

The Left Coast Log

1 January 2014

Marin and San Mateo Counties, California

Last to the New Year Party

A Point Bonita Lighthouse has marked the entrance to the Golden Gate since 1855, this particular light since 1877. Golden Gate National Recreation Area, Marin County.

Last to the New Year Party

By the time we celebrated the New Year last night on the West Coast, the party ringing in 2014 was damn near over.

Folks in New Zealand, the first place of any size west of the International Date Line, celebrated 20 hours before midnight reached California. As the invisible line of midnight swept westward through the night across Asia and Africa at more than a thousand miles an hour, western Europeans were able to note its arrival and then get a full night's sleep before the first champagne cork popped here.

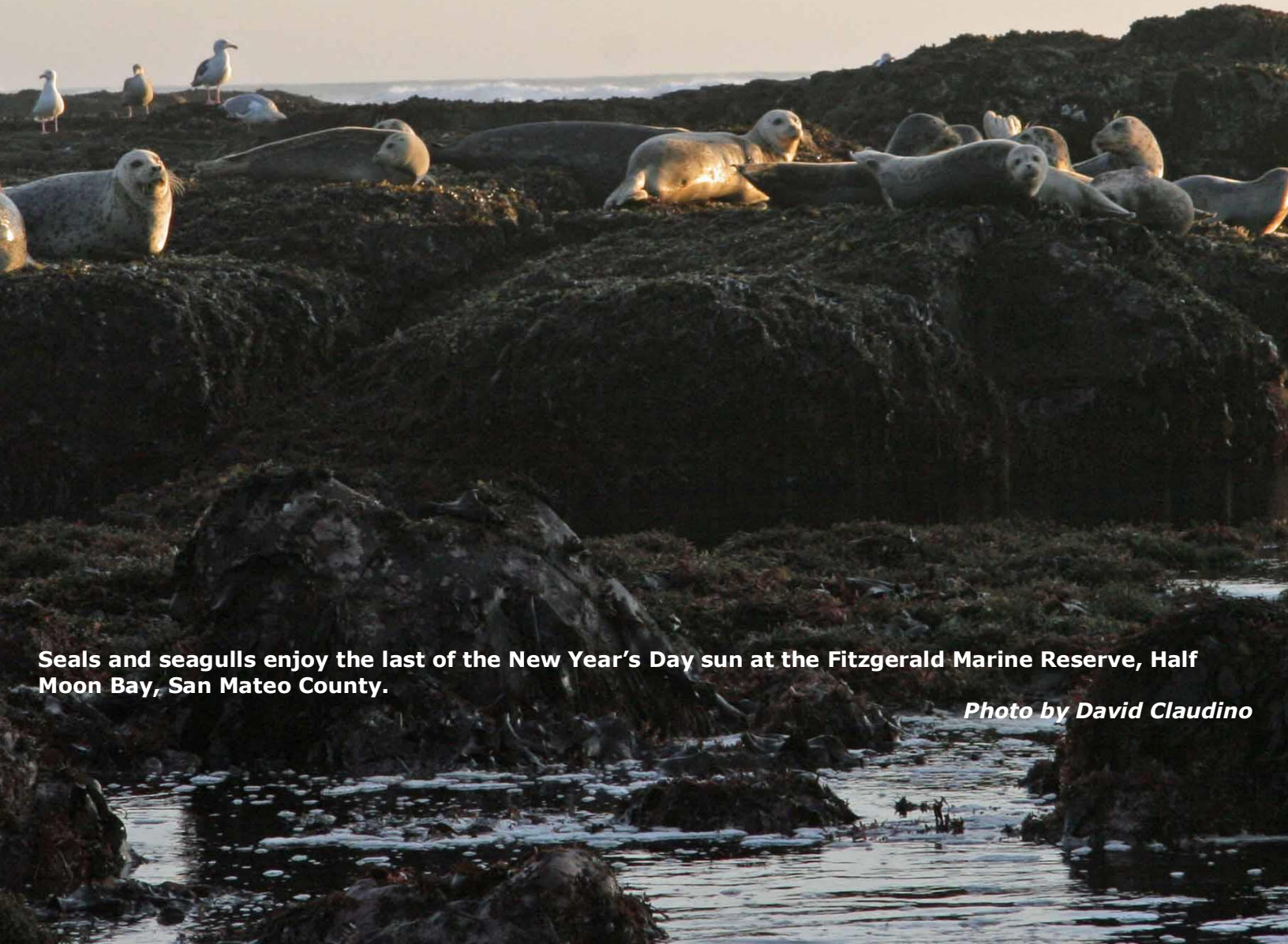
As midnight Dec. 31 struck in San Jose, New Zealanders had just finished dinner on Jan. 1. The residents of Alaska, Hawaii and a few Pacific atolls were Earth's

only people still in 2013. They represent a mere .0003% of the planet's 7-plus billion inhabitants.

New Year's is unique because it's a 24-hour observance of one moment. Our family spent the longest portion of our observance with David and Rodica Claudino, our friends from Palo Alto, on the edge of the last place on the continent to celebrate.

We visited the Fitzgerald Marine Reserve near Half Moon Bay along with hundreds of other people to prowl the expanse of tide pools exposed by what will be the second lowest tide of 2014, the "King Tide," which occurred at 4:31 p.m. New Year's Day.

This newsletter reports what we found.



Seals and seagulls enjoy the last of the New Year's Day sun at the Fitzgerald Marine Reserve, Half Moon Bay, San Mateo County.

Photo by David Claudino



Hundreds walk out onto sea floor exposed by the abnormally low tide of New Year's Day to see what they could see. Fitzgerald Marine Reserve, Half Moon Bay, San Mateo County.



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: A blue heron on landing approach, a sea star, an anemone and a rock crab. All photos but the sea star by David Claudino.

*Happy
New Year*



The tide returns to the San Mateo County Coast at sunset.