

The Mattole Messenger

Issue 1

Winter 2000

Welcome to the first edition of the Mattole Camp Newsletter. The Mattole Camp Council created this newsletter to inform others about the current events, projects and future plans happening at Mattole Camp. The Mattole Messenger is published quarterly and is available free of charge. Please, if you have any concerns, questions, contributions or comments about the newsletter or Mattole Camp in general, call or write to us at 36841 Mattole Road, Petrolia, CA 95558, (707) 629-3308.

Director's Report

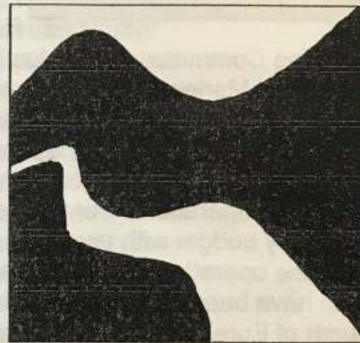
By Steve Lovett

Thank you for reading our first Mattole Camp and Retreat Center newsletter. Each issue will feature the latest news and events occurring at our camp. The Director's Report will be a regular feature in each issue.

In this first article, I will introduce myself and touch on some of the exciting projects that are happening at Mattole Camp. I have been the director of Mattole Camp since January of 2000. I live on-site in the caretaker's cabin along with my wife, Shari and our nine year-old daughter, Kali. Shari teaches Chemistry and Earth Science at Triple Junction High School. Kali attends Mattole Elementary School.

I received a Bachelor's degree in Parks and Recreation at the University of Memphis, Tennessee. After college, I worked at the Memphis Botanical Gardens and Lichterman Nature Center. I then took a job with the city of Nashville's Parks Department working as an Urban Naturalist. My duties included directing an overnight camping program for inner city youth, coordinating an in-service training program for inner city community centers, and developing a wide range of environmental education and recreation programs.

During my first year as Mattole Camp director, we have made many advances and have overcome many challenges. In March of 2000, the Mattole Council developed a detailed business plan to aid us in the goals and objectives of the camp. This plan included doubling our income and attendance for the year 2000!



Not knowing if this was a possibility, the Mattole Camp Council went forward. I am happy to report that we met this goal of doubling our income and attendance! Also, the plan was instrumental in the reorganization of the Friends of Mattole Camp. Along with the creation of a web-site, logo, brochure and this newsletter!

The mission of Mattole Camp and Retreat Center is to invite and recognize each guest as a child of our Creator God and to welcome each one in to experience this place of beauty and renewal.

The purpose of Mattole Camp is to develop and maintain our campground and facilities so that they best serve the needs of North coast churches and other organizations that seek a place of beauty in which they can renew themselves, create community and build relationship with God and one another.

NOTES FROM THE COUNCIL CHAIR

By Wayne Johnson



It has been my pleasure to be the Chair of the Camp Mattole and Retreat Center Council for nearly two years. The Council is charged with the administration of the Camp on behalf of the Presbytery. Consisting of several sub committees (Buildings and Grounds, Finance, Marketing and Personnel), the Council supports our director, Steve Lovett, in the day to day operation of the Camp. Members of the Council are: Wayne Johnson—Chair, Javan Reid—Vice Chair, Sara Kavich—Secretary and Treasure, David Goodman and Lee Dedini—Co-chairs of Buildings and Grounds, Alex Reid—Personnel Committee Chair, Barbara Burke—

Marketing Committee Chair plus David Mielke in Buildings and Grounds and Holly Freitas and Marlene McGrath assisting in Finance. The Council reports to the Presbytery's Mission Outreach Committee for funding.

During this last year, a Five Year Business Plan has been developed which has yearly goals, a scale of decreasing financial assistance from the Presbytery and a general plan of operation. Our five year goal is to be financially independent from the Presbytery budget with user fees, donations and grants to upgrade the facility and finance the operation. Also, this last year, The Standing Rules for the operation of the Camp have been established. The Council meets monthly at the First Presbyterian Church of Eureka. Others are invited to attend. Contact the Chair for the dates and times.

Administratively, we are working fairly smoothly. Operationally, Steve is doing a great job as he not only is responsible for the day to day operation but has done a splendid job of marketing the Camp to many in Mattole Valley and also to many areas of Humboldt County. Living on-site, Steve works daily in keeping up the grounds and facilities as well as monitoring the security of the Camp. Also, Steve brings to the Buildings and Grounds Committee projects that are both maintenance and upgrades for the Camp.

For 2001, there are some major projects to be completed and/or accomplished: pursuing the feasibility of remodeling Seldom Inn, reworking the Old Lodge, new sky lights for the TAN Oak Lodge, another fund drive, targeting and reaching new marketing areas, investigating the possibility of acquiring land next to the camp grounds, upgrading the office in the Lodge with proper office equipment, creating an endowment fund, fine tuning our financial reports, increasing the Council membership to twelve, and increasing the spiritual programming.

That sounds like a lot, but with the energy within the Council, much of this will happen in 2001. Is this not exciting? God has touched the Council, the Camp and the many users in such a glorious manner that there is a strong commitment by the Council to devote its energy, skills and faith to the success of the Mattole Camp and Retreat Center to glorify God. May His blessing be with us and guide us in our endeavors.

