

July 1, 2013

# The Westport Wave

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## A Dry Year, But Still Green!

Steve Brigham, Editor

California does a lot of things differently than the rest of the USA, and one of those things is that we measure our annual rainfall from July thru June, not from January through December. That's because our "rainy" season is from fall through spring, and the thought is that whatever factors characterize any given "rainy" season would continue from fall through the following spring. Well not this time. This "rainy" season, we had good rains up until Christmas, but then it just dried up after New Year's Day. Since then, most days here have felt more like San Diego (most folks aren't complaining) than Westport, but our seasonal rainfall total for (July thru June) 2012-2013 certainly shows that.

In July 2011, we reported that the past 12 months had brought us a total 55.34" of rain (as recorded here on Pacific Avenue, right on the ocean). Last July, we reported a total of 40.45" (which is close to our 30-year "average"). But today, we can report just 32.46" of total rain from July 2012 thru June 2013.

In California, rain often comes in streaks. This year, we could have reached our "average" with our typical "Miracle March", but it didn't happen. The good news is that it's still green here, since we've gotten just enough rain at regular intervals to keep the plants happy – including a rare 1.5" at the end of June. In fact, I'm headed outside right now to mow the lawn!



## The Westport Weathervane Project

Bob Finnell

The photos at left and above are the second installment in a continuing series of photos of a number of diverse, interesting, and functional weathervanes in our little town. Perhaps these photos will spark an interest in the Westport Community to install additional functional and decorative weathervanes! (All photos are by my brother Mark L. Finnell.)



## Water District News

The Westport County Water District is pleased to announce that Toby Hickman and David Brothers have been re-appointed for new three-year terms on the Water Board. Since there were not enough candidates to fill all the vacancies on the Board, a costly public election was unnecessary. Toby, David, and Homer Whitehouse are the only current members of the Board, which still leaves two vacancies. If you are registered to vote within the Westport Water District, please consider volunteering for this important community service!

A minor emergency occurred in late May, when Josh Azevedo responded to an alarm and found one of our main sewer pumps clogged with a rag and a large piece of metal debris. Because of Josh's quick intervention, no sewer service was interrupted and no costly equipment was damaged. This incident does point out, however, that all customers should be very careful never to let foreign objects get into the sewer system.

Now you may think that what you flush down your toilets is your own personal business. And you're right – but your own personal “business” is the only thing you should flush down your toilets! To protect our modern and expensive sewage treatment equipment (and to keep your “business” flowing in the right direction), no foreign objects or other debris please!

## Community Garden News

Steve Brigham

Wouldn't it be nice to have a farmer's market that's open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week? And what if the organically grown vegetables there were even fresher than a farmer's market, since you do the harvesting yourself? And what if all these fresh vegetables were absolutely free to anyone at any time, no matter whether you're a resident or visitor! Well now you've got it at the **Westport Community Garden**, which is right next to the Westport School at the end of Abalone Street. And right now, we've got fresh, organically grown sugar-snap peas (steam entire pods when young and flat, or shell and cook the mature peas in the older pods), several types of lettuce and fancy salad greens, two kinds of kale, and ruby-red swiss chard, all ready for you to pick at any time! By

mid-to-late July, we'll have fresh new crops of summer squash, Italian green beans, Blue Lake string beans, Italian green peppers, lemon cucumbers, basil, and eight varieties of tomatoes!

The Westport Community Garden has no budget and depends solely on volunteers to make it grow. Thanks so much to David Brothers for his help reconstructing the greenhouse, to David, Genevieve, and Kiri for their kind help in planting, and to Ralf Laguna for supplying some of this year's most special seedlings!

## July at the Westport Hotel and Old Abalone Pub

Dorine Real

### All-American Picnic

The Old Abalone Pub will reopen on Thursday, the Fourth of July, with a special weekend menu of classic American picnic food. Main dishes will be slow-cooked ribs, fried chicken, or Kosher hot dog; sides will include watermelon, coleslaw, potato salad, and corn on the cob; desserts will be strawberry-blueberry shortcake, apple pie, and brownie sundae. Eat in, take out, or picnic on the deck or lawn. There will be live bluegrass music for your entertainment.

The following weekend will introduce the summer menu, prepared by Joywolf. Dinners will be served Thursday through Saturday from 5:00 to 9:00, and Sunday brunch will be from 10:00 to 2:00. Afternoon tea will be served from 3:00 to 5:00 on Saturdays.

### Pain Perdu Retrouvé à la Côte Perdue

Le sort du vrai Pain Perdu, disparu en temps brumeux près du Cap Mendocino depuis longtemps, était considéré longtemps comme perdu dans les brumes du temps.

Mais ce semaine on a découvert que le Pain errait vaguement dans la Côte Perdue au cours de plusieurs ans, mais enfin a sorti à la Route Côtière de la Pacifique et a fait l'auto-stop par une Harley à la village de Westport. Le retour de cette fameuse spécialité gastronomique se fêtera au jour si sacré dans l'âme des Français et de tout le monde francophone, dimanche, le 14 juillet, au Old Abalone Pub en Westport, de 10:00 à 2:00. Que nous levions une verre au “Toast”!



