

THE BATES BEACH BEAT

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AVOCADO FESTIVAL BRINGS OVER 2,000 BOOTH VISITORS

UPCOMING EVENTS

October

- Oct 4, 11, 18, Bates Tuesday Picnics, Noon (weather permitting)
- Oct 6, 13, 20, Bates Thursday Picnics, Afternoons (weather permitting)
- Oct 14, Meetup Dinner, Denny's, Ventura 6:45 pm
- Oct 15, Women-only Gathering, Ventura, 1 pm-8 pm
- Oct 18, Online Meetup, 9 7:00 pm
- Oct 29, Annual Halloween Party

November

- Nov 11, Meetup Dinner at Denny's, Ventura 6:45 pm
- Nov 15, Online Meetup, 9 7:00 pm

By Gary Mussell, Director

After two years of cancellations due to Covid restrictions, the 2022 Avocado Festival came back to Carpinteria with all the energy, music, and food we always enjoyed in the past. Organizers estimated the number of visitors at around 60,000, down from the usual 90,000 in last years. The planned 2-day event over the weekend of October 1-2 was expanded an extra day to include Friday, September 30, but there was confusion in the news advertising and printed programs, so not everyone knew the Festival was open a day early.

The good news about the smaller crowds is the lines were much shorter for food! It also allowed us in the Friends of Bates Beach booth to spend more quality time with our visitors, answering the many questions they had about nude recreation.

The Festival organizers had to re-arrange the booth locations as several restaurants along Linden Avenue had pushed their outdoor dining across the public sidewalks during Covid. This meant some of the vendor booths had to move to the side streets instead of being on Linden proper, and this included our Bates booth. For 2022 we were located on Eighth Street three booths off of Linden, across from the porta-pottys and the County Police/Fire Department booths. That helped with getting us foot traffic, but the numbers were still down a little from the last Festival.

I huge thank you and shout out to those who volunteered to help (besides me) at the booth: Helen O'Neill, Joe Hettinger, John Parsons, Brian Knudson, Grant Keller, Rolf Holbach, Cynthia Holbach, Robert Byl, Mike Glinzak, Walter Wallace, and Harold Goldstein.

Our volunteers worked the three days in planned four-hour shifts, although a few stayed longer or came back for an extra day to help out. We had a great team who helped spin the wheel on the giveaway table while others handed out literature to those who expressed an interest in learning more. We also said hello to some former club members walking by, some AANR members and some TNSF members too. Also saying hello was former mayor Fred Shaw, city manager Dave Durflinger, and Police Chief Butch Arnoldi. Council candidate Gregg Carty also came by and chatted for a while.

We had about 300 booth visitors sign up for the free raffle (beach towels daily and a grand prize of 2 days/2 nights at the Arroyo Del Sol Bed & Breakfast).



Friday's Avocado Festival crew: Gary, Harold, Mike, Bill, and Walter See more photos Page 4

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Beach cleanup crew at 10 am Saturday Morning

Record Turnout For California Beach Cleanup

By Grant Keller

We had 27 participants at our Beach Cleanup event on Saturday, Sep 17, a new record for our Bates Beachcombers (we usually average about 20). Among them in the photo were volunteers from Heal the Ocean, a nonprofit organization similar to Heal the Bay but focused on Santa Barbara county, and a father and son from the Cate private high school in town (We had sent them a letter asking their students to join us).

In total we collected 64 pounds of trash and items to recycle, about half our normal total because we clean the beach regularly now during our mid-week and weekend visits. Four dead sea lions were found, plus one who was alive but in distress. Animal control came and took him away but left the dead ones as we were instructed to leave any dead animals in their place. Two homeless sites were discovered but were left alone per our instructions from the county.

Much of what was collected was dog poop as happens every year. There were also discarded beer and soda cans and bottles, a discarded bra, a torn wet suit, and a storage container lid. The most unusual items were a bicycle rear wheel and a rusty old lobster and crab trap. Several crustaceans were heard celebrating this find with a rousing rendition of "Under the Sea".

