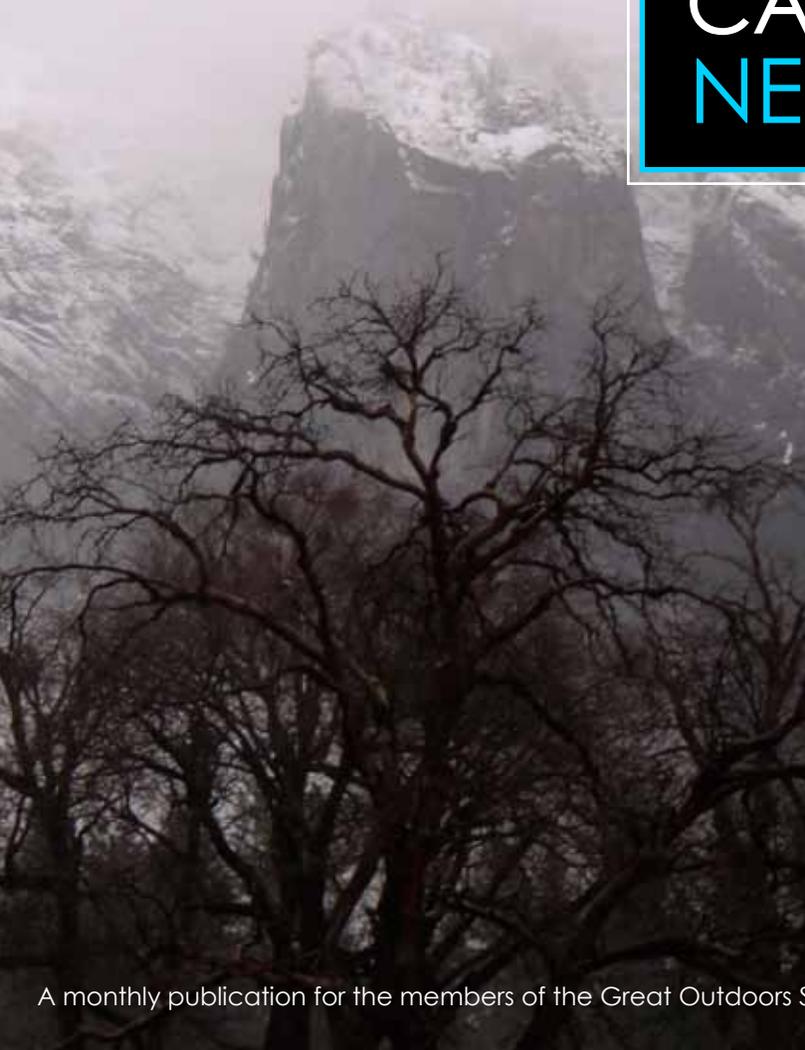


BASE  
CAMP  
NEWS



- 2012 trip calendar
- president's message
- outdoors experience phase 1 & 2
- pismo beach/morro bay bicycle camp
- announcements
- blast from the past
- miranda pines
- miscellaneous

clockwise from top left: sunset on pacific coast highway in malibu taken by Kyle R. in February 2010; legs on santa cruz island taken by Waldo in January 2012; santa cruz island taken by Waldo in January 2012; winter in Yosemite taken by Kyle R. January 2011

If you have a photo that you would like to submit to appear on the cover of the monthly newsletter, please email to Waldo at [weirdowaldo3510@gmail.com](mailto:weirdowaldo3510@gmail.com). Include your name, where and when it was taken, as well as a brief description.



# 2012 trip calendar



**Bike-camping trip to Pismo Beach / Morro Bay** *March 30 – April 1*

**Miranda Pines camping (off Cuyama Highway 166)** *April 6 – 8*

**Rose Valley/Sespe Creek Backpacking** *May 25-28*

**Kern River all-chapter jamboree** *June 6 – 10*



**Santa Cruz Island camping** *June 29 – July 1*

**Sierra Backpacking** *July 26 – 29*



**Lazy Bear – Guerneville** *August 1 – 5*

**Big Bear all-chapter jamboree** *August 11 – 13*

**Hearst Castle/Morro Bay** *September 21 – 23*

**All-chapter conference (location TBD)** *October 12 – 14*

# greetings, friends

This is a month of many firsts for our group. This is our first newsletter from our new newsletter editor, HUGE welcome to you Waldo! I'm looking forward to seeing what your skills and experience bring to the group, and again, HUGE WELCOME!

