



A Gay and Lesbian Outdoor Recreation Group
February 2007 Newsletter

In this Issue...

Review: Officer Thank You Dinner.....page 1
 Monthly Pizza Social, February 14.....page 1
 Message from the President.....page 2
 Valley of Fire, February 15-18.....page 3
 Jalama State Beach, March 16-18.....page 4
 Hearst Castle/San Simeon, April 27-29.....page 5
 Trip Registration Form.....page 6
 Review - Wine Tasting @ Cellar 205.....page 7
 Ten Essentials.....page 8
 Chef Sean's Campfire Cookery.....page 9
 Other chapter's outings.....page 10

Officer Thank You Dinner

Great Outdoors treated its current and outgoing officers to a big Thank You dinner at The Palms in Carpinteria, where we grilled our own filet mignons and New York strip steaks. The homemade salad croutons were to die for! Dennis dressed to the nines (as always) and dazzled us with his California Santa look. Thank you to officers past, present, and future, for without your generous volunteering, Great Outdoors would not be the wonderful club it is today.



Starting from Left, going clockwise around the table: Joe, Sean, Jean-Guy, Paul, Brian, Chris, Ted, Tom, Will, Dennis, Don, and Owen.



Monthly Pizza Social - Wednesday, February 14, 2007 @ 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 7:00pm to order pizza, then socialize until the feasting and meeting start around 7:15pm. The meetings are open to anyone interested in helping to make our chapter a success. Come join the fun...

Message from the President

A BIG HUG! and thank you to everyone who attended our January Pizza Social, a fun time was had by all, and a very special welcome to all of our new members who joined Great Outdoors this past month. We are glad that you are here.

Congratulations to Owen and Dennis on their January Wine Tasting and Potluck. All who attended shared a unique and fun event. Way to go Gentlemen!

Your Great Outdoors SB/VC has several events scheduled for February, PLEASE mark your calendar:

Feb. 10th, Saturday. I am leading a day hike to our local Elwood Mesa Monarch Butterfly grove, on Hollister, just West of the Costco/Camino Real Mkt. Place. We will meet in the parking lot just off Hollister at 1pm., WEATHER PERMITTING... If it's raining, forgetaboutit... This is a very easy, 1.5 to 2 mile total walk/hike on a flat, mostly cleared trail. Make sure that you bring a bottle of water and a jacket (just in case...). Please feel free to bring a bagged lunch, or something easy to share (chips, cookies etc..) IF you like, but not required. Approx. 1.5 hours.

Feb. 14th, Wednesday, Valentines Day! Our monthly pizza social at Rustys, in S.B., by the pier. Bring your partner or come in hopes of finding one or just show up and spend a romantic evening with "Family" that love you... Just please, don't sit at home alone. General meeting starts at 7pm. As a group we order pizza (\$5.00 buy in...) and Great Outdoors will provide a special Valentines dessert...

Feb. 15th-18th, Valley of Fire State Park, Nevada. If you have not yet done so, and are planning on attending this trip, please register NOW!!! (if it's not to late). This trips locale is in one of the oldest, largest and most beautiful parks in Nevada. Please contact Brian Miller (805 407 9001) for any last minute questions...

Feb.24th, Saturday, 5 pm meet and greet, 6pm dinner. Jean-Guy and Paul's Construction worker themed Great Outdoors Potluck. 4593 Hollister Ave., between State and Turnpike. Please dress in your hottest construction worker gear, and bring an entree or side dish for 6-8. Please, no desserts as Jean-Guy's birthday

cake will be provided. Please contact Jean-Guy at 805 570-1929.

*** If you would like to host/organize something as simple as a movie night, at your home or at a local theater (a group of us got together last minute to see Dream-girls, way fun!), or a dinner out at a local restaurant, just let Owen know. EVERYTHING is more fun with more than one...

There you go, FOUR exciting, different and FUN things to plan on this month, so NO EXCUSES for sitting at home alone...



Community Unity

In order to offer Community unity, the following events are "out there" for your consideration. Also, any other suggestions would be greatly appreciated.

Feb. 4th, Sunday- Bears Ventura Superbowl Sunday Beer, BBQ and soda Bust at Paddys' on Main St. in Ventura. 4pm-8pm. \$7.00, members, \$9.00 non members for all the beer or soda and BBQ or Bears you can eat... No charge just to come by the bar and hang with a group of great guys. You do NOT need to be a Bear to attend. If you have never watched the Superbowl with a group of large, gay men and their admirers, I highly recommend it...

