

The Oasis



VOLUME 20 ISSUE 10, October 2016

38th Annual Great Outdoors Conference and Jamboree

October 14-16, 2016

Joshua Tree Lake Campground is located at the southern edge of the Mojave Desert – offering panoramic views of Joshua Tree National Park, exceptional desert vistas and spectacular night skies. The Campground is located 5.2 miles from Highway SR 62 and offers a variety of amenities including free showers and flush toilets. We have reserved a group site that will accommodate both tents and RVs.

This will be the 38th Annual Great Outdoors Conference. There will be Corporate board meetings, a general delegate meeting and an election of the corporate officers. A Trip Planning session will bring the Outings Vice Presidents of the five chapters together to plan trips for the year so that we don't have two great trips happening on the same weekend from different chapters. Delegates to the conference are appointed by each of the chapters based on the number of members in the chapter. These meetings are an important governmental responsibility to keep the club going. If you want to attend the meetings, you are welcome.



This will keep the board members and delegates pretty busy. But what about the rest of you who want to join us? There is plenty to do: local activities available in the area include hiking trails, visits to Pioneer Town and of course exploring Joshua Tree National Park. In camp we will have a Meet & Greet Reception, a sweet Cooking Contest, Western Selfie Station, games and an awards presentation. Keep an eye on the White board for details.

Other area attractions include Big Morongo Canyon, Integratron and it's just a short drive to the Palm Springs Tram. [Click here](#) for more information and trip notes.



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Meet Your New Officers

Election results from September 27 membership meeting

At the membership meeting on September 27, three members were nominated to serve as the chapter officers. Since each was unopposed, they were elected by acclamation.

Richard Debner has been a member of Great Outdoors for several years and has served as Treasurer for both the Santa Barbara Ventura County chapter and the Corporate Board. We welcome his expertise and experience. Dennis Curran joined the Palm Springs chapter in 2014. He is a retired environmental geologist, hobby potter, gardener and hiker. We thank him for his willingness to step up and lead our chapter.



Treasurer Richard Debner, President Dennis Curran, & VP of Outings Scott Connelly

Scott Connelly is well known in the chapter. He has been organizing our hiking and camping trips for many years. We thank him for his dedication to the chapter and his constant search for new and exciting things for us to do.

Hike Upper Carrizo Canyon to the Top

Thursday, October 6, 2016 8:30 AM

Rated: Moderate with some boulder climbing

Distance: Four miles

Elevation gain: 500 feet

Trailhead elevation: 2,200 feet

Trail type: Out and Back

Rocky Terrain with sandy areas, some bouldering and dry waterfalls

Hike Leader: Scott

IMPORTANT: Meeting place /Carpooling:

Meet at PetsMart at the intersection of Ramon and Crossley. Carpooling is encouraged and may be available if offered by driver. You are responsible for arranging your own transportation or ride share.



Carrizo Canyon shows off some of the most interesting and diverse geologic history in the Coachella

Valley. It is a bighorn sheep habitat with a variety of desert floral in a deep walled granite canyon with waterfalls. The Carrizo Canyon Ecological Reserve is closed to visitors from January 1st to September 30th. Topography is steep within the approximately 1,000-acre Carrizo Canyon Ecological Reserve. The dominant vegetation is creosote bush scrub. Large mammals using the area include bighorn sheep, mule deer, coyote, bobcat, and gray fox. Common bird species include the golden eagle, Gambel's quail, mourning dove, and black-throated sparrow.

The property was purchased to preserve a historic water supply for peninsular bighorn sheep in Carrizo Canyon, and to maintain and improve habitat for this species. It was designated as an ecological reserve by the Fish and Game Commission in 1978. The property is undeveloped and has been used primarily for hiking and wildlife viewing.

Bring Ten Essentials ([click here](#)), water (2 to 3 liters recommended), lunch and snacks. Sun protection and layered clothing are recommended. Carry Emergency Contact Information (ICE). Sturdy hiking footwear with good tread and adequate drinking water are required.

Weather Policy: Inclement weather cancels

Contact Hike Leader: Scott C. VPO-PS@greatoutdoors.org

CicLAvia - Heart of Los Angeles

Sunday, October 16, 9:15 AM San Bernardino Metrolink Station (carpool from Hunters Nightclub)

Dan and Don are sponsoring a GO bicycle event to CicLAvia. This bicycle event first took to the streets of Los Angeles in 2010. During the event cars are temporarily removed from the streets for one day and open them to forms of non-motorized transit – pedestrians, bicycles, skateboards, rollerblades, wheelchairs and more.



The route this year is particularly interesting because it takes you to areas of LA - such as Boyle Heights via the Arts District and McArthur Park - which many have likely never visited. Dan has followed this route before. An optional group lunch will be organized - likely at an extraordinary taco shop in Boyle Heights. Most of the route is pretty flat, although there is somewhat of a grade going across the LA river up to Boyle Heights and across the freeway to McArthur Park. You should be in moderately good physical condition and used to bike riding. Dan is riding a beach cruiser with a comfortable seat. There will be lots of breaks and interesting things to see and do on the route - there is an entire street of just piñata stores.

