

# THE BATES BEACH BEAT

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January 2024

Vol 3 No 01

## LOOKING BACK AT 2023, LOOKING FORWARD TO 2024

### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### JANUARY

Saturday, Jan xx, 10 AM  
So Cal Winter Games, Olive Dell Ranch  
Saturday, January 27, Noon – 5:00 PM  
Nudes at the Getty Scavenger Hunt

#### FEBRUARY

Tuesday, Feb 17, 7:00 PM  
Online Meetup,

#### MARCH

Friday, Mar xx, 6:45 PM  
Member's Dinner Meeting, Ventura  
Tuesday, Mar xx, 7:00 PM  
Online Meetup



Phot Album of 2023. See Page 4

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By Gary Mussell, Director

The year just ending was a crazy one for our group, with many positives and many challenges. Destructive storms and heavy rains eroding away tons of sand from our clothing-optional beach, from which we never fully recovered. Nonetheless, members supported several successful multi-club weekend and mid-week picnics after we relocated another hundred yards farther up the coast. I want to thank all who supported us by putting their bare feet (and other body parts) on the sand this year.

Our relationship with the local city and county officials, law enforcement, and the Carpinteria business community remains strong. No better evidence of our support among the locals could be found than at the Independence Parade where our decorated truck received very warm applause as we moved down Linden Avenue. Sadly, that popularity did not save us from a couple of “Karens” whose complaints about the subject matter of our booth at the Avocado Festival in October and got our booth summarily removed from that event after five years with no complaints. It just shows we still have a long way to go to have our clothing-optional beach at Bates made official.

So, where do we go from here?

For starters, the coming year must be a year of transition for FOBB. I have directed this group since its inception over 15 years ago, and it is time for me to finally step down for good. This isn't something my heart wants to do, but I am at the age where my health makes it harder and harder for me to manage the administrative tasks required. Also, if we are to succeed long-term, it is necessary for the next generation of leaders to take over as no one person can be indispensable.

FOBB has to evolve so that it is no longer financially dependent on our parent non-profit, the Southern California Naturist Association (SCNA). It has to grow its membership large enough to live within its own budget and afford its own infrastructure and continue its necessary programs, just like any other business entity. 2024 is an election year, so this is a perfect time for me to introduce the new team to the community leaders and forge important relationships.

This won't be easy, and it is my fault that I allowed myself to perform too many of these tasks so that people took my longevity for granted. But this is the year I plan to pass the baton to another, or more likely to several others, who will divide the tasks and carry on. FOBB has always been a volunteer organization.

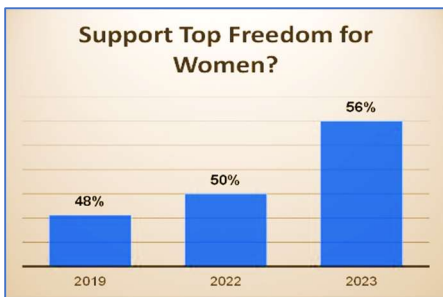
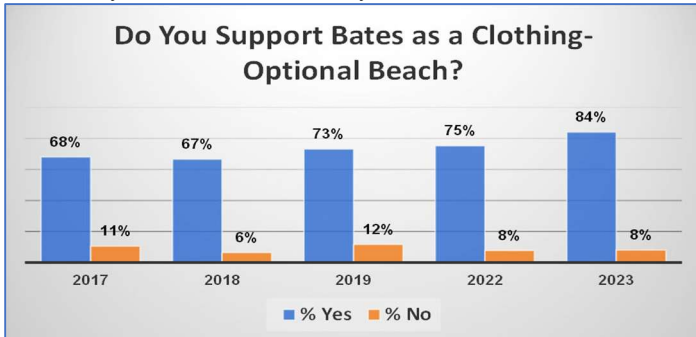
So, where do we go from here? Time for our members to step up!

## AvoFest Finally Sends FOBB Booth Refund

On December 1, Friends of Bates Beach received a refund check for \$715 from the California Avocado Festival, covering our booth expenses from the October 2023 event in Carpinteria.

