

MATTOLE MEANDERINGS



News and inspirations from the Mattole Council and Mattole River Camp and Retreat.....Autumn 2024



I hope this newsletter finds you all in good spirits, and that it reminds you of a time when you too were carefree, perhaps dipping your toes in the calm waters of the Mattole River and enjoying the simple pleasures of our beautiful Earth.

It has been an amazing season of adventure, inspiration, growth and change at the Mattole River Camp. I cherish the time I get to spend there. I keep track of the year by how long until I get to go back. It's where I go to slow down, reset, rejuvenate, and enjoy nature, food and friends.

Please enjoy the musings of just a few of the folks who foster the love of our beloved camp and keep it operating for all to enjoy.

~ Blessings to you all ~

Carrie O'Neill, Secretary

Notes from the Chair

This year has been one of remarkable change for the camp. To begin with, a new board to administer and direct the camp for the future has been formed through the work of the Presbytery. The existing council is transitioning control over to the new board, but remains as a strong group of support volunteers. We are grateful for the dedication and hard work of the new board. This past year has seen a number of physical changes in the camp. Thanks to the leadership of Gene Callahan and a number of hard-working volunteers, great improvements were made to Seldom Inn. Also the garage next to the old caretakers residence was torn down and removed.

This past year we saw a number of cancellations which affected our income significantly, something we did not anticipate to this degree. We are looking forward to 2025 with renewed energy and leadership, trusting in the future. Blessings for the upcoming holiday season and thank you for all you have given to the camp.

David Goodman, Chairman



*To see more pictures and upgrades to the camp facilities, please visit our website:
mattolerivercamp.org*

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On the Lost Coast

Lee Dedini



In a north/northwesterly direction for about 25 miles from Shelter Cove to the mouth of the Mattole river lies the lost coast of Humboldt County. It is a wonderful area, still largely unspoiled and with much of its isolated charm.

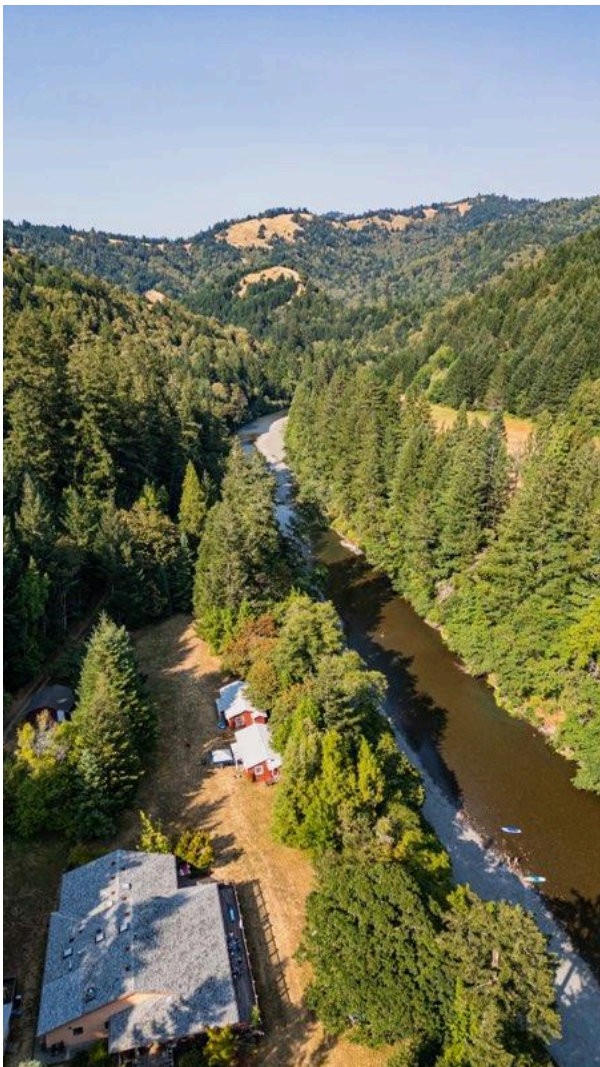
Between 1911-1912, the Punta Gorda lighthouse was built a short distance south of the mouth of the Mattole river. Several buildings were built at the lighthouse, mostly of brick.

After the United States Coast Guard assumed command, a rough road was constructed (that usually washed out) and a jeep was used for transportation. One Coast Guard career horse, named Old Bill, served the Punta Gorda Light Station as a saddle horse, pack horse, and buggy horse for thirty years until the station closed in 1951. They then installed a lighted buoy offshore to warn ships of the dangerous sunken rocks.

The land was transferred over to the Bureau of Land Management, and people soon began living in the lightkeeper's homes rent free. The BLM ended up burning down the buildings in 1970. All that stands now is the shell of the lighthouse and the oil house, and the foundations of the other structures.

