



A Gay and Lesbian Outdoor Recreation Group
July 2006 Newsletter

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Note from the President...



Hello fellow campers, partiers, and all-around lovers of the Great Outdoors! Can you believe it's already half way through the year! My, my... time does fly!

So far this year has been really fun, with all the trips and outings and pot-lucks, and still more to come! You will soon receive a survey in the mail asking for your feedback on what you think we can do to improve the Great Outdoors and how you can become more involved! This will really be important for the core group as we plan for next year's outings and events.



I'm also excited to announce that we will be partnering up with Pacific Pride Foundation of Santa Barbara in supporting them with their annual aids walk. There will be more information and how to sign up in our August newsletter. Joe Domingos has graciously agreed to be your contact person for this great event, check your e-mails as well!

Well that's it for now. Looking forward to seeing you soon! - Brian

Monthly Pizza Social - Wednesday, July 12, 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...

La Purisima Mission Picnic, Lompoc, CA Saturday, July 8, 2006 @ 1p.m.

You're all invited to the Great Outdoors July potluck, which will be a picnic/potluck up in Lompoc, out at the La Purisima Mission. The weather has been amazing lately, and I was just out at the mission in the past few days, to see and appreciate the beautiful wildflowers in bloom. Overall I think it's going to be a really great afternoon for us folks!

Directions: Coming into Lompoc on Hwy 1, when you come to that first stoplight, turn right and follow the road (Hwy 246). You will go about a mile, watch for Mission Gate Road on your left, turn onto it. The road T-bone's into the mission entrance. We will be picnicking at the picnic area on the trail past the Gift shop/Old Visitor center. If unsure, inquire at the new visitor center (Big building that looks like a lean-to) or call me on my cell, 805 588 1142. Bring a dish to share, and sensible shoes for walking around the site afterwards!

As a side note to all folks who wish to be on the SLO Pride crew for July 9th, you're all heartily welcome to camp out at my house in Lompoc after the potluck, so we can all leave Sunday morning without any extra driving involved...Sounds like a smart idea huh? hehe -Joe



San Luis Obispo Pride with RuPaul live in Mission Plaza - Sunday, July 9, 2006

It's that time of year again - Pride season is upon us!

And with the sunshine and rainbows and happy Pride-goers, there also comes my usual message, begging for helpers with the info booth for your much-loved camping group, Great Outdoors! hehe. Seriously guys, San Luis Obispo Pride (Sun, July 9th) which we have all agreed is one of the prettiest prides we've attended, is upon us, and while I had an AMAZING (Thanks and hugs to you all!) response on sign-ups for working the booth at the last general meeting, I still have a few spaces that need filling. As all of you past volunteers know, it is light work, and many hands make it lighter! Here's what's still available:

1-3pm Shift-Need 2 folks

3-5pm Shift-Need 2 folks

Teardown Crew-Need 2 folks

Of course, whether you work at the booth or not, PLEASE come on up and support this beautiful small town Pride event: enjoy the sunshine, the beautiful city, and the attractive Cal Poly co-eds! There are events in SLO afterwards as well, so keep that in mind. HUGS and see you all there! - Joe



Russian River, July 19-23, 2006

Come join us as we return to the Russian River for the ninth consecutive year and find out why this trip was featured in the NY Times and remains one of Great Outdoors' favorite summer vacations! Our destination is the quaint little town of Guerneville, a gay/lesbian-friendly respite just north of San Francisco. Join us for a four-night package of non-stop fun and excitement!

We'll be staying at Inn at the Willows, a local lodge with a five-acre camping area on the Russian River. Numerous shops, gay bars, restaurants, and a 24-hour Safeway supermarket are all within walking distance.

Group activities will include twilight kayaking, hiking, and our very popular West Valley winery tour. After dark, we head into town for dinner, fun and dancing! Also close at hand are Goat Rock State Park where the Russian River meets the ocean,

and Bodega Bay, home to Alfred Hitchcock's "The Birds." Or you can just hang out and read a book or sit in the Jacuzzi.

