

BASECAMP NEWS

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

PISMO BEACH SAND DUNES • February 26-28

Hello all, let's kick up some sand!

Join us for a fun filled weekend on the Dunes of Pismo Beach. The sea of sand, nestled next to the beauty that is our Pacific Coast, leaves one feeling cradled by Mother Nature while the fluttering wing of earth's angels, the Monarch butterflies in their annual migration, makes the experience surreal.

The closely packed sands of Pismo Beach offer themselves to the perfect rugged off-roading adventure with rolling dunes to satisfy the adventurer in us all. Come enjoy the last remaining coastal sand dunes open to Off-Highway Vehicles, formerly known as Pismo Beach. There are about 3,500 acres in the SVRA, with



2,000 set aside as buffer/preserve. The prevailing winds that blow in from the ocean push sand particles up into wave-like crests that run north-south creating the perfect off-road terrain.

The "Butterfly Trees" of Pismo Beach are one of our most beloved attractions from late October through February;



thousands of colorful Monarch butterflies cluster in the limbs of Eucalyptus and

Monterey Pines in the area, giving the appearance of yellow and orange leaves. They travel over the Sierra Mountains and west of the Rockies. Some come from as far away as Canada to escape the colder temperatures of the north.

Continued on Page 2.



Whitewater Rafting

Cal-Salmon River • May 7-8

The Wild and Scenic California Salmon River, although still somewhat unknown even in its home state of California, is one of the most incredible whitewater rafting trips in the country. It combines beautiful, lush coastal scenery, an intimate marble-smooth granite inner gorge, a seemingly endless number of side-creek waterfalls cascading in from above, emerald-green waters, tons of wildlife, and unequalled class IV-V pool-drop whitewater. This is truly a world-class, high-adventure whitewater run. Our excursion will be guided by Wilderness Adventures, who proved to be an excellent outfitter the last two years they guided Great Outdoors.



The lushness of the canyon is a refreshing change from the dryer, more desert-like landscape of many California rivers. Also outstanding is the abundance of wildlife; it is not uncommon to see black bear, the occasional mountain lion or wild horses, and meeting with deer and a wide range of birds is almost a given. We will be there during the peak of the wildflowers. The combination of stunning scenery and remote location lends itself to

Continued on Page 3.

Check out...

SEDGWICK RANCH DAY HIKE, P. 2
CRUISE TO ENSENADA, P. 5

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Sedgwick Ranch Day Hike & Pot Luck

Sunday, January 24

Encompassing almost 6,000 acres in the Santa Ynez Valley, the Sedgwick Reserve spans an elevational range of 1,300 feet and is noted for both its large size and environmental heterogeneity. It contains a major geologic fault system and two distinctive geologic formations: relatively young Paso Robles alluvium and much older Franciscan metamorphosed seafloor, including large areas of serpentine. Diverse vegetation types include: coast live oak forest, blue oak woodland, valley oak savannah, ceanothus chaparral, coastal sage scrub, grassland, willow riparian forest, and agricultural lands. The site contains major portions of two watersheds and a variety of localized wetland habitats, notably vernal pools. The region has a rich Native American heritage, and at least one Middle Chumash village (1,500 to 2,000 years old) rests on site.

The Sedgwick Reserve is part of the University of California "Natural Reserve System" and is located in the Santa Ynez mountains near Figueroa Mountain. Our day at the reserve is somewhat special since admission is not open to the public and is limited to researchers and school field trips and other approved community groups (like us!). Former home of socialite/actress Edie Sedgwick (who starred in several Andy Warhol films of the 1960s), the Sedgwick family estate has a sordid history including a philandering father, children who were banished to the bunkhouse, and perhaps even a haunted house.

The moderately difficult hike will be "family-friendly" and docent-led, providing an introduction to the plant life, wildlife, landscape, and geology of this former private ranch. We will begin gathering at 9:30 AM for the two-hour hike. A picnic lunch will be held when we return to the main house of the ranch (at around 12:30). Please bring a side dish or dessert to share. A

Pismo, cont. from page 1.

