

May 1, 2012

# Westport Wave

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## The Bird Is The Word!

*Steve Brigham, Editor*

As the Trashmen so melodically pointed out in 1963 (and yes, the Rivingtons before them), "The Bird Is The Word!" This is especially true each May in Westport, when we celebrate a bird of the synthetic variety – the Rubber Ducky! This year, our **22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Mother's Day Rubber Ducky Races and Barbeque** will be held on Sunday, May 13th at the Westport KOA at Wages Creek, starting at 11:15AM. So make sure to reserve the day for great family fun, and see our lead article by Lois on this page and the complete information and schedule on page 6!

The Rubber Ducky was actually invented over a century ago, as a toy that would encourage children to take their baths. And of course, most of us remember Ernie on Sesame Street singing the Rubber Ducky song, which made a whole new generations of kids actually want to take baths!

But Why A Duck? The famous skit from the Marx Brothers movie *Cocoonuts* comes to mind here, but in reality it was way back in 1990 that Marie Fostiak and Bill Eagleton saw a feature in the *Santa Rosa Press-Democrat* about floating rubber duckies down a river in Delaware, and Marie got the idea try it on Wages Creek. A few crashed duckies later, our race course soon developed into one of the best ducky race tracks in the world, and Ducky Day became the major annual fundraiser for our Westport Village Society.

This event has been synonymous with Mother's Day in Westport for over 20 years now, each year featuring three separate ducky races, a Decorated Duck Contest, a famous and fantastic raffle, and a sumptuous barbeque luncheon with real china and silverware! Over the years, the Westport Ducky Races have been copied many times by many towns, but we were among the first (and we're still the best)!



## It's...Time...For ... DUCKYMANIA 2012!!!

*Lois Senger*

**The 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Great Westport Mother's Day Rubber Ducky Race** is almost here! May 13<sup>th</sup> is the day for all the fun, good food, music, lots of baked goodies, and of course the chance to win many prizes, including a beautiful handmade queen-size quilt! This year, we will also have more of the wonderful ducky t-shirts for sale with Tabby's design that were a sellout two years ago, in long and short sleeve. The fabulous flowers arranged and grown by Steve will once again adorn the tables and be gifts to all moms, and there will also be 5 flowering color bowls that will be in the raffle. All kids who enter the ducky races will receive a gift as well as the winners, and all those who enter the decorated duck contest will have a chance to win a gift as well. So get your duckies ready for the big day – OR, you can buy duckies the day of the races at our merchandise booth!

This year, we are once again asking for volunteers to bring baked goodies to the event to sell at the bake booth. This is your chance to bring your favorite dessert to share and contribute to this important fundraiser. Kiri and her crew will serve them up – thanks for whatever you can share (if you can't attend on Sunday and want to contribute a dessert, you can

drop it off at the Community Store). We look forward to spending a fun day with friends and family, and helping our community as well. We thank the KOA Kampground for hosting us again, and many thanks to all our donors who contribute to our success! See you all there!

## Westport Village Society News

Thad Van Bueren

The Westport Village Society meeting on the evening of April 19 filled the church. Most of the discussion focused on the pending closure of Westport Union Landing State Beach. Richard Smith, the Chair of the Cahto Tribe in Laytonville and Sonny Elliott, the Tribe Environmental Director came to share perspectives and discuss how the park might be kept open through a cooperative venture. Many local residents spoke about the importance of keeping the park open, but some expressed concern about the financial and other risks for the WVS.

In the end, the Westport Village Society will pursue a cooperative model for keeping the park open with the Cahto Tribe. Further discussions will be needed, but an initial idea is for WVS to take the primary responsibility in the first year with Cahto support and then step back to support Cahto as the lead in the second year. We urge you to make a donation to the cause because that will help us attract grant funding. **Please send donations to WVS at P.O. Box 446, Westport CA 95488 and mark your checks "for W-UL."** There is also a donation can on the counter in the Community Store.

The WVS will apply for an operating grant from the California State Park Foundation to help fill a large shortfall in our proposed operating budget. We planned to apply for a first round grant on April 23 with the volunteer assistance of grant writer Lesli Langsley, but a power outage that day foiled our effort. The good news is there is a second round in May and our application is already largely complete. So we will apply then.

In other news, the WVS will soon have its own web site. A draft design for the site was briefly discussed at our meeting, and the domain and hosting services are already being set up. We have a lot of ideas for the web site including posting current and past newsletters, current information, and local history collected as a result of our ongoing history project.

