

A Gay and Lesbian Recreation Group May 2006 Newsletter

In this issue...

- May 10 - Monthly Pizza Social
- May 13 - Hope Ranch Beach Blanket & BBQ Potluck
- May 19-21 - Paradise Campground
- June 7-11 - Bryce Canyon National Park
- Big Bear July 4th Jamboree
- Prime Timers Prom Review - by Claude Raffin
- Registration Form for Paradise Campground
- Registration Form for Bryce Canyon National Park
- Morro Bay Trip Review - by Joe Domingos
- Big Sycamore Canyon Photo Collage
- Membership Application



Paradise Campground

May 19-21, Lower Santa Ynez Recreation Area, Santa Barbara

Spend your weekend in Paradise, literally! Great Outdoors has reserved three large campsites, surrounded by beautiful, huge oak trees in this high-service campground. River swimming holes (very popular during spring

and summer) are just across the road. Hiking trails abound in the Lower Santa Ynez Recreation Area. Snyder Trail leads up to the ruins of Knapp's Castle, while Aliso Canyon Trail offers stunning views of the Santa Ynez River Valley. Saddle up on a horse at Rancho Oso Stables for a guided trail ride on safe, gentle horses, suitable for beginners. Sunday Brunch is at Cold Spring Tavern, a restaurant from a very romantic period in California history. The food is great and you will really enjoy your visit.

On your own, visit Los Olivos for fine wine-tasting, or the Danish town of Solvang, offering quaint Old World architectural styles, delightful shops, and flower-lined streets.

There is a picnic table, BBQ, fire pit, and piped water at each site. Four restrooms with flush toilets are conveniently located. Horseshoe pits are provided (bring your horseshoes), and firewood is available from the campground hosts. RV's under 22' are welcome, however there are no hookups.

Trip Leader: Chris Fava 805-509-8240 or trancefusion@mac.com Cost is \$30 for members and \$35 for non-members. Complete trip notes and registration at www.greatoutdoors.org/sb



Monthly Pizza Social - Wednesday, May 10, 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...



Hi, I'm Chris Fava. I have happily accepted the position of newsletter editor for my chapter. Yes, I'm ALSO the VP of Outings, but I love G.O. so hey... what are a couple more nights stuck in front of my computer? hehe! ;o) I look forward to my new responsibility, and I hope to see you all on my Paradise trip!



Hope Ranch Beach-blanket and Bar-B-Que potluck May 13th!

Come join the Great Outdoors as we usher in the Balmy days of Summer to kick off the season early with a beach picnic at Hope Ranch beach on Saturday May 13th. Tom Ogier, your host, has reserved this beautiful private picnic area just for our use for the whole day! The site is right next to the beach, so Tom recommends you bring your favorite beach 'toys' such as kayaks, boogie/surf boards or just a blanket to lay in the sun! Bring your sunscreen as we're planning it to be a very sunny day! And if you're not into the beach scene there's plenty of shady trees to lay under and relax. Picnic area opens at 12 noon. We'll have the bar-b-que fired up around 2 PM. Bring your favorite meat and a side dish to share with 4 to 6 people. Great Outdoors will provide plates and utensils. BYOB. Also a \$5 donation per person to help defray the costs. Park closes at 7 PM.

Directions are as follows:

Take the La Cumbre/Hope Ranch exit off of 101. Head towards the beach into Hope Ranch on Las Palmas Dr. Stay on Las Palmas for about 2 miles. Turn Right on Las Olas dr.

or If you are coming in on Cliff Drive, proceed through the Hope Ranch 'gate'. Cliff Dr. turns into Marina Dr. It will veer right turning into Roble Dr. Turn left on Las Olas dr.

If you have any questions you can reach Tom at 805-689-3266
Car pooling is recommended.

HOPE to see you there!



Prime Timer's Spring Prom Review, "A Little Night Music" - Review by Claude R., President

"I wanted to thank you and the other Prom organizers for a truly fun event! Your Gold Notes and flowers turned a paltry golf shop into a magical Gay Cruise Ship", this is a quote from a thank you card received from Loretta R.

Yes, the Prime Timers Central Coast (PTCC) Annual Spring (aka Senior) Prom was indeed a smashing success. The Sixty attendees, including some gay-challenged friends, not only enjoyed a delicious meal but also filled the dance floor until closing time. Ray R., our wonderful DJ, did a splendid job. The flower arrangements from Kadeiloscope (Michael & David), were masterpieces, so much so that one of the waitresses volunteered to care for one of them.

The Prom is open to the whole GLBT Community and is one of the few venues left for us to enjoy being together. Among the attendees were Brian M., President of Great Outdoors, Gary M., President of GLBA, David S., ED for PPF, Janet S., ED for the Red Cross and Loretta R., who ran for City Council in the last elections.

SAVE THIS DATE: Saturday April 21, 2007...
next year's Prom!





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



Join Great Outdoors Santa Barbara/Ventura County 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. 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.

Hikes & Walks. There is an 18-mile plateau rim of Bryce Canyon with overlooks that offer stunning geological panoramas - Fairyland, Sunrise, Sunset, Inspiration, Bryce, Fairview, Rainbow and Yovimpa Points, as well as Natural Bridge, Swamp, Agua and Ponderosa Canyons. If you like, stop by the General Store or the check out the Visitor Center's exhibits. Take advantage of the shuttle service within the park. Groups or individuals may also want to explore nearby Kodachrome Basin State Park, The Escalante Grand Staircase National Monument, and Anasazi State Park. We'll also enjoy Full Moon walks and stargazing at night.