As we wrote in previous issues, the Festival's coordinator removed us from the event after receiving a complaint about the subject matter (the clothing-optional beach) from an event visitor. FOBB had received no complaints during its five previous years.

In fact had always enjoyed widespread support from the local community. AvoFest booth survey results since 2017:



- Santa Barbara County should designate a section of Bates Beach for **clothing-optional** use.
- **Women** should be allowed to be **top free** wherever men are allowed to do so.

## Bates On-Line Petition Nears 2,000 Signatures

As of December 26, our online petition to Santa Barbara County, asking them to make Bates an officially designated nude beach, has reached **1,969** signatures, just shy of our goal for 2023.



**Thanks to Erika** who contacted her non-nudist friends last month and asked them to sign the petition.

You don't have to be a nudist to sign the petition, and you don't even have to live in America to sign it! All you need to be is a person who believes we have the right to a small stretch of sand to enjoy the beach away from everyone else, no different than if we were asking for a dog park or a public tennis court for a hiking trail. You can elect to sign the petition anonymously if your privacy is a concern.

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 we can ask the Board of Supervisors to change the county's nudity ordinance.

## King Tides Returning in January



The earth's orbit is not a perfect circle around the sun, and neither is the Moon's around the earth. Their alignment every January produced higher than average tides as this is when the earth is slightly closer to the sun and the full moon is slightly closer to the earth. Tides can rise 6-10 feet higher than normal for several days with up to 20-ft. waves between January 11 and 12, and again on February 9.

It is a dangerous time to be standing too close to the shoreline as large waves may unexpectedly come crashing in, submerging the beach, and sweeping all the way to the sea wall against the cliffs. Caution is advised by the Coast Guard and civil authorities. These are called King Tides, and in 2023 they carried off tons of sand from Bates, uncovering jagged rocks and depositing broken tree branches carried out to sea from farther up the coast.

However, spectacular photos can be taken safely from the cliffs above. If you visit Bates to see these King Tides, bring along your camera and send us the best of what you record. We will print them in a future newsletter issue.

## Reminder: Carpinteria Seal Sanctuary Off Limits Until June 1



The Carpinteria Seal Sanctuary is a harbor seal rookery next to the old oil pier just south of Carpinteria State Beach. By city ordinance, this section of the beach at the sanctuary is off-limits to the public **from December 1 through May 31** so that the seals and sea lions who return there may birth to and raise their pups until the offspring are strong enough for their summer migration. Violators can be fined \$10,000 per occurrence.

This area is just north of our designated clothing-optional beach area at Bates.

There is a public overlook on the bluffs above the beach providing safe viewing at a distance. Dogs, drones, and other possible disturbances to the animals is prohibited and may result in a ticket from deputies who patrol the area often.

You are advised to keep their distance should any seals migrate south onto our section of beach and remind others on the beach to do the same.

## Beach Ambassador Training Now Available 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.

The training books and quizzes can be downloaded from our website at: [www.friendsofbatesbeach.org/information/beach-ambassadors](http://www.friendsofbatesbeach.org/information/beach-ambassadors).



## Renewal Notices Going Out in January to Friends of Bates Beach Dues-Paying Members

We will begin sending out renewal notices to our FOBB members the first week in January.

Your freedom to plop your towels down on the sand of our favorite beach is not really “Free.” There are a lot of moving parts that go on behind the scenes to keep it safe, to keep local law enforcement happy with us, and to keep the support of the local city council and the town’s merchants. Without this work by your FOBB team, your permission to use the beach might suddenly go away.

This work requires money, and so we ask our supporters to join us as dues-paying members on an annual basis. We only ask for \$10/year which is the cost of one unhealthy lunch at McDonald’s. Is that too much to ask for your continued enjoyment of our clothing-optional beach?

There are two payment options: PayPal or Zelle. The difference is that PayPal takes a dollar from each payment as their processing fee while Zelle does not.

Join – or renew- your membership on the home page of our website at [www.friendsofbatesbeach.org](http://www.friendsofbatesbeach.org). Of course, larger donations are also gratefully accepted! Thanks for your continued support.