*(Editor's Note: Just how important is Westport-Union Landing State Beach? Well, few among us know this park as well as local residents Margie and Gus Gustavson, who lived and worked there as volunteer Camp Hosts for over a decade. Here's what they have to say...)*

## Reflections On Paradise

Margie and Gus Gustavson

Welcome to Paradise – Westport-Union Landing State Beach – where the neighborhood can change daily. Westport may be a small area on a large map, but we are a geographical gateway city to the Lost Coast and all of its legendary beauty and mystery. In short, we are a “destination location”.

Westport is often used as a stepping-off point for day-trippers who visit wineries, lighthouses, and redwood forests, as well as those who partake in ocean-oriented sports. We are also a destination for many photographers, both casual and professional, who through their joy of celebrating beauty call attention to our special places by sharing their photos on the Internet and in travel magazines and brochures. Many campers travel long distances to be here and enjoy our good air, tranquility, solitude, peace of mind, and friendship. When a child asks “are we there yet?”, we love to think of Westport as that mythical “there” – yes, we are there!

When we lived and worked at Westport-Union Landing State Beach, we found every new camper/neighbor to be an opportunity for sharing. Over the years, we made many, many friends. In working with the public, you quickly discover that you need to be friendly to get “friendly” back. But most importantly, you have to be real. We have fond memories of the many who have shared their dreams and experiences with us and still maintain true and lasting friendships. But most campers stayed just a short while and then moved on with their lives.

In searching for something meaningful for our guests to take home with them, we found that every guest is a little different. Mostly, we imparted information on natural and cultural history, and shared our great love of the Nature that surrounds us. Two English ladies come to mind – schoolteachers who were mentally and physically exhausted by the rigors of their “see America in three weeks” tour. They had but 24 hours remaining prior to catching a plane back to London. Over a shared cup of tea, and after a few questions

answered, we directed them to one of our favorite nearby places, Admiral William Standley Redwood Grove. Their hours of precious quiet and solitude in this serene and majestic grove counted much more to them than all the previous three weeks of big-city tours and civilization!

One other particularly fond memory is of a Seminole family from Florida who visited for a week during their tour of the USA. Home-schooled Silver Horse and Towhee were remarkably fresh and intelligent children who were most interested in the wonders of the natural differences between their Florida seashore and ours. Their stay enriched all of us, and it made us realize even more that there is always so much more to learn. We saw many new things through their eyes, eyes newly opened by shared experiences.

Westport-Union Landing State Beach is not just a beautiful place. It is a meeting place. It is a gathering place. It is a special place. It is an important part of countless people’s lives, year after year after year. It is Mother Nature herself. It must not be shut down.

**Broadband For Westport – Almost!**

Bill Knapp

If you are willing to use a satellite dish and have a clear view of the southern sky there is a new choice for real broadband internet access. The company’s name is Exede. It is owned by, Via Sat, the parent company that owns Wild Blue. The Exede service is provided from a new satellite and utilizes a new generation of Modem, the box between the dish antenna and your computer or home network router. In our area it comes in two flavors, regular or Recovery Act supported. The regular service has higher bandwidth, up to 12 Mega Bits per second (mbps) and lower limit data plans (how much data you receive/send each month). Data plans are measured in Giga Bytes per month (GB/mo). You also pay for the equipment and the installation. The table below summarizes the two plans.

Keep in mind, however, that high-speed Internet access in rural unserved areas is covered by the U.S. Recovery Act, providing free equipment and installation and a monthly rate reduction of about \$10. Call 1-877-335-0127 to see if you are eligible, but my understanding is that the entire 95488 zip code is eligible. If you are already a Wild Blue customer, you

must contact Wild Blue customer service directly to change your service. The U. S. Recovery Act funds have all been allocated by the government. Apparently Exede has funds remaining, but this is a limited time offer.

Dish Network, the satellite TV people, announced a similar service last January, but have not provided a date when service will start. Other companies will probably offer a competitive service over the next year. Current satellite providers in our area Hughes Net, Wild Blue, and Starband (may have been taken over by Hughes Net), offer “up to” 1mbps, less than one tenth the new service. Satellite internet is asymmetrical, meaning that data you send goes at a much slower rate than data you receive. In Exceed’s case the up-link, or rate you send data, is 3 mbps, significantly faster than current providers up-link rate of around 100 kilobits per second and even faster than current down-link data rates.

