

THE BATES BEACH BEAT

1072 Casitas Pass Road, Suite 427 Carpinteria, CA 93033, Messages: (805) 225-3304
Email: friends@friendsofbatesbeach.org, Website: www.friendsofbatesbeach.org

April 2023

Vol 2 No 04

TORNADO DAMAGES MOBILE HOME PARK IN CARPINTERIA NEAR BATES

UPCOMING EVENTS

APRIL

Fri, Apr 14, Meetup Dinner in Ventura, 6:45 pm
Sun, Apr 16, Deep Creek Hike, 10 am
Fri, Apr 21, Online Meetup, 9 7:00 pm

MAY

Sat, May 6, Naked Gardening Day
Fri, May 12, Meetup Dinner in Ventura, 6:45 pm
Sat, May 13, Dragonfly Ladies Gathering, 1-8 pm
Fri-Mon, May 18-21, Saline Valley Camping Trip
Fri, May 19, Online Meetup, 9 7:00 pm



The photo was taken on March 6 by FOBB member Dan Cruz of the start of our designated clothing-optional area.

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By Gary Mussell, Director

The rain storm that pelted Southern California on March 21 brought more to Carpinteria than just five inches of rain in six hours. It also brought heavy winds and a rare tornado that touched down in the Sandpiper Mobile Home park, damaging 26 homes. The park is north of the 101 freeway about 3 miles northwest of Bates Beach. The storm also uprooted a tall eucalyptus tree on the bluffs above the Tar Pits, a mile north of our beach. Another tree was felled in the park on Linden Ave next to Carpinteria State Beach. Southbound lanes of the freeway were closed for a while near La Conchita due to a mudslide. Yes, it was quite a day to experience Mother Nature!

The storm was only one of many the area has experienced since the start of the year, and each continued the cycle of removing then-redepositing sand and debris onto our beach. FOBB member Dan Cruz took the photo at left between storms on March 6. He said a lot of the wood debris on the beach had washed out to the ocean, but that new debris has washed onto the shore. He also reported that some of the beach sand had returned, but that we still had a long way to go to get it up to the levels we saw last summer as most of the rocks in the surf were still there.

Meanwhile, the local newspaper writes that the county has “completed a cleanup of debris from the State Beach” north of us, but they have ignored doing anything similar at Bates. I sent an email to the Field Rep for Supervisor Williams asking for Bates to be similarly cleaned up, but I have not received any reply.



The above photo of the Sandpiper tornado was taken off television from a KSBY-TV telecast 03 21 2023

Club News



Good Turnout For The First Monthly Dinner In Ventura

Despite the heavy rains during the morning and afternoon, the downpour turned into a light mist by late afternoon, so we had an excellent turnout for our first dinner meeting. Instead of the 3-4 people expected, we had a record 16 for this location, including several first-timers. Thanks to all for coming!

The Ventura dinners will be held the second Friday of the month through October. The next meeting is on April 14. (See details in the Activity Calendar at the back of this newsletter).

Gary presented the **2022 Best Friends of the Beach** certificates to **Helen O'Neill, Robert Byl, and Greg Cooper**. These were supposed to be given at the December pool party, but that event was canceled due to the host's exposure to Covid a few days earlier. Gary also gave Helen her **2022 SCNA President's Certificate of Excellence**. This was announced at the SCNA holiday party in December, but this March meetup was the first time our group has met since.

We presented a **flamingo beach towel** to Rosel Weedin who is our 500th member on Meetup.com. There is no fee to be a meetup member. Gary announced the paid dues renewal process is going well with over 80% of the members who joined in January and February a year ago already renewing via PayPal. We encourage all our readers to visit the friendsofbatesbeach.org home page and pay FOBB \$10/year to cover our expenses (this is separate from SCNA dues).

Gary emphasized the importance of using \$2 bills in Carpinteria and elsewhere this season, as we slacked off on using them during the Covid epidemic. It is important the local merchants see we support them as they continue to support us.

