

THE BATES BEACH BEAT

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May 2023

Vol 2 No 05

MID-WEEK PLANNED VISITS TO BATES STARTING THIS MONTH

UPCOMING EVENTS

MAY

May 2, 4, 9, 11, 16, 18, 23, 25, 30
Mid-Week Planned Group Visits to Bates
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

JUNE

June 1, 6, 8, 13, 15, 20, 22, 27, 29
Mid-Week Planned Group Visits to Bates
Fri, June 9, Meetup Dinner in Ventura, 6:45 pm
Fri, June 16, Online Meetup, 9 7:00 pm
Sat June 17, Multi-Club Beach Picnic
Sat June 26, World Naked Bike Ride - LA

Tuesdays and Thursdays Are Scheduled If You Can Get Away!

By Gary Mussell, FOBB Director

Now that the weather and sea temperatures are starting to warm, we have once again started our weekly mid-week visits to Bates on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons. Look for the sign (at the right) so you know where to sit.

The tentative **May schedule is May 2, 4, 9 & 11, 16 & 18, 23 & 25, and May 30, starting around after 2 PM** and lasting until sunset.



Weather conditions in May are always iffy. The usual “May Gray” overcast that makes the coast overcast during the morning hours usually clears by mid-afternoon, which is the reason for the later start time. All beach days are subject to cancellation if the overcast is predicted not to clear.

Also, send us your trip plan, direction requests, and other inquiries to: friends@friendsofbatesbeach.org so that our beach mayors can reply with any last-minute changes in their plans.

If the weather suddenly clears, additional weekend group visits may occur! Any such up-to-the-second schedules are posted via our [www.Meet.com/Friends of Bates Beach](http://www.Meet.com/Friends_of_Bates_Beach) online service. If you are not signed up there to receive email texts from Helen, Greg, or John, we recommend you do, so that to don’t make the trip to the beach and find yourself alone.

Bring your own picnic supplies, chairs, bathing suits (just in case), and “Reef-Safe” sunscreen (to protect the dolphins).

The area approved for our use is down the walking path from the parking lot toward the west end of the beach starting about 1300 feet ahead where the beach starts to curve to the left and a concrete rockslide is visible on the cliff slope (see story, page 2).

Because the nudity ordinance has not yet been amended, this is a “Bare as you Dare” Beach Day. Use common sense while nude and respect those walking past our location with their dogs and families. Never be nude to the east of the concrete rockslide or you will be ticketed!



Lower sand levels reveal hidden concrete fallen from the cliff above Bates. See Page 2.

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Beach News



Bates Beach looking east, about 200 yards beyond the start of our clothing-optional area. Taken on April 23, 2023, by member Robert Byl

Beach Sand is Slowly Building Back at Bates

By Gary Mussell, FOBB Director

Several members reported last week that the sand washed away during the winter storms, and is rapidly coming back to Bates, but it has a long way to go to return to normal as rocks are still visible near the concrete seawall as it is still about 5 ft .below normal.

Visitors are advised to move a couple of hundred feet farther west to find smooth and when to lay down their blankets.

Park Ranger Visited Bates

On Saturday, April 22 our members report that a deputy visited Bates following a complaint of a naked man in the textile area. Our Ambassadors spotted him looking confused and disheveled but with his pants down. They got him off the beach. However, someone made a call so as our agreement says a deputy came down and gave the usual warning that nudity was illegal and a “next time I’ll issue tickets.” After he left there were no further problems, and Sunday was a beautiful day with no hassles.

We contacted the County Supervisor’s office about the deputy and we were assured County Parks would talk to him about our verbal permission to be on the beach.

If there are law enforcement visits in the future, our members are reminded to cooperate fully and to get the name of the officer, if possible, then email your experience to our email at friends@friendsofbatesbeach.org.



Green moss covers a portion of the rocks exposed because of the lower sand levels. The tide pools at low tide reveal a variety of sea creatures. The photo was taken on April 22 by member John Parsons.



The sand level is 5 ft down or more in places, revealing concrete blocks previously buried under the sand. At the end of the wall, there is a concrete “bench” for sitting.



Super blooms of wildflowers cover the bluff above Bates Beach. Photos of the bloom and April Sunsets below were taken by member Helen O’Neill



Get Well, Sonya Robinson

Longtime “Bates Beach Mom” Sonya Robinson suffered a major heart attack on April 7 at her home in Ventura. She was revived by paramedics but for two weeks after the attack, she remained in critical condition on a ventilator in the CCU at Community Memorial Hospital, Ventura.



