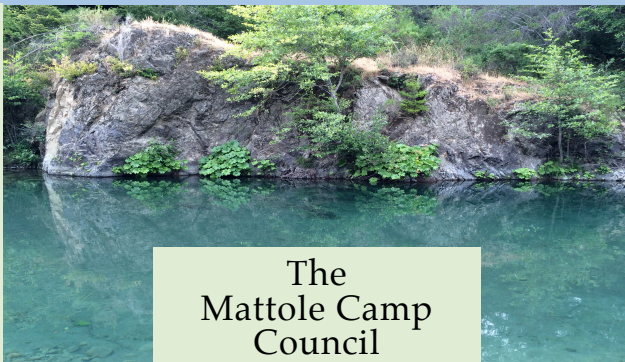


MATTOLE CAMP AND RETREAT CENTER
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The Mattole Camp Council created this newsletter to inform the community of current events, projects and future plans for Mattole Camp. The Mattole Meanderings is published semi-annually and is available free of charge.

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, Michael Bickford, Kathy Schmidt, Carrie O'Neill, Curtis Lacy (Director)