The Highlights:

- Friday: Refreshments and a "Get to know your Neighbor" talent show...talent not required but encouraged!
- Saturday: ATV rentals (Rental fees are not included in the trip price), late lunch at one of the surrounding Beach restaurants, self-explore Pismo Beach and the surrounding area, and GO potluck.
- Sunday: Pismo Beach Monarch Grove Butterfly Park

Trip Leaders:

Michael P.: 805-696-8862,
Michael.pennon@gmail.com
Solomon N.: 805-680-8276,
Soul544@yahoo.com
Klaus G.:
lagoodguy@gmail.com

Please visit our website for more information and online registration at: www.greatoutdoors.org/sb

A Spectacular Experience!
Pismo Beach • Oceano, CA



refrigerator is available to store items while we're on our hike. Sorry, no dogs are permitted.

Where: Sedgwick Ranch, off Brinkerhoff Road, Santa Ynez

Date: Sunday, January 24.

Rain cancels.

Time: Meet at 9:30 AM.

Hike begins at 10:00 AM.

Potluck upon our return.

Bring: A day pack with water and snacks. A dish to share for the potluck.

Directions to Sedgwick Reserve from Santa Barbara or Lompoc: Take either State Route 154 (Cachuma Lake) or U.S. 101. If coming via 101, exit at the Buellton, State Route 246 exit and turn east (toward Solvang). Drive through Solvang and Santa Ynez to 154. Turn left at 154.

Going north on 154 look for Edison Rd (2.2 miles past 246), turn right on Edison (landmark is gray Lutheran church), go 1.1 miles to Roblar and turn right. Go 1.2 miles to Brinkerhoff and turn left (landmark is row of evergreen trees). Follow Brinkerhoff 2.4 miles to the end of the road and enter through the open gate. Follow signs to parking area.

R.S.V.P. Trip Leader Kyle R. at 805-451-8219 to reserve. Sedgwick Ranch web site: <http://sedgwick.ucnr.org>



Whitewater, cont. from page 1.

creating a feeling of being set down in a different part of the world. You quickly become immersed in the area and the experience. The canyon's beauty is so stunning that it is protected by congress as a National Wild and Scenic River. Even if you took away the scenery and location, the whitewater would still make the river more than worthwhile. The rapids are an amazing combination of crashing waves, big holes and boulders, and clean steep drops over smooth granite. And, there are a ton of them!



The first day of the trip will begin on the Class IV stretch from Butler Creek to Oak Bottom. With rapids like Butler's Ledge, Double Drop, Contusion, Gaping Maw, and Wooley Booley this section will be a warm up to the Class V stretch on the second day. Our lunchtime will be split between eating a delicious meal and enjoying the amazing views that surround us. Further down river we will stop at a gorgeous campsite and you will have time to set up your sleeping site, fish, swim, or relax. The evening meal will be followed by dessert, campfire entertainment, and an incredible night under the stars. In the morning you will wake to the wonderful smell of coffee and breakfast. After another hearty gourmet meal we will be off to (king of all rapids) Freight Train whose raging waters you

can hear from afar. Running several Class IV & V rapids is only part of this impressive day. We will serve lunch at beautiful side stream before heading off to the take-out where you will be able to enjoy pictures taken by a local photographer.

Wednesday, May 5:
Optional travel day.

Thursday, May 6:
Travel day to Northern California, or if you arrived earlier, this is a free day to explore this stunning area. Suggestions in Humboldt County include Redwoods National Park, Avenue of the Giants, Eureka, and Trinity National Forest. Free camping at Nordheimer Camp is available, which will be our rafting campground for the weekend.

Friday, May 7:
Be at Somes Bar General Store by 8:00 AM to meet the river guides, then our rafting action begins! Gourmet lunch and dinner prepared by the river guides, campfire at night, enjoy the starry skies.

Saturday, May 8:
Breakfast cooked by guides. More rafting and another prepared gourmet lunch, more rafting. Trip ends late afternoon. Travel back home or stay an extra night to explore more of the area.

Sunday, May 9:
Optional travel day back home.

Directions will be given upon registration. Meeting place is the remote community of Somes Bar, CA in Humboldt County.

This guided rafting trip and river side camping will be Great Outdoors group ONLY! This is an all-inclusive rafting trip. Cost: \$340 per person (**\$75 deposit due by February 28 balance due by April 1, 2010**) 24-person maximum. Please call Chris for availability even after due date. We can probably fit you in if we haven't reached capacity.

