

BASECAMP NEWS

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

MAY 2008

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

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**EXPERIENCE
NATURE.
DISCOVER
YOURSELF.**



**It's A JOURNEY
FOR THE MIND.**

THE GREAT OUTDOORS



**TEAM GREAT OUTDOORS
HAS RAISED \$38,427.
Please Donate Today!
We ride out in 30 Days!**

TEAM GREAT OUTDOORS RIDERS FROM GO SANTA BARBARA/VENTURA CHAPTER



Rich Benbrook
Rider #5224
Current Total \$2,600
My Goal \$2,500



Brian Miller
Rider #5604
Current Total \$2,230
My Goal \$2,500



Chris Fava
Rider #5524
Current Total \$2,645
My Goal \$3,000



Owen McKimm
Rider #5523
Current Total \$5,810
My Goal \$10,000



David Driscoll
Rider #5522
Current Total \$4,225
My Goal \$5,000



Kyle Richards
Rider #5528
Current Total \$3,512
My Goal \$4,000

We are so close to our goal of \$45,000. We STILL NEED YOUR HELP!
Make no mistake, EVERY single dollar counts! No amount is too small.
Please take a moment today and support TEAM G.O. for this worthy and amazing cause.
Just go to www.aidslifecycle.org/104 and donate today.
Thank you for your support and For Making a Difference!

Thank You to the Great Outdoors Members who have Donated!
We could not do this without your support!

Lonnie Brunini • Carlos Chandler • Nicolas Crisosto • David Driscoll • Jean-Guy Dube
Larry Edmonds • Eric Gilfand • Brad Hardison • Ted Huffmire • Dennis Jaffe • Scott Kopald
Vitaly Koshman • Tom Macias • Bruce Maughan • Owen McKimm • Byron Postma
Richard Ratz • Will Richardson • Dan Robertson • Greg Williams • Paul Williams

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

from Sean Dooner



April was another one of those exciting months for our chapter, with Kyle's trip to Dennyson Park in Ojai, and Joshua Tree, co-led by Carlos. Thanks Guys and great job! Also, kudos to those who showed up for our Core Group and then Pizza Social. Thanks for your dedication and support! We have a busy May ahead, starting with our potluck, Saturday, May 3, hosted by our own V.P. of Outings Chris F. Enjoy the day with a great group of guys! Check out Tom O. and his Carizzo Plain camping weekend and then there is our Pizza Social on Wed., May 14th.

This is an all-volunteer organization, open to all. We welcome everyone to any of our events, member or not. We try to promote a fun, safe and supportive environment for our members and the community. With that being said, we are not perfect. A potluck may get cancelled last minute, a newsletter gets missed, sometimes stuff just happens and we are sorry when it does. We try our best, and hope that you understand. We could use YOUR support. Come out and play with us in YOUR Great Outdoors. And, if anyone is interested, there are a few Core Group positions available.

Looking ahead; Pride Season will soon be upon us with SLO on July 6, Santa Barbara on July 12 and then Ventura on Aug. 23. Joe D. and myself welcome any and ALL volunteers on any of those days, which always seem to turn into special, community building events. Please be a part of it! We also have several amazing trips planned, so be sure to check out our website at www.greatoutdoors.org/sb for further information.

In community news; thanks to all at Pacific Pride for all that you do for our community, BIG Bear hugs to Bears/Ventura for your fundraising fun and to all at Prime Timers for a wonderful Prom '08. Finally, a very special thank you to our Treasurer, Ted H., who, although living in Monterey, always has the answer to ANY question. Ted is a true unsung hero of this group. BIG hugs my Friend!

See you in the Great Outdoors!
Sean



MONTHLY MEETING

WEDNESDAY

MAY 14, 2008

7:00^{P.M.}

RUSTY'S PIZZA
15 E. CABRILLO BLVD.
SANTA BARBARA



Join us for our NEXT Monthly Social Meeting. We will meet at Rusty's Pizza Lighthouse across from Stearn's Wharf at the beach. We meet in the back banquet room and order pizza at 6:45p.m., \$5 bucks a person for those who want to eat... and the meeting begins about 7pm. After the meeting we 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!***



Be Proud . . .
Come out to PRIDE!

