

For a long time now, I have been debating which month of the year is my favorite. I like December because it brings Christmas. Add to that, the following week which includes New Year's Day and plenty of football—and if we are lucky, some good snow for skiing in the mountains—like icing in the cake. But, for now I've decided I love July because of its long daylight hours and generally warmer temperatures!

I grew up ~~loving and playing~~ ^{watching} baseball in hand every July.

In July, Baseball fans can watch the boys of summer, capped by the MLB All Star Game; this year the National League once again won the All Star Game and with four Giants starters: how exciting can it get? Locally, in July the Humboldt Crabs are playing and Little League All Stars are going full bore. I wish the District Champions, Mckinleyville Little League, well as they play on.

Of course, July has the 'Fourth of July.' True, August has a fourth, as does every month. But I still believe the birth of our nation stands for something good. It is up to us to live up to the lofty principles put forth in our Declaration of Independence and Constitution. July is a good month to give thanks for being an American. Clearly, we enjoy many rights that can often be taken for granted-- especially when we contrast our Republic to the people struggling around the world to fight tyranny and achieve some say in who governs them.

For tennis aficionados July offers the centre court of all center courts: Wimbledon. Just when you thought the Swiss star was all washed up, i.e., stuck permanently at number three, Roger Federer wins again. Let's hear it for the old guy! All of 30!

True, July here in coastal Humboldt can be pretty foggy. But we could also be thankful, because it is not 110F, and so far, no fires razing homes and forests.

I love July because it's the lazy days of summer. My July's are remembered for many BBQ's, leisurely walks after dinner, and times with friends at dusk... and beyond.

July is a month when the local waters are warming: it's a good time to go swim in a lake (Forget the ocean unless you have a wetsuit). July is a good month to put a boat in one of the lakes and linger in the warmer air and water. July is a good time to run a river on a kayak or raft; July is a good month to backpack in the Trinity Alps or climb a mountain. Days are long and if you take a bit longer than you expected to reach your summit or destination, well, July is, forgiving.

I love July for the fresh fruits and vegetables: In July, the apricots are ripe and peaches too; the grapes are from California instead of Chile; the local produce at the farmers' markets is especially fresh in Humboldt, and I am hoping to get some squash and lettuce out of my own little garden.

In sum, July is my favorite month and, come to think of it, August and September aren't too bad either.

This has been Dan Price for Community Comment