You DO NOT need to have any previous river rafting experience. This is a class IV+ suitable for the experienced AND beginners in good physical condition, looking for a REAL Adventure! You will have a safety life vest, so if you can't swim, you'll will be okay!

Upon registering for this trip, you will receive a complete package with all the info and instructions you'll need, including a list of inexpensive hotels/campgrounds for Wednesday/Thursday night.

Questions? Contact trip leader Chris F. (805)509-8240 or trancefusion@mac.com

**Don't Miss the Boat!
Limited Availability.
Register now!
\$75 Deposit due Feb. 28
Balance due Apr. 1**



You'll know you've accomplished something extraordinary.
For more information and trip registration:
www.greatoutdoors/SB

Joyous Holiday Party at Jon & Claude's



Sparkle...>



Fest
Dressed
Guests...



Gift
ahs!
&
laughs!



President's

Your Santa Barbara Ventura Great Outdoors Core Group wishes you a happy, healthy and prosperous 2010, filled with love, wonder and the BEAUTIFUL Great Outdoors.



Looking back, 2009 was an amazing year for our chapter. We thought outside the box and achieved many lofty goals, with great success. We worked together with our Community, and we were recognized by our Community as making a difference! This past year, we organized and put on numerous social and fund raising events and camping adventures that have made Great Outdoors a leading and respected Gay Organization in Santa Barbara.

Looking forward, 2010 looks to be another "amazing" year. Just take a look at our upcoming calendar of events and

Message

scheduled trips. Amazing indeed.

Your GOSB Core Group, along with a few outstanding Members have worked hard planning trips that range from a January Cruise to Mexico, to car camping at Pismo and Yosemite, to an exciting whitewater river rafting trip this Summer, just to name a few! We do this for you. We want you to come out and join us, and play in YOUR Great Outdoors.

A special THANK YOU to each of our GOSB Core Group, 2010 Trip Leaders, the "special" Volunteers, all at PPF and all at Bears Ventura, Prime Timers, S.B. Outfest '09, Robert and John, and last but not least, Jon and Claude. Thank you all for making 2009 such a memorable year.

I look forward to 2010!

Love,
Peace,
Happiness,
Sean

Let's Get Cruisin'
Long Beach to Ensenada

Come join us as we cruise from Long Beach to Ensenada, Mexico on *The Carnival Paradise*, Friday, January 29, to Monday, February 1. This cruise features one full day at sea, a day in Ensenada, and all the food you can eat!

Cost is about \$350 per person, double occupancy. As this is a last minute deal, tickets need to be paid for at time of booking, and all arrangements are being made through Sue Cook or Amy at CruiseBargains: 805-962-9898.

This is first come, first served and there are NO GUARANTEES on availability. A passport is needed for travel to Mexico. If you don't have one, start the process now!

ITINERARY

<u>Day</u>	<u>Port</u>	<u>Arrive</u>	<u>Depart</u>
Jan 29, Day 1	Los Angeles		5:30 PM
Jan 30, Day 2	Ensenada	9:00 AM	6:00 PM
Jan 31, Day 3	At Sea		
Feb 1, Day 4	Los Angeles	8:00 AM	



Core Group Dinner
Absent: Don B. & Chris F.



Holiday Social
at Rusty's
"The Pizza Cookie"





Check out upcoming trips from the Corporate web site by going to www.greatoutdoors.org

Outdoor Experience Program

Phase I: Apr. 24-25, San Gabriel Mts.
Phase II: May 14-16, Santa Monica Mts.

MEMBER WELCOME!

Current Membership: 75

NEW MEMBERS

Jason H. • Rory S. • Kevin K.
Tom A. • Jeff L.
Dan E. • Tom B.

RENEWED MEMBERSHIPS

Enrique D. • Jach P.

**AIDS LifeCycle
June 6-10 • 2010**

Team G.O.S.B./V.C.

**Join Our Team
Volunteer**

Help Raise Funds

To learn more about AIDS LifeCycle 9 and become a member of Team GO, visit www.aidslifecycle.org, select the "Donate" tab. Search for Team Great Outdoors.

Please contact:

Buddy D.: Travler1969@aol.com
or Chris F. at: trancefusion@mac.com
if you have any questions.



