



A Gay and Lesbian Outdoor Recreation Group
August 2006 Newsletter

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Here is your big chance to make a difference in our community!

Great Outdoors Santa Barbara/Ventura County Chapter is supporting the Pacific Pride Foundation's 16th annual Heart & Sole AIDS walk. Here is your opportunity to get some exercise, enjoy the Great Outdoors and help a really good cause!

The walk will be held on Saturday, October 7, 2006 at Leadbetter Beach in Santa Barbara. Registration begins a 9:00am and the Walk starts at 10:00am. The route is 10 kilometers (6.2 miles) along the beach on Cabrillo Boulevard. The walk ends with a beach-side celebration featuring free snacks, live music, free massages and an awards ceremony for the top fundraisers and most inspiring walkers.

All funds raised by the AIDS Walk support HIV education and prevention activities, two food pantries for HIV-positive clients and their families, free individual group therapy, primary health care, and quality-of-life programs. The Heart & Sole AIDS walk is Pacific Pride Foundation's largest fundraiser of the year. Every dollar you raise directly supports Pacific Pride Foundation's HIV programs in Santa Barbara County.

This is where YOU come in! Be a part of the Great Outdoors team! Joe Domingos is our TEAM CAPTAIN for this event. Joe has the pledge packets for you to use in helping you gather pledge money for your walk. We pledged Pacific Pride that our team would raise \$500 for this walk. I hope this inspires you to take action and join us for this really fun day!

Please call Joe (805) 588-1142 for your pledge packets or any other questions you have. Also you can call Pacific Pride directly at (805) 965-3636 x 107. Their e-mail is www.pacificpridefoundation.org. Thank you!

Monthly Pizza Social - Wednesday, August 9, 2006 @ 6:45pm



Great Outdoors SB/VC holds a social meeting on the 2nd Wednesday of every month. We meet at Rusty's Pizza in the Lighthouse across from Stearn's Wharf, near the lower end of State Street. We gather at 6:45pm to order pizza, then socialize until the feasting and meeting start around 7pm. The meetings are open to anyone interested in helping to make our chapter a success. Come join the fun...

REGISTER NOW!



Pristine Nature... with comfort

Top: Fabulous mountain vistas at Lake Casitas.

Middle: Deer and many other wildlife can be seen in the early morning.

Bottom: Frisbee Golf - Leisurely fun in the park, score just like golf. How low can you go?

Lake Casitas, Aug 11-13, 2006

You don't have to drive far to have a fun and relaxing camping experience! Escape the daily grind of hectic life and join us for a weekend of fun and relaxation on 2700-acre Lake Casitas, nestled between the sandy beaches of the Ventura County coast and spectacular mountains towering over the Ojai Valley. Our four campsites are lakeside, close enough to hear the lapping water of the sparkling lake.

A biking and hiking trail follows the east shoreline, perfect for a leisurely stroll or bike ride away from the campgrounds and a great place for scenic and wildlife photography. And if you like paddling a canoe or kayak, this is the place for you. We will also play a game or two of Frisbee Golf, an addictive game based on the rules of ball golf, but using flying disks thrown towards targets. Trust me - it's fun! Construction was just completed on brand new Coyote Point Disc Golf Course at Lake Casitas.

The nearby town of Ojai is charming and vibrant, filled with delightful shops and galleries.

Amenities: Picnic tables, fire rings, and water spigots. Hot showers are available. Park Store is well-stocked and offers groceries, ice, propane, wood and camping supplies. Various types of bicycles are available for rent, including mountain bikes, quadricycles, tandem bikes, etc. Watercraft such as patio deck boats, canoes, kayaks, and paddleboats are available.

Other Info: RVs up to 22' are welcome at our sites, however there are no hookups. Pets are allowed but must be leashed at all times. Check-in time is 3pm.

Weather will be warm during the day and most likely warm at night.

Proposed Weekend Schedule

Friday afternoon/evening: Arrive at Lake Casitas, set up tent, enjoy game night and campfire.

Saturday morning/afternoon: Breakfast at camp. Hike/bike, rent watercraft, play Frisbee golf, or visit Ojai. Evening is traditional Great Outdoors potluck, bring food for six people. Game night and campfire cap off evening.

Sunday morning: Breakfast at camp. Choose an activity that you didn't do the previous day. Pack out by noon.

Directions: From the South (Los Angeles) 101 Freeway North to Ventura. Take 33 Freeway towards Ojai. After approx. 10 miles from the 101, turn left onto Hwy 150 (Baldwin Road). Go West on Hwy 150 for approx. 3 miles. Turn left at Santa Ana Rd. Entrance to Lake is 100 yds on the right.

From the North (Santa Barbara) 101 Freeway South to Carpenteria. Take Hwy 150 directly to Lake Casitas. Turn right on Santa Ana Rd. Entrance to Lake is 100 yds on the right.