Ten Mile Railroad, 1931 – courtesy of Fort Bragg-Mendocino Coast Historical Society.

## The Time Traveler

Thad Van Bueren

Above is a 1931 view of the "Prosperity Train" making a run up the Ten Mile branch line from Fort Bragg. The scene shows the train rounding the curve near the mouth of the Ten Mile River, and the camera of another photographer is set up in the right foreground. The naming of the train coincides with the Great Depression, and work in the woods and at the Union Lumber Company's mill in Fort Bragg remained an important source of employment for the community. The railroad was decommissioned and turned into a haul road in less than a month in 1949. I'll share photographs of that transition next month as a prelude to the appeal hearing concerning the State Parks plan to remove a 2.7 mile segment of the haul road, ballast, and other materials buried under it.

## Westport MAC Appeals Haul Road Permit

Thad Van Bueren

Despite substantial public input voicing concerns about unmitigated impacts, the Mendocino County Coastal Permit Administrator approved the coastal development permit for the MacKerricher Dune Rehabilitation Project (CDP#12-2012) on June 11, 2013. The State Parks project will destroy 2.7 miles of the northern haul road, take out culverts and fill

where it crosses Inglenook and Fen creeks, and remove invasive plants such as European Beach Grass. The conditions of approval did not require construction of a comparable alternate coastal access trail accessible to diverse users such as walkers, bicyclists, and disabled individuals. Impacts of sand migration on neighbors also remain a key concern.

Many of you have attended meetings of the Westport Municipal Advisory Council (WMAC) to express concerns that were conveyed in letters to State Parks, county planning staff, and the others. Because those concerns were not addressed, the WMAC appealed the permit approval to the Board of Supervisors in behalf of the community. Community contributions helped pay the filing fee. You can learn about the project, reasons for the appeal, and more at: [http://www.westportmac.org/breaking\\_news.jsp](http://www.westportmac.org/breaking_news.jsp).

The WMAC's intention in bringing this appeal is not adversarial. Rather, we want the public to be heard in the hope that a better balance will be struck between the preservation of the unique habitat with the public's right to visit and enjoy it. Many would like to see a reduced habitat restoration project that retains most of the haul road and reconnects it to form a continuous trail from the Ten Mile Bridge south to Fort Bragg via the west end of Ward Avenue. It is our hope that decision makers and State Parks managers will listen.

Many who support the appeal treasure the Ten Mile Dunes-Inglenook Fen Natural Preserve. They just want it to remain accessible. The haul road is

specifically designated as the existing coastal trail in the Local Coastal Program certified in 1983 and providing access is mandated in the Coastal Act, LCP, and the park's own General Plan. Extinguishing this prescriptive access will discriminate against many users such as bicyclists and less able visitors who have used it over many decades. We argue that a designated trail avoids problems of people walking haphazardly through the sensitive habitat, and can be used to educate and provide better oversight and protection of the environment. It will also promote ecotourism and provide a safer alternative to Highway 1 for bicyclists.

Public opinions can influence the conditions of approval imposed by Board of Supervisors (BOS). The BOS hearing date is tentatively scheduled for August 13 at 1:30 PM and will likely take place in Fort Bragg at the Town Hall on Main Street. However, you should check the WMAC web site or BOS web site to confirm the details. If the BOS do not resolve the issues raised by the community, their decision can be appealed to the Coastal Commission. The Coastal Commission has written a letter (see "Other Letters" link on the Breaking News WMAC web page) expressing strong concerns about destroying this coastal access.

Your direct action can make a difference in the outcome of the BOS hearing. Here are some suggestions:

1. Sign the petition at <http://chn.ge/11EHExe>. These petitions are a powerful tool to let the BOS and state legislators know your position on this issue. Copies of the petition are automatically forwarded to the BOS, State Assemblyman Wes Chesbro, and State Senator Noreen Evans. Share the link with friends who support public access.
2. Write a personal letter to BOS with copies to other influential people. Suggestions for letters can be found on the WMAC web link provided above. We recommend using your own words, rather than spreading around form letters that may be ignored. Also make calls or send emails and we suggest copying written communications to the Coastal Commission, legislators, etc. We suggest keeping the tone positive and advocating for a balanced approach that includes modest habitat restoration and rehabilitation/ reconnection of the haul road or comparable alternative trail.

3. Talk to local and statewide organizations that may have an interest in this matter and urge them to support this appeal. The most obvious examples are bicycle groups, organizations that serve the elderly and disabled, groups that promote coastal access, and tourism businesses that may prosper as a result of ecotourism.

Thanks for putting your positive energy into reconnecting a coastal trail through the Ten Mile Dune Preserve!!