This is also my first month touching base with you all as your new president! I would like to extend my thanks to you all for your votes and support, and I look forward to what looks to be a busy and fun year as your president!

And we do have quite a year ahead of us! In this month alone we have a very fun-looking trip to Big Sur, hosted by our sister chapter, Great Outdoors LA. We also have Outdoors Experience Phase 1 coming in March, as well as Kyle's Pismo Beach/Morro Bay bicycle trip coming up at the end of March. And that's just the next two months folks!

Keep your eyes and ears open for monthly day activities/hikes spearheaded by Jim, our day hike coordinator. With many several well attended hikes so far, these can be a great way to spend a weekend afternoon, get a little exercise, and make some new friends.

For non-hikers, we have our regular monthly pizza social at Rustys in Santa Barbara, as well as our monthly potlucks scattered throughout the year. How can you go wrong with sharing pizza with friends, or by meeting a bunch of new folks and making new friends by just showing up with a dish to share? For the next potluck date, check the online calendar at Great Outdoors SBVC, or if you'd like to host one, contact our Special Events Coordinator Dennis via the website for available. Honestly, if you haven't tasted a dish of Dennis', you're missing out!

As for the rest of our core group, truly a band of good folks and great friends, Kyle, Richard, Roy, Chris, Jack, Brian, Sean and Gray, if you haven't met any of these guys yet, you should! We've got a great team working together this year to make it a good one for all of you, to help you all see and enjoy what our group, truly what our locale, our community, has to offer all of us. Anything can be a fun outing, be it camping or going to the flea market, if you CHOOSE to make it so, right?

So lets get out there, meet some new folks, make some new friends, and make it a great year for OUR Great Outdoors!

**Joe D.**  
*president*



*From left to right: Bruce D; Mark S; Richard D treasurer; Joe D president; Jack T membership coordinator; Madam Lu; Jim T dayhike coordinator; Sean D outreach coordinator; Brian M member-at-large; Chris F web-master; Julie B; Kyle R vice president of outing; not pictured: Roy R secretary; Dennis D special events coordinator*



# Outdoors

wilderness education

*Part of the purpose of California Great Outdoors — according to our Bylaws — is to provide "low-cost outdoor activities, programs, education, and leadership training to its members." Our Outdoors Experience training program accomplishes that purpose for our organization.*



Here's what our Outdoors Experience Leader Chris has to say about our 2012 program: I'm excited to announce the Outdoors Experience 2012 — our own GO — sponsored outdoors skills and leadership program. We'll cover useful topics such as equipment/gear, trip planning, navigation, cooking, wilderness survival techniques, and medical considerations.

# Experience

**Phase I (Day Hike Certification)** is March 10 & 11, 2012 at LaJolla Canyon Group Camp. It's right near the PCH, just north of Malibu. Our campsite sits majestically above a clearly visible ocean and has a covered structure with picnic benches. The LaJolla Canyon hiking loop offers a bird's eye view up and down the coast, of the Channel Islands, and Mugu Rock. This is one sweet camp.

**Phase II (Full Trip Leader Certification)** is April 28 & 29, 2012 at Malibu Creek State Park, which is an emerald gem in the greater LA area. One person said it feels like you're leaving the typical palm tree/desert climate of SoCal and driving up to the Pacific Northwest to see the lush deep green forest. I'll agree that it feels like Oregon in the Spring. A hike along the creek takes you into the part of the Santa Monica Mountains where M\*A\*S\*H, Swiss Family Robinson, Tarzan, and others were filmed.

**DON'T WAIT!** There are only sixteen (16) training slots available for this course!  
**CLICK HERE FOR REGISTRATION FORM!!**

# BIKE-CAMPING TRIP

March 30 – April 1, 2012

**EXPLORE** the local beauty and natural wonder of the coastal towns of Pismo Beach and Morro Bay in San Luis Obispo County. This is a perfect bicycle tour for beginner bike-campers. We will need to carry a moderate amount of gear on our bikes (including tent, sleeping bags, and clothing), but for food there will be plenty of options to dine out along the way.