We will meet at the San Bernardino Metrolink station at 9:15 am to make certain we catch the 9:50 train to Union Station. Those wishing to carpool to the San Bernardino Station should meet at Hunter's on Arenas at 8:00 am. Dan lives in Redlands, and will be meeting at the train station and not at Hunter's. He strongly suggests you download the Metrolink App. and buy your round trip ticket before arriving at the station. The ticket is \$13 round trip for seniors. In the past they have had a special \$10 rate for adults. The station is located at 1204 W. Third Street in San Bernardino.

The train will have a special bicycle car. Bring your bicycle and a secure lock. Also bring your bike helmet, backpack for your gear, hydration, and sun protection. Wear your GO tee shirts for this event so people will know who we are. Your bicycle is welcome on all forms of public transportation In LA.

RSVP, which is required, to Dan H by text or phone at 909-227-2537. You can also send him an email with questions or an RSVP to dhaueter508@yahoo.com. Also, let him know if you're willing to help organize the carpool from Hunters.

Halloween Game Night to be hosted by George, Tony and Eddie

Friday, October 28, 6:00 - 9:30 pm

Host: George, Tony and Eddie

2120 E Bellamy Road, Palm Springs, CA

6:00 PM to 6:15 PM - SOCIAL PERIOD

6:15 PM to 7:00 PM - POTLUCK

7:00 PM to 9:00 PM – COSTUME CONTEST

This game night is going to be different from other game nights because it's Halloween. Dress up as your favorite superhero, zombie or wizard. Maybe you' would rather be the Great Pumpkin or one of the Super Mario Brothers. Whatever you fancy, get your costume together and teleport (or drive if you're Star Trek challenged) to George, Tony and Eddie's house at 2120 E Bellamy Road in Palm Springs. Maybe you want to be Deadpool or Spiderman; breakout



your sewing machine and get a stitch on.

Pirate anyone or just a chunky fireman? There

will be secret ballot contest for the *Best Costume* (there will be a runner-up in this category) and the *Most Creative Costume* and prizes will be awarded.

Bring your potluck item and your favorite beverage and come join the fun. If your last name begins between **Ac and Fr** (Acosta to Frank) bring a side dish or salad; if your last name begins between **Ga and Ke** (Garvey to Kerba) bring a desert; if your last name begins between **Kl and Mo** (Klein to Morrison) bring an appetizer; and if your last name begins between **Mu and Yo** (Muse to Yung) bring a main dish or entre. Hopefully this will help provide an evenly balanced dinner.



Living Desert: Hike – Tour – Lunch

Sunday, November 13, 9:00 AM

For almost four decades The Living Desert has been engaged in the important work of preserving, conserving and interpreting the desert and all its varied plant and animal life. The Living Desert takes immense pride in their accomplishments over the last forty years, and they remain as dedicated as ever to the goals that initially inspired them when they first began operations in March of 1970.



Great Outdoors is taking a hike on the Wild Side. We're going to the Living Desert in November. We're also planning a day of fun and a catered lunch. Meet at the entrance to the zoo, 47900 Portola Ave, Palm Desert, CA, at 9:00 AM. We'll start by exploring the habitats. In the African side of the park we'll see giraffes (and yes you can feed them), cheetahs, zebras, meerkats, big horn sheep, wart hogs, "Zoya" the leopard, and much, much more! In the North American part of the park there are jaguars, a mountain lion, serval, eagle, the Carousel (it's not just for kids), wolves, and a state of the art animal hospital.

This can be either a self guided tour, or you can go with GO member Tom, a volunteer at the park. After this



you may want to hike one of the great trails in the 1200-acre park. Three suggestions would be the Eisenhower Wilderness Loop which is 5 miles with a 700 foot elevation gain. Or you might do the Inner Loop at ¼ mile or the Middle loop which is only a mile.

Included in your day will be a catered lunch, a build-your-own salad or sandwich. Lunch will include a beverage and dessert.

The price for the event is \$39.00 including the lunch. (If you are a member of the Living Desert the price is only \$25.00.) Payment must be made in advance. [Click Here for Paypal](#). Please scroll down to the bottom of the page and click the Donate button and include a \$2.50

service charge. You can also mail a check payable to Great Outdoors Palm Springs to:

Great Outdoors
2071 Marguerite St.
Palm Springs, CA 92264

If you have any questions contact Scott at VPO-PS@greatoutdoors.org

Core Group Adopts Nudity Policy

At the September 27th meeting, the GOPS Core Group unanimously adopted a new policy about clothing-optional events. This was in response to concerns by some GOPS members about inappropriate behavior and the public image of Great Outdoors at recent club-sponsored events. Previously, the policy for pool parties and game nights held at member's homes was for the event hosts to specify whether clothing was optional. The new policy allows nudity at GOPS events only in venues where public nudity is expected, i.e. places like Tecopa Hot Springs. Tripnotes will clearly specify these events. The Core Group also reaffirmed the provisions of Appendix A of the Great Outdoors Bylaws, the Code of Conduct, which specifies, "I endorse a level of safe and moral conduct which promotes restraint from the use of illegal drugs, the excessive use of alcoholic beverages or the performance of sexual activities in public, or other conduct that is excessive or distasteful". Members agree to the Code as a provision of membership. The Core Group emphasized that the new policy is not meant to be sex-phobic or moralistic, but to promote inclusiveness to members and guests who may be uncomfortable at clothing-optional events.