Gary reminded the group that the Beach Ambassador program is why we were allowed to return to the beach, so we need more people to take the training and walk the beach when they are there so people know of our presence. Currently

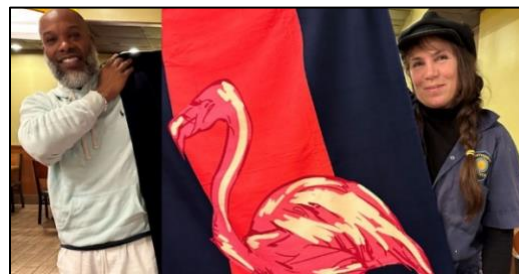
April 15 Party Delayed Until June

Our Ventura party house host says he is having "extensive plumbing work done on my house" that will require FOBB to cancel our planned April 15 Jacuzzi party until a later date.

Meanwhile, we have secured a new location in Camarillo, but not until **June 10**. FOBB members should update their calendars accordingly. We will provide more details about the June event in next month's newsletter.



Above: Helen O'Neill (left) and Greg Cooper (right) with their awards.
Below: New members Kyle Mason and Rosel Weedin display beach towel.



New FOBB Promotional Cards Available for Distribution

During the online Meetup on February 21, the group agreed on the text for the updated promotional business cards that we use. The decision was to make two cards, one for people interested in our organization that promote FOBB's meetup site and an online petition. The second will be distributed when we use \$2 bills to pay for meals and other purchases in Carpinteria and elsewhere.

The cards should be ready for our members at the April 14 dinner.



FOBB Meetup Website Reaches 500 Members

On February 25, FOBB added its 500th member to our Meetup.com website. To commemorate the milestone at our March 10 Meetup dinner, we awarded Rosel Weedin a beach towel. She is a Ventura artist and is very happy to support our organization.

Meetup.com is where we place our current information about the beach and upcoming activities. Many of our members are important influencers within the community and almost all of our beach participants come from this website,

Thanks to All Who Are Renewing Their Paid Memberships

FOBB continues to send out member renewal notices to its Beach members based on the month when the person joined. Friends of Bates Beach only asks for \$10/year per person which is the cost of one unhealthy lunch at McDonald's.

Per member request, there is now a separate button on the FOBB website's Home Page for those who wish to donate more than the \$10 dues amount. Some of you already have! Again, many thanks.



Members Enjoy Imbibing At The March Wine Tasting Party

By Cynthia Holbach

Back in 2018, while Rolf had some time to wander around the Los Angeles Travel & Adventure Show, he stopped at a booth for PRP International Wines that was selling wine-tasting parties. He ended up buying a party with the intent to host it for the club. Then Covid hit, so we put the idea aside.

Then last year, the wine company contacted us to see if we were still interested. Knowing they were devoted wine aficionados, we asked members Sonya and Marc if they would like to host it at their home in Ventura. Because there are more wine lovers in our club living in Ventura, we got a lot of interest! So, on March 3, we finally had our wine-tasting party.

Besides the seven different wines that the PRP representative brought for us to taste, he also let us try a couple more dessert wines as a bonus. We also enjoyed the table full of delicious hors d'oeuvres that Sonya and Rolf provided. During the tasting, we found they also enhanced the flavor of the wines and helped to soak up some of that alcohol.

Thanks again to Sonya and Marc for hosting a fun party and a very enjoyable evening! Because of its success, we will plan another party like this for some time in the future.

Our Online Bates Petition Sits at 1625 Signers

As of March 31, the number of signatures on online Beach Petition reached 1,625 signers.

The petition asks people to request the County Board of Supervisors amend the county's nudity ordinance and "Make the Traditional Clothing-Optional Section of Bates Beach Official" and not just a verbal agreement. With enough signatures (somewhere in the neighborhood of 5,000 signatures) we can take the petition to the Board as less than that will not be persuasive.

We ask all of our members (and their non-nudist friends) to add their names to the list (it doesn't matter where you live!) The petition site is at: <https://www.change.org/p/friends-of-bates-beach-make-the-traditional-nude-section-of-bates-beach-official>.



Beach News

No Decision Yet On the Trail Path Above Bates Beach

By Gary Mussell, FOBB Director

On March 21, I exchanged emails with John L. Ilasin, the Public Works Director for the City of Carpinteria concerning the status of the path for the proposed Rincon Trail on the bluff above our beach.

Ilasin responded by stating no decision has yet to be made by the Carpinteria City Council from any of the alternative path routes discussed last summer. At the City Council meeting on March 28, 2022, Council rejected certifying the Environmental Impact Report as well as not approving the Conditional Use Permit and Coastal Development Permit for the route that was to remove half the hill above the beach, thus endangering the paraglider hobbyists, that also terminated in the Bates parking lot, which all agreed was an unsafe choice.

