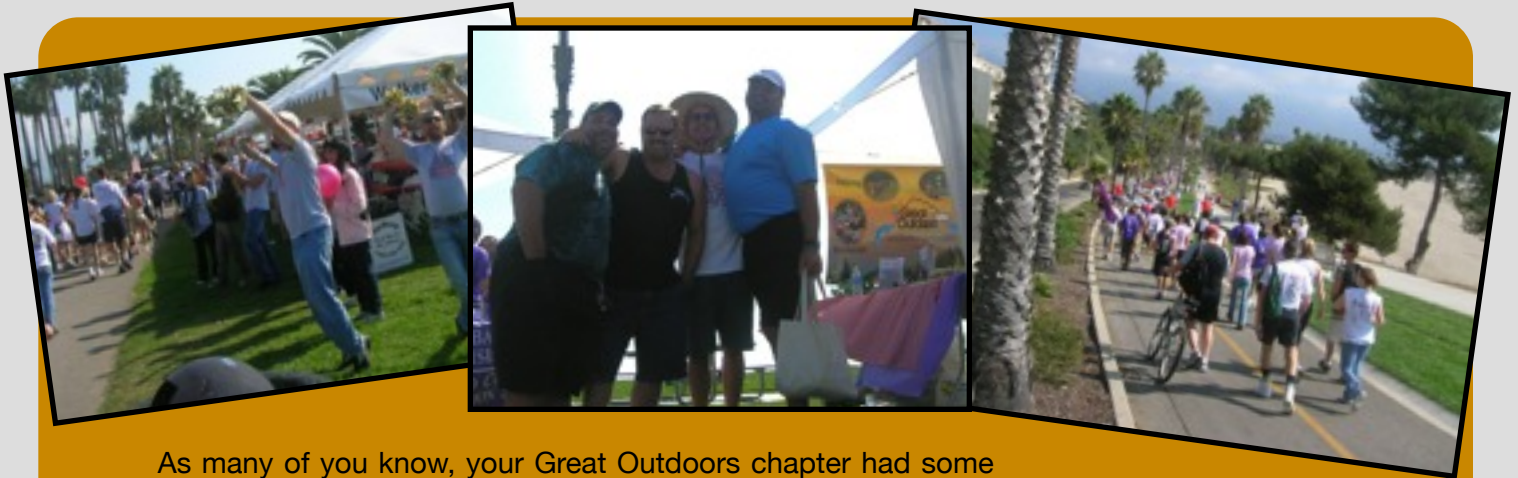




A Gay and Lesbian Outdoor Recreation Group
November 2006 Newsletter

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As many of you know, your Great Outdoors chapter had some members who volunteered to walk in **Pacific Pride Foundation's annual Heart and Sole AIDS Walk** fundraiser. Charitable participation of this magnitude was a first for us. Honestly there was some concern as the walk approached... How many folks would actually walk? How many members would donate, or really drum up pledges? But as usual our members came through and not only did we have a good show of membership, both in walkers and cheerleaders (those of us who weren't up to the walk), but we made a good contribution to the charity too, raising over \$2700!

I had to count myself among the 'cheerleaders' who didn't walk this year, but I still really enjoyed the event, and can really say that I was moved by the turnout of walkers, and by the general good will that could be felt all around at the event. One can truly see that this is an event in which anyone can participate - young, old, walking, running, or in some cases even rolling (in a wheelchair!) the 10k route. Or you can be a silent participant through donations.

I was so proud to see you GO folks come across that finish line!! It truly shows that we're an organization that's not just all about having fun, but about giving back too, so congratulations to all of you walkers, and lets see what we can do next year! - Joe Domingos

Monthly Pizza Social - Wednesday, November 8, 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!



Idyllic views of Lake Morena

Thanksgiving at Lake Morena, San Diego County November 23-25, 2006

Hosted by the OCLB Chapter, Great Outdoors be going to Lake Morena County Park (SD), which is 46 miles east of San Diego on interstate 8. The Park is located on the southern shore of Lake Morena at 3,200 feet in elevation, the campsites are in an oak grove. The park is a landscape of chaparral, oak woodlands and grasslands.

The Park is just south of Cleveland National forest, the Pacific Coast trail runs directly through the park. Fishing in the lake includes large mouth bass and lake trout. The lake holds records for the size of the bass and trout. At this time the water of the lake is low, however boat rentals are still available and of this printing fishing is very good. There are 30 miles of hiking trails, and San Diego is just 45 min. to the west if a day trip is required.

We have spaces, 76, 77, 78, 84 and 86. Tenter's and RVer's will be sharing the spaces. We will begin arriving on Thursday, (2pm or later), later arrivals on Friday or Saturday. Wine and cheese on Saturday afternoon and serve a full dinner on Saturday night, Friday night will be potluck, bring and prepare your own food for all other meals.

Thursday: Arrive after 2pm, setup camp and check out the area, maybe a short hike.