Several ribs were broken during CPR, which made breathing on her own very difficult, according to Marc Welter, her longtime companion, who stayed by her side the whole time and kept her naturist friends updated via email. Because of problems with fluid buildup in her lungs and subsequent problems with kidney functions, doctors were unable to perform an angiogram until the last week in April. Her heart is in good shape and no major blockage was found in her arteries, so the reason for the heart attack is still being investigated. Her feeding tube was removed a week ago and she was able to take liquids, broth, and Jello. A few days ago, Marc reported the hospital moved her to a regular room where she can begin eating solid food again. He says Sonya can talk again and says the hospital meatloaf is not as good as hers, a good sign she is quickly recovering.

Her next step will be to have an ICD (a defib and pacemaker combo) installed as her heart is only at 26 beats a minute while normal is about 60 bmp.

Marc says she appreciates all the love and prayers being sent her way by club members, but she is not yet ready to receive visitors.

FOBB Membership Dues Can Now Be Paid, Via Zelle

Through the efforts of our treasurer, Bates members may now pay their memberships and renewal dues via Zelle as a second option to using PayPal.

Using Zelle means the total dues amount will be transferred to our bank account instead of having a small processing fee deducted as PayPal requires.



All the members have to do is create a Zelle link at their bank for their account, then assign “friends@friendsofbatesbeach.org” as the recipient, and the transfer will go into the correct club account.

Renewals for May and June are being mailed out the first week in May so those members can expect an email from us reminding them to continue their support for our beach.

Parade Truck Needed for July 1 Independence Parade



Each year for the past 10 years, FOBB has been invited to participate in the Carpinteria Independence Day Parade, through the heart of the city on Linden Avenue. The parade is always on the Saturday before the actual holiday, so

this year the event falls on July 1.

We need volunteers to help decorate the truck, ride in the back of the truck and wave to the crowd (yes, we will be appropriately dressed), and hand out literature and beach balls to the crowd.

This year we also need a new truck as our previous vehicle and driver are no longer available.

Does anyone have a Ford F-150 or equivalent size we can borrow for the afternoon? You can even drive it yourself in the parade. How great is that?

Let us know at friends@friendsofbatesbeach.org.

Information about the parade festivities and our plans for distributing \$2 bills for purchases around the city will be discussed in the June newsletter.

When Shopping in Carpinteria, Don't Forget to Spend \$2 Bills!



Carpinteria’s restaurants and retail stores restaurants have been very supportive of our beach efforts over the years, so we must be seen publicly supporting them now and remain financially hurt by the recent pandemic.

Buying things using \$2 bills not only supports them but also gives us some positive publicity as it is identified as “nudist” currency by the locals.

Next time you go to your bank, give them your \$20 bill and ask for ten \$2 bills in exchange. Carry them in your wallet for use next time you visit Carpinteria.

Also, be sure to carry our \$2 bill business cards with you to give to the merchant when they inevitably will ask about why you are paying with such a non-traditional currency. The card explains we are nudists supporting local businesses and we would appreciate them giving out the bill as change to their customers so the word can spread.

Drop us an email if you need additional cards.



Why Did You Receive a \$2 Bill?

You have just waited on a naturist/nudist. We give \$2 bills as tips or payments for services as a way to demonstrate our support for local merchants. You don't have to be a nudist to support our campaign for a legally designated one-quarter mile stretch of beach out of the 89 miles of beaches in this county. If you agree, please pass this \$2 along as change to your customers.

Yellow/Blue Beach Signs for Bates Available

Two additional “Entering Clothing-Optional Area” stand-up signs on yellow A-frames (see photo page 1) are available for beach use. We are happy to provide these to any FOBB member who pledges to come down to the beach often on our scheduled dates so that other beach visitors can locate us on the sand.

Contact Gary, Helen, or Greg if you are interested in becoming a “beach coordinator” and obtaining one of these signs.

Monthly FOBB Dinner In Ventura

Nine people attended the April 14 dinner at Denny’s Restaurant, including two new people.

Mark provided the group with updated information about Sonya Robinson (see story on page 3).

