



A Gay and Lesbian Outdoor Recreation Group  
 May 2007 Newsletter

**In this Issue...**

Monthly Pizza Social, May 9.....page 1  
 Message from the President.....page 1  
 Refugio Beach Camp, May 17-20.....page 2  
 Big Bear All-Chapter Camp, May 25-28.....page 3  
 Big Basin Redwoods Camp, June 14-17.....page 4  
 Santa Rosa Island Camp, July 13-16.....page 5  
 Trip Registration Form.....page 6  
 Review - Painted Cave.....page 7  
 Review - Hearst Castle/San Simeon.....page 8  
 Chef Sean's Campfire Cookery.....page 9  
 More Hearst Castle Photos.....page 10

**MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT**



Another amazing month for Great Outdoors Santa Barbara/Ventura! Membership and renewals are up!, Painted Cave and then lunch at Cold Springs Tavern was a memorable afternoon, with Brian and Joe making surprise entrances, good food and great conversation. Thanks to all who attended.

The Prime Timers Senior Prom was a special night indeed, and quite the success. Everyone looked so handsome "dressed to the nines" and those at the Great Outdoors table held their own, each looking rather dapper. A special congratulations to all of the Prime Timers event organizers, Jon, Claude, Dennis, Rich et al for such a wonderful evening!

The stories from Brians' LONG SOLD OUT Hearst Castle trip are all TRUE! I can't wait to read the reviews! Way to go Mr. Miller! There is a BUZZ going on about our chapters trips. Trips are selling out in advance. Check out upcoming Refugio, Big Bear Corporate/All chapter and Big Basin Redwoods trips , lots of fun to be had

On a little more serious note, if you have never considered it before, I urge you to think about volunteering. Your SB/VC Great Outdoors chapter has several Board Member positions open, most requiring only a few hours a month. The rewards speak for themselves. The Gay Pride season is soon to be upon us. We are going to host a booth at Santa Barbara, Ventura and San Louis Obispo prides. Joe is graciously stepping up and doing what he can, but WE will need you help. We will be asking for volunteers shortly. PLEASE do what you can.

Also, after a great meeting with David Selberg, Executive Director of Pacific Pride Foundation and organizer of The Santa Barbara Pacific Pride Festival and all around great guy, I ask that you support Pacific Pride in any way that you can. They are wonderful supporters of Great Outdoors and this chapter.They give so much to our community. Again, please do what you can to help those in our community who help our community. Check out their web page. Don't forget our Pizza Social, Wed., May 9th; BearBust, PaddysVentura,Sunday, May 6th; and Mens Group at UCSB, every Thursday,7-9pm. BIG Hugs! SEAN



**Monthly Pizza Social - Wednesday, May 9, 2007 @ 7:00pm**

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...

# Refugio State Beach

## May 17-20, 2007

Buffered by the Channel Islands, Refugio is a magnet for swimmers, divers, sea kayakers and casual surfers. This unassumingly sweet little cove of sand with its fringe of skinny palm trees, its gentle surf and its bluff-side paved bike trail to El Capitan, has always been a favorite of Great Outdoors. Twelve miles north you can take a strenuous three mile hike to the summit of 2,450 foot Gaviota peak, which pays off with superb views of Santa Barbara County, Point Conception and the Channel Islands. Or you could just sit under a palm tree all day.

If Kauai were a small campground with coin showers just 20 minutes north of Santa Barbara and 200 yards from a bridge humming with oblivious traffic, this might be it.

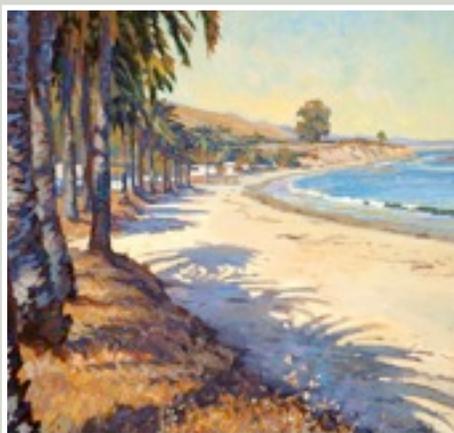
Our campsites, four in total, are mere steps from the water's edge. You can almost go shore fishing from inside your tent. This is a strictly tent outing with no room for RVs and we are limiting registration to the first 25 members to send in their money. Non-members also welcome....see fee schedule below.