Feb. 16th, Friday. Love is a drag. Bears in dresses, need I say more? Paddys in Ventura, 9pm.

***Every Thursday, 7-9pm, UCSB Mens Support Group (MSG). On the UCSB campus at the Career and Counseling Services Bldg., Room #1099. Due to curtains and a bulletin board, sometimes the room looks dark, try the double doors, as we are there. This is an interesting and informative meeting open to all Gay, Bi and questioning men of all ages and their supporters. You are free to take part in the discussion or just sit back and listen. One of the reasons that I go each week is to let these "youngins" know that there is Gay life after 25...lol. Discussions, speakers, movie nights, quarterly pot lucks and some great times await. Come check it out...

Big HUGS, SEAN



REGISTER NOW!



1. Ancient Indian structures
2. Hikers make their way through sandstone canyons
3. Sitting around the fire
4. Indian petroglyphs are easily found all over Valley of Fire

Valley of Fire State Park February 15-18, 2007

Please join us for our second visit to the 'Valley of Fire'. We have reserved Groupsite #3, where we were camped last year. This is a truly spectacular group camping spot.

Located six miles from Lake Mead and 55 miles northeast of Las Vegas via Interstate 15 on exit 75, it is one of the oldest and largest state parks in Nevada, dedicated in 1935.

The Valley derives its name from red sandstone formations and the stark beauty of the Mojave Desert. Ancient trees and early man are represented throughout the park by areas of petrified wood and 3,000 year-old Indian petroglyphs. The area was once vast sand dunes during the age of the dinosaurs 150 million years ago, but through time, complex uplifting and faulting has occurred leaving dramatic and spectacular rock formations we see today.

We will be going on some incredible day hikes where we will see much of the area's unique terrain and historical significance. This is a four-day camping trip beginning Thursday, Feb. 15th thru Sunday, Feb 18th. You can get more information about the Valley of Fire by going online to <http://parks.nvgov/vf.htm>.

Schedule of events;

Thursday, Feb 15th: Arrive after 3 pm. We will be in Groupsite #3 Set up camp, visit the Visitor Center, go hiking on your own, or just relax!

Friday, Feb.16th: Breakfast, Visit Lake Mead and Hoover dam, where we'll have lunch, with lots more sightseeing.

Saturday, Feb 17th: Breakfast, schedule day hikes, relax. Traditional GO tea at 4pm, Valentine theme with my specialty 'Mai-Tai' touch. Potluck dinner 5 PM.

Sunday, Feb 18th:, pack up and start the trek home...stop off at Las Vegas??

RVs are welcome and will share the group site with tent campers. Parking is very limited and is highly recommended to car pool.

Cost is \$32 per person for members and \$48 for non-members.

There is an additional \$6 fee per car per day (\$24 total), for **every** car, which driver must pay for separately at the campground.

Please bring two bundles of wood

Directions; From Santa Barbara. US-101 S. take 134 east. Merge onto 210 continuing east towards San Bernardino. Take the I-15 North towards Barstow, continue towards Las Vegas.

Take NV-169E exit- Exit 75-toward Valley of Fire/Lake Mead. Slight right onto NV-169, enter the park. This is the west entrance, go another 1.5 miles turn right at the Beehives group site area. Go through a gate to group site #3.

Travel time is approximately 6.5 hrs. from S.B. and 4.5 hrs. from LA.

The group site will have shaded tables, grills, water and restrooms. A dump station and showers are available.

Days will be mild, but can get rather chilly at night so bring lots of warm clothes and bedding! (An excuse to snuggle?!)

Contact trip leader Brian Miller 805-407-9001 or muddbilt@gte.net

Jalama State Beach, March 16-18, 2007

Here's your chance to enjoy a hidden gem of the central coast! This beautiful beach, though remote in its location, has been a well-known and loved spot for locals many years, and now it's time for Great Outdoors to sample its beauty once again. For many folks it has been a family trip tradition since 'the kids were small,' for many local surfers it's at least a weekly if not DAILY destination, so come along and see just what scenic Jalama (pronounced HA-law-mah) is all about!

Activities:

Friday— Arrival day! Arrive late afternoon/early evening. Settle in, set up, dinner (your own) and some campfire conversation during which Saturday's activities will be discussed/decided on.