For the benefit of the new couple, Gary provided a brief history of Bates Beach and how we got to where we are now. He discussed the Friend’s group relationship with the parent organization, SCNA, and he reviewed upcoming events for both groups through June.

Everyone gave short 2-minute biographies for the benefit of the newcomers.

Bob Kweiser presented the new promo cards. There are now two types, one for use with \$2 bill purchases and one with just general info about FOBB and links to the website, meetup, and online petition. He donated the printing costs and had 1,000 of each produced.

Peter Connolly discussed hiking and camping opportunities including his Saline Valley camping trip, May 18-21.

The next dinner meeting is scheduled for May 12.

FOBB STORE



By popular demand, we have added a **Clothing-Optional** sign to our store. This is the same sign used at Bates Beach.

It is 8.5 x 11 in size and can be used at home on a bedroom wall, outside in the backyard, or even on the front door! The price is \$20 plus shipping.

Also available is our “I ♥ Bates Beach” cap for \$15 plus shipping.

Please check out the store at our parent organization (<https://socialnaturist.org/store/>) to order these items using the club’s PayPal processing link.

Beach Ambassador Exam Now Online

Thanks to our in-house tech guy, Tim Doggett, our Beach Ambassador Training Final Exam may now be taken via interactive PDF file online. Applicants no longer need to download and print a paper copy and mail it to us for grading.

There are two parts to the quiz, one for textile beaches and one specifically for nude beaches.

Those interested in becoming certified can view/download the training workbooks at

<https://www.friendsofbatesbeach.org/information/beach-ambassadors>

Rincon Trail Meetings Still Pending

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. He said staff is looking at either “late April or the middle of May” for this meeting.

We keep checking but the item has not yet been placed onto the City Council agenda. When it is, we will notify members who may wish to attend, and we will report in future newsletters the results of those meetings.

California Avocado Festival Confirmed for Oct 7-8, 2023

FOBB recently received confirmation that the 2023 Avocado Festival will be this year over the weekend of **October 7-8, 2023**.

Applications for information booths will be open starting May 1, and we will be submitting our forms soon after this date with a request for a better booth location along Linden Avenue.

Beach Area Just North of Bates Remains Closed until June 1

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 119 adult sea lions and 78 new pups living near the Casitas Pier.



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What Are Beach Ambassadors?

Beach Ambassadors are volunteers who observe and report what is going on at our particular beach. Currently, our Beach Ambassador program is established at North Rincon (Bates) Beach, and at Hope Ranch/More Mesa Beach.

- Beach Ambassadors also watch out for those occasional individuals who may spoil the beach experience for others.
- Beach Ambassadors observe and report to the authorities when there is suspicious activity around parked vehicles.
- Beach Ambassadors help the parks department remove graffiti from parking lots and sea walls.
- Beach Ambassadors allow beach regulars to get to know one another and build a sense of community.
- Beach Ambassadors gently remind dog owners to pick up after their animals. (Sometimes we also remind dog owners that county laws require they keep their dogs on a leash.)
- A Beach Ambassador foot patrol is in the best position to notice and report sick sea lions or other wounded wildlife on the beach or injured/sick people who may need immediate medical attention.
- In practice far more time is spent on providing information and explaining the accepted standards of beach etiquette and courtesy.

Clear recognition of the presence of Beach Ambassadors on the beach can in itself go a long way toward maintaining a friendly family atmosphere at the beach.

We find one of our most effective tools to deter crime is simply walking around. People who want to break into cars, sell drugs, or paint graffiti on walls prefer to do it when nobody is around to watch it happen. Our very presence acts as a deterrent and sends a message to those on the beach that inappropriate behavior and crime will not be tolerated.

When we see a problem, our job is to report it to a park ranger, sheriff deputy, or city/county park personnel to make sure that problem receives a prompt and effective response.

It is NOT our role to enforce the law, but simply encourage people to do the right thing, and if not, to report our concerns to those in authority for their consideration and possible action.

How Do I Become A Beach Ambassador?

We need additional volunteers, willing to devote some of their beach-going time to walking a foot patrol and then reporting what they see to local authorities if it seems appropriate to do so.