According to the California Coastal Commission, with 60% of the cleanup sites reporting, the statewide count stands at 27,185 volunteers. Those volunteers picked up 220,861 pounds of trash and an additional 29,702 pounds of recyclable materials, for a total of 250,563 pounds or 125 tons.

There were 38 beaches, streams, and hiking trails cleaned, as well as one group of divers who cleaned the seabed beneath the Santa Barbara pier. Cleanups took place up and down the coast, from the Oregon to the Mexican border, and as far inland as Lake Tahoe. Gary Mussell is retiring as Cleanup Beach Captain after doing the coordinating for the past fifteen years. Thank you Gary for doing such an excellent job!

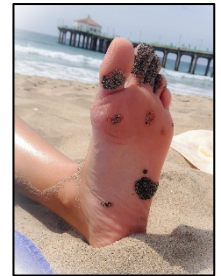
Robert Byl, a Friend of Bates Beach, is our new cleanup site captain. Robert is excited about the challenge and was effective in organizing and coordinating the search teams. He is an

experienced manager and is analyzing our results to determine how next year will be even better.

In the afternoon, after the cleanup was completed, we enjoyed a well-earned beach party on the now pristine sand. Helen came through for us with her magical potion. It really wouldn't be a Bates Beach party without Helen's Sangria. Even though it was a cloudy day, the weather was nice and warm.

Rocks, Tar, And Less Sand Cause Bates Beachgoers To Move Farther West

Because there has been so much sand erosion this year near our clothing-optional area, many are moving farther west, about 50 yards or so to use a smoother stretch of sand with no rocks.



The lack of a large winter storm last year caused the ocean currents to shift slightly and so there was less sand deposited onto the beach this spring. People have

remarked that Bates has been considerably narrower than in previous years and this lack of sand has exposed many rocks that usually stay buried. A few beachgoers have complained of stubbed toes and even a cut or two trying to enjoy our normal place near the concrete erosion barrier.

A few people have also complained of tar balls in the sand and sticking to their feet while walking. This is also different for Bates. The current usually carries the natural seepage from up the coast near the State Beach out to sea. (No, this is not oil from the decommissioned oil platforms a mile offshore).

FOBB is recommending everyone move farther west for the next few weeks or until we see a change back to the winter currents that will deposit more sand and solve the problem naturally.

[Note: To remove the tar, some people mix a baking soda paste while others use nail polish remover, WD-40 or baby oil. Goo Gone, a solvent available at most drug stores, also works. One FOBB member always wears an old pair of socks while near the waterline.]



Noon Photo of Cleanup Crew. People kept coming and going so it was impossible to keep people around to be in one complete photo.



Friends of Bates Beach members toast a farewell to our good friend Josh Meyer at the Sept 17 picnic. Josh died August 20.

Some Happy Thoughts About The September 17 Bates Picnic

By Helen O'Neill, Beach Co-Mayor

This summer season ended with a successful Coastal Clean-Up and Multi-Club Picnic. We also had a number of NON-members to help out too. Thank you everyone that participated!

After a lot of research and field tests, we're happy to report that the Quest Beach wagon (with balloon tires) the club purchased has worked out great! Speaking of equipment, instead of the 10x10 Easy-Up, we were using at our larger events, Greg purchased a Neso beach tarp. It's Turquoise Blue and is lighter, easier to put up, and has a bigger shade imprint, than the Easy Up. It does come with 2 poles, but Greg sets it up with 2 extra poles. Mid-week he'll still use his smaller green tarp though.

Speaking about hauling stuff, we are so super appreciative of the professional volleyball set that Joe Henninger donated. Even with the new wagon though, the Volleyball net is VERY heavy and sinks the cart into the sand while pulling it. So, to use it we will need dedicated people to help carry it if they want to play (does anyone want to donate a lighter net?)

After the beach cleanup we enjoyed our beach picnic. I counted over 40 people in our area. In mid-afternoon the clouds moved in, but it remained VERY warm and humid. The water temperature was listed on the internet at 68 degrees, very warm for mid-September, all in all it made for a lovely day. My homemade sangria and Sharyn's Spike Ball added to the fun and got passed around.