Exceed’s pricing doesn’t follow an obvious pattern, the table shows what they offer. They also offer special deals, usually for the next short period of time. Check their web site, <http://get.exede.com/> You can also call 1-877-579-7875 to see what the latest “deal” is. Usualy deals are for the basic regular data plan and provide free equipment and installation. You cannot change between a Recovery plan and a regular one, but you can change your data plan, up or down, on a monthly basis. For information without deal hype, go to <http://exede.com>. I have just gotten the Recovery Act, 3 mbps, 27 GB/mo service. If anyone wants to contact me about how it is working, send an email to [bill@netwidget.com](mailto:bill@netwidget.com).

Plan Type	Band-width	Data Plan	Equipment and Installation	Monthly Cost
Recovery Act	1 mbps	10.3 GB/mo	Free	\$39.95
	3 mbps	27 GB/mo	Free	\$69.95
	8 mbps	60 GB/mo	Free	\$119.95
Regular	“up to” 12 mbps	7.5 GB/mo	\$9.99/mo / \$149.99	\$49.99
		15 GB/mo		\$79.99
		25 GB/mo		\$129.99

## The Time Traveler

Thad Van Bueren

Lois Senger mentioned our local history project to the owners of the Floor Store in Fort Bragg recently. Joe Mankinen has longstanding connections with our community and as a result of that conversation, he generously donated an original Westport artifact to the Village Society. It is a certificate appointing Merrick M. Bates as the postmaster of Westport on May 31 of 1899. This original document will be reframed by the Westport Village Society to ensure its preservation, and Marie Fostiak will post it behind the counter in the store for all to enjoy. Many others have contributed historical materials and information and we will soon post selected images and primary research resources such as census records on the forthcoming WVS web pages.



1899 Westport Postmaster Appointment Certificate.

## Our Metaphoric Culture

Liza Saenz-Bernard

Words are like bridges! This column has been the most fun to write, because certain events have been connected in one way or another. Bridges, music, lyrics, & events are running through my head! With our next art show at GALLERY THIS! @ THE WESTPORT HOTEL being BRIDGES, the lyrics from Simon & Garfunkel's song was ringing in my brain for weeks, so I went to [www.wikipedia.com](http://www.wikipedia.com), and found more. Claude Jeter wrote, "I'll be your bridge over troubled waters, if you trust me",

when he played for the band Swan Silvertones. When Jeter's wife found her first grey hair, he wrote the words, "sail on silver girl." Simon and Garfunkel heard his song, and you know the rest.

There are many cultural events happening in California now, and you can know about them via the L.A. Times Calendar, the N.Y. Times Magazine, the S.F. Chronicle, and other web sites that will take you to places where there is no fast return. If you are so bold to go there and want to share a topic, email [saenzphoto@yahoo.com](mailto:saenzphoto@yahoo.com). For art, google "bridge art" at [www.google.com](http://www.google.com). This very gratifying choice exposes you to the MASTER IMPRESSIONIST paintings. Get lost looking at European bridges! See the Seine, the Eiffel Tower, the Streets of Venice, and the Brooklyn Bridge at Night! The bridges of Mendocino County, such as Howard Creek or Ten Mile would make a lovely Plein Air day! (Don't forget the camera & telephoto lens!). The word bridge comes from a German word "Steg." The term entered English lexicon in the 1930's as its translated guise "bridge" via composers fleeing Nazi Germany who found employment in Hollywood and on Broadway ([www.wikipedia.com](http://www.wikipedia.com)).

Coachella Valley's Music and Arts Festival music can be found on youtube. Azealia Banks "212" has had 3,000,000 viewers! Getting on this site was a real eye opener, but being an old rock-and-roller, in my 60's, I was offended by her words. However, what a voice! Banks comes up again in a New York Times Magazine article, by Alexandra Molotkow ("RIFF", April 8, 2012). "Thanks to the Internet, cultural knowledge was now a collective resource. There is no longer any honor in musical obscurity. Populism is the new model of 'cool' elitists, rather than teenyboppers or bandwagon jumpers, which are the new squares." ([www.pitchfork.com](http://www.pitchfork.com)) "Pitchfork, the music Web site that is our era's Rolling Stone, made its name initially by writing obscurely about the obscure. Now it makes itself indispensable by doing the opposite: by interfacing between genres and across all levels of fame." I copy this for you because I could not find it on the NY Times web site. Molotkow is an informative radical writer, and at first appears like an educated smarty-pants, but at the end of her article she becomes quit humble. Having her come to the Westport Hotel as a DJ with all her collected vinyl records would pack the house!