San Luis Obispo
July 6, 2008

Santa Barbara Pride
July 12, 2008

Ventura Pride
August 23, 2008

May Potluck at Chris Fava's Home! Saturday, May 3, 2008



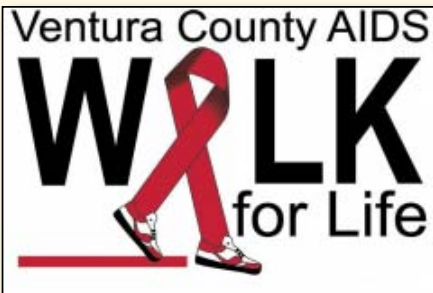
Visit Chris Fava's home for his very first Great Outdoors Potluck! He will be cooking "Mom's Spaghetti & Meatballs".

Bring your delectable dish to feed six people. Basic soft drinks/iced tea will be provided, please BYOB. Arrive around 5:00, food should be ready to eat around 6:00.

Address: 1761 Fisher Drive, #207, Oxnard. Exit 101 at Victoria and drive South on Victoria for five miles. Turn left at Ketch Ave. Turn right at Fisher Drive and you're there. Enter complex at driveway on Fisher, walk upstairs of first building on your right. #207. Chris Fava (805) 689-3266



Ventura County AIDS WALK



Saturday, May 17, 2008

On Saturday, May 17, at 10am, the 17th annual AIDS Walk For Life will take place through the streets of downtown Ventura. Not only is the Walk For Life an important fundraiser for AIDS Project Ventura County, but it once again publicly reminds us that AIDS and HIV is not over and hits close to home.

This event is for everyone and each person can make a difference! Even if you cannot join the Walk, won't you help with a donation and spread the word?

AIDS Project Ventura County is the largest private provider of HIV/AIDS services in the county. Founded in 1993 and recently relocated to a state of the art 4,000 sq. ft. facility, AIDS Project Ventura County is well positioned to meet the ever changing challenges of this disease.

To sign up and for more info contact:

E-mail: info@lgbtventura.org / Phone: (805)339-6340

Lompoc Potluck Review...from Brian Miller



A spirited group of lads joined me at my humble abode in Lompoc (City of arts and flowers) on the ides of March (15th) for a delectable potluck and social. We enjoyed each others company reminiscing about all manor of interesting things.

Later, I showed a recent film that was sent to me by my friend Fred, from New York, where he had a starring roll as a singing butcher who had a son that fell in love with a girl who was vegetarian. The drama, turmoil and suspense in that film was electrifying!

Lompoc is, indeed, the center of

arts and flowers!

To prove that point I had flower arrangements tastefully located all over my house for that proper 'mood'.

..And as the saying goes, a good time was had by all!



GREAT OUTDOORS PRESENTS A MID-SUMMER JAMBOREE AT SAN SIMEON STATE PARK



July 17-20, 2008

San Simeon State Park is one of the oldest units of the California State Park System. The coastal bluffs and promontories of the scenic park offer unobstructed views of the ocean and rocky shore. The park includes the Santa Rosa Creek Natural Preserve, the San Simeon Natural Preserve and the Pa-nu Cultural Preserve which were established in 1990.

A 3.3 mile trail runs through parts of the San Simeon Natural Preserve and the Washburn Campground. The trail includes scenic overlooks, rest-stop benches and interpretive panels with information on wildlife and habitat. A portion of the trail along the seasonal wetland is wheelchair accessible.

Santa Rosa Creek Preserve is an area which includes valuable riparian forests and coastal wetlands, that provide habitat for endangered Tidewater Goby.

San Simeon Natural Preserve consists of vast wetlands, riparian areas, and several undisturbed native plant communities including unique mima mound topography. The Preserve is also the wintering site for monarch butterfly populations.

The 13.7 acre Pa-nu Cultural Preserve contains the most significant archeological site within San Simeon State Park. The site has been dated to 5850 years before the present, and it contains significant evidence documenting prehistoric technology, subsistence practices and social organization over the course of several

Arrival: Thursday, 1pm early birds will arrive on Thursday. We have 2 sites for arrivals on Thursday. Due to gas prices we have only set aside 3 spaces for RV's, call me if you have an RV for availability.

Friday: arrive after 1pm. Afternoon hike or a long walk on the beach. A wine and cheese/sacks about 7pm. Bring your favorite beverage (I will set up a Martini Bar) bring your martini glass.

Saturday: a morning hike, tour of Hearst Castle about 12pm, think about a trip up to the elephant seal rookery (10 miles). Dinner will be about 7pm. Dinner is provided bring your own beverage and dinner ware.