The only thing that was missing was Josh Meyer. Josh died suddenly on the beach a month ago from a massive heart attack. We all agreed his enthusiasm and energy was missed greatly. We posed for a photo and gave him a toast (see above).

Mid-Week Beach Visits Will Wrap Up In Mid-October

The Bates Steering Committee has decided to consolidate our organized mid-week trips to just one day, Thursdays, for the remainder of the beach season. While October is a lovely time to visit Bates with far fewer people around, the air and sea temperatures will start to be cooler and there will be fewer nudists coming down as well.

These trips will continue through mid-October, Scheduled dates are **October 6, 13, and 20**, weather permitting.

We have an extra standup sign (that marks our clothing optional section) in case anyone wants to go down with it on an unscheduled day. Call Helen at 805-701-7661. See you on the Sand!



Bates Beach Online Petition Exceeds 1500 Signatures



On October 2 we hit 1,530 signatures on the Bates Beach petition to change the county's nudity ordinance and "Make the Traditional Nude Section of Bates Beach Official." We gained about 200 new names last month. We ask all of our members (and their non-nudist friends) to add their names to the list. The petition site is at:

<https://www.change.org/p/friends-of-bates-beach-make-the-traditional-nude-section-of-bates-beach-official>.

With enough signatures (somewhere in the neighborhood of 5,000 signatures) we can ask the Board of Supervisors to change the county's nudity ordinance.

Avocado Festival Photos



We had a steady stream of visitors all three days. Center: Ferris wheel drew big crowds. Right: Rolf and Cynthia pose as dancing avocados.



The Sunday crew: Brian, Robert, Rolf, Cynthia, Gary, Helen, and Joe. Right: costumed dinosaur spins the prize wheel.



The Saturday crew: Grant, Gary, Rolf, Cynthia, John. Right: Helen and Rolf at the booth.



Among the 100 food vendors were those selling fried avocado and avocado brownies. By Sunday the festival was out of avocado flavored ice cream and avocado beer. Other booths sold clothing, signs, and jewelry.

More Beach Cleanup Day Photos



Robert and Walter display the rusted lobster trap they found, Linda holds a trash bag, Greg and Shayn push the beach cart.



Thanks to all the members who are sending us photos from their experiences at Bates Beach. We will continue to share these with our readers as space allows. – Editor

Avocado Festival Poll Shows Strong Beach Support

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On Saturday I was interviewed by Dennis Mitchell, for his “Something to Talk About” podcast on October 6, 2022, at www.CarpinteriaValleyRadio.com.

We also asked booth visitors to complete an informal survey asking if they supported the clothing-optional area at Bates Beach and also if they thought women should be allowed to be top free same as men.

Results (compared to previous surveys):

	2022	2019	2018	2017
Agree	75%	73%	71%	68%
Disagree	8%	12%	7%	11%
No Opinion	27%	15%	21%	21%

This year we isolated those responses from Carpinteria residents only. The results:

	2022	2019
Agree	75%	73%
Disagree	12%	12%
No Opinion	13%	15%

This year’s poll also shows a slight improvement on the question “Should women be allowed to be top free wherever men are allowed to do so?”

	2022	2019
Agree	50%	48%

We have asked this question only during the past two Festivals in response to the increased activity of the *Free the Nipple* movement.



Off-Delayed Sand Measurement Training Date Set for October 22

October 22 is the date our team of volunteers and project coordinator Jenna Wisniewski of UCSB will meet at Bates Beach to train for the important **Sand Measuring Project**. The training has postponed several times through the summer due to illness or the difficulty to find an open date for everyone. Persons interested should come to Bates at noon on that date.

The project has grants from California and the federal government to measure the width of local beaches over time in order to determine if/how fast sea levels may be rising due to climate change.

