

January 1, 2014

The Westport Wave

Published by the Westport Village Society, P. O. Box 446, Westport, CA 95488

As we were just getting ready to go to press, I learned today, December 30th, that our dear friend Toby Hickman has died of a heart attack while on vacation visiting his family in Florida. That's all I know for now – more information will be available in the coming days at the Westport Community Store.

Toby is everything to Westport, and Westport is everything to him. He is world-famous. He is larger-than life. He is everyone's best friend. Past tense is hard to imagine now, for he will always be here with us.

– S.B.

Santa Claus Visits Westport!

Yes he did, boys and girls, at the Westport Christmas Party at the Westport Hotel on December 21st! A great time was had by all, with plenty of Christmas goodies and presents, plus traditional Christmas caroling led by Goldie Westheimer. Many thanks to Sarah Mathias for these terrific photos, and a special thank you to Dorine Real, Lee Tepper, all the volunteers, and most especially Santa Claus himself for such a wonderful evening! We'll miss you, Santa – please come back to Westport next year – we'll be waiting for you (and we promise we'll be good!)



Santa and Julian Flores-Cruz share a laugh.



Children of all ages singing Christmas carols. (left to right, Donna Traycik, Val Hale, Raven Hawes, Grady Hawes, Heather Hawes, Gary Quinton, and Noemi Schirmann)



Grady Hawes gets into the Christmas spirit



Hunter Mathias and Santa talk toys.



Raven Hawes tells Santa she's been good.

Neighbor 2 Neighbor Meeting on January 7th at the Westport Hotel

The next meeting of the Westport Village Society Community Committee will be held on Tuesday, January 7th at 6:00PM at the Westport Hotel.

Everyone who cares about the town of Westport and also the greater Westport area is encouraged to attend, as we discuss many community needs and solutions. At the January meeting, we'll be finalizing our initial community volunteer directory and reviewing our aims and goals. Our **Neighbor 2 Neighbor** (N2N for short) project seeks to bring together folks that need things done with volunteers who can do them. We need your input on projects and solutions, so please plan on attending our January 7th meeting!

WVFD Meeting January 8th

Bob Finnell

The **Westport Volunteer Fire Department** is in the process of providing more transparency and public inclusiveness in its operations, goals, needs, finances, and service offerings that the WVFD provides to its community service area. On December 4th, the WVFD held an open business meeting and provided an initial discussion draft for a Five Year Plan. Community input on this draft Five Year Plan is valued and important. Everyone can participate in your WVFD in some fashion.

For the best "live information" kindly attend the next **WVFD Open Meeting on Wednesday, January 8, 2014 at 6 p.m. at the WVFD Firehouse.** Arrive a bit early for a quick personal tour of the facility by one of your dedicated volunteer firefighters. Your WVFD is motivated to enhance its legacy and tradition of offering its courageous emergency services to all in need. With your input, assistance, and involvement, Westport will be widely recognized as "Best on the Coast."

Westport's Next Generations

Steve Brigham, Editor

Great strides ahead were made in the past year in our Westport Community! One of the most notable improvements was the establishment of daily self-enrichment classes at the Westport School under the directorship of Tabby Korhummel. There were more

programs for kids in Westport in 2013, including weekly tumbling and Kinder-Gym classes. Teenagers are in the mix now too, and as an example, I'd like to take the opportunity to recognize J.T. Korhummel for his volunteer work on the Kibesillah Barn restoration project, which I reported on in last month's *Wave*.

All of the people and groups that I've just mentioned have one thing in common – they are not Baby Boomers! Rather, they are the Next Generations of leadership in our town. I myself, of course, am a Boomer, as are a great many of us who live here. And the very best news that we can hear is that there are more and more younger people who want to help rebuild and refresh our small community!

Already, there are lots of important Westport Community projects in the works for this new year of 2014, and I have every confidence that a year from now you will see a lot more improvement in Westport as a result of a continuing multi-generational team effort. And I'd like to extend that improvement to this monthly newsletter as well – so here's an open challenge to all of you who were born *after* President Kennedy died. Whether you're 45, 35, 25, 15, 5, or even 2, I want you to write, photograph, and illustrate for *The Westport Wave*! Send me anything you've got – observations, artwork, you name it! This town has been around for over 130 years now, and it's always done its very best when many generations team up together. May it be so in 2014!

Micro Moon and Secret Moon

We've all heard of a "Blue Moon", which happens on the rare occasion when there are two full moons in a calendar month (or 4 full moons in any one season). But what about that equally rare occasion when there are two *new* moons in one month? Well, that's what we've got coming up in January, with new moons on both January 1st and 30th. The second of these in the month has many names, including Secret Moon, Finder's Moon, Spinner Moon, and Black Moon (that last and very powerful name is also used more frequently for a few different types of lunations). And there's more lunar fun – on January 15th, our full moon will be a Micro Moon, which is a full moon when the moon is farthest from the Earth. That's about 30,000 miles farther away than our full moon was last January. Will the moon look smaller to us?