Sunday: a morning hike or think about breaking camp. Check out is 11:00am.

What to bring; Food and beverages for your needs, Dinner on Sat night and cheese and snacks on Fri. are provided. If you are a vegetarian let me know. Good hiking shoes, a hat, proper clothing, bedding, camping gear and the "Ten Essentials".

Weather: It is the central coast. The weather should be in the 70's during the day and in the 50's at night. It can be foggy so bring warm clothing for later afternoon on.

Firewood: bring 2 bundles if you arrive on Thursday bring 3 bundles.

Directions: San Simeon is about 250 miles north of LA. From the PS area take the I-10 to I-15 north to 215 west to the 134 west to 101 west (north) to San Luis Obispo. From OC, LA and SD take the 405 north to the 101 north to San Luis Obispo. From SB/VC take the 101 north to San Luis Obispo. From San Luis Obispo take US highway 1 north about 45 miles. The park is about 2 miles north of Cambria.

Cost:

Arrive on Friday	
Member	\$42.00
Non-member	\$52.00
RV member	\$52.00
RV non-member	\$62.00

Arrive on Thursday add \$14.00

Day event \$15.00

Castle tour \$20.00

Parking is \$3.00 per day per vehicle, to be paid at the park gate (cars and trucks).

Trip leader: **Michael Roth**
(562) 533-1577
mlroth@mymirothcalif.com





Dennison Park Trip Review

March 28-30, 2008

from Kyle Richards

On the last weekend of March sixteen happy campers (not including two dogs) found their way up to the beautiful mountain hamlet of Ojai. While we weren't all there for the entire weekend, everyone participated in their own way.... camping, biking, hiking, resting, exploring, and of course, eating!

Seven of us went up on Thursday night to camp and four more joined in on Friday night. Thursday night was relatively quiet, with most of us arriving later in the day. We started off with a bit of an "ordeal" (involving an RV and a pick-up truck that wouldn't un-hitch) with a couple of our newer members who drove from Lake Nacimiento. After a great deal of well-meaning (but rather un-helpful) advice, they eventually drove down into Ojai to find a flat space in town where it came unhitched immediately.

Friday night was lots of fun around the campfire. Pizza from Ojai Valley-famous "Bocalli's" warmed our bellies and our spirits. Rick and Steve were nice enough to bring lots of extra firewood (some of which barely fit in the fire pit!). We had another beautiful sunset, and just a glimpse of the Ojai "pink moment" reflecting off the walls of Topa Topa mountain on the eastern side of the valley.

On Saturday morning, we were first treated to a wonderful breakfast by Bill (biscuits, gravy, sausage, eggs... YUM!). After breakfast, nine of us (accompanied by a canine friend) set off for a killer day hike, ascending over 3,000 feet to the top of Nordhoff Peak (elevation 4,485 ft.). It was a strenuous hike, but unfortunately

the reward of the beautiful view was not delivered as promised. Instead, we found ourselves at the top of the mountain standing in the clouds, huddling together for warmth, with visibility at about 20 feet. After about 15 minutes of lunch and photos, we turned around and headed back. We returned to camp at around 5:00, after a good 7 hours of hiking. While we were walking through the clouds, others in the group took some time to relax and leisurely explore the sites and sounds of the valley. Some ventured into town, where they participated in a political demonstration (Mike can tell you more about that). We all rejoined in the afternoon for a delicious "tea" prepared by our one-and-only Chef Sean.

The pot-luck dinner on Saturday night was FAN-TAS-TIC! (rivaling many a pot-luck in anyone's home). We had a total of 16 people participating by this point, and the selection of food was simply amazing. No one went to bed hungry on Saturday! Unfortunately, the skies were cloudy, so we were lacking a nice sunset and a star-filled sky. Another campfire and heart-warming displays of friendship fought the cold of the night. Sunday morning was nice and leisurely, with the first person leaving at 6:00am and the last of us departing at around 12:30.

In all, I'm extremely pleased with the trip, and I think it was a wonderful success! We had 5 new people who had never been on a Great Outdoors trip before. (I hope we'll see them again!) Overall, the energy of the group was very positive. And I really appreciate all the support I felt ... especially to Sean for the tea, Bill for breakfast, and Rick & Steve for bringing extra firewood. Thank you to everyone!