Friday: Arrivals, setup, day hikes or fishing other activities. Potluck dinner about 6-7pm

Saturday: Hiking, fishing or a day trip in the area. Wine, cheese and refreshments (about 2-3pm), dinner at 6pm

Sunday: Rise and make plans, maybe a morning hike, break camp, travel home.

What to bring: Camping gear as needed, sun block, your personal food requirements, a beverage for the Sat. night dinner, Proper clothing, a hat, hiking boots/shoes and comfortable camp cloths. Two bundles of firewood, three bundles if you are arriving on Thursday.

The weather: The average day time weather is 60's and 70's and nighttime is in the high 40's to 50's. This is an average for November. Rain is always a threat at this time of year, so be prepared, bring rain gear.

Directions: From the LA or OC area take I-405 south to I-5 to I-805 or take the I-5 south to I-805. Take Interstate 8 **East** 46 miles to Buckman Springs Road, go 7 miles to Oak D then west 2 miles to Lake Morena Drive, straight to the park entrance. **From the inland empire,** take I-215 south to I-15 to I-8 **east** to Buckman Springs Road, go 7 miles to Oak D then west 2 miles to Lake Morena Drive, straight to the park entrance. **Note:** the park is south of interstate 8 near the town of Campo, CA which is a stones throw from Mexico.

Trip Leader: Michael Roth
@ 5 6 2 . 5 9 7 . 1 5 3 7 o r
mlroth@mymrothcalif.com

Great Outdoors Christmas Party - Friday, Dec 8, 2006



GO SB/VC's Annual Holiday Party! The party will be on Friday, December 8th. Get together with your friends from Great Outdoors and celebrate the Holidays. We will gather at 7:00 pm and socialize for an hour. Dinner will start serving at 8:00 pm. Bring a dish to share for four people. GO will provide the plates, napkins, cups and eating utensils.

Holiday Food Drive. Like last year, bring your canned food goods which the Great Outdoors will donate to the local Pacific Pride Foundation Food Pantry.

White Elephant Gift Exchange: For fun, bring a wrapped unusual or gag gift, valued under \$10 for our White Elephant Gift Exchange. This annual GO tradition is always a riot!"

Jon and Claude's - 621 Island View Dr, SB. Exit 101 at Carrillo St and drive toward the ocean. Turn Right At Island View Dr. and look for 621 Island View Dr.

Victorian Christmas Home Tour of Camarillo & Oxnard - Sunday, Dec 10, 2006

Join your hosts Jean-Guy Dube & Paul Williams as we tour some of the historic Victorian Homes of Camarillo and Oxnard. To begin at 12 noon, we will be given a guided tour of the Camarillo Ranch - including this magnificent Victorian mansion, its gardens and outbuildings.

Bring a sack lunch and beverages, as we'll picnic on the grounds after our tour concludes. GO will provide light treats and desserts. We'll then continue our journey to Oxnard's Heritage Square, in historic downtown Oxnard.

Heritage Square in Oxnard is a unique collection of 15 Victorian homes and buildings, that will be decorated for the holidays. With costumed docents, carolers, and vintage displays of Christmas, you won't want to miss! This year's theme is "A Victorian Christmas by the Sea."

The Day Trip fee, which includes your admission into both the Camarillo Ranch and Heritage Square is \$15 a person.

If you are interested in carpooling, we will be meeting at Vons on the corner of Hollister Avenue and Turnpike Road at 11am to give us time to be at the Camarillo Ranch for our 12 noon tour. We'll park close to Sav-On. Look for the Great Outdoors Camping Banner on Jean-Guy & Paul's Car.

Hosts: Please RSVP for you and/or a guest to Jean-Guy Dube & Paul Williams jgdube@hometamil.com (805) 570-1929.



TRIP REVIEW - SAN CLEMENTE ALL-CHAPTER JAMBOREE by TOM OGIER

I just got back from the All Chapter Conference at San Clemente State Beach. And, as your Corporate Rep, I have been asked to give a review of the weekend campout. OC/LB hosted this year's Conference, and they did a fine job of it. This year's theme was "Oktoberfest." We got down there on Friday evening and were feted with wine and cheese – and sausage.

After Friday night, with the sky so clear that those who were awake at 3 in the morning witnessed a rather awesome meteor shower, we were awakened by the clangs and smells of a restaurant-quality catered breakfast, created by Mike, the resident chef of the OC/LB chapter. After breakfast, we broke into the main meetings for the weekend: the nominating and electing of corporate officers and then the planning of events for the next year.

As you may already know, our own chapter's glorious president for the last 4 years, Brian Miller, was elected for the position of Corporate Chairman, in charge of overseeing the nonprofit educational organization, coordinating events for all the chapters and the greater outreach activities to promote and extend the educational mission to the Great Outdoors members.