There will be a potluck on Saturday night, the 19th, beginning with a tea/cocktail hour at 5:00 followed by dinner at 6:30. Non campers and day trippers are welcome to join us for this affair. If you've forgotten any last minute items there is a general store on the premises with a minute selection of overly priced junk food, or the nearest Alberstons is 20 minutes away in Goleta. Bring a kite to fly, the wind is usually perfect for kite-flying.

Cost: Members \$25 whether you're staying 1, 2, or 3 nights. Non - Members \$30. Everyone should bring a bundle or two of firewood. Register Online at: [www.regonline.com/130241](http://www.regonline.com/130241)

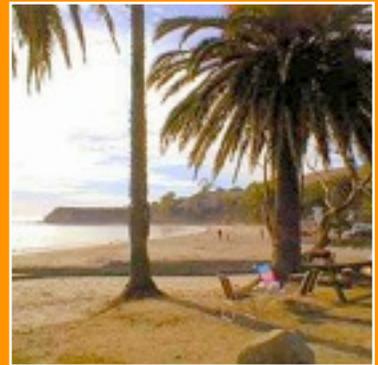
Directions: Go North from Santa Barbara on Hwy 101 for 20 miles and take the Refugio Off Ramp

Trip Leader: Jack (805) 682-8281 or [jackfunk@cox.net](mailto:jackfunk@cox.net)



JOHN CONNOR  
REFUGIO BEACH

# REGISTER NOW!



A favorite sure to please.

## REGISTER NOW!



Don't miss the fun at Big Bear. Many special activities are planned.

## Big Bear Memorial Day Summer Kamp, May 25-28, 2007

Remember all those great things about summer camp when you were a kid? The GO "Memorial Day Summer Kamp 2007" will be held in California's beautiful San Bernardino National Forest near Big Bear Lake, CA. Bring your tent or RV and join up to 99 other campers at the Oso Group Camp! High in the mountains with forests, lush sub-alpine meadows and sparkling lakes, this magical place is a refreshing summer getaway!

**ACTIVITIES:** • Party cruise: Tour Big Bear Lake on an all-day chartered boat on Sunday evening, complete with drinks, music, food and 84 other friends

• Hikes: Day hikes, both easy and difficult (Mt. San Geronio, the highest peak in Southern California, is close by)

• All the good things you remember – storytelling, games – without the bullies and the snipe hunt.

### CAMPGROUND INFORMATION

Sierra Belle - Just 25 minutes from Big Bear Lake, CA, Oso Group Camp is located at 6600' elevation in the secluded Barton Flats area off Highway 38. Nestled in a pine and fir forest, the group camp holds 100 campers and has plenty of parking for RVs (no hook-ups). Drinking water and toilets onsite, with pay showers just a 5-minute drive away (Barton Flats).

**COST** • \$50.00 member registration fee - includes campground registration, outing and parking fees (\$70 for non-member)

• RVs: \$70.00 for RV members and one person, plus \$30.00 each additional person. \$90 RV non-mem.

• Special Events (optional, cost in addition to registration fee or separate for day users): \$20 per person all-Great Outdoors 1.5-hour Party Cruise (Sun

day, 3:00-5:00pm) -- include music, and narrated tour of Big Bear Lake on an 85-passenger tour boat with a heated lower deck and outside upper deck, restrooms and no-host bar.

### REGISTRATION

Pre-registration required. Limit is 100 people. Cruise limit is 85 people. To register, complete attached registration form. Directions will be provided upon registration. Carpooling is recommended to help reduce gas cost and parking. [www.regonline.com/130242](http://www.regonline.com/130242)

### WHAT TO BRING

Bring shelter (tent, van or RV), 1-2 bundles firewood per person, (sleeping bag & pad), food, cooking gear, flashlight, rain gear, warm clothes, and the 10 essentials listed at [www.greatoutdoorsla.org/essentials.html](http://www.greatoutdoorsla.org/essentials.html). It can still be cold in late May, so prepare accordingly. Also, please bring a dish for the Sunday night potluck to feed 4 people (entrée, side dish, or dessert).

