

# BASECAMP NEWS

camp • hike • cycle • kayak • backpack • rollerblade • river raft

December 2007



*The Great Outdoors is a Gay & Lesbian Recreational Club*

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*Great Outdoors Members & Friends, Please help us make a difference and join Team Great Outdoors! It's a great time of year to sign up for an event that will help others. [www.teamgreatoutdoors.org](http://www.teamgreatoutdoors.org)*

Thanks to Owen McKimm for the newsletter name: "BASECAMP NEWS"

## MAKE 2008 A SUCCESSFUL YEAR FOR THE GREAT OUTDOORS!



**T**he Great Outdoors Officers finalized all the great trips for 2008 at the Conference in Palm Springs.

A lot of thought and hard work goes into planning the events for the year. Now it's up to ALL YOU MEMBERS to make each of these trips a success. The success of each trip depends on YOUR participation! So make 2008 the year to get off the couch and come out and get involved with the Great Outdoors Santa Barbara/Ventura Chapter, as well as the other Chapters. It's only fun with you there!

Our Chapter has over 100 members now. It would sure would be nice to see the support and attendance of all our members. Come on out guys and gals and makes some new friends or renew some old ones.

Great Outdoors offers a lot to you, so please come out to the monthly meetings, day hikes and the great camping trips planned!

Great Outdoors is operated by volunteers who put a lot of effort into the camping trips, day hikes, potlucks, website and newsletter for you all to enjoy. It does not happen by magic. So please show yoru support! Make 2008 a great year for the Great Outdoors...just do it!

Registration Forms will be available in the January Newsletter and online.

### JANUARY

- 8-13 Death Valley
- 18-20 Anza-Borrego
- 21-28 Quartzite
- 25-28 Pt. Mugu

### FEBRUARY

- 8-10 Calico
- 15-17 San Onofre
- 22-24 Big Bear
- 22-24 Jalama Beach

### MARCH

- 7-9 Salton Sea
- 14-16 Mt. Laguna
- 28-30 Dennison Park
- 28-30 Hurley Creek

### APRIL

- 4-6 Mojave National Preserve
- 12-13 Outdoor Experience, Phase I
- 18-20 Joshua Tree
- 25-27 Outdoor Experience

### MAY

- 2-4 Buckhorn ("Camping 101")
- 9-11 Carrizo Plain
- 16-18 Mt. Paloma
- 25 Descanso Garden Brunch
- 30-6/1 Wheeler Gorge

### JUNE

- 1-7 AIDS LifeCycle 7
- 7-8 ALC End of Ride Celebration
- 13-15 Carlsbad State Beach
- 20-22 Serrano/Big Bear
- 27-29 River Raft Trip

### JULY

- 18-20 San Simeon

### AUGUST

- 7-11 Agnew Meadows
- 15-18 Santa Cruz Island
- 22-24 Mt. Laguna
- 26-9/1 Burning Man

### SEPTEMBER

- 17-21 Grand Canyon
- 24-28 Sedona

### OCTOBER

- 17-19 Conference

### NOVEMBER

- 6-9 Moabi/Needles, Colorado River
- 27-30 Paso Robles Wine Tour

**GET READY FOR A GREAT YEAR!**



# President's Message

with Sean Dooner

It has been exactly one year, this month since Brian Miller happily handed me the reigns of President for the Great Outdoors Santa Barbara/Ventura chapter and nothing has been quite the same

since. What an amazing year 2007 was for our chapter!

Our membership is at an all time high and so is member involvement. There is a level of excitement and anticipation regarding our chapters events throughout our community and we have remarkable support FROM our community, be it Pacific Pride Foundation, Primetimers, BearsVentura or the Gathercole/Raffin Foundation.

Our trip leaders have thought outside the box and have made several of the trips this year "above & beyond" the even normally over the top Great Outdoors camping adventure. Each trip is always a unique and special experience and I thank each of the trip leaders this year for going that extra mile and honestly the sold out trips speak for themselves. Those that have opened up their homes for potlucks or social events, or have volunteered throughout the year at Prides, Aidswalk, dayhikes, etc., warm hugs and a big thank you to you all.

This year we have welcomed new members as well as said goodbye to others and the same holds true for our Core Group. I thank those who have served in the past and my heartfelt

thanks to my current Board. You are an amazing, diverse group of men, and it is my honor and pleasure to serve with you month after month and now, year after year! It is because of you, your dedication and hard work that this chapter is as successful as it is. Cheers and way to go Gentlemen!