Westport Church History

(Editor's Note: This is the first in a series of articles on the history and uses of the Westport Church.)

Baile Oakes and Sally Grigg

At the dawn of the new decade in 1880, the thriving town of Westport had stables, stores, hotels, a blacksmith, a butcher, farmers, ranchers, lumber mills, shipping areas and saloons. Of these, the only place that offered a building in which members of the community could gather were the saloons. Some of the town folk, like Jesse Vann, were affiliated with a Southern Methodist congregation, but others followed different Christian denominations. Some were members of a Temperance society, the Good Templars, who wanted a place to gather in town other than saloons, and some wanted a community building in which to have social events. What they all had in common was the desire for a building where community members of all ages could gather.

Town folks like Peter and Albert Switzer, Jesse Vann, William Pennington (the builder of Howard Creek Ranch), and Alexander Gordon had been talking among themselves of manifesting a path to establishing a house of worship and community center within the village that had become their home. By the end of the year, a decision was made to establish a community church and center, spearheaded by the donation of an oceanfront parcel on Pacific Avenue by Peter and Albert Switzer (the deed was dated on December 28, 1880).

How Dry We Are

Steve Brigham

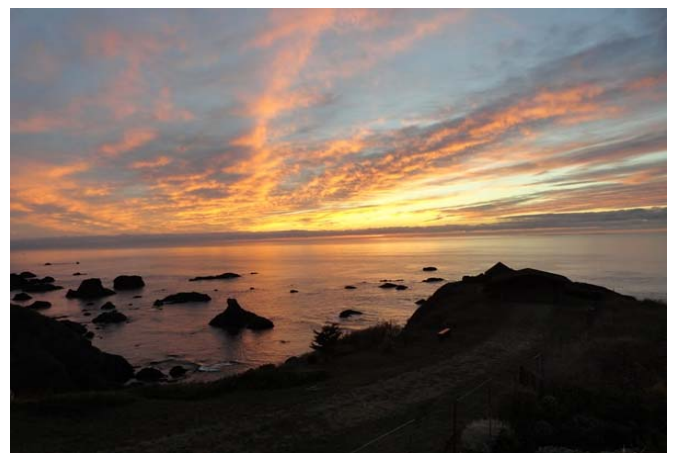
As is widely reported, California is now well into its third year of drought, which initially was more severe in the southern and central parts of our state. Until the year 2013, that is, which will be remembered as the year that the rain just stopped for everyone, even way up here on the North Coast. 2013 was also the International Year of Statistics, and so I've got a bunch of them for you right here. Yes, you guessed it, our rainfall totals (or lack of them) for 2013 were nothing short of amazing...

Think back a year ago, to December of 2012. It was a typically rainy month already when a whopper of a

rainstorm began on the day of the Winter Solstice (when the world was supposed "to end", according to some interpretations of the ancient Mayan Calendar). By the day after Christmas, we'd totaled almost 12 inches of rain for the month, as measured here on Pacific Avenue (you folks up in the hills and canyons got even more). But then the rain just plain shut off, and the entire year of 2013 brought little more rain than that one month of December 2012 did!

And it just keeps getting drier. December of 2013 brought only .65 inches of rain to Westport, or just a little over 5% of the rainfall of December 2012. 5%! 2011 and 2012 were average (43 inches) to a little above average in total rainfall here in Westport, but at just 14.69 inches (a respectable annual total in San Diego, but jeez, this is Westport), 2013 came in at a ridiculously low 33% of normal. And what about this past fall? Just 3.36 inches, compared to the 21.13 inches we got in the fall of 2012. That's right, 16%.

So what happened? Do we blame it all on the Mayans? The number 13? Contrails? Global Warming? The short answer is that the big drought bubble over the southwestern USA got a lot bigger in 2013, finally encompassing northern California as well. I'll leave the long answers to you for now.



Another warm and dry December Westport sunset.

So we've got a drought on our hands, ladies and gentlemen, and there's no use kidding ourselves about it. January looks dry, dry, dry, but a look at the long-range U.S. Weather Service predictions for February into spring show no strong indicators of either wet or dry. That's in part because their computer models are still too-much based on a concept of "normal", when

it's getting more and more obvious that "normal" doesn't exist anymore (or at least not like it used to).

As many of you may know, some folks' wells are getting mighty low these days (although for now, the Village water supply remains vigorous). And drought affects the entire natural world as well. Already, many bug-eating wild birds are not finding enough bugs to eat because it has not rained enough to hatch those bugs. (This is a good reason to serve bird seed as an alternate food, which lots of bug birds will eat). It is very important during these droughty times to have lots of water in your garden for the birds and other wildlife (my seagulls are even drinking out of our big birdbath now). And WATCH OUT FOR TICKS starting right now, especially on puppy-dogs and kitty cats – it's going to be a mean tick season.