Last summer, city staff analyzed trail alternatives with stakeholders including FOBB, with the inland trail route parallel to the freeway being the preferred route.

Ilasin says city staff "has met one-on-one with each member of the City Council member this past February to debrief about the stakeholder outreach." The next step is to schedule a City Council meeting in order to present the findings to the public. He said staff is looking at either late April or the middle of May for this meeting and we will be invited to attend.

Sand Measurement Project Still Needs Volunteers

David Tiktin and John Parsons have participated these past several weeks in the UCSB grant program that measures the width of the beach sand at Bates Beach over time to determine the effects, if any, of climate change and sea rise.

They need more volunteers! Email us at friends@friendsofbatesbeach.org if interested

Beach Area Just North of Bates Remains Closed

The beach north of our area remains closed until June 1 so that the sea lion pups can be born and raised. Violators risk a hefty fine and arrest for trespassing. Last week's count showed 122 adult sea lions and 50 pups living near the Casitas Pier.

Online Beach Ambassador Training Now Available

Our Beach Ambassador training program is now online. We need more ambassadors to fulfill our promise to the community that we will patrol ourselves and keep our clothing-optional area a safe and family-friendly place to visit. Email us at friends@friendsofbatesbeach.org for further information.



Our Hike Through Utah Canyon Near Mecca Hills, Salton Sea

By Scott Schmitz

The morning of March 12 in the San Fernando Valley was cold, gray, and somewhat misty after the previous day's storm. Not ideal hiking weather at all. Indeed, driving all the way out to just past Cabazon on Interstate 10 you would not be encouraged by the heavy mist. But as you dropped out of the San Geronio Pass towards Indio, the clouds abruptly disappeared as they hit the desert air. By the time I got to the meeting place at the Mecca Travel Center, the sun was shining brightly, and the air was warm enough to shed my jacket and change into a short-sleeved shirt.

Due to the time change, I had the group wait for an extra half-hour for any possible stranglers since many have forgotten to set their clocks forward an hour. By the time we left, we were a party of twelve; me, Aaron, Austin, Chris, Don, Fritz, John, Kathy, Larry, Mike, Oscar, and Peter. We zipped past Mecca via the new bypass bridge and made our way into Box Canyon. Just beyond the Mile-5 marker (Mile-0 being back at the Painted Canyon Road junction), I lead the party onto a dirt parking area at the entrance to Little Utah Canyon where one of our members promptly got stuck in the sand. But the group was chomping at the bit to get started so we divested ourselves of unnecessary gear behind a convenient bush and proceeded up the canyon, leaving the stuck car for when we would return.

It was not long before the desert heat became noticeable, a shock to all who had awakened to the chill of the coastal climate. Soon we started welcoming the sparse shade of the canyon cliffs and shrubbery. But here and there, spots of wildflowers colored the wash, and damp spots of sand gave testament that even the Mecca Hills had gotten some of the endless winter rains. Soon the walls narrowed, and we entered the colorful slot canyon that gave the chasm its name due to the red-colored rock that reminded people of Utah's colorful canyons. The slot narrowed to the point where we were fighting lush vegetation to get through (thankfully not the thorny kind).

And then the canyon widened out and the wash began to get rocky. At the junction of two boulder-strewn washes, we left the drainage and headed up a ridge.



The rounded rocks made travel a bit tricky. Clearly, the sediment which made these hills had been deposited by ancient rivers. But at the top was a place I called Utah Hill and it had a magnificent view of the Mecca Hills and the Salton Sea beyond. Peter and Mike took their leave of us as they had to meet someone at the trailhead at 2 PM with the plan to go camping in the desert. Down to ten, we took time for lunch and photos and headed back down the hill.

Back at the junction of the boulder-strewn washes we meet two naked guys. Kyle and Sid had reached our meeting spot precisely an hour late and had spent a lot of time trying to catch up to us, hitting a few dead ends along the way. But they had met Peter and Mike who pointed out the right path, and now we were back to twelve hikers.

On the way back, I led the group down a neighboring canyon where we hiked past some small caves and other scenic formations. But when we ended up on the ridge overlooking our cars, some found the way too steep. Half the group dared the climb down and not without some slips made and the sacrifice of a little skin. The other half chose to follow the other canyon back down to Box Canyon Road to wait for us to pick them up and shuttle their naked selves back to their clothes. We saw only one textile the entire day and pretty much had the area to ourselves. And the weather was wonderful for a desert hike in the nude.