2008 is just around the corner. This is YOUR Great Outdoors. We now have over 100 members for the first time in our chapters history! However, we see the same 15 to 20 wonderful people at most events. I want to know what WE can do to get the other 80 of YOU involved. We want to see your happy, smiling faces at the events! From camping, ,bicycling, kayaking, day hikes. social and special events! What more can we do to get YOU to come out and get into YOUR Great Outdoors?

Suggestion and thoughts can be e mail to me at: [mrdooner@cox.net](mailto:mrdooner@cox.net)

Have a blessed Holiday Season and a great 2008!

*Sean Dooner*  
President



Come out and join us for the  
**Monthly Meeting & Social**

on

**Wednesday**

**December 12<sup>th</sup>**

**7:00<sup>PM</sup>**

**at Rusty's Pizza**

**15 E. Cabrillo Blvd.  
Santa Barbara**



Join us for our Monthly Social Meeting (on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of every month). We'll meet at Rusty's Pizza across from Stearn's Wharf, near the lower end of State Street. We meet in the back banquet room. We order pizza at 7p.m., \$5 bucks a person if you want to eat... and then the meeting begins.

After the formal meeting we'll move next door to El Torito for some socializing with our Great Outdoor friends.

The monthly social meetings are open to anyone interested in helping to make our chapter a success.

We'd love to see you at a meeting so, come join the fun and BRING YOUR FRIENDS!





# Annual Conference Review 2007

with Tom Ogier

It seems like months ago but it was just October that a dozen of us from the Santa Barbara/Ventura Chapter attended the Annual Conference in Palm Springs. For me, the drive out there was a trip back in time.

I recalled sitting on the hump of my dad's '55 Plymouth Panel Wagon, having to turn the wiper-knob on and off each time to clear the rain, as we dipped through storm drains doubling as cross-streets, then up through orchards and vineyards. But, enough of that! This time, from Santa Barbara it was just a quick 3 ¼ hour trip through vast suburban fields – or 8 hours, depending on when you left.

The Conference was quite good. We were welcomed in Cathedral City on Friday by well-organized crews from the Palm Springs Chapter and encouraged to cool off in the pool, nibble the goodies and browse the brochures on nightlife in one of the gay vacation capitals of the world. More than a few of us took advantage of all those opportunities – never to be outdone by anyone but our fearless president Sean and his 2AM convenience-run to Wal-Mart to replace a mysteriously burst air-mattress.

Saturday featured the All-Chapter meetings, coordinating trips for the next year and an amazing all-day excursion below sea level to the active volcanic areas around the Salton Sea. In corporate news, we were all happy that Brian Miller is continuing as our Corporate Chairperson. And, those of you who remember Bobby Hall – who is now part of the new San Diego Chapter – will appreciate his stepping-up to act as Corporate Secretary. Kyle Richardson and Chris Fava did a great presentation on the Aids Lifecycle and our very own Team Great Outdoors! We have eleven members signed up now and would love to a lot more!!

The highlight of the weekend was the dinner party on Saturday night, featuring a reprise of Glenda the Good Witch (Brian). We were all transported by a hired van to a tropical-like pool garden to enjoy food, fun and even an exotic dancer! But, the best thing about the evening was the awards ceremony. In case you haven't heard the news, this year's Volunteer of the Year Award went to our very own Chris Fava (VP of Outings). CONGRATULATIONS, CHRIS! We are all very proud of you.

The trip back Sunday was its own adventure. That was the day the winds kicked-up all the fires across Southern California. It was a great weekend, enjoyed by all. Next summer the LA Chapter will host the Annual Conference. So, consider joining us then for more adventures with the Great Outdoors. And be sure to sign up for trips in 2008. It's only fun with you there!





# AIDS/LifeCycle 7 REGISTRATION FORM

The 2008 AIDS/LifeCycle: June 1 - 7, 2008

Attention: Kerry Castillo  
TEAM GREAT OUTDOORS  
20.00 OFF

1. I am registering as a:

- Cyclist
  - Roadie (Roadies provide volunteer support during the week of AIDS/LifeCycle.)
- All AIDS/LifeCycle participants must be at least 18 years of age at the time of the event.

Be a Rider or a Roadie!

For ALC office use only.