This year in The Wave, our coverage of the drought will continue, with lots of drought-related topics. But even though the statistics are now against it, there's always hope that we won't have to. Anyone out there know how to do a rain dance?

Pasture Music

Beverly Smith

I carefully maneuver the car to the pasture gate to unload a couple of bales of hay for my six horses. Opening the door, the coolness of the coastal air greets me and becomes my titillating hostess for the evening. Its crispness teases at the cheeks and tingles in the nostrils, inviting a familiar autumn-time nostalgia, a lighthearted feeling of laughter and happy voices. It brings hope of good things just around the corner.

Reflecting the clean sharpness of the air, the sounds that normally fade into the background become strikingly bold, untempered by sight and thought. I become mesmerized by the clunking of feed buckets hitting together as I walk, the swish-swooshing of a water trough running over before I can get to it, the rattling of pellets as I pour them into their hard containers, and the rumble of the hay cart as its worn metal wheels scrape across the packed gravel road.

Filled with youthful exhilaration, I'm surrounded by sound that is bewitched. It has become a wild musical symphony formed from the ordinary, amazingly alive, and delightful to the depths of the soul.

Words from the Westport Woods

Tom Kisliuk

We live in an area famed for our magnificent forests. Our town was built to export forest products. Our landscape is dominated by young forests. A recent *Westport Wave* contribution mentioned the ever-diminishing log size of recent harvests.

It is quite possible that when you see log trucks of small trees it may be a result of excellent forestry. The Ten Mile River Watershed includes two private forests that are nationally known and recognized as excellent examples of sustained-yield forestry. Both of these projects initiated a "thinning" method of harvest, using the advice of a Yale Forestry professor and author who advocated selecting the "worst first". These are generally smaller trees, which are selected for harvest to provide more growing space for larger, faster growing trees. The noted forester of the Miller Tree Farm told me the average log on their first thinning was 70 board feet. This is about 40 small logs on a log truck. In the second thinning, the average tree was about 150 board feet. A corollary of this approach is that not only is the average harvest tree increasing in size, but the "leave" trees or residual forest becomes increasingly populated by larger diameter trees...which we all appreciate.

Harvest Intensity or number of logging jobs is also difficult to judge without looking at the specific job. For example, with the light thinnings that the Ten Mile Forests utilize, re-entries occur about every ten years. Using this approach would result in the entire Watershed being harvested over ten years or so. It may be possible that this could be excellent management – regularly harvesting while increasing the forest inventory each decade (for example, harvesting 20% of the inventory once every ten years while growing at 3% annually results in a 10% increase in forest inventory each decade).

It is difficult to judge a book by its cover, and I suggest it is difficult to judge a Forestry job from the log truck loads. You may have noticed increasing tree mortality en route from Westport to Fort Bragg. Three introduced pathogens are becoming prominent adjacent to Highway One. Pines are dying as a result of the Pitch Pine Canker near the old Kibesillah townsite. You will note that the disease is marching through that small stand. In the future, it is likely to

infect other pine stands such as near the Fee Mansion in Westport. Monterey Pine is not native to our area and is most susceptible. Sudden Oak Disease is readily visible across from the Inglenook Grange Area. Least known and most prominent in our area is the Balsam Woolly Adelgid. This insect's host is Grand Fir. The insect interferes with the conveyance of water and nutrients in the sapwood. You can glimpse some epidemic mortality if you glance up Ten Mile River in the Bridge area as you go south. I believe the Grand Fir Forests in our Westport area are also infested – in my yard in the Wages Creek watershed, most of the Grand Firs are either dead or showing symptoms of the disease. I believe the slopes above the town of Westport are also infected. Weakened Grand Fir trees are most likely to topple under strong winds...frequently having unfortunate consequences on power lines.

Forest Management is a topic that many people feel strongly about. As the global population increases, there will likely be an increase in demand for forest products. Our forests are sending many loads of logs to be shipped to China for use there. We live in one of the most productive forest areas on the planet, the temperate rain forest.

Carbon sequestration is also likely to become increasingly important. I have been involved in a few Carbon Projects where the landowners are being compensated for setting aside harvest potential for the purpose of sequestering CO2. Growing trees is one of the best methods of removing carbon from the atmosphere. Copious amounts of CO2 are released during forest fires. Forests that are managed to reduce the potential of catastrophic wildfires are therefore also important in carbon sequestration.

Thoughtful forest management can result in periodic harvesting while increasing inventory, reducing the potential of catastrophic fire, increasing sequestered CO2, and reducing erosion. If your neighbor has a forestry logging job, it might be a "good" job that actually helps the environment. As a Forester myself, I know that in some cases it surely is.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

SPECIAL NEW YEAR'S DAY YOGA CLASS!