Upcoming Nude Hike

Spring Flowers Deep Creek Hike

Sunday, April 16, 10:00 AM – Dusk, Cost is \$5/person/day.

This day hike to these popular naturist hot springs in the San Bernardino Mountains is a combined event with members from the FOBB, SCNA, NitOC, and the Camping Bares clubs.

We will meet around 10 am at the Bowen Ranch lower parking lot. Pay your dues at the cabin, go straight through the chicken fence gate, then make a left and immediate right. The hike down to the trail is moderate if you are in fair shape. It is two miles long with a 970-foot drop in elevation. It is not handicapped accessible! No facilities, so bring everything you will need.



Arroyo Del Sol
Altadena, CA

RSVP at (866) 268-8852

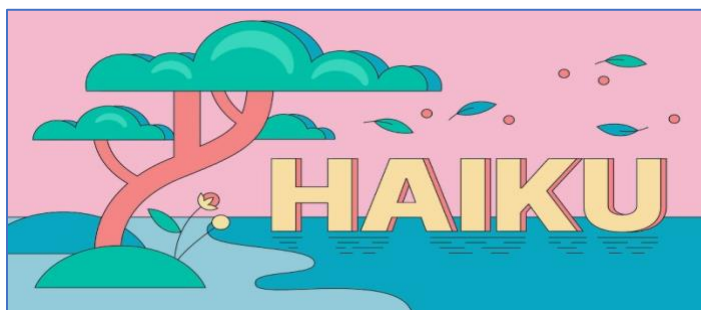
arroyodelsol@c-ohomenetwork.com

www.arroyodelsol.net

Enjoy the pool & sunshine...naturally!

Clothing Optional
Bed & Breakfast

Upcoming Club Activities



Naturist Haiku Writing Contest

April 17 is National Haiku Day, and to celebrate, the Western Region of the American Association for Nude Recreation (AANR-West) has announced a Haiku writing for April 1 through May 30. Go to <https://aanrwest.org/haiku> to submit your entries.

For those unfamiliar with the format rules, a Haiku is a short 3-line poem where the first line can only have 5 up to syllables, the second line can have a maximum of 7 syllables, and the third line can only have 5 syllables. For example:

**"Family starts road
Trip to nudist camp as kid
Shouts, "Are we bare yet?"**

The contest will be open to everyone whether or not they are members of AANR or any nudist organization. Let's get creative! More information next month.

Celebrate Nude Gardening Day On Saturday, May 6

For the past twenty years, the Naturist Society has promoted the first Saturday of each May as a time for people across the globe to tend to their plants and gardens clothed as nature intended. So, what should you do?



First of all, find an opportunity to get naked and do some gardening. Second, tell someone about your experience or post a note on social media. Third, take a photo and send it to SCNA. Each year we have a contest for **Best Nude Gardening Day Photo**. We will post them in a future newsletter and all vote for the best ones.

The WNBR-LA Is Coming June 24

World Naked Bike Ride through downtown Los Angeles is a decades-long tradition. Perfectly legal with a police escort! Usually around 400 riders in various stages of undress – be as bare as you dare – will ride either a 5-mile route or a 15-mile route that winds through Chinatown and Echo Park, down Sunset Blvd, and past the Staple Center, City Hall, and the LAPD headquarters (a photo op for many!).



More details next month but we wanted to alter our members to set aside the date if they are interested in participating.

Dragonfly Ladies Gathering

Saturday, May 13, 1-8 PM.

FOBB and SCNA host occasional parties just for the women. The location is the Arroyo del Sol B&B in Altadena since our members are spread out from Riverside to Santa Barbara. This seems to be the best central place. Usually, about a dozen women attend Altadena for some sun, food, pool time, and female camaraderie.



They call their group **The Dragonfly Ladies** because two years ago at the first gathering, a friendly dragonfly visited the women who were in the swimming pool at the time, talking. It landed benignly on each person's hand, one by one, essentially saying hello before it flew away.

The cost is free. Any woman interested in coming should plan on bringing a dish for a potluck dinner. This is the first of three meetings we will have during the year. If anyone is interested or has questions, please call Cynthia at (818) 225-2273 or email scna@socalnaturist.org. These gatherings are open to all women, especially women who want to try naturism for the first time but want to do it in a safe setting with other women first.