Buildings and Grounds Committee...(always busy)

By Dave Goodman

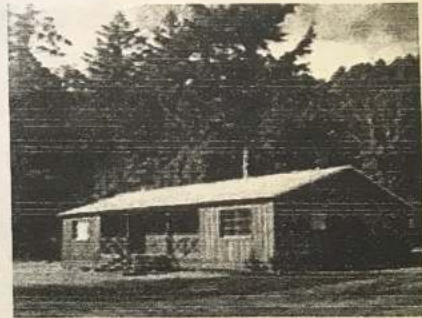
The past year has been a busy one for those working on the Buildings and Grounds Committee. There is always something we are working on or planning for. This year's work focused a lot on the director's residence. Thanks to hard work, available funds and planning, we were able to make it home for our director and family.

Each month, dedicated members of the Buildings and Grounds Committee and interested patrons of the camp attend work parties to tackle our many projects. Seldom Inn received some paint, some new skirting and some screens. TAN Oak Lodge got some deck stain and preservative, some waxing of floors and other maintenance care. We acquired a new mower and repaired the old one finally and so we now have two units which will help in keeping the grounds mowed.

One of the biggest projects was our water system. This year we rebuilt the spring box using a manifold system to recover the water. It recovers all the water that the spring generates and will help the overall water needs of the camp. Our summer water shortages are now a thing of the past.

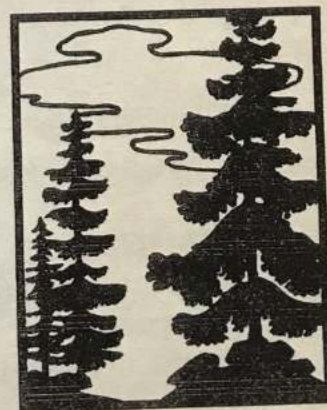
What's new on the horizon? This year we plan on replacing the old redwood water tank and installing a chlorination system to meet county health requirements. Funding is available for the project which hopefully will be completed in the spring. Plans for a new entrance deck have been talked about for TAN Oak Lodge on the westerly side of the building. We are also talking about removal of the old Sky Room and Infirmary building. An updated master plan for the camp is also on our agenda.

The camp takes lots of work to keep up and we are grateful to those who are committed to making it happen.



Wish List

New Personal Computer
Computer Printer
Computer Scanner
Shovels
Mattocks
Tree Pruner
Work Gloves
Chain Saw
Garden Cart
Digital Camera
Photo-copier
Table Vice
Bolt Cutters
House Plants
Landscaping Plants
Mulch
Ping Pong Table, paddles, balls
New work party members!



Friends of Mattole Camp and Retreat Center

By Alex Reid

Camp Mattole staff and Council members are grateful for the tremendous support provided this year by friends on the north coast and throughout the presbytery. We had developed our budget with faith to be sure, but also with trepidation, hoping for \$6,500 from fundraising and other contributions. At year's end we learn we have received a total of \$11,395 in gifts to the Camp!

Our heartfelt thanks to everyone who has contributed financially and/or volunteered their valuable time to Camp Mattole this year:

North Coast Presbyterian Churches, Joel & Mary Bartlett, Jim & Jody Berger, Jerilynn Blackstone, Barbara Burke, Gene & Chris Callahan, Terry & Lori Cole, Bill Combs & Karen Moulton, Bill & Nancy Cook, Steve & Anne Coons, Bob & Irene Crichton, Sally Dale, Lee Dedini, Norman & Leslie Dutra, Ollen Fowler, Bob & Mary Gillespie, Dave & Claudia Goodman, Kathy Goodman, Eleanor Kruse, Frank & Ro Hamilton, Dan & Bev Harper, Thelma Harris, Judith Hartman, Ford & Molly Hess, Opie & Imogene Hendricks, Burt & Helen Holt, Chip & Linda Hunt, Olivia Jackson, Jeanette Jacobs, Wayne Johnson, Larry & Sara Kavich, Eleanor Kruse, Margaret Lewis, Steve & Shari Lovett, Ron & Gyann Malone, Emmett & Suzanne McDowell, Marlene McGrath, David Mielke, Roger & Connie Miller, Bertha Monroe, Lyle & Harmony Morris, Richard & Shirley Miner, John & Harriet Nelson, Corinne Nordstrom, Javan & Alex Reid, Virginia Rumble, Jim & Joan Runyeon, Frank & Phyllis Schmidt, Bob & Martha Siekman, Manuel & Margaret Smallwood, Jane Spahr, Hugh & Suellen Stewart, Ralph Socking & Kathleen Cropper, Randy Stemler, Helen Stromberg, Verne & Ruth Thornton, Sharon Tucker, Ron & Jan Turner, St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Pete & Carlotta Vallerga, Johanna Vermeer & Elizabeth Malotte, Bill & LaVerne Whitehead, Howell & Shirley Williams, and Tom & Patti Williams.

Mattole Camp is owned by the Presbytery of the Redwoods, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Our camp is open to everyone, regardless of race, gender, disability, class or religious persuasion.

Next Issue...

- History of the Mattole Camp and Mattole Valley
- Update on the ongoing water system
- Report on camp usage
- Financial Statements for 2000