11:00AM to 12:30PM, Jan. 1st, Westport School

February Re-Opening at the Westport Hotel and Pub

The Westport Hotel is in hibernation for the month of January. Behind the scenes, we are getting ready for a new season of lodging and preparing to reopen the Old Abalone Pub. The official "grand" opening of the restaurant, with chef Oscar Stedman, will be on Valentine's Day (Friday, February 14th). This will be our annual Romantic Dinner, by reservation only, with two seatings. Please call 964-3688 for details. Please note that this is the *official* opening, but we will actually be open the previous weekend (starting Thursday, February 6th) especially for you, our neighbors. Hours will be as last winter: Thursday through Saturday from 5:00PM to 9:00PM for dinner; Saturday 3:00PM to 5:00PM for afternoon tea; and Sunday from 10:00AM to 2:00PM for brunch.

January 2014 Westport Calendar


- January 1st – New Year's Day – Special Yoga Class, 11:00AM-12:30PM, Westport School**
- January 1st – New Moon, 3:14AM**
- January 7th – Neighbor 2 Neighbor Meeting, 6PM, Westport Hotel**
- January 7th – WMAC Meeting CANCELLED**
- January 8th – Westport Volunteer Fire Department Meeting, 6PM, Westport Firehouse**
- January 9th – Bookmobile, Store, 9-9:30AM**
- January 15th – Full "Micro Moon", 8:53PM**
- January 20th – Martin Luther King, Jr. Day**
- January 22nd – Westport Village Society Quarterly Board Meeting, 5:00PM, Westport Church**
- January 23rd – Bookmobile, Store, 9-9:30AM**
- January 30th – New "Secret Moon", 1:39PM**

The Westport Wave is a free monthly community newsletter published by the **Westport Village Society**, a non-profit organization. Internet subscribers to the *Wave* receive their free **COLOR** copies on or before the first day of every month by e-mail. Printed (black-and-white) copies of each month's newsletter are also available free to all at the Westport Store. You can also download present and past issues at www.westportvillagesociety.org. Contributions for our February 1st, 2014 issue should be sent to Steve Brigham at westportwave@aol.com, or P.O. Box 237, Westport, CA 95488.



JANUARY 2014 SELF-ENRICHMENT WESTPORT SCHOOL CLASS SCHEDULE

(attend classes every week or just “drop in”!)

MONDAYS	TUESDAYS	WEDNESDAYS	THURSDAYS	FRIDAYS
10:30AM-12:00PM	9:30-10:30AM		9:30-10:30AM	10:00-11:45AM
<p><i>YOGA</i></p> <p><i>WITH</i></p> <p><i>JULIA</i></p> <p>(90 minutes)</p>	<p><i>NEW!</i></p> <p>STEP AEROBICS</p> <p>WITH AIMEE</p> <p>(60 minutes)</p>		 <p>Zumba Toning</p> <p>(60 minutes)</p>	<p><i>NEW SESSION</i></p> <p><i>of Kinder Gym</i></p> <p><i>and Tiny Tots</i></p> <p><i>Tumbling!</i></p>
		5:30-6:30PM	6:15-7:45PM	
		<p>BODY SCULPTING</p> <p>WITH AIMEE</p> <p>(60 minutes)</p>	<p><i>T'ai Chi Ch'uan</i></p> <p><i>with Scott</i></p> <p><i>Menzies</i></p> <p>(90 minutes)</p>	

***NEW! STEP AEROBICS:** STEP YOURSELF INTO SHAPE! JOIN AIMEE FOR A 60-MINUTE AEROBIC AND BODY SCULPTING CLASS!

*** BODY SCUPLTING:** USES A VARIETY OF WEIGHTS TO GENTLY SCULPT YOUR MUSCLES! ALL LEVELS WELCOME – BRING A WATER BOTTLE AND A SMILE!

*** YOGA FOR ALL LEVELS – BE PREPARED TO GROW AN INCH!**

*** T'AI CHI CH'UAN – JOIN SCOTT MENZIES, TAIJQUAN/QIGONG INSTRUCTOR AND PROPRIETOR OF FORT BRAGG'S PERFECT CIRCLE TAIJQUAN.**

*** ZUMBA TONING – USE LIGHT WEIGHTS TO GENTLY SCULPT YOUR BODY AS YOU MOVE TO LATIN AND WORLD RHYTHMS!**

*** TINY TOTS TUMBLING – 2-3 and 4-8 YEARS PRE-GYMNASTICS FOR YOUR LITTLE ONES! (NEW 5 WEEK SESSION STARTS IN JANUARY – CALL 367-0010 TO SIGN UP)**