**Best
Wishes
To All Our
January
Birthday
Members!**

facebook

<http://www.facebook.com/GreatOutdoors.SB>

If you are planning an event (day hike, camping trip, pot-luck, etc.) and you are on Facebook, please post the information (you can create an "event").

If you are not on Facebook, then please contact someone who is to post the info on there (Kyle, Brian, Sean, Chris). Some photos or a visual image, in addition to a description of the event will be required. Direct any questions to Kyle R.

Great Outdoors Membership Application

Register and Renew your membership ONLINE at: www.greatoutdoors.org/sb

Please fill out this form and mail with check payable to:
Great Outdoors • P.O Box 21051 • Santa Barbara, CA 93121

New Member Renewal Update Information

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone (h) _____ Phone (c) _____ E-mail _____

Newsletter format (check one): e-mail snail mail

Membership Type (check one):

- 1 Year Regular \$25
- 1 Year Household \$40
- 1 Year Student \$15

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 _____

Great Outdoors Trip Calendar

Santa Barbara/Ventura County Chapter

2009-2010

January 29-February 2

3-day Ocean Cruise
Trip Leader: Sean D.

February 26-28

Pismo Beach Sand Dunes
Trip Leaders: Mike P., Solomon N., Klaus G.

March 12-14

Red Rock Canyon
Trip Leader: Tom O.

April 16-18

Pendola Hot Springs
Trip Leader: Gary M.

May 6-9

Cal-Salmon Class V Whitewater Rafting
Trip Leader: Chris F.

May 28-31

Yosemite Car Camping
Trip Leaders: Sean D. & Kyle R.

June 6-12

AIDS LifeCycle/Team Great Outdoors
Team Captain: Buddy D.

June 11-13

Corporate Jamboree at Upper Oso
Trip Leaders: Brian M., Mark L.

July 1-5

Western Sierras Backpacking
Trip Leaders: Kyle R. & Will R.

August 13-15

Santa Catalina Island
Trip Leader: Gray V.

September 13-20

Yellowstone National Park
Co-lead with PS & SD

October 15-17

All Chapter Conference
Hosted by OC/LB



Red Rock Canyon is on Hwy 14 near US 395 in the western Mojave Desert, nestled below the eastern Sierra Nevadas.

Dramatic Geology

The campground sits in a geographic display formed by eons of erosion exposing dramatic and colorful sedimentary layers.

Cosos Petroglyphs

Various native tribes have inhabited the area for over 18,000 years with their presence recorded in extensive pictographs.

Desert Wildflowers

Increased rainfall should lend to great bursts of desert wildflowers in March and attract flocks of migratory birds.

Low-impact 4WD Treks

Arrive early on Thursday, March 11, and help us reserve campsites.

Contact the trip leader for more info:

Tom - (805) 689-3266; togier@sbceo.org

Trip Notes and Registration will be in the next newsletter.



SAVE the DATE



Core Group Officers

- President Sean D.
- Vice President Chris F.
- Treasurer Richard D.
- Secretary Tom O.
- Corporate Board Rep. Tom O.
- Membership Joe D.
- Outreach Kyle R.
- Special Events Dennis B.
- Day Hike Brian M.
- Webmaster Don B.
- Newsletter Karyn N.

MISSION STATEMENT

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

Place Label Here

When hiking downhill, bend the knees and lean forward. With feet directly underneath you and a low center of gravity, it is much less likely that you'll lose your footing.

"TRIP TICKS" REMINDER



"Dude – I got no time for Drama!"

- Dec. 31-Jan. 3 Anza-Borrego Trip
- Jan. 20 Pizza Social
- Jan. 24 Sedgwick Day Hike
- Jan. 29 Cruise to Ensenada

web site:greatoutdoors.org/SB
 Trip Notes • Requirements • Registration



PIZZA SOCIAL and BEER!

On-GOing Monthly Social Meetings
 Guest Speakers, Prizes & Trip Planning

Join Us on
 "The 3rd
 Wednesday"

Rusty's Pizza Lighthouse
 15 East Cabrillo Blvd., Santa Barbara
 Across from Stearn's Wharf

Jan. 20
at 7:00 PM

See Y'all There, Pardners!