2. What is your primary reason for choosing to participate in AIDS/LifeCycle? (choose one)

- Support of the L.A. Gay & Lesbian Center
- Challenge
- Other
- Personally affected by HIV/AIDS
- HIV/AIDS Funding

3. Name: First  M.  Last

Male  Female  Transgender

Date of Birth: Month / Day / Year  /  /

Professional Title

Mailing Address:

City  State  Zip

Home Phone  Business Phone  Cell Phone

E-mail Address  Employer

Emergency Contact: Name  Phone  Relationship

4.  YES! Please contact me about training rides in my area.

5. I will pay my registration fee of \$75 by:  Credit Card

- VISA
- MC
- AMEX
- DISCOVER

Exp. Date

month year

Signature:

Check

Please make checks payable to **AIDS/LifeCycle** and mail with this form to: AIDS/LifeCycle  
1125 N. McCadden Pl., Ste. 202  
Los Angeles, CA 90038

Your registration fee is non-refundable and non-transferable. Registration fees do not apply toward your fundraising minimum.

6. Registration Commitment

- I commit to raising a minimum of \$2,500 (Optional for Roadies).

7. T-Shirt Size  No T-Shirt

- XS
- S
- M
- L
- XL
- XXL

8. Jersey Size

- XS
- S
- M
- L
- XL
- XXL

9. Meal Preference

- I will be eating only vegetarian meals during the event.
- I will be eating only non-vegetarian meals during the event.

10. I heard about AIDS/LifeCycle through:

- Web Site
- E-mail
- Another Participant
- Community Event
- Counter Cards
- I am a Past Participant
- Print Advertisement
- Word of Mouth
- Beach Trash Receptacles
- Movie Theater Ads
- Direct Mail
- Other:
- Radio

11. Liability Waiver\*

Please sign and date the attached liability form.

**\*(your registration form cannot be processed without a completed liability waiver).**

- Please check here if you do not wish to receive correspondence from the L.A. Gay & Lesbian Center or AIDS/LifeCycle for any purpose other than this event.



AIDS/LifeCycle™ is the official cycling event in support of the San Francisco AIDS Foundation and the HIV/AIDS services of the L.A. Gay & Lesbian Center



You don't have to be a member of the Great Outdoors to join the Team!

If you are all ready signed up for ALC you can join Team Great Outdoors on the ALC web page!



AIDS/LifeCycle  
1125 N. McCadden Pl.  
Ste. 202  
Los Angeles, CA 90038  
Phone: 323-993-7483  
Fax: 323-308-4000

www.aidslifecycle.org



# Great Outdoors Annual Holiday Potluck

Saturday, December 15<sup>th</sup>

5PM COCKTAILS

6PM DINNER

at

621 ISLAND VIEW DRIVE

SANTA BARBARA

PLEASE BRING APPETIZERS,  
YUMMY SIDE DISHES AND  
SCRUMPTIOUS DESSERTS!

(THE ENTREES WILL BE PROVIDED)

AND B.Y.O.B.

PLEASE RSVP FOR THIS  
EVENT DENNIS BANNING  
(805)965-0356

### Potluck Etiquette!

Sometimes we need to be reminded...

Please bring food fully prepared, READY TO SERVE!

If you spill something let your host know immediately.

Use a coaster and pick up your trash.

Above all else, be polite, respectful and Thank your host!

*"Let Every Day Be Christmas"  
Christmas is forever, not for just one day,  
for loving, sharing, giving, are not to put  
away like bells and lights and tinsel, in  
some box upon a shelf. The good you do  
for others is good you do yourself...*

*~Norman Wesley Brooks, 1976*



### WHITE ELEPHANT HOLIDAY GIFT EXCHANGE RULES

Over the years I have seen the rules of this fun holiday tradition altered to the point that it has become confusing and pointless. So let's stick to the original rules, which are great fun.

1. The gift you bring must be something you were given or you bought but never really used. It must be in working condition. There is no limit on the original cost of the gift. Do not buy anything new. I was once at a party and someone brought a small color television set as a gift.

2. Each person bringing a gift selects a number. No donation = no gift.

3. The gifts are placed in a pile.

4. When the exchange begins, the person who has No. 1 selects a gift.

5. Each person thereafter has two options: they may select a gift from the gift pile or they may take someone else's gift. If they chose someone else's gift the person left without a gift selects a new gift but they do not have the option to select from another person. No one can be left with the gift they brought.