Proceed to Grebe Campground, 1.5 miles from gate, sites 19, 20, 21, 22.

Parking: PLEASE carpool. First 4 cars park free, each additional car is \$10/night (driver responsible).

Cost is \$30 for members, \$45 for non-members. Registration deadline is August 10, 2006.

Trip Leader is Christopher Fava, trancefusion@mac.com or (805) 509-8240

REGISTER NOW!



Secluded island paradise is closer than you think! Gorgeous blue water, sea kayaking, marine wildlife all here!

Santa Cruz Island - September 15-17, 2006

Begin with an energetic 1 hour

ferryboat ride escorted by playful dolphins, the wind in your hair and the sea all around us. The excitement builds as we spot land in the distance - our new, essentially uninhabited island camping home. Spend a relaxing weekend at our campground, Scorpion Ranch, bonding with your old and new friends in a protected canyon with towering shade trees on one of the Channel Islands. Discover what California was like during an earlier time as we experience pristine, breathtaking scenery and explore historic ranch ruins. Glide across the shoreline in a kayak exploring giant sea caves like a Pirate of the Caribbean or find a secluded beach to bathe in the sun. We'll enjoy fruity mai-tai cocktail hours with Brian, traditional flavored pancake breakfasts a-la-Daniel, nighttime stargazing under crystal clear ocean skies, and morning yoga caressed by day-breaking fog accompanied by the gentle sound of waves on the pebble shore.

Amenities: Camping conditions are primitive. Sites are equipped with picnic tables, water and pit toilets. No trash containers are provided; campers must pack out their own trash. No campfires are permitted due to the high fire danger. The campground is located 1/2 mile from the landing over flat terrain.

What to Bring: Tent, sleeping bag and pad, blanket, food and cooking utensils, ten essentials, potluck dish, water container, day pack, hiking boots, sunscreen, swim suit, snorkel and mask. Label all gear with your name. Pack everything within gear bags, no loose items.

PACK LIGHTLY since you have to carry your equipment 1/2 mile. Try to pack the most minimal amount for a good time!

What Not to Bring: Items weighing more than 45lbs. (including ice chest), more than 3-gallon water containers, items stored in paper bags, carts or wagons, loose gear, glass containers.

Kayak Use: We will have access to several single kayaks to be shared by anyone on the trip.

Time of Departure: The boat leaves at 8:00am on Friday, Sept. 15th. You must be there ONE HOUR BEFORE DEPARTURE at 7:00am. Don't be late. The return boat leaves the island at 4:00pm on Sunday, Sept. 17th, arriving in Ventura Harbor approximately 5:30 pm.

Directions: Boat Transportation to Santa Cruz Island is operated by Island Packers located in Ventura Harbor.

From 101 South, exit at Victoria Avenue. Turn Left on Victoria. Proceed 1/2 mile to Olivas Park Drive. Turn Right. Cross Harbor Blvd and enter Ventura Harbor. Road becomes Spinnaker Drive. Look for signs for Island Trips. Park next to building.

From 101 North, exit at Seaward. Turn Left on Harbor Blvd. Continue until signs for Ventura Harbor. This is Spinnaker Drive. Turn right. Look for signs for Island Trip. Park next to building.

Sign up by Tuesday, Aug. 29, 2006. Space is limited. Call the trip leader to verify your reservation.

Cost is \$95 for members, \$120 for non-members.

Trip Leader: Gray Vogelmann - (312) 551-1600 or itsmegray@sbcglobal.net

Getty Villa - Saturday, August 5, 2006

After being closed for many years, and an expenditure of some \$250 million in renovation and additions, the Getty Villa has recently re-opened.

On Saturday, August 5th, GO will be visiting the Villa, located at 17985 Pacific Coast Highway, Pacific Palisades (1 mile North of Sunset Blvd. on Hwy. 1).

The Villa is a reconstruction of a Roman country house based on actual measurements of an existing one in Italy. It exhibits a treasure of Greek and Roman antiquities in the form of sculptures and ceramics, but also includes mosaics, paintings, jewelry, glass, etc.

For some of you, there will be a disappointment that the rococo rooms are no longer housed there, but you may find them at the Getty Center. This building is absolutely beautiful, as are the classical gardens that surround it. We have 20 tickets and are limited to six parking spaces, each costing \$7, so we will all chip in to cover that cost.

We'll meet at 12 noon at a shopping center in Carpentaria for carpooling. From the North, take the Casitas Pass exit, turn Right, and you'll see the shopping center on the left. It is important to be on time, and we must arrive at the Villa between 1:30 and 2:00.

You'll recognize the group as we'll all be wearing Roman togas (joke!)

For reservations, call Will at 805-563-0370.

REGISTER NOW!