Bates Beach Steering Committee Report to the Members

The September 9 dinner meeting focused on the upcoming Beach Cleanup Day and Beach Picnic and also the Avocado Festival. Setting up the work shifts for the festival booth was of prime importance to be sure we had enough people there during the expected busy times and also to have a good gender balance if possible.

Robert Byl is the new Beach Captain for the cleanup on September 17, but Gary will be there to help him supervise the trash collection and the gathering of the statistics of what was picked up (required by the Coastal Commission). Everything seems set.

It was announced the updated Beach Ambassador brochures were at the printer. The new “Entering Clothing Optional Area” blue signs would be available for sale at the Festival and also later to anyone who wanted one in the coming months. We were still worried about production delays on the 16 oz. drinking cups that change color when a cold liquid is added but we have been assured they will arrive in time.

The September 13 Online meeting had two new people joining the 8 regulars, interested in our group, and requesting information about our clothing-optional beach.

We discussed the importance of purchasing food and other items at the Festival using \$2 bills to show the purchasing power of nudists in the local community. Remember to also hand people our \$2 bill business card explaining the significance of the \$2 bill campaign.

The next meetings will be held in October after the Festival so we can do a recap then and make recommendations for 2023. Ideas are welcome from members and visitors alike. Bring your ideas to dinner.

Want to be A Bates Beach Ambassador? Please, Sign Up!

With larger and more frequent crowds coming down to our clothing-optional section of the beach, we need to increase the number of Beach Ambassadors so that we have better coverage more often. It’s easy to get certified.



Apply on our website at:

<https://www.friendsofbatesbeach.org/information/beach-ambassadors> and we will download the training workbooks to you

All applicants are required to attend an online 90-minute class to receive final certification.



Peter Connolly Plans A Return Camping Trip To Saline Valley Hot Springs

By Peter Connolly

For the many who have had the privilege of visiting Saline Valley, you already know why this is such a special place, and why the locals would like to keep it a secret. Both Tim R., from NitOC, and I have had a trip to Saline Valley on our naturist bucket list for many years.

We are announcing our next camping trip to be from **Thursday, October 13 – Sunday, October 16**. Located in a remote corner of Death Valley, Saline Valley Hot Springs rewards travelers making the long trek with an idyllic desert oasis, having multiple improved soaking tubs, a large lawn area, hot shower, all shaded by a grove of palm trees.

Although against Inyo County laws, nudity is a long-accepted tradition making Saline Valley Hot Springs a public lands gem for naturists. For nude hikers, Saline Valley offers miles of free hiking opportunities. The area's dirt roads and trails also offer nude mountain biking opportunities

This is a remote location so everything one needs should be brought in as there are no stores or gas stations after leaving Highway 395. Everyone is responsible for their own basic camping needs, food, and water. The weather should be good this time of year, the temps on average run from the low 50's, to daytime highs in the upper 80's. It may be windy, typically 25% of the time. Keep in mind that a high clearance vehicle is required as 40 to 53 miles (depending on the chosen route) of the drive is on dirt roads. Also, it is recommended that one should have at least one full size spare tire and the vehicle should be in good repair. Be aware that cell service ranges from very spotty to non-existent so if you get stuck, don't expect AAA to come save you.

Contact me at NaturistAdventures@yahoo.com if you'd like to join us, receive directions and any updates. Don't hesitate to ask if you have any questions.



Maui's Friends Of Little Beach Start Online Petition

The Friends of Little Beach group on Maui, Hawaii is asking all nudists worldwide to sign its new online petition asking that this popular beach be granted legal clothing-optional status.



Nudity at Little Beach, formerly known as Pu'u Ola'i Beach, was shut down over a year ago by the State Parks Director in the excuse that too many beachgoers were violating the state's mask mandate requirement at the height of the Covid epidemic. However, the shutdown and ticketing have continued even though the mandate has been rescinded. Kurt Cottrell, the new DNLR (state parks) superintendent has made it clear that he opposes nudity on any beach on any island in the state.

Little Beach recently was reopened for clothed sunbathers but only until 4 pm daily, in order to eliminate the traditional drumming circle tradition at sunset.