3-Hour Certification Classes Are Held Monthly

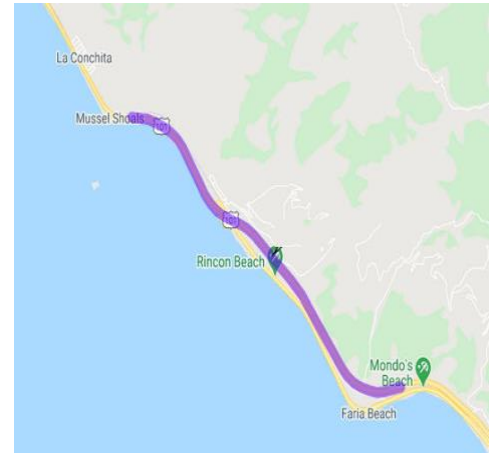
All applicants then are required to undergo a basic background check. Once the required training course is completed, the Director of Friends of Bates Beach has final approval of all appointments.

Once approved, Beach Ambassadors carry a distinctive form of identification: a hat with logo and/or a name medallion, to make them easily visible on the beach should a beachgoer have a problem or need a question answered.

To learn more or to volunteer, send an email to friends@friendsofbatesbeach.org.

Road Work Switches to the Northbound Side of Highway 101 Between Ventura and Carpinteria

Back on April 22, 2022, Caltrans shut down the two right-hand southbound lanes of the 101 between Mussel Shoals and Faria Beach, bifurcating the southbound into two separate, K-rail-guarded lanes — one of which is

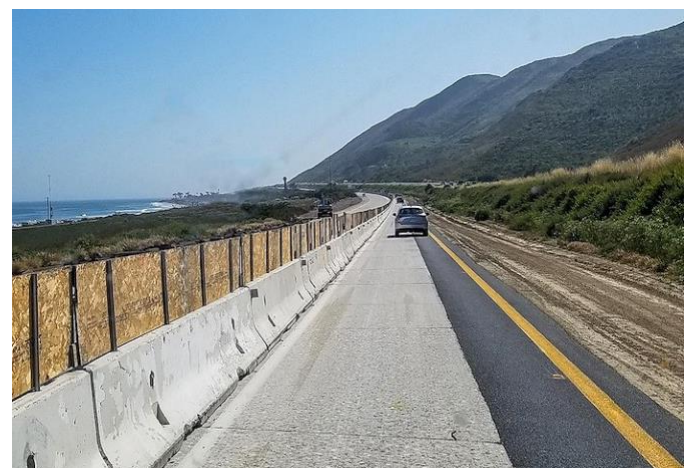


occupying the fast lane of the northbound freeway. On Saturday, April 22 — exactly one year to the day of their initial closure — the newly repaved right-hand lanes of the southbound 101 reopened, as Caltrans' attention now turns to the northbound 101 and its two right-hand lanes along the same 4.3-mile corridor of the freeway.

On Saturday, April 29, the right-hand northbound lanes were closed behind K-rails as Caltrans reopened the two bypass lanes for northbound traffic, including the fast lane of the southbound freeway.

This is the third and final stage of the Caltrans \$48 million U.S. 101 Pavement Rehabilitation Construction Project. It is expected to be completed by winter 2023 or early 2024.

Our recommendation: Those living in Ventura County and farther south should plan on extra driving time when heading north to Bates this year.



K-rails will squeeze all northbound traffic into two lanes only for the remainder of this year.

Future Events

May

Nude Gardening Day is 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 how do I participate?" we hear you ask.

First, 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.

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. We can take your photo at the Cinco de Mayo party if you like.



Dragonfly Ladies Plan Afternoon Gathering on May 13

Saturday, May 13, 1 PM – 8 PM

Location: Altadena, CA

Cost: Free (potluck item requested)

Our first Dragonfly Women's Only gathering for 2023 is in Altadena, open to all nudist women across Southern California

This is a women's only event.

If you want to come, please send an email to scna@socalnaturist.org or leave a message at 818-225-2273. This is the first of three gatherings that we do each year. We will have a potluck dinner so bring something tasty.

It's a challenge getting women involved in naturism as most of you know. For many, it was not your choice to be involved, but rather your partner's. Once you try it though, it can range from a pleasant experience to a life-changing one. We want to keep it that way. The goal of this group is to have a safe place for women, to dress how they want to, not be ashamed of their bodies, and have lively conversations. That doesn't mean badmouthing others, as we try to support each other. We don't want it to become a clique either. That is not our goal. we can say that because we have been meeting over the past few years and have gotten to know each other better – it's bound to happen. Everyone is welcome.



