

MATTOLE MEANDERINGS



News and inspirations from the Mattole Council and the Mattole Camp and Retreat Center.....Autumn 2021



Above: photo from 2002 when both water tanks were rolled up the hillside and put in place. A great feat. Left to right: Lee Dedini, Steve Lovett, David Goodman, and Dave Mielke.

Certainly 2020 presented us with issues unprecedented by anything this generation had experienced. Then came 2021 and with it the dramatic spread of Covid-19. Then on top of it all we experienced new issues not experienced before concerning serious administration and employment issues. In short, we survived 2020 and we will survive 2021.

All that being said, we will move forward making the needed changes required to strengthen and improve the manner in how we operate and manage the camp. In order to help facilitate these steps we will close the camp to all guests beginning in October 2021 until May 2022. During this time the Council, working with the Presbytery of the Redwoods, will strive to reorganize and develop plans as to how we will operate our facility. By closing the camp for a period of time, it will allow a respite from dealing with guests and everyday issues and hopefully

allow us time to concentrate our efforts where they are needed most at this point in time.

I wish to thank all the council members for their support and work this past year and for the Presbytery's guidance and assistance during this tenuous time. We will look hopefully forward to a brighter 2022.

David Goodman, Chairman of the Board

Early history on the Mattole River, along the banks of the Mattole Camp

By Lee Dedini

(references from "Origin of Mattole" by George 'Buck' Miner)

In the 1920's a concrete bridge was constructed across the Mattole River at the entrance of the current Mattole Camp. Before construction of the concrete arch, Buck Miner's father, ferried his children across the Mattole to a School house on the opposite bank. In December 1955 a flood washed down logs from a timber mill upstream in Honeydew and water poured over the top of the bridge, and demolished the cement railings. Steel railings now replace the original cement ones.



In the distance, the concrete bridge hidden in the meanderings of the Mattole River.

Up river from the bridge there is what was called the Mill Pond, which is actually the start of the camp's swimming hole. Sam Kelsey had a timber mill here and used this long deep pool as a holding pond for his logs. Sam Kelsey was born in 1856 and lived to the age of 112. One day when he was asked his age and answered that he was 99 the person remarked that he hoped to see him reach 100. Sam smiled, patted him on the back and said, "I don't see why not, you look healthy enough to me."

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Camp Mattole was lucky enough to be chosen as the site for a local movie! Written by a local playwright, Autumn Run was filmed last November at the camp. It was produced by Carol Lang and Dawn Bressler. The story is about four siblings and takes place in and on the property of their family cabin, near the river, and is specifically set in Humboldt County. In an article in the Times Standard, Lang is quoted saying: "We're doing this with all local actors. I really want to showcase what amazing talent we have up here in Humboldt County. A lot of them were scheduled



to be in stage productions but everything got canceled so they became available to me," she explained. "It's looking more beautiful than I would've ever imagined." The movie is still in the editing process and is expected to be done in the next few months. Keep your eyes out for the premiere of this upcoming film.



Pictured above and top right, actors and crew from the movie production Autumn Run directed by Carol Lang.

Mattole Musings from Barbara Rich and family!

First of all....our clan would rate the Mattole Camp and Retreat as the best place to have a gathering of any sort. The initial surge of joy at spending time at the Mattole Camp and Retreat Center begins immediately after turning off Mattole Road and heading down the long and tree lined driveway....it is so beautiful! Look to your right (or left depending on the chosen route at the fork) as you meander down the driveway and you will see the cargo net trampoline, monkey bars, slack lines, horse shoe pit, volley ball/badminton net, baseball/soccer field, etc. Ah yes.....time to relax and play, write, draw, play board games or athletic games, read, connect with family/friends, read, enjoy the outdoors, stare into the sky, read, eat good food and



float about in amazing swimming holes. It's so quiet I can hear my ears ringing!!

There could be a novel written about the kitchen in the Tan Oak Lodge.....superbly stocked with cooking implements, stainless steel prep tables and perhaps most important of all....one of the most amazing stove/griddle/oven combinations ever.