6. The process continues until there are no gifts left. At which point No. 1 has the option to select any of the gifts as No. 1 did not have that option in the beginning.

7. There is no limit to the number of times a gift can change hands. That's the fun of the game.

In a Holiday Gift Exchange you use the same rules but you buy a way cool, unisex gift under a certain dollar amount e.g. a silver candle snuffer from Tiffany's under for \$50.



# TRIP REVIEW

## LAKE PIRU RECREATION AREA

with Bill Lobb

Well boys and girls here is the Lake Piru review. One, two, three cocktails and more...the trip was a enjoyed by all. First, let me thank Chris Fava for the phone tree calling! Without Chris, it would have been just me and my RV. After everyone arrived and settled in Friday night, we enjoyed a game of Simpson's Clue. Mr. Chris Fava proved to be an excellent crime solver. But by the end of the night we all knew that it was Brian, in the sewer pipe, with the Mai Tai.

Saturday morning the cock crowed early at 1:45a.m. Our day started off with a group breakfast, of sausage, eggs and biscuits & gravy. After breakfast we headed out for a day hike at Vasquez Rocks Park.

I do feel confident at a trip leader, but a hike leader I am not. More time was spent finding the trailhead, then on the hike itself. We looked like Dorothy, Toto, the Scarecrow, the Tin Man and the cowardly Lion, all looking for the yellow brick road. (And I was the Scarecrow!) After our day hike we retired back to the campsite for "High Tea", which we all know that is the "gay code" for booze & food. Thank you to everyone for everything they brought for our high tea and potluck. We had so much food we could have fed double the number of people. What a feast we had. We spent the rest of the evening with a group movie, "I Now Pronounce You Chuck & Larry", shown on my movie screen on the side of my RV. A nice touch at camp!

Sunday morning we broke camp down. Some of our campers parted ways for other things they had planned for the day, a few of us hung around and to do lunch on the way home. We almost made it out of the camp ground with out a glitch, except for one flat tire. So in true gay style, we solved the problem....we called Triple A and waited by having a cocktail hour!

Overall the trip was great. New friends were made, old friendships were renewed, and we all had a good time. Stories were shared, new ones were created, and if you missed out then you'll just have to be there the next time, because what happens in Piru stays in Piru.



## GREAT OUTDOORS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

You can also REGISTER and RENEW your Membership ONLINE! [www.greatoutdoors.org/sb](http://www.greatoutdoors.org/sb)

Please fill out form and mail with check payable to:  
Great Outdoors - P.O. Box 21051 Santa Barbara, CA 93121  
(check one)

New Member    Renewal    Update Information

Member Type (check only one)

- |  |      |
|--|------|
| <input type="radio"/> 1 Year Regular                       | \$25 |
| <input type="radio"/> 2 Year Regular                       | \$45 |
| <input type="radio"/> 1 Year Household (2 Names/1 Address) | \$40 |
| <input type="radio"/> 1 Year Student                       | \$15 |
| <input type="radio"/> Newsletter Only                      | \$15 |

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_

STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

Newsletter Format (check only one): E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_ Snail Mail \_\_\_\_\_

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

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_



### OFFICERS

President - Sean Dooner  
Vice President - Chris Fava  
Membership Coordinator - Kyle Richards  
Newsletter Editor - David Driscoll  
Treasurer - Ted Huffmire  
Secretary & Corp. Board Rep. - Tom Ogier  
Webmaster - Don Bean  
Outreach Coordinator - William Calvo  
Day Hike Coordinator - Brian Miller  
Special Events Coordinator - Dennis Banning

# DAY HIKE

## Saturday, Dec. 29<sup>th</sup>



**K**eept the date Dacember 29th open for a wonderful DAY HIKE which will take place in the morning. Our Day Hike Cordinator, Brian has not confirmed the exact location yet but will notify members directly via e mail and a call list. It will also be posted on the web site at: [www.greatoutdoors.org/sb](http://www.greatoutdoors.org/sb)

**Happy Birthday to our Members who have a birthday in December!**



### GREAT OUTDOORS

Santa Barbara/Ventura Chapter  
P.O. Box 21051  
Santa Barbara, CA 93121



Member Address Label

Please  
join us  
at the next  
meeting on  
December  
12<sup>th</sup>

**HAPPY  
HOLIDAYS!**