GREAT OUTDOORS CAMPING TRIP REGISTRATION FORM

Carizzon Plains National Monument- May 9-11, 2008

Qty ___ \$30 Member Qty ___ \$40 Non-Member (plus enough firewood for 3 days)

San Simeon Jamboree All Chapter Camp - July 17 -20, 2008

Qty ___ Tent/Members \$42 Qty ___ Tent/Non-Member \$52 Qty ___ RV Member \$52 Qty ___ RV Non-Member \$62

Qty ___ Arrive on Thursday Add \$14.00 Qty ___ Day Event \$15.00 Qty _ ___ Castle Tour \$20.00

Parking is \$3.00 per day per vehicle, to be paid at the park gate (cars & trucks).

(plus one or two bundles of firewood)

Middle Fork American River Raft - June 28 & 29, 2008. SOLD OUT. Wait list- Contact David: david.driscoll@mac.com / 805.340.2449

Send Registration and check payable to Great Outdoors PO Box 21051, Santa Barbara, CA 93121

(Some trips can done be registered online: www.greatoutdoors.org/sb)



Name (please print) _____

Street Address _____

City/State/Zip _____ , _____

G.O. Member # _____ Chapter _____

Phone (_____) _____ - _____

E-mail (kept confidential) _____

Emergency Contact _____

Relationship _____ Phone (_____) _____ - _____

Medical Insurance Carrier _____

Group/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 _____ / _____ / _____

You can also REGISTER and RENEW your Membership ONLINE! 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

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE _____ ZIP _____

E-MAIL _____

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

Member Type (check only one)

- 1 Year Regular \$25
- 2 Year Regular \$45
- 1 Year Household (2 Names/1 Address) \$40
- 1 Year Student \$15
- Newsletter Only \$15

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 _____

Membership Application

CARRIZO PLAIN NATIONAL MONUMENT

May 9-11, 2008

The Carrizo Plain is our newest National Monument, and one of the last relatively undisturbed salt marsh plains, anywhere in the United States. It is an example of the habitats that were once abundant in the southern San Joaquin Valley. Because of its arid landscape, it also retains some of the last and largest evidence of Chumash and Yakut cultures, including rock paintings and grinding mortars. In a good year, rain of 8-10 inches from December through early April creates a large display of native wildflowers, peaking in early May.

At the center of Carrizo Plain is Soda Lake, a seasonal dry bed that attracts migratory and seashore birds, evaporating each summer to a flat salt surface. The lake is formed by subsidence between two geographic faults. The vastly more significant one of these is the San Andreas, which extends in its nearly longest exposed stretch across the northern edge of the plain.

Amenities

The campground is rather primitive but new. It has sun-sheltered tables, fire rings, potable water and (new!) pit/chemical toilets. There is no camp store. Bring your sun-shower.

Weather in May

Daytime Average High 78deg
Nighttime Average Low 44deg

Itinerary

Friday: Arrive after 1pm. Because of the dry, clear nights and no city lights, stargazing should be very good. Enjoy high tea and snacks when you arrive. Enjoy the campfire with friends old and new.

Saturday: The centerpiece of the trip will be Saturday. We will take a docent-led tour of Painted Rock. The tour starts at 10am at the Goodwin Center. We will stroll about 2/3 mile on an easy, relatively level road to Painted Rock. The tour will include talks about native animals, such as the nesting kit foxes, and the wildflowers along the way. Painted Rock features one of the largest extant displays of native pictographs. We will eat our picnic lunches there and return back to our cars, ending the tour

at about 3 pm. After the tour, you will be free to visit Soda Lake, chase after views of the San Andreas Fault, hike up Caliente Ridge or relax back at camp. Be sure to return to camp by 6pm, evening potluck dinner starts at 7pm.

Sunday: If you decide to return home early, you may drive to Pozo Saloon for brunch. There is usually a band playing on weekends.

For those who want to stay around, you can chose to drive south on Soda Lake Road, another 25 miles or so south down the valley and stop at Traver Ranch to look over the antique farm equipment and buildings. Or else, you can follow Elkhorn Road, paralleling San Andreas Fault on the other side of the valley.

Returning to Santa Barbara, the shortest and most scenic way is to turn east on Hwy 166 and then south on Hwy 33. 8 miles on brings you to the little town of Ventucopa. On the right just before the town is the Pistachio Café. It features nuts from the Santa Barbara Pistachio Company – some of the best I've tasted. You may also decide to stop in at Sagebrush Annie's at the far end of town for wine tasting in a funky, Texan hillstop style bar and restaurant, vineyard and rodeo get-up. Dinner after 5:30 pm is by reservation only. Continue south on Hwy 33, viewing the Zaca-Pine Mountain fire burn area on your right, up over the pass, descending down into Ojai for a beautiful drive and return home. If you poke about long enough, the sunset should be spectacular.