Saline Valley Warm Springs Camping Trip

Thursday, May 18 to Sunday, May 21

Location: NW corner of Death Valley National Park

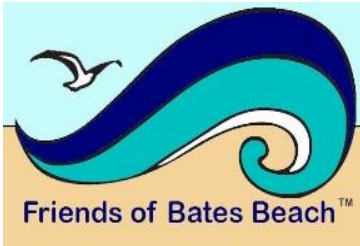
Member Peter Connolly will host a camping trip to Saline Valley Hot Springs this weekend for four days of nude camping, hiking, mountain biking, and hot tub soaking in this idyllic desert oasis that's part of Death Valley.

This is a remote location so everything one needs should be brought in, there are no stores or gas stations nearby. Peter will be bringing firewood, but you will need to bring everything else. At this time of year expect cool evenings, warm days, and possibly very windy conditions.

We will try to help team up people for carpooling, but if you drive on your own you should have a high clearance vehicle as the last 40-50 miles of the drive is on dirt roads. One should also have at least one full-size spare tire and the vehicle should be fully fueled and in good repair. Realize that cell service ranges from spotty to non-existent.

Contact Peter directly at peterconnolly1@gmail.com if you are interested in going, for more info and directions, and to get any questions answered.

FRIENDS OF BATES BEACH WANTS TO MEET YOU!



Each month, the Friends of Bates Beach hosts a monthly dinner and also an online ZOOM discussion group. These meetings are open to members, non-members, and first-timers who are interested in social nudity. The focus of this dinner meeting is on naturist activities at Bates and other Southern California beaches; however, topics vary every month. Anyone with a sincere interest is welcome.

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 backyard pool parties.

ONLINE MEETINGS

Friends of Bates Beach hosts an online meeting each month for the people who cannot make the in-person meeting. Most participants live in the Santa Barbara to Los Angeles area, although sometimes we will get people from as far away as Canada and Florida!

Be aware that since everyone will be at their own home, these meetings are clothing-optional, and people often take advantage of that opportunity.

THIRD FRIDAY OF EACH MONTH 7 pm to 8:30 pm



VENTURA/SANTA BARBARA ONLINE MEETUP

Just click the link and any browser will connect you! (You will be asked to link to the online application; click "ok") Cell phone users: it works like connecting to any other call. If you want to be seen, just click your camera "on."

Please join our Meetup from your computer, tablet or smartphone at:

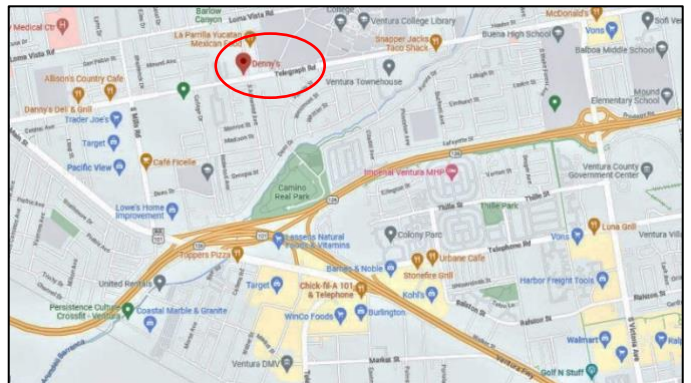
<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/724415629>

You can also dial in using your phone at:
(571) 317-3122, Access Code: 724-415-629

Upcoming Friday Schedule for 2023:

- April 21, 2023
- May 19, 2023
- June 16, 2023
- July 21, 2023
- August 18, 2023
- September 15, 2023
- October 20, 2023

IN-PERSON MEETINGS



Map to Denny's Restaurant on Telegraph Road in Ventura

SECOND FRIDAY OF EACH MONTH

6:45 PM – 8:30 PM
MEETUP DINNER



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

Our meeting room is to the right and rear from where you walk in. Buy your own dinner.

RSVPs for the dinner meetings is not necessary but appreciated so we have an advanced head count.

Leave Messages at: (805) 225-3304 or
email: friends@friendsofbatesbeach.org

There is no Friday dinner meeting from November through February.

- April 14, 2023
- May 12, 2023
- June 9, 2023
- July 14, 2023
- August 11, 2023
- September 8, 2023
- October 13, 2023