[Click here to read the complete policy](#)

Wanted: Help with the Pride Booth

November 5 and 6, 2016

Palms Springs is celebrating 30 years of pride and this is your opportunity to join us in the celebration at the Great Outdoors display booth. You will have an opportunity to meet new folks and represent our organization. We will be collecting contact information for potential new members and providing information about our activities and events.



Volunteers will receive a complimentary tote bag with Great Outdoors logo on it.

We have a booth located on Arenas near

Lulu's and are looking for volunteers for Saturday and Sunday.

Two-hour time slots are available beginning on Saturday at 7 am until 11 pm. Time slots for Sunday begin at 8 am and run to 6 pm.

You may sign up for several time slots and for both days.

[Click here to sign up](#) and select your times on online document



Welcome to our new members

Three new people joined Great Outdoors Palm Springs in September:

Edgar, Matthew, and Phillip

This isn't the only game in town, especially in a town like Palm Springs, so a big welcome to these guys for choosing Great Outdoors. So now, all of you, get involved. We still need a Publicity Coordinator. It's a great job and you meet lots of nice people!



End of Summer Pool Party

On Sunday September 25, GOPS members Brian, Ed and Jim, hosted a late summer pool party at their home on Verona Avenue in Palm Springs. Sixty members and guests accepted the invitation, and more than 50 attended. The club provided lunch, including

Stater Brothers fried chicken, three kinds of salads, a wide variety of condiments, and a vegetarian option, as well as sodas and water. The hosts were dressed identically in colorful party attire, of which more need not be said. Art C. greeted the guests at the door, with an offer of a paper

nametag - most chose ink. The day and the guests sparkled, and the pool provided a cool respite from the sun. Everyone had a great time



Big Bear Camp End of Summer Trip

Story by Scott



ANA RIVER. The full moon lit up the dark sky for our group campfire. Saturday morning, we drove to Big Bear Lake and rode the mile-long Scenic Sky Chair to the top of Snow Mountain with spectacular panoramic views of the San Bernardino

Fall-like weather for the Big Bear weekend was a real treat. The twenty-five participants enjoyed clear days in the seventies and chilly lower fifties at night. On Friday afternoon we set up camp at the spacious Oso group camp and hiked a short distance along the Rio Monte trail to the scenic overlook of the Santa



National Forest at an elevation of 8,200 feet. After a leisurely lunch at the mountain station restaurant, we hiked the 1.5-mile scenic trail back down the mountain, a descent of 1,100 feet. Back at camp we enjoyed a variety of good food at the potluck dinner and concluded with the evening campfire gathering.



Afternoon at the fair



LA County Fair in Pomona is a great place to spend a late summer day. Six Great Outdoors members spent the afternoon at the fair exploring the unique displays and vendors. The most interesting exhibit was “Our Bodies, a Universe Within”.



Look What's Coming in 2017

During two planning meetings, one at the Hibachi Grill and one at the membership meeting, Scott and several other trip leaders and interested members suggested a calendar of trips for the 2016-17 year. Some of these destinations have been visited and enjoyed in the past, some in the far distant past. Others have never been visited by our chapter and should prove to be exciting new experiences. All dates are subject to change due to coordination between the five chapters at the upcoming 38th Annual Conference.

In November there is a "Free Form" trip to Death Valley. The real purpose of this trip to an iconic site is to scout it out for a formal trip in April of 2017.

In February we will be returning to Tecopa Hot Springs. Natural hot spring water is piped into soaking tubs, silky ancient mineral waters heated by mother earth in this location in Death Valley National Park. In March we will camp in the Anza Borrego desert and visit an annual art festival. We've visited this area often but not for an Art Festival. It should be interesting and new. In April we are planning to visit other areas of Death Valley, both Saline Valley and Silent Valley. In May we will be at Warner Hot Springs. Once this was an escape for people like Clark Gable and Charlie Chaplin. As they found, this can be rehab from an increasingly frantic and demanding life. With the start of the warmer weather we plan to visit Pinezanita near Julian. This beautiful 26.5 acre campground with 242 campsites nestles among the pines, oak, and poplar trees of San Diego County. Then it's back to Big Bear, this time the Serrano Camp which is right on the lake. We visited this park several years ago and had a great time. August will find some of us going to Burning Man. But for those who aren't Burners, we may want to venture a bit further and visit Yellowstone. If you haven't been, you can imagine what it's like. If you have you'll want to go again. Finally, in September, we are planning a trip to Nippeno in the Mohave Desert. This will be a unique trip as we will be staying in Eco-Lodge Tented Cabins.

Now that's a busy year. I'm looking forward to leading some of these trips and camping in many of these places.

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