We'll see you there!



Cost: Members: \$30 / Non-Members: \$40
Bring: Ten Essentials, sun shower, one bundle of firewood, enough food for three days, board games.

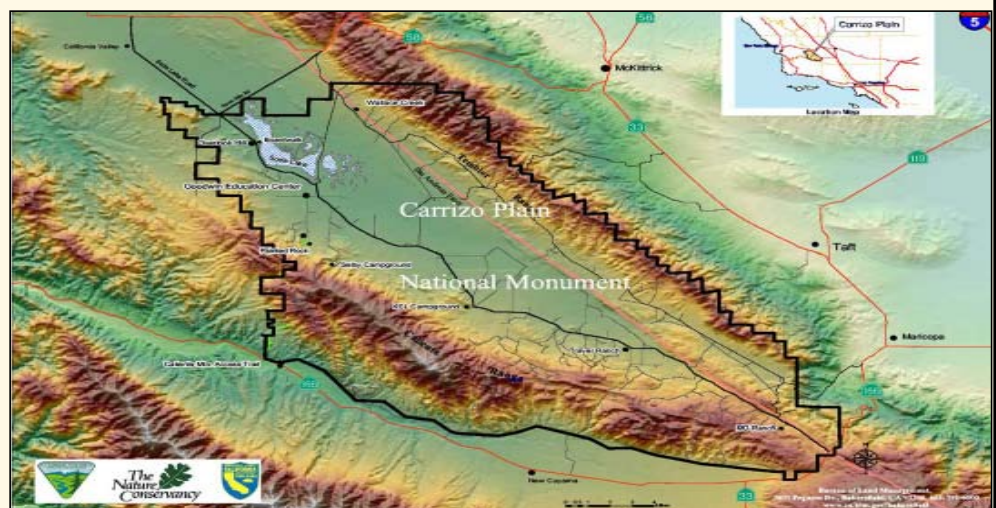
TRIP LEADER: Tom Ogier
togier@sbceo.org
(805) 689-3266

Directions

Try to arrive Friday before sunset (approx. 8pm) as the roads and signs become less visible.

From Santa Barbara, take I-101 north. About 8 miles beyond San Luis Obispo, turn off on Hwy 58 through Santa Margarita. At about 1.5 miles, turn right, following Hwy 58 across the tracks. At about 1.25 miles, turn left, continuing on Hwy 58. Follow this for about 50 miles. Turn right on Soda Lake Road towards California Valley and the National Monument.

From Los Angeles, take I-5 north. At But-



CARRIZO PLAIN NATIONAL MONUMENT

tonwillow, take Hwy 58 west through McKittrick. You will rise over the (appropriately named) Temblor Range and descend to the Carrizo Plain. About 40 miles from I-5, turn left on Soda Lake Road towards California Valley and the National Monument.

After turning onto Soda Lake Road, proceed about 14 miles south, past Soda Lake. Stop at the overlook and boardwalk by the lake on the way or continue to the turnoff for the Goodwin Educational Center. If you arrive before 4 pm, stop there for information on the area. If not, proceed another 1 mile to Selby Road on your right. The road to the Selby Campground is about 4.5 miles of dirt and chipped rock with some short washboard areas, rising up for views back across the whole valley.

PLEASE NOTE: There are no gas stations after you leave the Interstates. So, gas-up! Many of the roads in the area are dirt and/or chip. Although they are maintained, washboard surfaces and rocks risk tire punctures. Come prepared! Low profile cars will probably be OK, but be sure your spare tire is ready – and go slow. RVs not recommended. From Santa Barbara, this trip will take 3 hours.



GREAT OUTDOORS

Santa Barbara/Ventura Chapter
P.O. Box 21051
Santa Barbara, CA 93121
www.greatoutdoors.org/sb

OFFICERS

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If you have any suggestions for the Great Outdoors please let us know by contacting the President or any officer. We are here to help get you out to enjoy the Great Outdoors, so join us today for an event!



OUR MISSION

Great Outdoors is an organization dedicated to supporting and empowering the gay community through various social activities with and emphasis on the advancement of knowledge of outdoor environment and the enhancement and enjoyment of camping hiking and wilderness training.