Saline Valley Warm Springs Camping Trip May 18-21

Location: NW corner of Death Valley National Park

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

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

Naturist Haiku Writing Contest

May 31 is the deadline for the First Annual Nudist Haiku Contest sponsored by the Western Region of the American Association for Nude Recreation (AANR-West).

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 (ChatGPT-generated):

**"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.

June

Welcome Summer "Surf's Up" Pool Party

Saturday, June 10, Noon – 6:00 PM

Location: Camarillo

Cost: \$10 for Members \$15/20 for non-members

Calling all Brahs, Bettys, Wahidis, even you Hodads, Barneys, and Gremmies!

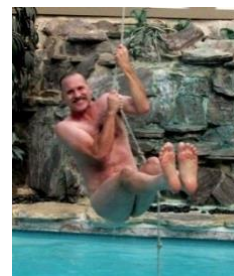
Get psyched, amped, and stoked for an awesome Party Wave!

Show us your best lawn-surfing form "Hanging Eleven or Twelve" and enjoy the swimming pool in anticipation of a great summer!

We're inviting members of SCNA to join us for this gnarly party also!

We'll be cranking the Surf Tunes out on the patio for those who want to Swim, Watusi, Pony, or do the Surfer Stomp!

As usual, we'll supply the sodas and water and ask you to bring a dish, salad, or dessert to share. RSVP today at: scna@socalnaturist.org or **(818) 225-2273**



Bates Beach Picnic Party

Open to all nudist clubs across Southern California!

Saturday, June 17, 11:30

AM – 3:00 PM

Location: Santa Barbara / Ventura County Line

Bring your own picnic supplies, chairs, bathing suits, and sunscreen, and make a day of it. Remember, the anti-nudity law remains in effect even though we have a verbal assurance we will not be bothered by law enforcement as long as we follow our behavior guidelines. People removing their swimsuits do so at their own risk. Go as bare as you dare! Your decision, your choice!



The WNBR-LA Is Coming June 24

Saturday, June 24, 9:00 AM – 6:00 PM

Location: Downtown Los Angeles.

Participation Fee: FREE! (Donations Accepted)

This is a FOBB-supported event. Members may wish to participate in one of two 7-mile rides (or both!) through downtown Los Angeles where clothing is optional “as bare as you dare.” The ride is divided this year into two parts for those who only want to ride part of the distance.



The first loop (approx. 7 miles) will go through the southern half of downtown past the Crypto/Staples arena and other classic landmarks.

The second loop (approx. 7 miles) will cover the northern half of downtown LA through Chinatown.

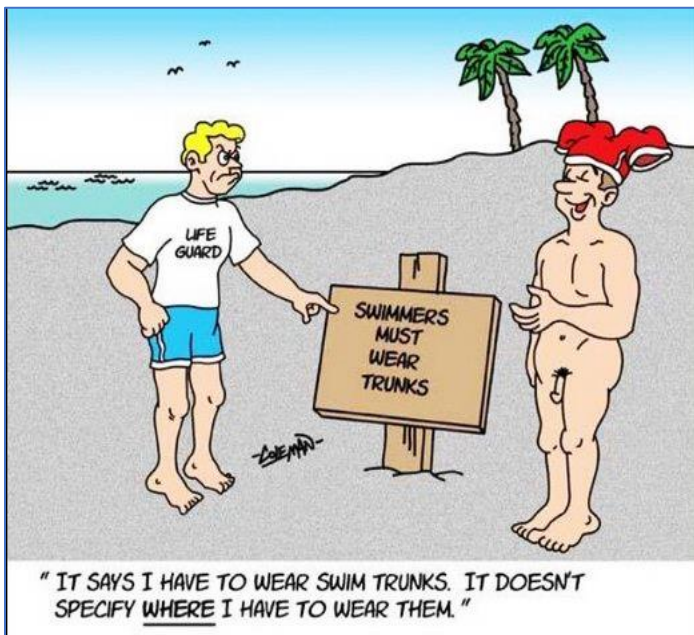
At the staging area, both a body-painting booth and food trucks will be available. The ride will begin at about 10-10:30 am, so don't be late! Decorate yourself and your bike with signs or sayings reflecting the environmental aspect of the human-powered transportation that we're bringing attention to.