Outraged nudists formed the Friends of Little Beach (FOLB) as a non-profit corporation and began talking to the local legislators and business leaders, but the response was that they need to see an overwhelming public response before they will consider acting. The petition may be accessed at: <https://actionnetwork.org/petitions/justice-for-little-beach-maui/>

The online petition is one of several steps being done by the FOLB to demonstrate this support. FOLB also suggests that supporters use the hashtag **#Justice4LittleBeachMaui** to spread the word about the petition.

Financial donations to FOLB are tax-deductible. Visit their website for more info: <https://www.littlebeachmaui.org/>



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Dinner Meeting Schedule

Friday Oct 14 & Nov 11, 6:45 pm

Denny's Restaurant on Telegraph Road (west of Ventura College), 4095 Telegraph Rd, Ventura, CA 93003



This dinner meeting is open to all FOBB members, guests, and first-time visitors.

Topics range from personal experiences to current club info and

news events affecting local beaches, nudist parks, or the naturist movement in general.

This meeting is a great first step for non-nudists who are curious and have questions about naturism, and it is a required orientation before non-members are invited (on a space-available basis) to attend one of our regular monthly parties.

Dinners are held every second Friday of each month.

The meeting will start at 6:45 PM and run about two hours. We have a separate room reserved in the back, to the right from where you enter the building. Come prepared to buy your own dinner as a courtesy to the service staff.

No dinner meetings are held in December, January, or February.

Online Meetup Schedule

Tuesday Oct 18 and Nov 15, 7 pm to 8:30 pm

The link is <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/724415629>.



You can also dial in using your phone at:

(571) 317-3122 with Access Code: 724-415-629

Online meetings are held every third Tuesday each month, year-around.

To receive advanced notice of these dinners, online meetings, and other changes in the status of upcoming beach picnics, please go to www.meetup.com/Friends-of-Bates-Beach and register at our website. There is no charge to join this Meetup website.

SCNA Invites Friends of Bates Beach to Upcoming Pool Parties

Location: Camarillo

The Board of Directors for SCNA, our parent organization, agreed to invite all dues-paying members of Friends of Bates Beach to an upcoming pool parties to be held in Ventura County.

1. The Saturday, October 29 party is located at a home in the hills overlooking Camarillo from 3 pm to 9 pm. This is the club's annual Halloween-themed party, and wearing a creative costume is encouraged! There will be prizes for the Best Costume and for the Best Pot-Luck Food Using a Halloween Theme.

This is a beautiful home with a private yard and a backyard BBQ, indoor heated pool, and Jacuzzi. There is also a patio and a fire pit.

The club will provide soft drinks/water. Please bring a "Halloween-themed" dish or dessert to share. The host asks that you prepare your food ahead of time, as there is limited kitchen and refrigerator space. Up to 75 people are expected to attend.

As with the first party, persons who have paid their annual dues to FOBB may attend for the same \$10 fee as do SCNA members. The non-member rate is \$20/person. Children under 18 may attend for free.

All who wish to attend either party MUST call the SCNA office at (818) 225-2273 to reserve your place. A list of all Bates Beach members who have paid their dues has been provided to the SCNA office to verify you qualify for the member entry rate.

You may not invite your own non-member guests without advanced notice of their name and address so that a proper background check may be done. Those are the SCNA rules we agreed to follow. Persons not approved in advance may not attend the party.

Dragonfly Ladies Gathering

Location: Ventura

The Dragonfly Ladies, the women-only auxiliary of SCNA, will next meet Bates Beach women only from 1 PM to 8 PM on Saturday October 15 in Ventura for some sun, food, and fun conversation. There is no pool or hot tub at this location, but a beautiful patio for a lively discussion.



This is open to any woman in the club or friend that a club member would like to bring with them, or a woman from another club that wants to join us. Any woman interested in coming should plan on bringing a dish for a potluck dinner, RSVP at [818-225-2273](tel:818-225-2273) or sca@socalnaturist.org.