

Summer is here, and I must say, I am glad. Finally, my timbers are no longer shivering, cause it feels a bit more like California and less like Alaska ~~on our North Coast~~. Summer is a good time to take a break: of course a lot of people choose to go on a vacation in summer. Kids are out of school, roads are free of snow and ice—and in California you won't even get drop of rain, though I wish we would. How will you make the most of your summer? Here's a few ~~unolicited~~ suggestions.

Summer is time to go to camp. Last week I visited some kids up at Blue Slide Camp just over the hill from Freshwater. The kids were mostly from the Betty Kwan Chinn Center; ~~so~~ for many it was their first time to wade up a river, catching poly-wogs and snakes, waging water balloon wars, doing crafts, staging talent shows, and singing around the campfire until the stars pop out one by one. These are healthy ways to channel youthful energy, create memories and deepen friendships.

There are a host of camps around here: besides the Blue Slide Camp, there are YMCA camps, Boy/Girl Scout Camps, Soccer/ Basketball Camps at HSU, Camp Mattole runs a camp for girls, ~~further south there is Westminster Woods, Redwood Alliance~~, and, just to the east there is TLC camp: Triumphant Life Camp. I have been devoted to camping for many decades: because at camp you find nature and grace all put together the way it ought to be.

Summer is a good time to go to a ball game. The Giants have been especially fun to watch the past few years, while the A's are often contenders who seem lately to flunk out of the playoffs fairly early. But if you don't want to drive all the way to the Bay Area, I think the Crabs are a lot of fun to watch. Keep in mind, the Crabs players are not making a bundle of money—which means most of them enjoy playing the game more than fondling their bank statements.

Summer is also a good time to eat. I dusted off the BBQ a few weeks ago and enjoyed some fabulous chicken and fresh fish with friends and family. My neighbors BBQ red meat, and while I prefer fish or poultry, their meat sure smells good, as the aroma wafts our way. Speaking of aromas wafting our way, I enjoyed a tour of Dick Taylor Chocolates earlier this week. The smell of those beans roasting and of the chocolate stirring is enough to send a person into olfactory heaven. Come to think of it: Humboldt produces a lot of tasty morsels: from chocolate to cheese, from oysters to fresh fish, from micro brews to local wines: there are a lot of good flavors coming out of our area, and I hope you'll take advantage of them and won't let the tourists eat or drink them all.

Finally, if you like the outdoors, there is plenty to do in summer in and around the north Coast. Lakes still have enough water to ski, rivers have water to raft down or fish, and the ocean has warmed to a balmy 55 degrees; brrr; ~~don't even think of going in w/out wetsuit~~. The higher trails have lost their coats of snow and it's a great time to backpack in the Trinity's, Siskiyou or to hike along Coast Range. Last week I ventured up the Headwaters Trail where I walk routinely, but this time, since the days are longer, I made the extra effort to get all the way up into the Old Growth Redwoods ~~Forest~~. To say they are majestic is like saying Stradivarius made good violins. So, slow down and enjoy you're summer!

This has been Dan Price for Community Comment

Can I record
next Friday?