My family and I appreciate the grounds....of which include more lodging opportunities than I am describing....and since we have a Talent Show every year....if it is safe for this gem....there is a fire pit! I recommend this very special rental. This place speaks of that which is lovely. We'll be back!!!

(The Mattole Camp would like to thank the Rich Family for their continued support and appreciation of the camp)



Picture of the Mattole River after our first big storm in October 2021. The river raised 13 inches during this big storm, replenishing the waters that were at a record low.

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Just over a year ago, the Tree Deck got a huge face lift! Designed and built by Gene Callahan, with help from our crafty Council members, the new Tree Deck has a beautiful covering with lights that dim, the same style of cozy benches, and memories waiting to be made! The Tree Deck is a great place to hold a meeting, gather for a picnic, or even have a sleep-out with your family and friends! Projects like these are made possible by generous donations from people throughout our community. We can't wait to share this and more with the visitors of the camp next summer and beyond.



Pictured above: Carrie's Swing, installed last Spring and dedicated to Carrie O'Neill for her love and devotion to Camp Mattole.

Dear Friends of the Mattole!

Well, it's about time I hang up my Mattole Council hat and pass on the love-baton!

Actually, my retirement happened last March but I'm still transitioning...

My tenure began in 2008, when my friend Glen and I made a presentation to the Mattole Councils monthly meeting about volunteering our services to help spruce up the camp. We had rented it for the first time in early June that year, with a bunch of families, lots of lovely little ones, good vibes and music in our hearts! We were (and still are) musicians of one kind or another and go by the handle "The Harmony Makers". We ALL fell in love with the camp and felt it desperately could use some strong arms and creative vision. We presented our plan, which was accepted, and as we were leaving, Council Chair David Goodman asked if I would be interested in joining the council. In a moment of weakness, (and I say that endearingly) I said yes!

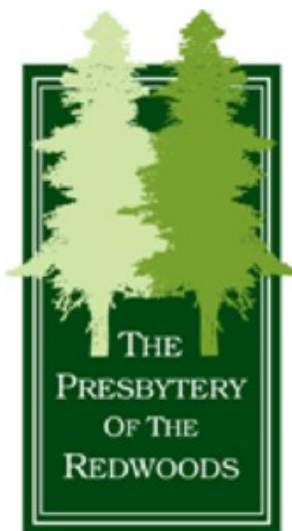
My first task was updating the Council by-laws and migrating the website to a new host which required rebuilding it (something I'd never done before). Then Wayne (our Treasurer) retired so took that on. Then June (Bookkeeper) retired so I took that on (learned QuickBooks in record time). Then Ginny, TJ & Kathy left so I took on Marketing, Secretary and Newsletter (are we sensing a theme here)???? Add on the organization of our annual volunteer weeks which included Harmony Makers, Council, Presbytery Pam and others which continued til 2018, handling all mailing including the Newsletters and Solicitation letters (with help from David), orchestrating the mailings (with help from council.) Dare I go on? Let's frost this cake with administrating, training, overseeing all the caretakers, writing and implementing our "Standard Operating Procedures", taking on all administration duties during breaks between caretakers (that's scheduling, invoicing, fielding all calls/requests etc.) while handling all correspondence... The list goes on. And then, one fretful day, I realized that my volunteering for the camp had become close to a full-time job and the rest of my life was falling apart. It was a most difficult decision to make... To retire... To step back... (although I like to think of it as "stepping forward"). I look forward to seeing the camp through fresh eyes, an open heart once again full with thoughts & dreams of a bright & beautiful future!

I love Mattole Camp with all my heart and soul! Driving through that wooden gate, leaving behind the busy-ness of daily life sans cell phones, computers, all technological devices. Then arriving to where the sun warms, the river cools, the quiet morning coffee invigorates, the night sky titillates, shared meals satiate, and the birds narrate the oh so sweetness of life! I want to thank you all for your continued support and I want to thank the Mattole Council for allowing me to be a part of our shared enjoyment, hard work and love we all feel for the Mattole Camp & Retreat Center!

Cheers

Jennifer Callen... Lovin' on a Mattole Rock!





Mattole Camp and Retreat Center Annual Newsletter



Mattole Camp & Retreat Center
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Mattole Camp and Retreat Center 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.