From Los Angeles, head North on I-5 approx. 310 miles, transferring to the I-580 West toward San Francisco. Continue approx. 60 miles until just before the Bay Bridge. **DO NOT TAKE BAY BRIDGE!** Instead, take the I-80 East for a few miles, then transfer back onto the I-580 West following the signs to the San Rafael Bridge. Pay your toll at the bridge and continue a few more miles till you merge with US-101 North. Continue on the US-101 for approx. 30 miles (through the town of Santa Rosa). Exit at River Road (Russian River Resorts), turn left and stay on that road until you get to the town of Guerneville, approx. 22 miles.

Registration Form on page 7. Complete trip notes at www.greatoutdoorsla.org

Trip Leaders: Jeff Rothenbach (LA) (818) 830-8916 thursdayhiker@verizon.net
Ted Huffmire (SB) huffmire@cox.net

Wine, River,
Redwoods, and
Coast!

REGISTER NOW!



Pristine Nature... with comfort

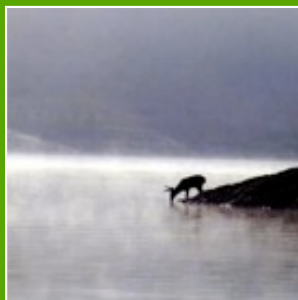
Top: Views await those camping at the Willows

Middle: Jenner by the Sea, an enclave overlooking the estuary where the Russian River spills into the Pacific

Bottom: Greatroom at the Inn at the Willows.

Left: The Russian River!

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 Carpentry. 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

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.



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

Russion River, July 19-23

Provide Transportation # People? _____

Member Non-Member

\$125 \$145

*only a \$25 outing fee if you decide to get a hotel room instead of camp.

Send completed reg. and trip fee (check payable to Great Outdoors) to:

**Jeff Rothenbach, 15454 Chatsworth St, #18
Mission Hills, CA 91345**

Lake Casitas, August 11-13

Provide Transportation # People? _____

Member Non-Member

\$30 \$45

*plus a bundle of firewood

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 _____

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 of 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, lockshockbarrel@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

TRIP REVIEW



Adventure is never far away

Top: Sunlight plays brilliantly on the red-hued sandstone hoodoos.

Middle: Zion. Brian sits atop Angel's Landing after an epic chain-grasping climb to the summit.

Bottom: Lightning and thunder crashed around us at Fairyland Canyon- truly a magical experience.

Bryce Canyon National Park, Utah by Jean-Guy and Paul

Where does one go to experience the power of nature at work? To see and be surrounded by colorful painted canyons, of orange and red rock spires contrasting against a clear blue sky? Bryce Canyon! For the 9 lucky guys who attended this trip, we were fortunate to experience two of America's most beautiful National parks during our 5 day stay. We pitched our tents just yards from the rim of Bryce Canyon. Giving us the opportunity to see this spectacular sight early morning, or by moonlight.

Awe and wonder at our door (tent) step. A highlight of our trip was the 9 of us completing a 5.5 mile hike down to the bottom and deep into the canyon and back up again and again! Along the way we had sun, rain, hail and even thunderous lightning!

Our third day on the trip we continued our adventures at Zion Canyon. Some members hiked up "Angels Landing", while others explored Zion's own unique canyon treasures from below, including sightseeing and shopping!

Meals ranged from cozy campfire cooking, and a great potluck to a group dinner at Bryce Canyon Lodge. Being in this special place together we all realized how fortunate we are to be able to share such beautiful wonders with each other.

The trip was truly a kaleidoscope of rocks, Hoodoos, gems, flowers, trees, animals all in the "Great Outdoors"..



(L to R): Jean-Guy, Paul, Ted, Paley, Gary (kneeling), Gray, Sky, Chris, Brian.

"The trip was truly a kaleidoscope of rocks..."

REVIEW - SOLSTICE POTLUCK

Jack Funk proved once again his abilities to throw a successful, well-attended party at his home with his stunning town- and ocean-views. The weather being what it was, inspired shorts and scuffs, rather than the Brokeback cowboy attire theme. Three members did come in Western attire, as did Clint Eastwood in the form of a six-foot photo cutout - Will's date for the evening! Again, thanks Jack for all the time and effort you put into this event.



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, July 12th, 6:45p.m.
15 E. Cabrillo Blvd. Santa Barbara

Stamp

Place Label Here