Don't forget to bring several bottles of water, sunscreen, sunglasses, a hat, and optionally a towel to sit on the bike seat. Cameras are also allowed, but it is polite to ask permission before taking someone's picture.

The starting location will be the same as last year from the parking lot at 140 Judge John Aiso St.

All riders need to check in person at the registration table. You can pre-register by sending a \$5 donation via PayPal or Zelle to wnbr.losangeles@gmail.com. When you check in you will receive a promotional backpack for the ride.

Cartoon of the Month



Government Affairs

During 2023, more than 250 bills in various state legislatures have come on our radar, none of them in California. These bills come with varying degrees of threats, requiring a variety of responses from proposing amended language, to outright requesting that bills be defeated.

The goal is to prevent nude recreation from being threatened by bills whose main intent is something else, but whose language is so broad and ill-defined that nudists get taken out at the same time.

Three states where we saw a lot of action this month:



ARIZONA

Senate Bill 1698 has passed both houses of the legislature and now awaits the governor's signature or her veto.

Originally intended to criminalize minors from attending drag queen shows, according to Bob Morton, former head of the Naturist Action Committee, if the bill becomes law it is written so broadly it could prevent children from accompanying their parents to the Shangri-La Nudist Ranch or the Mira Vista resort, and it could compel the other nudist travel clubs in the state to become “adults-only.”

If Governor Katie Hobbs vetoes the bill the state legislature might have the votes to override it. Nudists are organizing to fight the bill.

FLORIDA

AANR, AANR Florida, and the naturist community are responding to several pending bills:

FL HB 615 and SB 1338 propose additional limitations on massage establishments in an attempt to curb unlawful, illicit, conduct. However, the definition is so broad as it will include nudist resorts and even Haulover Beach.

Meanwhile, FL SB 1438 would prohibit “performances” deemed “harmful to minors” when, for example, they are viewed as appealing to prurient interests, with definitions so broad it will also include nudist clubs and beaches.

IDAHO

The Idaho legislature targeted public libraries and publishers with fines and potential lawsuits if they make certain books, magazines, and newsletters available to persons under the age of 18. HB 314 rushed through committee sessions in the state senate within just four days after clearing the house where it originated. AANR-Northwest contacted dozens of lawmakers within the statehouse, and sympathetic voices from both sides of the aisle then publicly spoke against the measure.

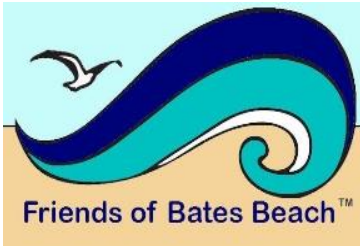
A week ago, the governor vetoed the bill, citing the danger of allowing a “bounty” on libraries. As the legislative session drew to a close, an attempt to override the veto was narrowly defeated.

WEST VIRGINIA

West Virginia lawmakers are seeking to increase penalties for “indecent exposure” which would include nudist clubs and resorts and their publications.

AANR was able to convince the House leadership to delay a final vote until the clock ran out on the legislative session.

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:

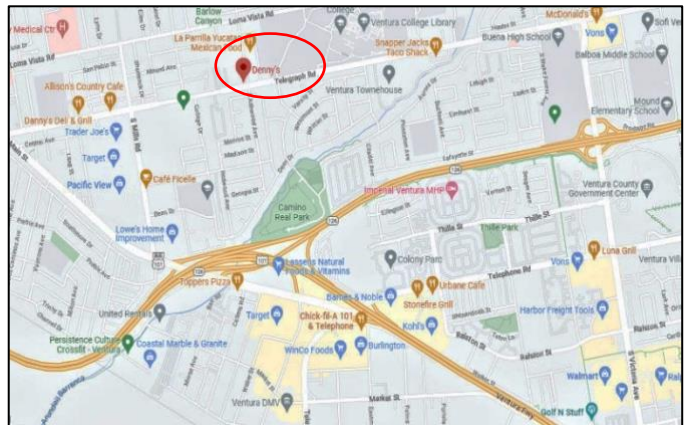
<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/724415629>

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

Upcoming Friday Schedule for 2023:

- **May 19, 2023**
- **June 16, 2023**
- **July 21, 2023**
- **August 18, 2023**
- **September 15, 2023**
- **October 20, 2023**
- **November and December dates pending**

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 dinner.

RSVPs for the dinner meetings are 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.

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