## Westport Art In May

We have First Friday in Fort Bragg, Second Saturday in Mendocino & LAST SATURDAY in Westport. Starting May 26<sup>th</sup>, the new art theme at the Westport Hotel is BRIDGES, replacing the current WATER & SEA SHOW. Bridge paintings, photographs, etc, are wanted for the next show, especially to celebrate The Golden Gate Bridge's 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Westport's paintings by Logan Smith [www.jlogansmith.com](http://www.jlogansmith.com) Carol Deetch, Aimee Maxey, & Kathryn LeMieux [www.klemieux.com](http://www.klemieux.com) are presently showing in the WESTPORT HOTEL'S dining room. If you are unable to get out, the Abalone Pub's Facebook wall has some photos of the art show. THE BRIDGE SHOW opening reception will be May 26. If you have work to exhibit, please submit it between May 10th & 16th. Call 962-9234 to arrange a time to meet at the Hotel & get a form/contract for your work.

The Cancer Research Center is selling Mother's Day cards. Julia Higgins beautiful artwork can be purchased on line. Cards will benefit CRCMC (email: [crcmendocino.org](mailto:crcmendocino.org) or call 800-449-6483). Cards can also be purchased at Sallie Mac's in Mendocino. The beautiful blue Ducky quilt, sewn by Bobbie Knapp, Aimee Maxey, and Nita Regalia-Rice, is hanging in the Abalone Pub for you to see and purchase Ducky raffle tickets, with proceeds going to the Westport Village Society. CU@ THE DUCKY RACES!

## Westport Hotel and Old Abalone Pub

The Old Abalone Pub will be serving brunch on Mothers' Day, May 13<sup>th</sup>. There will be plenty of time to have brunch and still get to the Rubber Ducky Race and Barbecue. In fact, we'll be offering a special package with a mimosa, a race ticket, and even a Rubber Ducky for Mom! Our new flamenco guitarist, Sean Hathorne, continues to play on Friday evenings. Red wine, a spicy appetizer, and there you are in Spain! Sean will also play on Cinco de Mayo (Saturday, May 5), when chef Daniel Martin will present a special menu of Mexican dishes.

Dorine loves the Golden Gate Bridge (and bridges in general) and is all excited about the 75th anniversary of the Bridge, which will be celebrated on Memorial Day weekend. In honor of this, we are now mounting an art show devoted to bridges. If you have a piece you would like to have included, talk to Liza (962-9234). We will also have a Story Night with a bridge theme on Sunday, May 20, at 7:00. Refreshments will be served. You don't need to bring a story, but please do. Remember, a story can be one sentence. Example: "Remember when [name withheld] fell off the bridge to Bridge Rock?" There are so many wonderful bridges on the Mendocino coast! If you have a picture or a story about one of them, please share it. If you can't be at Story Night, e-mail Dorine at [westporthotel@mcn.org](mailto:westporthotel@mcn.org).

## May 2012 Westport Calendar

- May 3rd** – Bookmobile, Westport Store, 9- 9:30AM
- May 5<sup>th</sup>** – Cinco de Mayo, Full Moon, 8:35PM
- May 8<sup>th</sup>** – Westport Union Landing Meeting ^ PM, Harwood Hall, Laytonville
- May 13<sup>th</sup>** – **THE 22<sup>nd</sup> ANNUAL MOTHER'S DAY DUCKY RACES AND BARBEQUE!!!**
- May 17<sup>th</sup>** – Bookmobile, Westport Store, 9- 9:30AM
- May 17<sup>th</sup>** – Westport Village Society Meeting, 7PM at the Church
- May 20<sup>th</sup>** – New Moon, 4:47 PM
- May 20<sup>th</sup>** – Story Night, Westport Hotel, 7PM
- May 26<sup>th</sup>** – BRIDGE SHOW Art Show Reception, 5:30PM to 7:00 PM at the Westport Hotel
- May 28<sup>th</sup>** – Memorial Day
- May 31<sup>st</sup>** – Bookmobile, Westport Store, 9-9:30AM



# Mother's Day in Westport



## The Great Rubber Ducky Race

**Sunday  
May, 13**

- 11:15 Gates Open
- 11:30-2:15 Duck Registration
- 12:00-2:30 BBQ Served
- 12:30 Decorated Duck Contest
- 12:45 Handcrafted Race
- 1:30 Kid's Race
- 2:15 Classic Raace
- 3:00 Quilt Raffle Drawing
- Race Entry \$5.00



**Tri-Tip or Veggie BBQ**  
**\$12 Adult, \$5 Child**  
 Benefits WVS  
 Info: [www.westportca.org](http://www.westportca.org)

**Wages Creek at Westport KOA**  
 No Dogs (Sorry) or Alcohol