



A Gay and Lesbian Outdoor Recreation Group
January 2007 Newsletter

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2006 Great Outdoors SBVC Christmas Party



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

Message from the President

Hello, my name is Sean Dooner, and I am your new Great Outdoors Santa Barbara/Ventura chapter president.

First and foremost I would like to give a heartfelt thanks and BIG HUGS to Brian Miller for his years of dedication and service to this chapter, and congratulations on being named Great Outdoors Corporate Chairman. Brian's shoes will be hard to fill (do you remember Glenda's Halloween pumps?), but I promise to do my best.



Also a few other special mentions. Jean-Guy Dube has been a member and officer for YEARS and I want to thank you for your countless hours of dedication to G.O. If it wasn't for you, I would not be here. Big hugs to you. Then there is Joe Domingos. Thank you for all of your hard work and all the help that you unselfishly give whenever asked. You always go above and beyond. Big, warm hugs to you!

To the 2007 Great Outdoors SB/VC Core Group: Chris, Ted, Jean-Guy, Tom, Don, Owen and Dennis - Gentlemen, I thank you for stepping up to the plate and serving as an officer this year. I look forward to working with and getting to know each of you, and I am excited about our 2007 calendar. I do hope that this will be a memorable and rewarding experience for each of you.

To ALL of our members "at large", all that I ask is for you to get involved. Each month we have several social events from our Pizza Social Meeting (2nd Wednesday of the month, 6.45pm at Rustys' Pizza, S.B., near the pier), to our potlucks, social gatherings and camping trips. Please come out and join us, meet your new core group members as well as old friends. I think that you will be pleasantly surprised by the "new life" being brought to G.O. SB/VC.

Personally, I have two goals for our chapter this year. Both are quite simple, but each can have far-reaching results. Number one on my list is FUN!!! I want each person who takes part in a G.O. activity to have as much fun doing it as possible. Working together, forging new friendships hopefully will add to this goal of FUN!!!

Number two on my list is UNITY. I have a big goal of community outreach to ALL of our local gay groups and organizations out there: Pacific Pride, Gay S.B., Prime timers, BearsVentura, UCSBs' Q.S.U. and weekly Mens Support Group (MSG). I encourage members of these and other groups to join in on the fun and take part in Great Outdoors activities. We are here for you, providing a safe, accepting and fun social group

UNITY amongst these few gay organizations is a MUST. Personal feelings sometimes need to be set aside for the greater good of the whole. Unity is a must for us to move forward and it needs to start NOW! If we, as community leaders, can't get it together and just get along, how can we expect others to join in? We need to lead by example.

We are blessed to live in one of the most spectacular and beautiful areas on this planet. I urge you to join YOUR Great Outdoors in 2007. Meet new people and see the changes taking place, and, if you like what you experienced, please let others know. I would LOVE to see old friends return and new friends join.

Don't sit at home alone. Come out, get involved and feel the rewarding fun of UNITY and the love of COMMUNITY.

Happy 2007 to all, and GO G.O.!!!
Hugs and Love,
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!

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

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

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

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

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

*plus one bundle of fire wood

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 _____

Review - Christmas Victorian House Tour, by Jean-Guy Dube

Dressed in Victorian attire, hosts Jean-Guy Dube and Paul Williams took our group on a Christmas odyssey through time. We began by touring the historic Camarillo Ranch mansion, gardens and stables, where we were treated to how Christmas was celebrated in California over a century ago. Each room was lavishly decorated, with individual Christmas trees, clothes and antiques. Taking a break on our tour, we picnicked in the gardens, dining on sandwiches, fruits, and Victorian sweets, treats and candies. Our picnic tables were covered with linens, and we munched while enjoying classical music box tunes. After wrapping up our picnic, we continued our adventure to Oxnard. Here, we were treated to living history vignettes by docents dressed in period costumes as we toured several Victorian era homes in Heritage Square. Live performances by a choir, and a demonstration of turn-of-the-century music boxes were an added treat! All in all, it was an enduring adventure that we hope all enjoyed.



Pictured - Jean-Guy, Brian, Xavier, Paul, Rich, Juan & Ted



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** _____

CHEF SEAN'S CAMPFIRE COOKERY

Happy 2007 everyone!!! Two years ago, when I was G.O. "Special Events Coordinator" I would offer up some simple, EASY recipes that can be made either at home or campside with little effort. I do hope that you enjoy...

My mother would always make black eyed peas with ham hocks for good luck for the New Year; I share this recipe with you, with a dash of my Moms' love and I wish you nothing but happiness in 2007!

MOM'S LUCKY BLACK EYED PEAS

1 lb bag of black eyed peas, (soaked over night, drained)
1 large yellow onion, cut in large chunks
2-3 ham hocks
and/or a ham bone and ham pieces,
Or a half pound of bacon



Put all ingredients in a large pot, cover with fresh water and bring to a boil, then reduce to simmer for about 2 hours, till peas are tender and just start falling apart. Yumm!!! This can be made without the meat if you prefer. Just add some extra seasonings for flavor. Makes about 6-8 servings.

SEAN'S EASY PASTA SALAD...A campfire classic, couldn't be easier!

1 lb cooked, cooled pasta (any type, elbow, bow tie...)
1 sweet Vidalia onion, diced small
4 green onions, diced
1/2 cup REAL Mayonnaise
1/4 cup yellow mustard
1 can diced tomatoes, drained
salt and pepper to taste



Mix everything together till coated. This can be done without mayo if you substitute about a 1/4 cup of Olive oil, 2-3 Tbsp. red wine vinegar and a tablespoon of sugar. About 8 servings.

CHOCOLATE CAKE WITH CHOCOLATE MOUSSE

1 homemade or store bought chocolate bundt cake
1 large box chocolate pudding, prepared
1 tub of Cool Whip

Slowly FOLD Cool Whip into prepared chocolate pudding 'til mixed. Slice cake, plate, then add a dollop of EASY chocolate mousse. Serves 8-10.

***Gay it up: Take this desert from very good to FABULOUS with simple addition of a handful of farm-fresh raspberries and a sprinkle of XXX (my fav...) confectioners sugar.

Again, Happy New Year and make a resolution to come camping with us this year!!!
LOVE and HUGS,
SEAN

For our first social event of the New Year and a break from our normal potluck venue, we have arranged for a private wine tasting at **Cellar 205** for Friday, January 12, 2007 @ 6:00pm.

Located in the 'Funk Zone,' this winery is run by some very energetic individuals who are really proud of their wine making expertise. Bring a friend and join us in learning a few secrets in creating fine wine as well as enjoying the company of your fellow G.O. revelers!

As Owen, your host, says "This will be a wonderful evening of gay abandon."

The address is 205 Anacapa. Bring your favorite hors d'oeuvres to share as we sample the fabulous wines of this collaborative winery.

The cost is \$10 at the door. Please call and let me know that you are coming! Owen: 805.965.0356



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



Next Pizza Social - Rusty's Pizzeria
Wednesday, January 10th, 6:45p.m.
15 E. Cabrillo Blvd. Santa Barbara

Stamp

Place Label Here