### How To Become A Member Of Our Bates Beach Group

Many thanks to all who have renewed their memberships! We need your contributions to be able to fund our entry in the recent Independence Parade and the upcoming Avocado Festival in Carpinteria.

**Membership is only \$10 per person per year, about the cost of an unhealthy meal at the Golden Arches.**

Most people continue to use our Pay Pal link to join or renew. You don’t need a PayPal account to use it as we accept all major credit cards. Go to our website home page to find the link on the home page.

Alternatively, 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.

Membership cards are available upon request (we are trying to save postage costs by only sending them to people who want them). These cards show proof of membership so you can gain entry to parties and other activities sponsored by the SCNA parent organization across Southern California.



## Online Meetup Day Changes Back to Third Tuesdays for 2024

By Gary Mussell

We are moving our monthly online meetings from Fridays back to the third Tuesday night, beginning **February 20** at 7 PM. Information about the link may be found on the back page of this newsletter.

This change was made by popular consensus because of the lower turnout we experienced on Fridays, as members seemed to be busier on that night than mid-week. We hope to see/hear you for these meetings starting next month!



## Meetup Dinners Resume in March

Our in-person monthly dinner meetings always take the winter off. They will resume on March 8 at the Denny’s restaurant on Telegraph Road in Ventura.

Directions and further information about dates and times may be found on the last page of this newsletter. In the meantime, enjoy the winter holidays!

## New FOBB Promotional Cards Available for Distribution

Last summer we updated the text for the business cards that we use in and around Ventura/Santa Barbara Counties to promote Bates Beach. We now have two cards with different text. One is to give to people interested in our organization that promote FOBB’s meetup site and an online petition. The second is used when we use \$2 bills to pay for meals and other purchases in Carpinteria and elsewhere.



You may request these cards via email by sending your name and address to [friends@friendsofbatebeach.org](mailto:friends@friendsofbatebeach.org).



# 2023 FRIENDS OF BATES BEACH PHOTO ALBUM

Enjoy reading the 2023 Year in Review supplement to this month's newsletter.











*Happier Times at De Anza: 2005 Naturist Society Western Gathering*

The sale and potential sale of the nudist property, changes in club policy, and replacement of longtime managers have rocked the nudist community in California this year. The ripple effects are still widely felt as these stories continue to play out into the new year. In chronological order:

## **De Anza Resort Abandons Nudists And Goes 100% Textile**

After nearly three decades of providing a place for naturists to embrace the freedom and comfort of social nudity, the new owners of the DeAnza Springs Resort, decided to adopt a clothing-mandatory policy, effective September 1.

The resort's sprawling 523 acres near Jacumba CA, located an hour's drive east of San Diego and within sight of the Mexican border, was a favorite for those seeking hiking opportunities sans clothing.

In 2020, Dave and Helen Landman sold the property to non-nudists Kevin Cho and Luke Wasyliw. They immediately embarked on a rebuilding bender, updating old infrastructure, and inviting non-nudist groups to enjoy music festivals and other events that irritated the existing residents, many of whom had bought mobile home sites as retirement.

It didn't help the owner's relations with their members when they opted last Spring to split the club into a textile half and a nudist half.

On Monday, July 31, just one day after playing host to the 2023 AANR-West annual convention, the resort announced the decision to become a clothes-mandatory resort.

Since the decision some residents have decided to sue the new owners while others are boycotting the pool area, patio, and bar, social areas formerly always crowded are now essentially deserted.

Residents find it difficult to sell their units without accepting substantial financial losses.

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## **“Olive Dell Is Not For Sale”**

The same week that DeAnza announced its policy change, the Olive Dell Ranch in Colton was listed for sale on the Crexi commercial real estate website for \$6.6 million. The post was taken down a week later and the impending sale was loudly denied by park managers Bobby and Beki Kilborn. They explained to their members that the co-owner of the land, Mark

Glasier, was trying to attract an additional investor to infuse more capital into the park so additional rental units could be built. Despite this assurance, the listing left nudists in Southern California very nervous.