# PISMO BEACH – MORRO BAY

## Facilities:

Both campgrounds have water, flush toilets, and showers. Firewood is available from the campground hosts, and restaurants are nearby.

## What to bring (or share with a friend):

- Bike helmet is required for your safety.
- Tent, sleeping bag, and sleeping pad
- Food (as much or little as you wish). As mentioned, there will be plenty of food options close to where we'll be riding and camping. However, you may wish to bring some for convenience and/or to save on expenses.
- Layered clothing (warm days, cold nights, possible rain showers)
- A sense of fun, adventure, and wonder!



Our tour will start on Friday, March 30th when we will meet at Pismo State Beach (Oceano Campground). For anyone interested, you can take the Amtrak train (Pacific Surfliner) to the Grover Beach stop, which is about one mile from the campground. On Saturday morning we will pack up and begin our 28-mile ride to Morro Bay. We will be riding a scenic route that will take us through the quaint downtown of San Luis Obispo (just in time for lunch!). We will ride together at a very reasonable pace, and no one will be left behind. We'll arrive at the Morro Bay State Park campground later in the afternoon. For supper, there are several dining options available in town, which is only about a mile from where we will stay.

Sunday morning we will pack up and have breakfast before returning to San Luis Obispo. After a final lunch stop in SLO, there will be a few options to catch the Amtrak Pacific Surfliner in the afternoon to take us back home.

*For anyone not wishing to partake in the train experience, then I recommend parking in San Luis Obispo on Friday afternoon and then riding about twelve miles to Pismo Beach where the trip will officially begin.*

## Weather:

Expect cool to warm days, and cold nights.  
Average temps: 68°F high / 44°F low  
Astronomy: Saturday, March 31st  
Sunrise: 6:49 am Sunset: 7:23 pm  
1st Quarter Moon, rises at 1:10 pm and sets at 2:36 am

## Price:

\$25 for Great Outdoors members, or \$45 for non-members. This will include the camping fees for both nights, as well as some "incidentals" that will be thrown in for fun. RAIN CANCELS EVENT. I will monitor the weather report and make a determination by Thursday, March 29. **CLICK HERE TO REGISTER.**

For more information, contact Kyle Richards ■ richards.kyle@gmail.com ■ (805) 451-8219

OP  
ARTY  
2012



We will be celebrating that great American art form, *the movie*, on Oscar Night, February 26 at the sumptuous home of Roy and Pat in fashionable Carpinteria.

The festivities begin promptly at 3 o'clock. Bring a finger food for the appetizer buffet.

Call to *RSVP* and receive driving directions (805) 684-5303.

BYOB  
Appropriate Attire Requested

SAVE THE DATE



YOUR ATTENDANCE IS REQUESTED AT SANTA BARBARA'S HOTTEST NEW EVENT

SATURDAY, MAY THE NINETEENTH TWO THOUSAND AND TWELVE

PACIFIC PRIDE FOUNDATION'S ROYAL BALL

FOUR SEASONS BILTMORE RESORT MONTECITO, CALIFORNIA

FORMAL INVITATION TO FOLLOW FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE VISIT: [PACIFICPRIDEFOUNDATION.ORG/ROYALBALL](http://PACIFICPRIDEFOUNDATION.ORG/ROYALBALL)

BLAST FROM THE

PAST!



THANKS BRIAN M.

# Miranda Pines

**April 6 – 8**

Join your Great Outdoors chapter as we visit one of the central coast's most hidden spots, Miranda Pines Campground. Perched atop a ridge in the Los Padres National Forest, overlooking the Cuyama Valley, this is a spot that few have even heard of, let alone visited! When you see it, you'll understand how it caught my attention, and why I've wanted to share it with our Great Outdoors family for some time!

## Some of the activities to enjoy on this trip include:

socializing, eating, laughing, board games, cards, walking, mountain-biking, geocaching, sunning, or just doing a whole lot of NOTHING! There are also multiple hiking trails scattered around the area, and lots of native flora and fauna to observe while enjoying the terrain surrounding the location.

Beware, due to the scenic location of the campground, the wildlife is plentiful, so watch out for 'native' animals, and give them the respect they deserve, both for your safety and theirs. No food left out overnight... This campground is a national forest site, so the amenities are limited, but do include:

- ❖ Pit toilet bathroom
- ❖ Picnic tables and fire rings at each campsite
- ❖ No Running Water!  
So make sure to plan accordingly!
- ❖ Beautiful views in almost every direction!



