



## Exploring Mendocino

By Georgianna Wood

The stars aligned. The Gods calmed the skies and the seas; and our Mendocino trip was truly blessed.

The club rented an entire campground at Mendocino Woodlands State Park at the end of what became a familiar trek down eight miles of dirt road. Campers began arriving on Thursday, and our numbers ebbed and flowed over the long weekend. It was a perfect place for a group event with its commercial kitchen, lodge with rock hearth, walk-in coolers and charming tent cabins. We entertained ourselves well enough at camp, but camping wasn't why we came. We came to paddle.

The headlands formation has created such an amazing sea and land interface that it's nearly overwhelming. Caves, arches, tunnels, slots and gardens in abundance. And that was just on the surface. The water was so clear that



**Just one of many sea caves.**

the experience was truly three-dimensional. There's a fairly shallow reef or ledge along most of the headlands, so the bottom was usually visible. There were urchins, anemones, octopus, sun stars, abalone, moon snails, and on and on living amongst the varied algae.

It takes quite awhile to make any linear headway here.

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## Calendar

- Saturday, Oct. 13 - Cockrobin Island Trip [Explore North Coast (ENC)]
- Saturday, Oct. 13 - Sea Kayaking Introduction [Center Activities (CA)]
- Saturday, Oct. 13 - Introduction to River Kayaking (CA)
- Sunday, Oct. 14 - Beginning Rescue & Recovery Class (\$40) (Kayak Zak's)
- Sunday, Oct. 14 - Sea Kayaking Tour - Southern Humboldt Bay (CA)
- Sunday, Oct. 14 - Kayak Pool & Roll Sessions (CA)
- Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 20 and 21 - Sea Kayaking Seminar, Session 1 (CA)
- Friday, Oct. 26 through Sunday, Oct. 28 - San Francisco Bay Tide Rips and Currents Class [Humboats (HB)]
- Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 27 and 28 - Sea Kayaking Seminar, Session 2 (CA)
- Sunday, Oct. 28 - Trinidad (ENC)
- Saturday, Nov. 3 - 5th Annual Paddle Across the Bay (ENC)

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*Submissions for future newsletters can be sent to:*

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- Saturday, Nov. 3 - Sea Kayaking Surf Zone (CA)
- Saturday, Nov. 3 - Sea-Kayak Navigation Course (NAV 1) (HB)
- Monday, Nov. 12 - Membership Night (ENC)
- Friday, Nov. 23 through Sunday, Nov. 25 - S. Fork Eel River Campout - "First Flush" (HB)
- Sunday, Dec. 2 - Crescent City (ENC)
- Monday, Dec. 10 - Christmas Party (ENC)

For more information about Explore North Coast events, visit [explorenorthcoast.net](http://explorenorthcoast.net).

For more information about Kayak Zak's events, visit [kayakzak.com](http://kayakzak.com). (Kayak Zak's is available by appointment.)

For more information about Center Activities Events, visit [humboldt.org/cntract](http://humboldt.org/cntract).

For more information about Humboats events, visit [humboats.com](http://humboats.com).



**Archways weren't hard to find.**

Around every corner, and there are lots of corners, is another dark entrance beckoning exploration. Some we never found the end of as the depths absorbed our feeble lights. Others forked off and became labyrinths. There was one arch so large that the bigger fishing boats were cruising through. Another was so narrow that only one boat could enter at a time. We tucked our paddles under our arms and pulled ourselves through with our hands. This one rewarded you with a skylight, beach and waterfall at the end, and just

enough room to turn around and exit so the next paddler could wiggle in.

One evening we had a special private tour of the Point Cabrillo Light Station with Head Lightkeeper Jim Kimbrell. This is a very special place that a dedicated group of folks are meticulously restoring. It's definitely worth a visit, and even offers a bed & breakfast. Check it out at [pointcabrillo.org](http://pointcabrillo.org).

It's a beautiful 3 ½ hour drive from our Humboldt County base. We've all vowed to return again and again to this magical extension of our own back yard.



