



A Gay and Lesbian Outdoor Recreation Group
June 2006 Newsletter

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Bryce Canyon National Park, Utah, June 7-11, 2006

Join Great Outdoors as we explore and experience one of nature's great wonderlands, Bryce Canyon National Park, in southwestern Utah. The canyon is famous for its worldly unique geology of colorful limestone rock formations, including slot canyons, windows, fins, and spires called "hoodoos." Tinted with vibrant colors, these whimsically-arranged rocks create a wondrous landscape of mazes, offering some of the most exciting and memorable hikes and walks imaginable. Our campsites are situated adjacent to the largest natural amphitheatre in the park, with Sunrise, Sunset, Inspiration and Bryce Points nearby. Highlights of the weekend will be having lunch at Bryce Canyon Lodge, and taking a day trip to Zion National Park. We will also have our traditional GO tea and potluck Saturday evening, a full moon walk, and stargazing. At a limit of 20 people, you will want to sign up early. We have 5 sites reserved, with 4 people and 2 vehicles per site. Map and directions provided upon registration.



Amenities. Our campsites are near the park entrance, between the General Store and Bryce Canyon Lodge. The sites have picnic tables and fireplaces, and water and restrooms are nearby. Showers and laundry can be done at the General Store. Please bring or plan to buy firewood, as gathering wood in the park is prohibited.



The cost for members for this trip is \$50. Non-members are \$75 (includes registration into the Great Outdoors). Additional Day Use fees will apply to entrances of State Parks or local recreational areas outside of Bryce Canyon.

Registration Form on page 7. Complete trip notes and registration at www.greatoutdoors.org/sb

Trip Leader: Jean-Guy Dube, 805-570-1929, jgdube@hotmail.com

Monthly Pizza Social - Wednesday, June 14, 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...

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 Hitch-

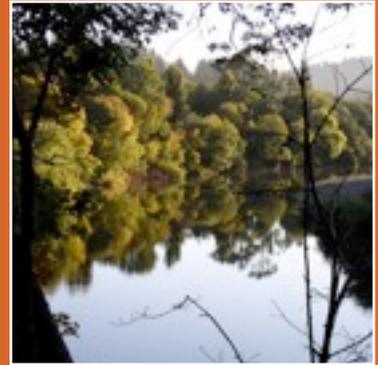
cock's "The Birds." Or you can just hang out and read a book or sit in the Jacuzzi.

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

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!



Wine, River,
Redwoods, and
Coast!

SOLSTICE POTLUCK



June's potluck will be held at the home of Jack Funk, 815 E. Pedregosa St. in Santa Barbara on **Saturday, June 17**. All members of Great Outdoors and their friends are welcome. Parking on Pedregosa is a little difficult so you might want to park on Alameda Padre Serra and walk the half block down to Jack's house. The fire pit and the barbeque will be going, so bring your meat. This year's theme is Brokebutt Mountain so dress in your finest Western apparel. Assorted libations provided. Party starts at 5:00 with dinner at 6:00 or 7:00. Members are encouraged to bring entrees. For directions, roping techniques or apparel suggestions call 805-682-8281.



The summer solstice is the day of the year with the longest daylight period, and hence the longest night. At the time of the summer solstice, Earth is at a point in its orbit where one hemisphere is most tilted toward the sun, causing the sun to appear at 23.5 degrees above the celestial equator, thus making its highest path across the sky.

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 Carpinteria 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.

GETTY VILLA



GO CORPORATE EVENTS

Big Bear 4th of July Summer Jamboree 2006, July 1-5

The Great Outdoors "4th of July Summer Jamboree 2006" will be held in California's beautiful San Geronio Wilderness near Big Bear Lake, CA. Bring your tent or RV and join up to 100 other campers at the Oso Group Camp from Saturday, July 1st to Tuesday, July 5th! High in the mountains with forests, lush sub-alpine meadows and sparkling lakes, this magical place is a refreshing summer getaway!

Many special activities are planned, including:

* **Party cruise:** Tour Big Bear Lake on an all-gay chartered boat, the "Sierra Belle" on Monday evening, complete with drinks, music, food and 85 other friends

* **BBQ:** Eat dinner American-style on the 4th and enjoy scenic views and entertainment right on the shore of Big Bear Lake at "B's Backyard B-B-Que" restaurant (tri-tip, ribs, chicken, & veggie wraps)

* **Fireworks Show** – See California's third-ranked pyrotechnic display at sunset on the 4th, reflected in the lake and visible from our lakeside dinner location

* **Hikes:** Day hikes, both easy and difficult (Mt. San Geronio, the highest peak in Southern California, is nearby)

\$35 member registration fee - includes campground registration, outing and parking fees (\$45 for non-member), \$12.50 Party Cruise and \$16 BBQ Dinner & Entertainment.

Contact: Mark at mark@legassie.com, 323.254.3046 To register on-line, go to www.greatoutdoors.org

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.



Great Outdoors Corporate-sponsored events are a great way to meet lots of new people who you wouldn't normally meet at your other chapter outings!