## Our trip agenda will roughly be as follows:

### Friday afternoon

Arrival and setup, this will be your opportunity to meet your fellow campers, get acquainted with our sites, get set up, and start relaxing for the weekend! Dinner will be on your own, with a central campfire for marshmallow-toasting, s'mores, conversation, discussing possible adventures for the weekend, and getting to know one another.



### Saturday

You're on your own for breakfast, and then it's the tough decisions of what to do with their day, be it: hiking, mountain-biking, sunning, or just lounging and having a good time! Campers will be on their own for lunch on Saturday, with an afternoon tea commencing when everyone returns from their various adventures, 5-6:30 pm. The famous Saturday night potluck will be a sunset picnic dinner, starting at 7:30 pm, so please plan accordingly for the time to prepare your dish. For our new campers, prepare to be amazed at the selection of dishes that will be presented. Please bring a preferably "homemade" or store bought, prepared dish to feed 6-8. We are always pleased and surprised at what folks can whip up on a campstove or out of a cooler! More fun, games and enjoyment around the campfire will top off our busy Saturday!



### Sunday

On your own for breakfast today, gain we'll have the difficult decision of activities- hiking, sunning... Plan on breaking camp and departing around noon, then happy Trails To Home! There will probably be a lunch stop on the way home, so keep your ears open for that discussion on Sunday!

## How Do You Get There? Directions to the campground are as follows:

### From points south of Santa Maria

- ❖ Take Hwy 101 north from Santa Barbara, toward Santa Maria.
- ❖ After passing through Santa Maria, on Hwy 101, and crossing the Santa Maria River on the north end of town, take the Hwy 166 East exit on the right, heading toward Maricopa.
- ❖ Follow Hwy 166 East for approximately 25 miles.
- ❖ Take the Sierra Madre Road turnoff on the right side of the road.
- ❖ Follow Sierra Madre Road for approximately 10 miles.
- ❖ When you come to the sign on the right side of the road listing Miranda Pines Road, Horse Shoe Spring CG, and Wagon Flat CG, now is the time to turn to the left! You'll see a small sign with the campground's name, and a small road leading up the hill from there. That will take you to the campground!

### From points north of Santa Maria

- ❖ Head south toward Santa Maria, but before you cross the Santa Maria River and enter the city, take the Hwy 166 East exit on the right.
- ❖ Turn left at the bottom of the offramp, then follow the directions above!

**For more information, please feel free to contact Joe D. via email or cell:**

email: [countryboyjoe1@gmail.com](mailto:countryboyjoe1@gmail.com)

cell: (805) 588-1142

**Looking forward to seeing all of you there!**



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

### 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.

## GREAT outdoors

## PIZZA SOCIAL

wednesday  
february 15

7pm

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



*Welcome* NEW GREAT OUTDOORS MEMBERS:  
FRANK S.  
MICHAEL H.

[CLICK TO JOIN](#)

## GREAT OUTDOORS los angeles



### THE BIG SUR COAST CAMPOUT

February 17 – 20  
President's Day Weekend

**Famous for its beauty...** sheer cliffs, secluded beaches, crashing waves, pockets of redwoods, clover-like sorrel and ferns sustained by winter rains and a damp summer fog. The waters and kelp beds along the coast are rich in sea life. The scenic splendors of the area are protected in a network of parks and preserves. From our campsite, we'll be in striking distance of Pt. Lobos... famous for groves of Monterey Pines, and frothy seas, home to the beleaguered sea otter. [CLICK FOR MORE INFO.](#)

### from the newsletter editor,

Hi everybody! For those who do not know me, my name is Waldo. I have recently relocated from New York City to this beautiful part of the country. I have been on a few Great Outdoor trips and am very excited to be involved with such a wonderful group of people and to be working on this monthly newsletter. I have some new ideas which I hope to implement in the near future, but I encourage everyone to give me feedback and ideas. This is your newsletter, after all. If you have any questions, feedback or suggestions, please feel free to contact me at [weirdowaldo3510@gmail.com](mailto:weirdowaldo3510@gmail.com).

Peace,  
*Waldo*