**On Saturday, Sept. 15,** a sunny, breezy summer day, Explore North Coast members fanned out in local sloughs as

part of Slough Slam, the club's quarterly water monitoring effort in partnership with Humboldt Baykeeper. Three two-person teams collected water samples on Freshwater Slough, Eureka

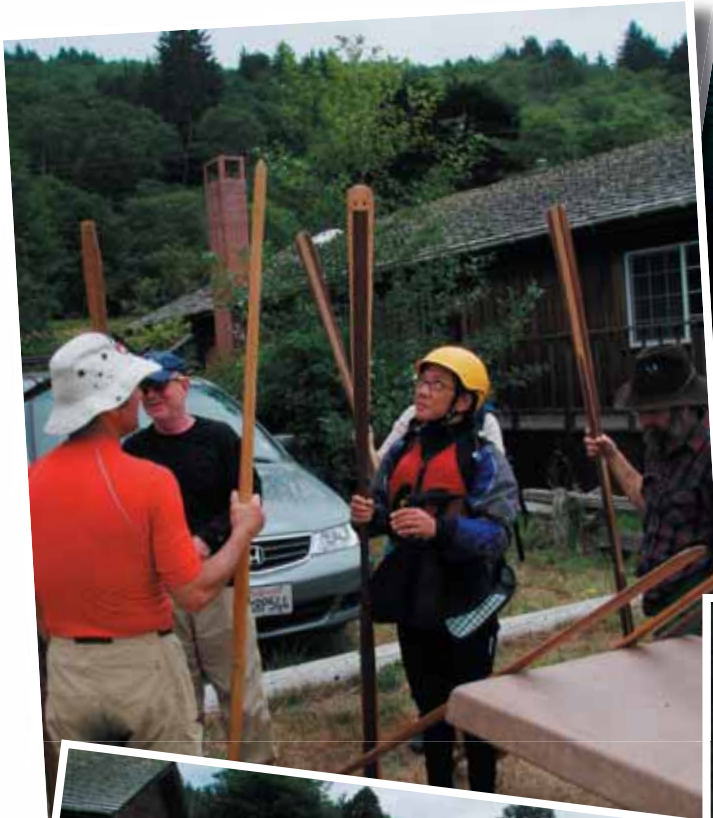
Slough and Elk River, in conjunction with land-based samplers, to establish baseline data for the bay steward group. Humboldt Baykeeper will compare the data with samples taken at First Flush, its term for the first fall storm that generates one inch of precipitation in a 24-hour period. Storm water runoff from early rains often sends high levels of pollutants to the Bay. Explore North Coast members Bruce Hales, Michael Morris, Steve Smith, Kevin Coyne, Simeon Tauber and Greg Bundros established GPS coordinates so that future water samples can be taken at the same locations.

# More Mendocino Pictures...

**Mendocino Photos By:**  
*Kevin Coyne, John Day,  
Mark Lufkin,  
Simeon Tauber and  
Georgianna Wood.*



# Greenland Paddle Clinic...



**On Saturday, Aug. 4** Michael Morris led a Greenland Technique Workshop at Stone Lagoon. Participants were loaned Greenland paddles, and spent the afternoon learning the basic Greenland forward stroke, as well as some more advanced techniques, including maneuvering strokes, sculling and Greenland rolls. The paddle was followed by dinner and drinks on the spit.

**Photos by:** *Steve Smith*

# Coastal Clean-up Day...



**Last month's Coastal Cleanup day**, sponsored by the Northcoast Environmental Center, received a helping hand (paddle?) from Explore North Coast. Under the direction of ENC board member Sally Coyne, club members collected muddy, gooey, smelly treasures such as a milk crate, purse, backpack, rubber raft, boots, bottles and lots and lots of plastic from local sloughs and waterways. If not for the intrepid volunteers, most of this garbage would end up in the bay or ocean. In addition to Coyne, participants included Sue Azman, Reanne Bossarte, Charlotte Cerny, John Gahn, Mark Lufkin and Don and Rinda McClure. Club members involved in the ENC's quarterly Slough Slam also gathered trash after collecting water samples for Humboldt Baykeeper.

**Photos by:** *Mark Lufkin*



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*John Dayism*  
*A lost roll is about as valuable as a lost love.  
Neither one will get you a good cup of  
coffee unless you kick in, at least \$5.*

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