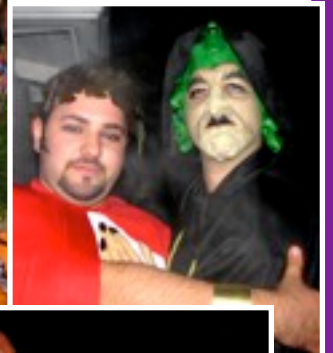
You may think that Santa Barbara is isolated from the happenings of the real world, but one of our main charges at the meeting was to defend our turf from the invasion of the other chapters: We defended against attempts to plan campouts in our locale. You can see that our local resources are seen by all the chapters as extremely desirable. Look for a list of next year's camping activities on the last page. And plan to join us on a campout or two – or three or ... who knows? Get Hooked!

I should mention that the party continued on, Saturday, with hikes, antique shopping, and an "unofficial" trip to San Onofre State Beach. Later that evening we had our "official" Oktoberfest dinner. Sunday morning we had our own seafood brunch on the San Clemente Pier.

But we missed seeing more of you! Give us a chance and come out to some of the events, parties and campouts we are scheduling for 2007. We look forward to seeing you all there!



Halloween Haunts at Brad and Tom's Saturday, October 28th, 2006



Trip Review - Bart and Tony's Ranch by Tom Ogier

HOME, HOME ON A RANCH

"Oh give me a home in the wilds of Paso Robles! A land where the elk do roam. With 800 acres and a ballroom to match, where Bart and Tony are kings! Home, home on a ranch.... "

The PrimeTimers hosted a delightful, food-fun-and-frolic-filled weekend at Bart and Tony's ranch in the hills above Paso Robles. The place was full! But we could have fit more. They have an amazing amount of both beds and hospitality. It was a great weekend.

Jon and Claude put together a great party, as many of you know. With help from Dennis and everyone else who attended, there seemed to be an endless supply of tricks and treats hidden away in people's luggage, brought out at just the right moment. From Mai-Tais to masks, delicacies to drag, movies to music, hot-wings to hot tubs, new friends to fabulous times: you had to be there to even begin to get a flavor of it all!

On Saturday, we went on a couple of hikes all over the property. We got to poke about the old homestead and cabin, where it is believed that the original owner lived with his boy..., excuse me, these were cow-pokes, so "manfriend." We heard about the attempt to reintroduce wild elk to the area, and saw evidence of it in their territorial mating ritual of ripping-away at trees. (It makes bar etiquette look ... perhaps friendly.) We learned about the differences between elk, deer and pig droppings - keeping the educational theme of the Great Outdoors alive. We were witness to the relics of history and the wilds on nature.

And the food just kept coming, catered to a tee! The party went on until late in the night Saturday. I would tell you more, but I had to leave early. So you will just have to hunt up someone else who was there and ask them. There are stories yet to tell, I hear...!

It was truly one of the best collaborations that I have been to between Prime Timers and the Great Outdoors. A special thanks is due to Jon and Claude as well as to Bart and Tony for putting together the fabulous weekend. Although there were no campfire sing-alongs this time, we should end that song above with, "and many more!"



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** _____

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

Thanksgiving at Lake Morena, Nov 23-25 Member (tent) Non-Member
 Provide Transportation # People? _____ \$30 \$35

RV's (dry) Member Additional Person in RV
 \$35 \$15 each

RV's (dry) Non-Member Day Visitor (with meal)
 \$40 \$15

Send completed reg. and trip fee (check payable to Great Outdoors) to:
Great Outdoors OC/LB, 4508 E. LaVante, Long Beach, CA 90815-2749

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 _____

Great Outdoors SB/VC 2007 Camping Calendar

From the desk of Chris Fava - Our trip planning meeting on October 4th, at Mandarin Palace, was an amazing success! We tried our best to shoehorn 15 members into a small eating nook in the restaurant (it didn't work). Thanks to all of you who came out to give input and signed up to lead trips for us. This year, at least four of our trips are brand new ones that we've never done before, to keep things fresh and interesting. Others are much-loved favorites. Without further adieu, I am very pleased to announce Great Outdoors Santa Barbara/Ventura County's 2007 camping trip calendar!

February 16-19, Valley of Fire, Trip Leader Brian Miller

March 16-18, Jalama Beach, Trip Leaders Owen McKimm and Joe Domingos

April 27-29, San Simeon/Private Hearst Castle Tours, Trip Leader Brian Miller

May (date to be determined), Refugio Beach, Trip Leader Jack Funk

June 14-17, Big Basin Redwoods, Trip Leader Chris Fava

July 13-15, Santa Rosa Island, Trip Leader Chris Fava

August 16-20, Eastern Sierras, co-lead with LA, Trip Leader Tom Ogier

September 21-23, Pismo Beach, Trip Leaders Jean-Guy and Paul

October 19-21, All-Chapter Conference hosted by Palm Springs

November 9-11, Lake Piru, Trip Leader David Selberg

*dates subject to change



Great Outdoors SB/VC

PO Box 21051

Santa Barbara, CA 93121



Next Pizza Social - Rusty's Pizzeria

Wednesday, November 8th, 6:45p.m.

15 E. Cabrillo Blvd. Santa Barbara

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