The lighthouse was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1976. The Fresnel lens and the flag staff pole were removed many years ago to the Humboldt Bay Maritime Museum.

To visit the site, it is a 6.5-mile hike out-and-back. Generally considered a moderately challenging route, it takes an average of 2 h 15 min to complete. The best times to visit this trail are April through October.



Photos above and right by Ryan Twisselmann

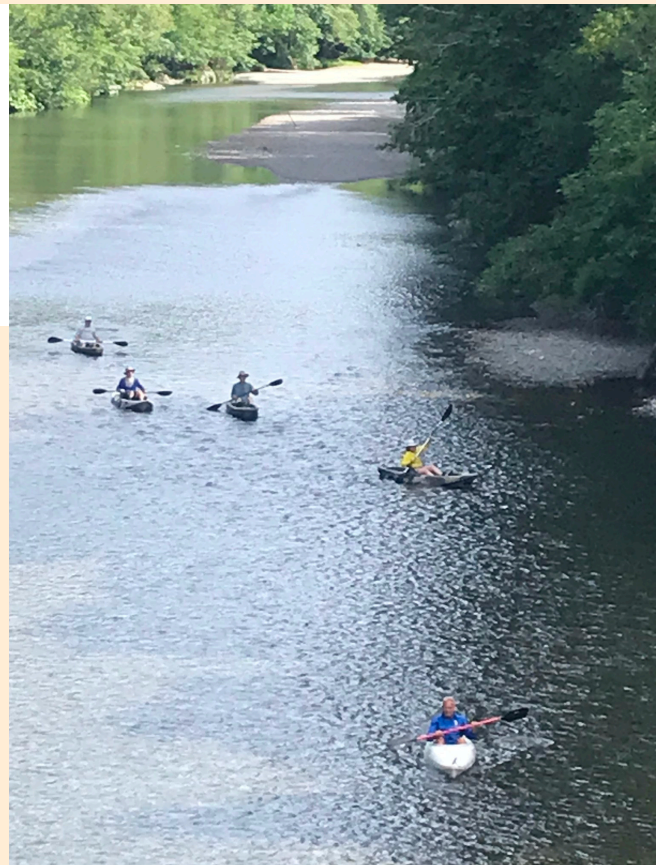
Everyone finds joy in different activities out at camp. One of our guests found their joy by flying a drone all around camp, taking some amazing photos. The one pictured to the left is a great shot of the river and the buildings that make up Mattole River Camp. Above is the sunset settling behind the mountains between camp and the ocean.

Harmony Makers celebrate 16 years of "livin' is easy"...



Dean, Dan & Michael celebrating
See no evil, hear no evil & speak no evil!

"Friends of the Flotilla" celebrate the 2nd annual "Paddle to Petrolia" with many thanks to Richard Sykes, our fearless leader. Dave, Dean, Lee & Jill paddled against hard winds, strong upstream currents and man-eating river sharks but made it with smiles, shivers and soggy bottoms.



We always end our reunion with a celebratory "jog" down to the Mattole Grange for the yearly "Fathers Day Pancake Breakfast"! We love to support the Mattole Community and there's nothing better than Pancakes made with locally grown flour, pure maple syrup and all the sides of life!

...the Harmony Makers will return next year with many tunes to play, many river romps, cups of coffee on the deck and a deeper love for the camp and each other! Cheers! Jen

FARE WELL



HELLO...



TO OUR DEAR "FRIENDS OF THE MATTOLE"

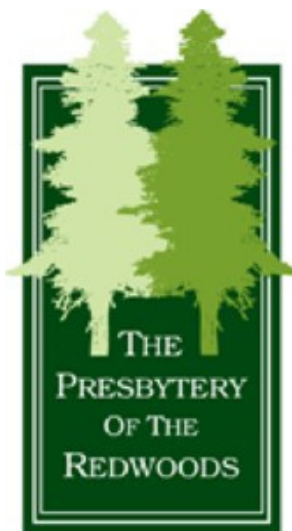
We are leaping into the wave of modern technology (while saving a few trees) and are offering our newsletter and other correspondence by EMAIL!

Please help by replying to: email@mattolecamp.com
with your name and address to confirm.

Then, please add: email@mattolecamp.com
to your address book to avoid our emails ending up in your SPAM folder.

We will reply with a 👍 to let you know we have you safely in our system.

PLEASE NOTE: If you do not respond, we will gladly continue to send
Mattole Camp info via snail mail! Thank you very much!



Mattole River Camp and Retreat Annual Newsletter



Mattole River Camp & Retreat
P.O. Box 675
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Mattole River Camp and Retreat 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.