Special Sunset Cruise - Saturday, August 12, 2006

To celebrate summertime, Los Angeles and Orange County chapters will sail aboard the Luxury Yacht Caroline, departing from Rainbow Harbor in Long Beach, Dock #2, next to the Long Beach Aquarium. Boarding commences at 6:30p.m. and boat sails at 7:00p.m.

Event includes a 3 hour privately chartered, all-gay cruise of Long Beach Harbor, buffet dinner, and a full no-host bar with soft drinks, beer, wine and mixed drinks for everyone 21 and older.

Tickets (purchased in advance) are required for this event:
\$45 for GO members, \$65 for Non-members.

Registration Form at www.greatoutdoorsla.org, or call Bob King at 323-660-6240. Payments must be received by August 4, 2006.

Caroline is located at Harbor Breeze Corp at the purple and white ticket booth at Dock 2 at Rainbow Harbor adjacent to the Long Beach Aquarium at 100 Aquarium Way, Long Beach CA 90802. Park in the Aquarium parking structure and get validation for a reduced parking fee of \$7. From the 710 Freeway south, follow signs to downtown Long Beach and the Aquarium exit. The Aquarium exit will lead to the parking structure for the Aquarium.





End of Summer Happy Hour - August 31, 2006 @ 6pm

For a change of pace, Great Outdoors is having a (white)wine & cheese tasting for the month of August rather than our usual potluck.

As we say goodbye to summer and welcome the advent of Autumn, come join your friends of the Great Outdoors and experience the tastes and aromas of your favorite wine and cheeses! We will enjoy the 'ambiance' at Ron's beautiful home located in the heart of Santa Barbara on his beautiful front lawn at 327 Loma Vista Ave. on Thursday, August 31st. Tasting begins at 6 PM. Parking is available along Laguna Street which is the adjacent cross street.

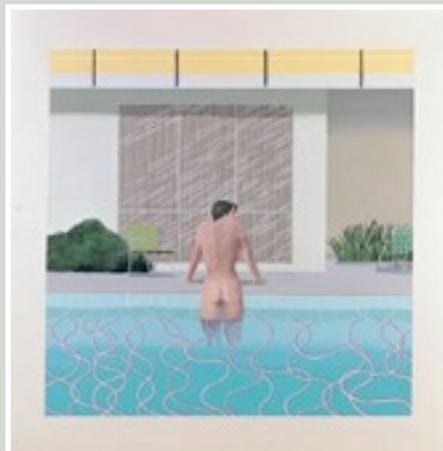
Bring a bottle of your favorite wine accompanied with your favorite cheese and crackers. Tasters (all of us) will rate the wine, which will be gloved and numbered. The owner of the highest rated wine will win a \$20 movie pass to Metro Theaters! Following the wine tasting for those who desire, we will head down to Jill's place (Shalhoobs) for dinner, which is a gay- owned restaurant located nearby.

Please RSVP Ron at (805) 705-5229 or e-mail rhillas@gbmi.net
Hope to see you there! Bon appetite..."

David Hockney Portrait Show - September 2, 2006

Please join The Great Outdoors for a very special day trip to LA County Museum of Art for an art exhibit showing of the works of David Hockney. Will Richardson, our very own potluck/events coordinator, and local artist himself, was able to get 12 tickets for Saturday, Sept. 2nd. Will says, "I saw Hockney's first one-man show in New York City back in 1964 at the Allan Art Gallery - quite by accident. I was on my way to see John Allan who was handling my wife's paintings at that time. It was his exquisite drawings of nude males by this young 27-year old that impressed me the most! In the early 60's he was using gay magazines as a source for his material for his work. With titles such as "Doll Boy" and "Two Boys Together Clinging," he was, early on, very daring in showing gay-themed material to the public. During his lifetime he has produced a very extensive group of portraits of famous friends and lovers."

The museum entry time is 11 AM. We'll meet at 9:30am at a shopping center in Carpinteria for carpooling. From the North, take the Casitas Pass exit, turn Right, and you'll see the shopping center on the left. For reservations, call Will at 805-563-0370.



Camping Trip Registration Forms - Please check box(es), fill out form, and send to address.

Lake Casitas, August 11-13

Provide Transportation # People? _____

Member Non-Member

\$30 \$45

*plus a bundle of firewood

Santa Cruz Island, Sept. 15-17

Provide Transportation # People? _____

Member Non-Member

\$95 \$120

Send completed reg. and trip fee (check payable to Great Outdoors) to:
Great Outdoors, PO Box 21051
Santa Barbara, CA 93121

Send completed reg. and trip fee (check payable to Great Outdoors) to:
Great Outdoors, PO Box 21051
Santa Barbara, CA 93121

Name (please print) _____

Street Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

G.O. Member # _____ Chapter _____

Phone _____

Email (kept confidential) _____

Emergency Contact _____

Relationship _____ Phone _____

Medical Insurance Carrier _____

Grp/Policy # _____

Physician Phone _____

Health problems/allergies: It is the responsibility of participants to carry on their person a record of significant allergies, medications, and medical history in the event of a medical emergency.