### July 2013 Westport Calendar

- July 2nd** – WMAC Meeting, Church, 7:00PM
- July 4th** – **4th of July**; Old Abalone Pub Re-Opens
- July 4th** – 4th of July Parade, Mendocino, 12PM
- July 6th** – World’s Largest Salmon Barbecue, Noyo Harbor (South Harbor Drive), 11AM-5PM
- July 6th** – Fort Bragg Fireworks, Todd Point, Noyo Harbor, 9PM
- July 8th** – New Moon, 12:15AM
- July 11th** – Bookmobile, Westport Store, 9-9:30AM
- July 14th** – Bastille Day
- July 22nd** – Full Moon, 11:16AM
- July 24th** – Westport Village Society Quarterly Board Meeting, Westport Church, 5:00PM
- July 25th** – Bookmobile, Westport Store, 9-9:30AM
- August 17<sup>th</sup>** (**Save the date!**) – WVFD Annual Summer Barbeque, Westport Headlands, 12-6PM

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You are reading *The Westport Wave*, a free monthly community newsletter published on the first day of every month 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 Community Store, from the first day of each month on. Join the **Westport Village Society** today and sign up for your free newsletter at [www.westportvillagesociety.org](http://www.westportvillagesociety.org), where you can also read and download back-issues of *The Wave*. Contributions for the August 1, 2013 edition of *The Westport Wave* are due by July 28th, and should be sent to Steve Brigham at [westportwave@aol.com](mailto:westportwave@aol.com), or P.O. Box 237, Westport, CA 95488.

## What's New at Westport Recreation Center

Tabby Korhummel

### NEW Body Sculpting Fridays 9:00-10:00 AM

Body Sculpting is a free weight program for able-bodied men and women of all ages. Using music to guide movement and traditional strength training moves to build beneficial muscle. We will hit all

target areas. Large and small muscle groups with a emphasis on core through out.

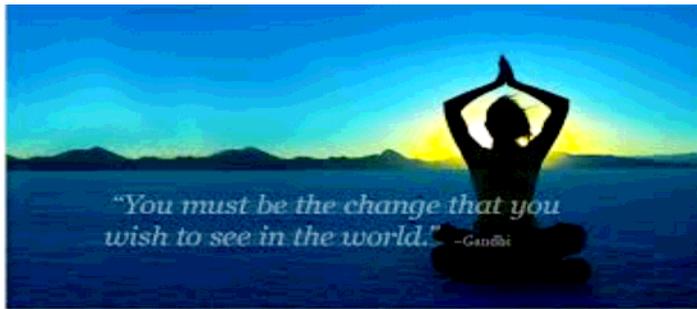
You are able to choose from a variety weight

sizes to make this class work for you.



### NEW Yoga Flex & Flow

This "Yogafit" style class held Wednesdays from 9:00-10:30 AM focuses on safety, accessibility, and yoga for "EveryBody," with opportunities to flow with breath or rest. Emphasizing balance, strength, relaxation, and positive affirmations. Modifications and challenges will be offered.



### Grocery Duffle Class--July 14th, 10 to 1

Learn how to make your own reusable shopping bags. The pattern will be provided plus some fabric to share. You will need to bring sewing notions; heavy interfacing, scissors, pins, and a sewing machine. The class will be given July 14th from 10 to 1 at a cost of \$15. At least 5 participant sign ups will be needed to hold this class. Contact Aimee at [maximus@mcn.org](mailto:maximus@mcn.org).



Quilt by Aimee Maxey

### Quilt Raffle

The beautiful handmade quilt shown above was made by Aimee Maxey. Raffle tickets are being sold for \$1 or 6 for \$5 at the Westport Recreation Center. All funds raised will go towards new equipment for the Westport Recreation programs.

### Tiny Tots Tumbling

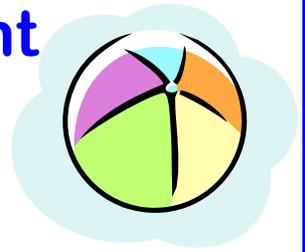
For ages 3--5. Four week session starts July 24, 2013 and continues through August 4, 2013. Classes will take place Wednesdays 11-12:00 noon.



Please refer to the Summer Schedule shown on the next page for details of new and ongoing classes offered at the Westport Recreation Center.



# DROP-IN and Enrichment CLASS SCHEDULE



Westport Recreation Center  
(at the Westport School)

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
10:30-12:00 AM	9:00-10:00	9:00-10:30	9:00-10:00 AM	9:00-10:00
<p>YOGA WITH JULIA</p> <p>90min</p>	 <p>WITH AIMEE</p> <p>60min</p>	<p>Yoga flex n flow</p> <p>w/Tabby</p> <p>90 min</p>	 <p>Zumba Toning</p> <p>W/Tabby</p> <p>60min</p>	<p>Body Sculpting with Aimee</p> <p>60min</p>
6:00-7:30 PM		11:00-12:00		
<p>Mixed Level all ages Belly Dance With Erika!</p> <p>90min.</p>		<p>Tiny Tots Tumbling</p> <p>W/Kassie</p> <p>Starts July 24th</p> <p>Pre-registration</p>		

**\*Drop in Rate for 90min class is \$12 or \$10 with class card**

**60min class is \$8 or \$6 with class card**

**\*Motivator rate \$65 a month unlimited drop in**