### ITINERARY

**Friday, May 25:** 2-5 pm-Check-in. 8pm-Group Campfire & Games

**Sat, May 26:** 9am - Noon-Check-in. 8:30am-Difficult Hike. 10:00am-Easy/Moderate Hike. 4:30pm-Wine & Tea Party. 5:30pm-Summer Camp Games. 6:30pm-Summer Camp Dinner by G.O. Corporate. 8pm-Group campfire & story-telling contest.

**Sun, May 27:** 8:30am-Difficult Hike. 10:00am-Easy Hike. 3:00 pm to 4:30pm-Party Cruise on Big Bear Lake. 7:00pm-Pot Luck Dinner. 6:30pm-Group campfire & awards

**Mon, May 28:** 12 noon-Check-out.

Download full trip notes at [www.greatoutdoors.org](http://www.greatoutdoors.org)

Contact Trip Leader Byron Postma at [blpostma@yahoo.com](mailto:blpostma@yahoo.com) or 562-424-1670.

# Big Basin Redwoods

June 14-17, 2007

Step back in time to the days of the Pioneer! Big Basin Redwoods is the granddaddy of all the incredible California State Parks. At 104 years old, it's California's very first state park. Big Basin has 16,000 ocean-facing acres on Santa Cruz Mountains full of redwoods, Douglas fir, knob-cone pine, oak, marsh, and chapparal. It is home to the largest stand of ancient coast redwoods south of San Francisco.

The best way to see the park is to hike or bike. The park has a great variety - 80 miles of easy, moderate, and difficult trails for hiking and mountain biking. The Skyline to the Sea Trail threads its way through the park along Waddell Creek to the beach. Visit their website online at <http://www.bigbasin.org/trails.html> for a description of the many trails, and view trail maps.

The park has a surprising number of waterfalls and a wide variety of environments from lush canyon bottoms to chaparral-covered slopes. Many animals such as deer, raccoon, coyote, fox, an occasional bobcat, mountain lion, and many bird species--including California quail, egret, heron, hawk, owl, woodpecker, and the endangered marbled murrelet--call Big Basin home. And of course there are always plenty of banana slugs!

**Services & Amenities:** Restrooms, Showers, General Store, Gift Shop, Museum.

**Food:** Traditional Potluck FRI-DAY night. Saturday night, Pioneer dinner provided (BBQ Tri-tip, Chili, Ranch Beans, Cole Slaw, Cornbread).

**Schedule:** *Thursday, June 14:* Arrive 2pm or later. Set up camp. Hike one of the many trails. 6:30pm Dinner. Games and campfire at dark.

*Friday, June 15:* 8am breakfast, Hike, bike, or visit Santa Cruz for the day. Potluck dinner at 6:30pm. Games and campfire at dark.

*Saturday, June 16:* 8am breakfast, discuss hike to start at 9:30am (bring lunch on hike). Pioneer dinner around 6:30pm. Games and campfire at dark.

*Sunday, June 17:* Breakfast, break camp. Lunch at beach near boardwalk in Santa Cruz.

**Weather:** Summer is warm with cool nights. It'll be a new moon, perfect darkness for stargazing.

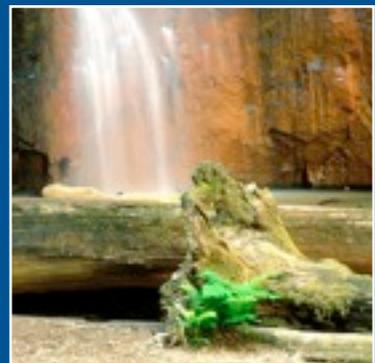
**What to Bring:** Ten Essentials, firewood, food, potluck dish, mountain bike, camera, tent, sleeping gear, warm clothes.

**Directions** provided upon registration. Carpooling is recommended to help reduce gas cost and parking.

**Cost:** Members \$40, Non-members \$55. No cancellations after June 6. Register Online at [www.regonline.com/130243](http://www.regonline.com/130243)

**Trip Leader** Chris Fava 805-509-8240 or [trancefusion@mac.com](mailto:trancefusion@mac.com)

## GIANT REDWOODS



Experience the tallest, most majestic trees in the world!