Waiver of Liability, Medical Release and Assignment

I am aware that my participation in Great Outdoors may include potentially hazardous activities and I am voluntarily participating in these activities with that knowledge and the understanding that I will use my own best judgment to avoid injury to myself and others. I agree to follow the directions of the trip leader and abide by the rules of the facility I am using. I hereby release Great Outdoors, including its officers, trail or trip leaders, agents or other persons working with said organization from any liability for injuries, physical or mental, which I may suffer by reason of any participation in these activities. I recognize in waiving this liability that I am assuming sole responsibility for my actions and cannot blame any other person connected with Great Outdoors Inc. I hereby agree to assume full financial responsibility for any and all bills incurred by me for medical treatment as the result of my participation in the Great Outdoors activity. In the event that I am unable to consent to medical care, I hereby authorize the trip leader to consent surgery, as may be best determined under the circumstances.

Sign _____ Date _____

Second-Hand Camp Gear Corner

Do you have some used camping gear that you don't need anymore? Sell it to someone who *does* need it! If it's in good condition, let us know and we'll advertise it right here for you. Send a description to Chris, trancefusion@mac.com. A photo will really help.



Membership Application

Great Outdoors Santa Barbara / Ventura County
P.O. Box 21051
Santa Barbara, CA 93121

Please fill out form and mail with check (payable to Great Outdoors) to address above.

Newsletter Format: e-Newsletter or Snailmail

Please check one of the following:

\$25 - 1yr. Regular \$45 - 2yr. Regular

\$15 - 1yr. Student \$15 - Newsletter only

\$40 - 1yr. Household (2 names = 1 newsletter)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____

eMail: _____

By joining Great Outdoors and/or attending the club's events, I acknowledge that in order for Great Outdoors to assume full legal responsibility, it would have to charge higher fees than it does now. I waive the right to ever lay claim for injuries I might suffer before, during or after any Great Outdoors event. My guests will agree to these principles in writing before attending events.

Signature _____ **Date** _____

SB/VC Core Group

President - Brian Miller, 805-740-1677, muddbilt@gte.net

VP Outings - Chris Fava, 805-509-8240, trancefusion@mac.com

Treasurer - Ted Huffmire, huffmire@cox.net

Corporate Board Rep - Tom Ogier

Secretary - Alex Thomas, Pentharen@whoami.com

Newsletter Editor - Chris Fava, trancefusion@mac.com

Day Hike Coordinator - Vacant

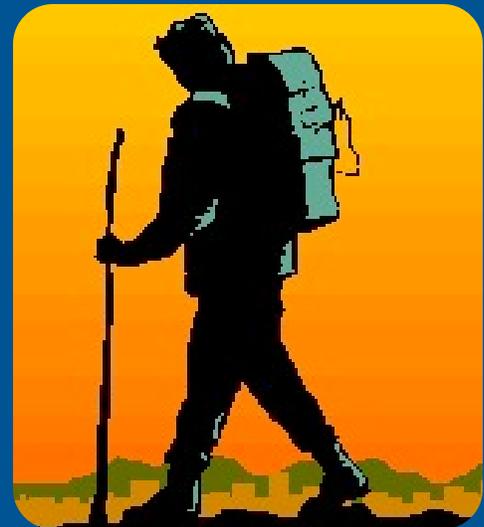
Membership Coordinator - Paul Williams, lockshockbarrelp@aol.com

Webmaster - Jean-Guy Dube, 805-570-1929, jgdube@hotmail.com

Historian & Photographer - Mike Caouette, mikecaouette@iopener.net

Potluck Coordinator - Will Richardson, 805-563-0370

Outreach Coordinator - Vacant



REVIEW LA PURISIMA MISSION

Such a lovely day was had by those attending the potluck picnic at the Mission! La Purisima is the most complete example of the historic missions in California. We were able to see the living and working quarters of those working on the mission, as well as many farm animals. Also interesting were the hundreds of swallows that make their mud nests in the rafters of the buildings. Our day at the mission was followed by a lovely steak dinner at Brian's!



Come cycle with us! (Usually on Wednesday evening at 5:30, and weekends) Meet at the visiting nurse's parking lot at the intersection of Canon Perdido and Santa Barbara St. The riding is for all difficulty levels. Please bring a helmet! Feel free to call Tom Nelson at 805-965-1710 or email tomnelson.usa@verizon.net.

Great Outdoors SB/VC
PO Box 21051
Santa Barbara, CA 93121



Next Pizza Social - Rusty's Pizzeria
Wednesday, August 9th, 6:45p.m.
15 E. Cabrillo Blvd. Santa Barbara



Place Label Here