Saturday— Breakfast. Then there are a few options: Hike north or south along the beach. Ocean/surf fishing. (Equipment can be rented at the store!) Mountain biking on various trails (beautiful views) Relaxing in your beach chair, watching the surfers go by...hehe

Lunch will probably be eaten on the go, depending on the day activity opted for by the trip participant. A big recommendation (ask any local, it's HIGHLY recommended!) would be a world famous Jalama burger from the grill at the beach store! VERY yummy!

Dinner will be the traditional Great Outdoors potluck, with a special twist, we're celebrating St Patrick's Day! So in addition to your contributions to the potluck, Great Outdoors will be supplying the traditional St Patty's meal of corned beef and cabbage! So keep the special day in mind when planning your dish/contribution for sharing.

Sunday— Breakfast, break camp, and hit the road for home!

Weather:

For this time of year, the almanac shows the weather to be in the 70's during the day, with cool nights. There is a very low chance of rain. As with any trip, be prepared for rain or cold weather. Be aware also, Jalama is known for its sporadic winds, so be prepared, and stake your tents well!

What Do I Need To Bring?

Plan on bringing everything you would normally bring to a Great Outdoors car camp. Carpooling AND tent sharing is HIGHLY recommended, as space is limited. Bikes and other beach appropriate items are encouraged as well. Keep in mind RV space is VERY limited, so early registration is a MUST!

Amenities:

Coin-operated hot showers, running water bathrooms, and even a small store and grill for those forgotten necessities!

Directions from Santa Barbara:

Take Hwy 101 North to the Lompoc/Vandenberg/Hwy 1 exit. Turn left at top of off ramp and travel about 20 miles, watching for the Jalama Beach turnoff on the left. Turn left and follow the windy country road (watch the speed, guys!). The road ends at the park, you CAN'T miss it! Ask at the kiosk for the Great Outdoors group site.

Cost: \$35 for GO members, \$45 for non-members.

Questions? Contact your Trip Leaders:

Owen McKimm - 805-698-6124 or OwenMcKimm@Hotmail.com

Asst Trip Leader-Joe Domingos-
805-588-1142 or
Countryboyjoe1@gmail.com

REGISTER NOW!



You won't want to miss this!

REGISTER NOW!



1. Stunning Neptune Pool
2. Casa del Sol, 18-room guesthouse.
3. Casa Grande, once a gathering place for Hearst's guests
4. San Simeon Cove

Hearst Castle, San Simeon Camp, April 27-29, 2007

Great Outdoors is visiting the castle once again! After a long hiatus we will visit 'The Ranch,' the palatial retreat that W.R. Hearst built to entertain his guests and employees near the quaint village of San Simeon.

What can be said that hasn't been said before? You know the place, but alas, I have something '*special*' in store for you! We will be camping in the San Simeon Creek campground, only a few miles down the road from the entrance to the castle. We will be going on the special 'evening tour' where docents dress in period costumes and the entire castle is lit up with the original alabaster lamps that are scattered throughout the grounds - truly a sight to see!

But that isn't the '*special*' part! I've made special arrangements with some friends of mine who actually work up at the castle! We are planning a special 'picnic lunch & tea' that should be an experience you'll never forget or be able to do with any other group! Unfortunately I can't tell you where it will be until that weekend of the trip. So I hope you're up for some surprises!

If you don't know anything about Hearst Castle or want more information about the place you can visit their web site at www.hearstcastle.com Make your reservations with us early, as there is limited availability!

Friday, April 27th: after 12 PM. Arrive at the camp, sightsee, and set up camp. Dinner on your own. I also have tickets available to see the movie 'Building a Dream' in the IMAX theater at the visitors center.

Highly recommend you see this movie if this is your first time visiting here or if you want to know more about how the castle was built! (\$6 per ticket, good for any showing on Friday, runs every 45 min. final showing at 5:15 PM.)

Saturday, April 28th: Breakfast, on your own, pack a lunch and then to our 'special picnic lunch & tea' excursion, (tea supplies provided by the chapter). Back to camp for our annual potluck dinner, then to the castle for our evening tour at 7:50 PM.

Sunday, April 29th: Breakfast on your own, more nature hikes then pack up for home, with fond memories!

Directions: (From the South) North on 101 to San Luis Obispo. Take the Highway 1 exit to Hearst Castle. The park is 35 miles North of SLO and two miles north of Cambria. The entrance to the park is on the right.

R.V.s are welcome with a 35-foot maximum length. Coin operated showers and flush toilets are available. There is also a dump station and water fill-up for R.Vs.