## ISLAND TRIP!



1. Each site has a shelter
2. Paddle the azure waters
3. The sunrise greets you as it peeks over Santa Cruz Island in the distance
4. Friends enjoy each other's company on the boat ride

## Santa Rosa Island July 13-16, 2007

Get your days off from work now - You c-a-n-n-o-t miss this three-night island trip! The second-largest of the Channel Islands, Santa Rosa Island is located 40 miles west of Ventura Harbor. It's a diverse island of grass-covered rolling hills, steep canyons, rocky inter-tidal areas, and sandy beaches with dunes.

The gem of the island is Lobo Canyon. The passage reveals sandstone walls that have been beautifully sculpted by ages of wind and water. Upon arriving at the ocean, you will be greeted by the vista of a sea whipped into a frenzy of wind and waves. Large swells can smash into sheer rock cliffs of the shore, sending spray 50 feet into the air.

Day hikes along the coast and to the steep interior of the endemic Torrey Pines trails are possible. This grove, along with the one near LaJolla, are believed to be the only ones of their kind in the world. Hiking the trails through Cherry Canyon is also an option.

Paddle in azure waters. We will have several kayaks available for use daily, kept at the beach.

We will be graced by a new moon, perfect for stargazing under crystal clear ocean skies. Gray will lead morning yoga at the beach, accompanied by the gentle sounds of waves on the sandy shore.

Returning from Santa Rosa, the Island Packers boat will travel along the north side of Santa Cruz and enter Painted Cave, the longest known sea cave in the world.

**CAMPGROUND INFORMATION:** The campground is located about a 1 mile walk along the coast from the boat pier, on a flat terrain. Beach access is 3 minutes from

the tents. Potable water is available. There are two VERY clean bathrooms with flush toilets/vanities, and a cedar shower with solar-heated water. Each site has a 3-sided shelter with picnic table and food lock box. Water Canyon runs adjacent to the campground. No trash containers - campers pack out their own trash. No campfires premitted due to high fire danger.

**WHAT TO BRING:** Bring what you need to camp comfortably, but remember that it's extremely important to PACK LIGHTLY because of the 1-mile walk to camp. You don't want to make two trips. Bring a potluck dish, food and drink for three days. Bring tent, sleeping bag and pad, blanket, ten essentials, water container, day pack, hiking boots, swim suit, snorkel and mask. Pack everything within gear bags, no loose items. Try to bring the most minimal amount for a good time!

**TIME OF DEPARTURE:** The charter boat leaves at 8:00am on Friday, July 13th. You must be there ONE HOUR BEFORE DEPARTURE at 7:00am. Don't be late. The return boat leaves the island at 3:00pm on Monday, July 16th, arriving in Ventura Harbor at 6:00pm. Yes, this is a 3-night trip, Fri-Mon.

**DIRECTIONS:** Island Packers leaves out of Ventura Harbor. Directions will be given out after you register.

**COST:** \$135 members, \$155 non-members. No cancellations after June 29. Space is limited. Call trip leader to verify reservation. Register with enclosed form or online at [www.regonline.com/133450](http://www.regonline.com/133450)

Contact Trip Leader Chris Fava at [trancefusion@mac.com](mailto:trancefusion@mac.com) or 805-509-8240



# REVIEW - PAINTED CAVE & COLD SPRING TAVERN

A good time was had by all at the day excursion to Painted Cave and Cold Spring Tavern. Jon and Claude showed off their fabulous turquoise and white Edsel, with the sweet license plate "EDSEL1." We admired the interior's restored leather upholstery work as well as our reflections in the exterior's restored shiny chrome. Bop bop a ree bop! We drove up scenic 154 (breaker breaker 19, we got ourselves a convoy!) and admired the fabulous view of Goleta Valley and the Channel Islands, which seemed to levitate above the horizon. Many switchbacks and narrow stretches of road later, we arrived at Painted Cave, where we admired the ancient art painted by the native Chumash. After a group photo, we continued on our way, successfully navigating a treacherous switchback with a steep incline. At one point, we could see a majestic view of the Santa Ynez Valley and Lake Cachuma on our right, with an equally impressive view of Santa Barbara and the Pacific Ocean on our left. At this point, Jon was ready for a cocktail (Nurse!), so we headed for Cold Spring Tavern, where Jon took drink orders. It was hard (impossible?) to resist the temptation to check out the cute blond motorcyclist strutting around outside through the window. We were given the best table in the restaurant. Brian and Joe arrived, and Sean gave a toast to the 95th anniversary of the sinking of the Titanic. The food was splendid. After our meal, we posed for a group photo in our usual spot, and then we listened to Brian's mix tape for the upcoming trip to Hearst Castle, which included selections from the Wizard of Oz and Gone with the Wind.