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

Bryce Canyon Nat. Park, June 7-11

Provide Transportation # People? _____

<u>Member</u>	<u>Non-Member</u>
\$50	\$75 (incl. membership in GO)
*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**

Russian River, July 19-23

Provide Transportation # People? _____

<u>Member</u>	<u>Non-Member</u>
\$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**

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.

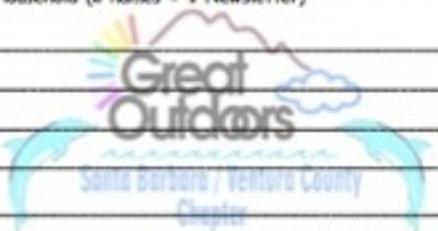
Sign _____ Date _____

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 - 1 yr. Student ___ \$15 - Newsletter Only
 ___ \$40 - 1yr. Household (2 nones + 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, 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: Mike, Will, Alan, Todd, and Brian at the fire.

Middle: Brian dips Will in what looks like ballroom dancing.

Bottom: Busty Bailey introduces herself to a shocked Brian, at the Red Rock swimming holes.

Paradise Campground - Lower Santa Ynez Recreation Area - by Chris

Paradise is a cute little campground near Santa Barbara that will hold a special place with me for a long time to come. Friday night, we stumbled upon the mysterious Merkel house while exploring the stream across the road from our camp. The old home is in shambles, but is a museum of sorts. It was once a float in a Santa Barbara parade that traversed the San Marcos Pass, and lore has it that SB's first mayor once lived there. One can find antique cars, a unique car-part sculpture of a man, and various other odd articles of junk strewn about. It was a popular topic of conversation all weekend.

Saturday morning, we drove to Red Rock. How exciting it was to drive through all the rushing stream fords! After a nice hike in the warm sun, we cooled off in the refreshingly cool and deep swimming holes. It was a very popular place for young adults to gather and party, and it certainly was interesting. We saw two boys jump from an 85-foot high rock outcropping into the water. I thought they were going to die, but they were just fine, and dude, they were "so stoked!" Later,

we had company from a friendly babe named Bailey who swam over and flirted hard-core with Brian. I was laughing so hard that I could barely hold my camera still!

Back at camp for the potluck, we gorged on everything from spicy jambalaya to beanies & wienies to savory BBQ'd steaks, and all night we played a fun game called Apples to Apples while sipping all the wine a person could want. Game-playing is becoming THE thing to do during our evenings at camp.

Sunday morning, we packed up, but there was still some time to swim in the newly-found stream nearby. Lunch was at the rustic Cold Spring Tavern, a romantic Santa Barbara institution that dates back to the 1860's. I had the buffalo burger and beer batter onion rings and boy, was I satisfied! The best part of all was when a big chocolate birthday cake was brought out for me, in celebration of my 27th. Thanks to everyone who made this trip - my first as trip leader - a really fun time.

Below (L to R): Mike, Juan, Jean-Guy and Paul, Todd, Brian, Chris, Ted, and Alan.



The "most romantic restaurant in Santa Barbara"

TRIP REVIEW



Cinco de Mayo, Palm Springs, CA - by Ted

We escaped the May gray of the coast to attend the Cinco de Mayo Palm Springs Resort / Pool Party hosted by our corporate chapter. Early May is an excellent time to visit Palm Springs since the temperatures are nice and warm but not too hot, which central coast residents can appreciate!

SB/VC members David, Mark, James, Ted, Brian, Gray, and Sky attended the event at the Villa Resort, located in Cathedral City. The beautifully landscaped resort has many amenities - a pool, 12-person spa, poolside bar, and restaurant.

After continental breakfast on Saturday, some people went hiking, and others went treasure hunting at various thrift and consignment stores. In the afternoon, a party called Melt by the Pool was held at the resort, with prizes, a live DJ, calendar men, actors from Colt Studios, singer Bobby Jordan, a contingent from the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence. In the evening, there was a "bitch-slap the pinata" contest, and a "pin the blank on the man (you supply the blank)." Since it was Gray's birthday, everyone enjoyed some birthday cake.

Sunday afternoon, the Palm Springs chapter hosted a pool party at a member's home. The pool was located in a beautifully-landscaped back yard, with a spa perched above the pool so that the overflow water cascades down a waterfall.



Cinco de Mayo is a date of great importance for the Mexican and Chicano communities. It marks the victory of the Mexican Army over the French at the Battle of Puebla. With this victory, Mexico demonstrated to the world that Mexico and all of Latin America were willing to defend themselves of any foreign intervention.

TRIP REVIEW - HOPE RANCH PICNIC

Though the day was grey and cloudy, that didn't dampen the spirits of those trusty souls who showed up to enjoy the ambiance of Hope Ranch. A few picnickers brightened up the day with their festive attire....

Hot coals on the grill to cook steak and sausages add to that a smattering of delectable salads made for a yummy picnic feast indeed!



Great Outdoors
bikes!

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



Place Label Here

Next Pizza Social - Rusty's Pizzeria
Wednesday, June 14th, 6:45p.m.
15 E. Cabrillo Blvd. Santa Barbara