Price as follows:

Members \$45 per person

Non-Members \$65 per person

(Price includes camping space, tea, and evening tour) If you want to see the movie 'Building a Dream' on Friday, please include an additional \$6 per ticket on your registration and how many tickets you are ordering. Please note that because of the special circumstances, this is a package deal. This trip includes camping and the castle tour. No refunds will be available if you cancel after April 12th.

See you at the Ranch!

Brian Contact trip leader Brian Miller 805-407-9001 or muddbilt@gte.net

Camping Trip Registration Forms - Send completed reg. and trip fee (check payable to Great Outdoors) to: Great Outdoors, PO Box 21051, Santa Barbara, CA 93121

Valley of Fire, Feb 15-18, 2007
Provide Transportation # People? _____

Member (tent) Non-Member
\$32 \$48

*plus two bundles of fire wood

*separate \$6 per day, per car parking fee at the park

Jalama State Beach, Mar 16-18, 2007
Provide Transportation # People? _____

Member (tent) Non-Member
\$35 \$45

*plus one bundle of fire wood

Hearst Castle, San Simeon, April 27-29, 2007
Provide Transportation # People? _____

Member (tent) Non-Member
\$45 \$65

*plus \$6 per ticket if you want to see IMAX "Building a Dream"

*plus one bundle of fire wood

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.

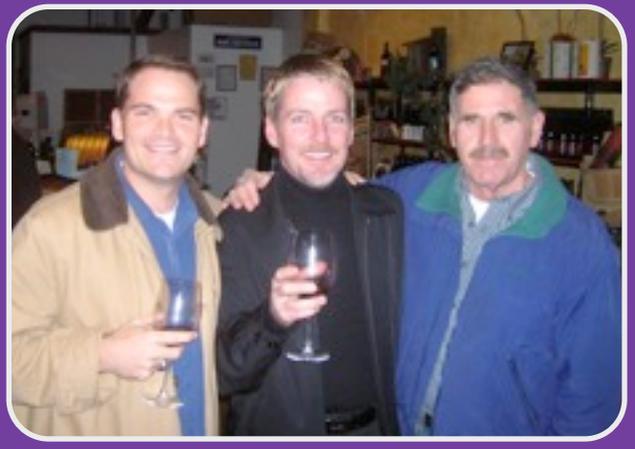
Waiver of Liability, Medical Release and Assignment

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 _____

Wine Tasting at Cellar 205

Great Outdoors held a wine tasting at Cellar 205 in Santa Barbara. Cellar 205 is across the street from the Santa Barbara winery. Christian Garvin, who is the nephew of Great Outdoors member Dennis Banning, gave us a tour of the winery and poured us a taste of several of his Oreana wines. Christian was tired of driving back and forth from the Santa Ynez valley and Santa Barbara, so he decided to grow his grapes in Santa Barbara. In order to be able to grow wine in the Santa Ynez valley and live on the premises requires an impressive estate indeed. His 2005 red table wine is available at Trader Joe's, and it has an unmistakable label: a yellow question mark. If the wine aisle confuses you, just reach for the bottle with the yellow question mark. Since wine making is a competitive business, wine makers are driven by what consumers prefer, and Americans have a very different taste than Europeans. Americans prefer their wines to contain some of the tastes of the barrel such as oak. Oreana wines, however, are made in barrels that have already been used by other wine-makers, resulting in less barrel taste. A perfectly sized crowd of attendees from the Great Outdoors brought a variety of delectable hors d'ouvres.



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** _____

THE 10 ESSENTIALS



1
Map



2
Compass



3
Flashlight



4
Sunglasses



5
Extra
Food/Water



6
Extra
Clothes



7
Emergency
Fuel



8
Waterproof
Matches



9
Pocket
Knife



10
Personal
First Aid Kit

As we start out a new year of camping and outdoor adventure, it's important to keep safety in mind. Ten items (or categories of items) have been determined to meet most critical survival needs in an emergency. This simple package of gear might mean the difference between comfort and misery in a crisis. Day walkers in completely familiar surroundings occasionally can do without a single one. Your error will be small should you carry all ten at any time you're on the trail.