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.

Proposed Itinerary:

Wednesday: Arrive, check-in, setup camp, meet your fellow campers and enjoy an early evening campfire.

Thursday: Morning hike into Bryce Canyon with lunch back at the top at the Lodge, and your afternoon open to explore more of Bryce. Group campfire in the evening. Star gazing.

Friday will be our day trip to Zion. Plan a sack lunch to take with you, and remember to bring water and trail snacks. When we return, relax around our group campfire. Full Moon walk at night.

Saturday will be a free day to revisit or explore parts of Bryce that you have not seen, possibly drive the rim, or maybe enjoy a longer hike. Games and tea will be in the early afternoon around 2-3pm. We'll gather for an early group potluck dinner between 5-6pm, then relax with stories around the campfire.

Sunday, prepare for the trip home, or choose to stay and explore more and head home on Monday.

We are limited to 10 vehicles, carpooling is highly encouraged. We are restricted to vehicles under 20 feet in length. 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 4. Complete trip notes and registration at www.greatoutdoors.org/sb

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





California Great Outdoors Inc. Presents
**Big Bear 4th of July
 Summer Jamboree 2006**
 July 1-5, 2006



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

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 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 _____

Great Outdoors Wilderness Experience Phase II Results - Danny Sternstein

We really lucked out at Phase II. Between two storms, we were able to squeeze out two beautiful days to complete our program. The recent storms left Circle X Ranch green with flowers blooming everywhere. Along the route of the disaster hike were many waterfalls to view. At the end of the program, we walked away with 10 new trip leaders.

The following is a list of those people who received full trip leader certification:

Santa Barbara / Ventura County: Chris Fava, Joe Domingos

Orange County / Long Beach: Jay Crowley, John Ruedisueli, Bryan Autz

Los Angeles: Juan Serrano, Jaime Cyr, Peter Panec, Torin Caffrey, Menard Jaramillo

Thanks to our devoted and hard-working instructors: Mario Voce, Kendall Rabun, Wayne Winstead, and Frederick Brown for their time and expertise that made this year's program such a success.



Camping Trip Registration Forms

Please check box(es), fill out form, and send to address.

Paradise Campground, May 19-21

Provide Transportation # People? _____

Member Non-Member

\$30 \$35

*plus a bundle of firewood

Bryce Canyon Nat. Park, June 7-11

Provide Transportation # People? _____

Member Non-Member

\$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**

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 _____

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
805-965-7464
Pentharen@whoami.com

Newsletter Editor
Chris Fava
805-509-8240
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

Outreach Coordinator
Vacant

Morro Bay Trip Review - by Joe Domingos

The weekend of April 21-23, our chapter took a trip to Morro Bay State Park in San Luis Obispo county. Honestly this was my first time staying at the state park. I have stayed several times at Montana De Oro State Park, across the estuary, and I must say that I was pleasantly surprised and pleased. While Montana has a charm and beauty all it's own, it's a bit more primitive than some members are accustomed to. The state park at Morro Bay is the flip side of that coin, being a bit more 'civilized'! The freshly renovated campgrounds were very nice, with clean modern restrooms and plenty of campsites. With the close proximity to the city itself, the recreation options were unlimited!

Friday afternoon was busy with campers arriving, getting set up and settled in for the weekend. There was definitely plenty of good conversation and activity around the campfire that night!

Saturday had lots of hustle and bustle, with several members (not staying the weekend) coming up just for the day, not only to enjoy our evening potluck, but also to enjoy the beauty and recreation of Morro Bay. The activities of the day included some major window shopping and lunching in Morro Bay itself, a breathtaking views hike to Bishops Peak, a mellow hike along the bluffs of Montana De Oro State Park to explore the tide pools, and even some unbeatable napping in the warm afternoon sun (that was MY activity! hehe) The evening potluck was one that I doubt will be forgotten soon, with 16 people enjoying a myriad of delicious foods, wine, and darn good conversation and socializing too! I know that I made several new friends over the dinner table that evening, and I hope I'm not the only person who can say that... And who can forget the group being serenaded with many campfire and folk songs by our entertainment for the evening, our good friend Cherrie and her Autoharp?

Sunday was its usual day of bustle, packing up and winding down of the trip, which culminated in a fun and delicious lunch with my fellow campers at the nearby Marina's Bistro. A guy can never fault a good meal, with good friends, and what a way to end a GOOD weekend! Hope to see you all on the next trip!

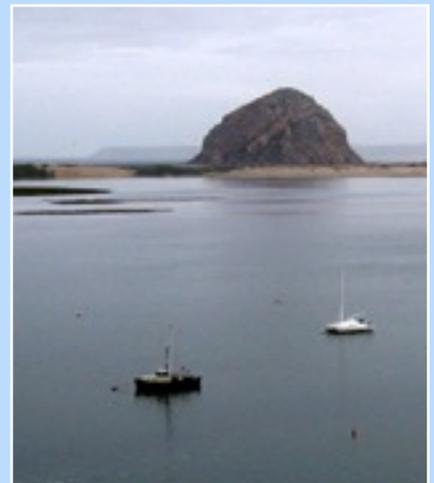


Photo Collage from Big Sycamore Canyon

March 23-26, 2006



May 2006

Next Pizza Social:
15 E. Cabrillo Blvd., Santa Barbara, CA
Wednesday, May 10 @ 6:45 pm

Stamp

Place Label Here