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## **Lupin Lodge Near Santa Cruz is Up for Sale as Owner Retires**

On 10/23/23, Lori Kat Stout, owner of Lupin Lodge Resort, near Santa Cruz, emailed her members that she was retiring and placing the property, founded in 1935, up for sale.

“I have been a member of Lupin for 41 years,” she wrote. “I have managed Lupin Lodge myself for the last 18 years. When I first took over from [my husband] Glyn, I thought I would be doing this for just three years. Since Glyn's passing in November of 2015, I have been solely responsible for the management of the club...It is time now to retire, take better care of myself, and focus my efforts on my highest priority, my family's health. After some eye-opening meetings with my cardiologist, I realized that I must consider my health first and foremost.”

As of the end of December, the 112-acre property remains listed on Zillow at \$32.8 million.

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## **Palm Springs Desert Sun Resort Is In Escrow To Private Buyer**

10/24/23 – A letter to its members announced that the Desert Sun nudist resort in Palm Springs has been sold for **\$6,950,000**, as indicated in public listings on Redfin.com. The specific details about the new owners and their plans to continue its nude tradition remain undisclosed. No public announcement has been made by the club on their website or social media about who the new owners are or when escrow might close.

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## **Kilborns Fired As Managers At Olive Dell**

In mid-November, the other shoe dropped at Olive Dell, as the new investment team announced that managers Bobby and Becki Kilborn, after 20 successful years, had “resigned” effective November 30.

Bobby vehemently insists that they never “resigned” but were fired by one of the new outside investors named Tina, who acquired a controlling interest in the property earlier this year. Tina has assured various residents that Olive Dell will remain a nudist resort for the time being, but as we've witnessed at DeAnza Springs, for how long remains a genuine concern.

Olive Dell Ranch marked its 70th anniversary in August 2022. In 2019 Bobby sold a majority interest in Olive Dell Ranch to investors Mark and Brian, to satisfy a 14-year probate with Bobby's estranged brother, and to avoid losing the park to a court-ordered professional trustee. The new owners retained Bobby and Becki as the park's managers, but when Tina became the majority owner, changes started to happen such as closing the restaurant, and sauna, and firing the longtime maintenance manager



# 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 regular monthly parties.

## ONLINE MEETINGS

Friends of Bates Beach host an online meeting each month for the people for those who cannot make the in-person meeting. Most participants living 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 TUESDAYS,  
7:00 PM to 8:30 PM  
VENTURA/SANTA  
BARBARA COUNTIES  
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 online schedule through 2024:

- February 20, 2024
- March 19, 2024
- April 16, 2024
- May 21, 2024
- June 18, 2024
- July 16, 2024
- August 20, 2024
- September 17, 2024
- October 15, 2024
- November: No Online Meeting
- December: No Online Meeting

## IN-PERSON MEETINGS

This dinner is at a public restaurant in Ventura so obviously it is a clothed event.

Meals are "Dutch treat." Bring yourselves, some money for food, and your thoughts and enthusiasm.

You don't have to join the group to attend these dinners; they are open to everyone. Also, bring your curious friends and spouses!



**SECOND FRIDAY  
OF EACH MONTH  
6:45 PM – 8:30 PM**

## MEETUP DINNER — VENTURA

**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.

- March 8, 2024
- April 12, 2024
- May 10, 2024
- June 14, 2024
- July 12, 2024
- August 9, 2024
- September 13, 2024
- October 11, 2024

*There is no dinner meeting from November through February.*

## HOW TO CONTACT US

**Friends of Bates Beach**  
1072 Casitas Pass Road, Suite 427  
Carpinteria, CA 93013  
Leave Messages at: [friends@friendsofbatesbeach.org](mailto:friends@friendsofbatesbeach.org)  
Web site: [www.friendsofbatesbeach.org](http://www.friendsofbatesbeach.org)

## YOUR FREEDOM IS NOT FREE!

Your ability to lay on your towel, clothed with the sun, was won through the hard work of hundreds of nameless people who fought for your rights. It must never be taken for granted! Support your local club or nudist organization!