## 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** \_\_\_\_\_

## Review - Hearst Castle/San Simeon

On the small knoll our campsites were located, we had spectacular views of the Santa Lucia mountains to our east and the shimmering blue Pacific Ocean to the West. In this beautiful setting, a truly memorable camping trip occurred! This was my fourth time leading a trip to Hearst castle, and I can honestly say this trip broke all records. We had over 34 campers, the largest our chapter has hosted in many years, and representing every chapter. The weather was almost picture perfect and the food, oh my god, the food was truly up to par of any of W.R. Hearst's culinary delights!

During our day hike to San Simeon Point, we walked through towering groves of Monterey pines and eucalyptus trees. In the distant bay we could see the water spouts of whales swimming up the coast. We had uninterrupted views of the great castle up on the distant mountain. My friend Wayne, who works at castle, joined us on the hike to share his knowledge and expertise of the area. Back at camp was a sumptuous tea that was followed by one of the most delicious and beautifully presented potluck dinners I'd ever seen, if I do say so myself! Mario made his very yummy chai tea that set the tone for the rest of the evening. It was truly a team effort that made this day so special! Then onto the night tour of the castle. When we left the tourist center it was cold and foggy, but as we rose above the fog up to the mountaintop it became crystal clear and over 80 degrees!

As the tour proceeded and it became dusk, the castle grounds were soon bathed in golden hues by the alabaster lamps scattered throughout the grounds. Docents were dressed in period costume giving the look and feel of what it was like here during Hearst's time. That evening, back at camp, a few hearty souls stayed up into the wee hours of the night around a roaring campfire, reflecting on what an amazing day it had been.

On Sunday we were greeted with mimosas and a fond 'farewell' from Vince, who helped set up our campsites and who also works up at the castle. My many thanks to all of you who helped out in making this trip truly special. Hearst castle is a very special place for me and it's always a huge thrill to share it with all my friends in the Great Outdoors! See you under the stars! --Brian



# CHEF SEAN'S CAMPFIRE COOKERY

May is here, the unofficial start of summer. Our local Farmers Markets are overflowing with farm-fresh produce and eggs. The following is one of my most favorite Holiday or extra special "morning after" breakfasts, so enjoy!

## Sean's Special French Toast

8 eggs  
3/4 cup milk  
1/2 cup sugar  
1 tsp. vanilla  
Dash of cinnamon  
Mix together with whisk or fork, set aside.

Butter  
Oil  
Sourdough Bread  
Double whipped cream cheese  
Knotts Raspberry preserves  
Fresh Bananas  
Fresh Raspberries  
Light sprinkle of Cinnamon and powdered sugar.



Heat 1 tbsp. butter and 1 tbsp. oil in/on griddle or pan till' golden. Do not brown. Spread cream cheese, then raspberry preserves on each slice of sourdough, then top one slice of bread with sliced (into coins) Bananas. Carefully place both slices together, sandwich style then dip in egg mixture. Place in hot pan and cook till golden and heated through.

Sprinkle with farm fresh raspberries.

Sprinkle with cinnamon and powdered sugar.

This meal, served with Maple syrup, a side of melon, a hot cup of coffee and a cold glass of orange juice is almost perfection. Enjoy!

Warm hugs,  
SEAN

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

Stamp



Place Label Here

Next Pizza Social - Rusty's Pizzeria  
Wednesday, May 9th, 7:00p.m.  
15 E. Cabrillo Blvd. Santa Barbara

### More San Simeon/Hearst Castle Photos