1. Map of the area: Without a map and knowledge of how to use it, your adventure may turn into something less than enjoyable.
2. Compass: Used with knowhow, a compass makes that topographical map ten times as effective.
3. Flashlight: You may have to hike (or change that tire) on a moonless night.
4. Sunglasses: At high altitude, the sun's radiation is more intense and your eyes can burn more easily. You won't know it's happening until the damage has already been done
5. Extra Food & Water: This is in ADDITION to the amounts you intend on using. Plan on half again as much water as you think you will need on the outing.
6. Extra clothing: It gets cold out there at night. May include rain gear, wool shirt or sweater, head protection, mittens, extra socks, Mylar space blanket.
7. Emergency Fuel: Candles, fuel tabs or other long-burning fire starter is essential when trying to start a fire with damp kindling.
8. Waterproof Matches/windproof lighter: To start a fire. Keep them in a waterproof match holder.
9. Pocketknife: This is an essential tool! The Swiss Army knife is most popular.
10. Personal First Aid Kit: For medical emergencies.
11. Some say the 11th essential is toilet paper. Do you really want to use leaves?

CHEF SEAN'S CAMPFIRE COOKERY

February is here! Valentines Day is but a few weeks away. For those of you that have that "someone special"- Congratulations. I could not be happier for you. I also know that there are many of us out there who are alone and, dare I say, lonely. This need not be, as this group is filled with an amazing array of men, each of whom would love to get a call from another member with an invite to a home/camp side cooked meal. I offer this simple, yet elegant and even romantic dinner menu for Lovers and for Friends...

Valentine Strawberry Salad

European Blend Salad
Sliced Strawberries
Crumbled Blue Cheese
Walnuts
Raspberry Walnut Vinaigrette



Gently add sliced strawberries, blue cheese and walnuts to greens, and lightly toss with vinaigrette. ***For an extra "Gay it up", reserve the largest slices of strawberries and trim each to a heart shape. Add "hearts" to top of tossed salad as a garnish.

Orange Grilled Salmon w/ Tri-colored Peppers

Salmon fillet, skinless.
Orange juice
Frozen 3 colored bell peppers, sliced
Orange marmalade



First, mix 16 oz. bag of peppers and 1/2 cup of orange marmalade, and heat. In a roasting pan, place salmon and pour over approx. 1 cup of orange juice. Broil 4-6 inches from broiler or grill on a heavy duty piece of foil, approx. 10-12 minutes. Fish will poach in juice while cooking. Remove from heat, let sit 3 minutes, then smother with heated peppers and serve. *** If camping, FREEZE Salmon and peppers, put in ice chest and use within 24 hours.

Seans Secret Simple S'mores

Chocolate-covered graham cracker cookie squares
Large marshmallows

'Tis a secret no more... Gently brown marshmallows over campfire OR under an oven broiler. Place between two cookies and enjoy...

Shopping for, and cooking of this meal could not be easier, call a friend...

Happy Valentines Day and Happy February,
LOVE and HUGS!
Chef SEAN



Great Outdoors SB/VC
PO Box 21051
Santa Barbara, CA 93121

Stamp



Next Pizza Social - Rusty's Pizzeria
Wednesday, February 14th, 7:00p.m.
15 E. Cabrillo Blvd. Santa Barbara

Place Label Here

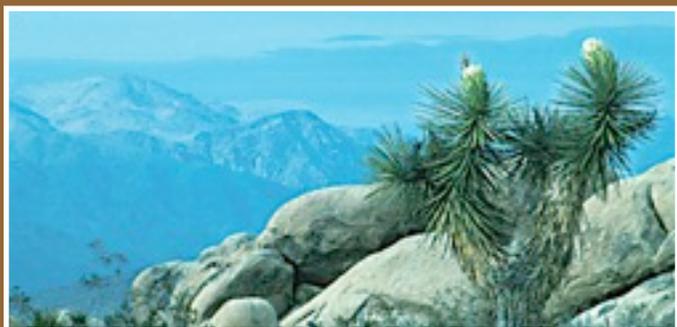
Besides all the awesome trips SB/VC hosts, our other GO chapters host events too. We spend a lot of time planning these trips on non-conflicting weekends, so you can maximize your adventure! Here is a quick look at the outings of the other chapters. Visit www.greatoutdoors.org for more info and registration.

Orange Cnty/Long Beach: Anza Borrego, Feb 2-4, 2007
Los Angeles: Big Bear Cabin Camp, February 9-11, 2007
Palm Springs: Laughlin, Nevada Day Trip, February 24, 2007
Los Angeles: Death Valley, March 15-18, 2007
Orange Cnty/Long Beach: Wheeler Gorge, March 23-25, 2007
Los Angeles: Joshua Tree, April 19-22, 2007



Big Bear Cabin

Joshua Tree



Scotty's Castle, Death Valley

