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I was going to gripe about the things I don't like here in Humboldt--like the fact that as a Southern Californian I've been awaiting summer for 24 years. It hasn't come, but what good does it do to bitch about it? So, here's my list of ten things to *love* about Humboldt County.

#1 The Weather. I worked a couple of summers in Red Bluff. When I told my parish I was going to come live here, one of them said, "So you're going to Eureka to freeze?" Well, last weekend I went to Red Bluff where my niece was married. It was a lovely outdoor wedding and the temperature was 94F at 5:00pm when the wedding started. The next morning it was 101 F when we got into the car. It was fully 43 degrees cooler when we arrived here in Humboldt! My body liked the cool ocean breeze, even if I did have to put on a jacket not to freeze!

#2 Community. Societies are everywhere: a society is where people are forced to be together. They may like each other, they may not. One thing they don't do is *choose* to be together. They simply are together: for the purpose of making something or doing a job. A *community* is where people choose to be together. Like a wedding, church service, or a barbecue with friends. People don't come together because they have to, they come together because they *want* to. Rather than using each other as a means to an end, they see time spent together as an end in itself. Humboldt is a society to be sure; but a strong sense of community also prevails.

#3 Rivers. The rivers in our area are not only beautiful and clean, they actually have water in them: nature's elixir flowing seaward to fish, swim, raft, kayak, or just watch the water go by...

#4. Forests. We don't have the biggest trees in the world, but the remaining Old Growth features the tallest trees in the world; maybe the most beautiful. From the Jedediah Smith, to Lady Bird Johnson Grove, to the Tall Trees, the Headwaters, Rockefeller Groves—we have some superlative trees. Go walk through the Redwoods; it could heal your soul.

#5 The Ocean. Words fail to convey the might power of the ocean waves to our west. Tuesday morning, I caught a couple of waves and was sitting on top of the world. Where else can you surf for an hour in solitude?

#6 2 Universities: College of the Redwoods and Humboldt State University not only provide a lot of good solid jobs, they continue to push back the frontiers of ignorance for young and old alike. They also add a dash of culture to a pretty isolated part of the world.

#7 Traffic. There ain't no traffic here; if you think there is, you haven't driven through LA or the Bay Area recently.

#'s 8 and 9 EPD Chief Andy Mills and Sheriff Bill Honsal. These guys are professionals and I have seen them raise the law enforcement bar to a high level.

10 The Kinetic Sculpture Race. I missed last week's race; but I look forward to seeing next year's 50<sup>th</sup> running to see if Steve McHaney and sons can defend their world title.

This has been Dan Price for Community Comment