

THE BATES BEACH BEAT

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April 2022

Vol 1 No 01

Carpinteria City Council Rejects Rincon Trail Path

UPCOMING EVENTS

April

April 19 Meetup Online 7 pm – 8:30 pm

May

May 5, 12, 19, 26 Bates Thursday Picnics, Noon
May 11 Carpinteria Business Mixer- Bring \$2 bills!
May 13 Meetup Dinner at Denny's, Ventura 6:45 pm
May 17 Meetup Online 7 pm – 8:30 pm

June

June 3, 10, 17, 24 Bates Thursday Picnics, Noon
June 10 Meetup Dinner at Denny's, Ventura 6:45 pm
June 11 Bates Beach Saturday Multi-Club Picnic
June 21 Meetup Online 7 pm – 8:30 pm
June 25 World Naked Bike Ride, Los Angeles

Planners Told to Explore Inland Route Instead of Coastal View

By Gary Mussell, FOBB Director

In a surprise move, the Carpinteria City Council has rejected the proposed bike/hiking trail path that was to overlook Bates Beach! The proposed trail path was loudly opposed by the soaring community as the plan called for the removal of 50% of the cliff over the beach and that would remove the wind updrafts needed to fly the paragliders that soar overhead.

There was also concern about the safety to the bike riders using the trail as it terminated in the crowded Bates parking lot. FOBB submitted a detailed letter to the Council explaining the parking lot dangers, and it seemed it did its job as it was cited several times during the meeting. One speaker went so far as to call the parking lot a "death trap."

FOBB became aware in 2012 that the state wanted to build a hiking/bike trail with a coastal view running from Oregon to Mexico. About half of the California Coastal Trail has been completed but gaps remain throughout the state, including the section through Carpinteria.

After several years of attending planning meetings and city committee hearings, the Trail's route above the nudist section of the beach seemed inevitable. Then, in 2019, a geological study showed the cliffs above the nude area were unstable and could not support the trail, so the path was moved farther east by several hundred feet so that people using the trail would no longer be able to see the nudists below them on the sand.

However, the revised path required that the top half of the cliff above the beach be removed in order to provide a stable foundation to support the trail. Doing so meant that there probably would be insufficient wind updraft to support the paragliders who liked to soar about the beach and had done so for several decades.

After the revised plan was approved by the city Planning Commission in January, the Soaring Community (along with FOBB member Helen O'Neill) filed an appeal with the city to reject the plan.

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Carpinteria City Council

March 28, 2022



17. Public Hearing to consider appeals of Planning Commission

Helen O'Neill, FOBB Steering Committee member, addresses the Carpinteria City Council on March 28 during the Rincon Trail debate.

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Welcome to Our First “Bates Beach Beat” Monthly Newsletter!

What you are reading is the first of what we hope will become a long-lasting monthly newsletter about what is happening at Bates Beach.

It is only for those who have paid their annual membership dues.

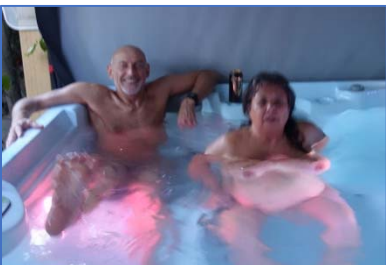


FOBB Hosts Its First Jacuzzi Party in Ventura

On Friday, April 8, FOBB hosted its first off-beach party at a private home in Ventura. A total of 20 members attended plus several guests who were new to the group. Everyone said they had a great time.

Greg was an excellent host with a lovely house that had patio doors that opened up all the way so that the living room expanded seamlessly onto the outdoor patio and conversation area. Most of the party was centered here with friendly conversations across the tables and lounge chairs.

This was also a potluck dinner, and we were pleasantly surprised at how good the home cooked meals were. There was a spinach and mushroom quiche, a from-scratch cordon bleu pizza, and a crock pot of shrimp jambalaya. There were also several kinds of tossed salads. For dessert, one guest made a strawberry *tres leches* cake while another brought a dozen Krispie Cream donuts. We washed it all down with sun tea, fresh lemonade, wine, and beer. Yes, we ate very well!



Members were issued FOBB **Membership Cards** which can be used to attend any SCNA club party in the future and pay the same gate fee as SCNA's own members.

Just before 9 pm, FOBB Directors Gary Mussell and SCNA President Rolf Holbach welcomed everyone to party, and they held a short meeting reviewing recent news from Carpinteria that affected the beach. The beach calendar through the summer was also discussed.

Everyone left with a sense of all things that must be done in order to keep the beach running smoothly.

After the cleanup, many decided to enjoy a late-night soak in the host's brand-new Jacuzzi.

Again we thank Greg for hosting the event and we hope to return here again in future months.



FOBB Paid Memberships Grow

As most of you know, Friends of Bates Beach is a division of Southern California Naturist Association (SCNA) located in Los Angeles. It is our long-term goal to become financially independent of the “mother ship” but to do that first we need out our source of income, starting with annual dues.

Beginning in January we began collecting voluntary dues of \$10 per person annually as the first step. As of April 6, 2022, we are happy to report we now have 40 dues-paying members. That, plus other donations made by volunteers, now brings our bank balance have crossed over the \$1000 mark. Thank you for a great beginning.

Membership cards will be distributed to members after they have undergone a background check on the California Megan's Law sexual offender database, and after signing our required Behavior Standards form. An optional Photo Release form is also available to sign.

The membership card allows FOBB members to attend any SCNA activity by paying the same gate admittance fee as SCNA members instead of the higher (usually \$20) non-member rate.

Persons can pay via credit card or PayPal on the home page of our website at www.friendsofbatesbeach.org.

Checks payable to Friends of Bates Beach are also accepted and can be mailed to: Friends of Bates Beach,

1072 Casitas Pass Road #427
Carpinteria CA 93013



Bates Director Records Video For Internet Project

The recent interview by Bates Beach Director by videographer Jamie Cawelti is now available for viewing on YouTube.

The link is <https://youtu.be/vxZIO3qPhFs>.

(Yes, the "YouTube" spelling in the link above is correct!)

The 55-minute discussion covers a wide range of topics related to social nudity in general, the free beach movement, and related issues.

Feel free to copy and paste think link onto your own social media website.



The Sea Rise Beach Measurement Project Needs Volunteers

The Community Alliance for Surveying the Topography of Sandy Beaches (CoAST SB) volunteers monitor the movement of our shoreline in Santa Barbara and Ventura counties. They measure the contour of sandy beaches using a quick and simple survey technique that takes approximately one hour, once per month. No experience is necessary.

Data collected by volunteers are provided to USGS scientists to help track changes. Local governments use this information for climate adaptation planning.

The project needs volunteers, especially at Bates Beach and others nearby. Here's a [link](#) to their website if you want to learn more: <https://caseagrant.ucsd.edu/project/coast-sb-community-alliance-for-surveying-the-topography-of-sandy-beaches>.

This is a great opportunity to meet a lot of new people who may be interested in our beach. If you wish to help, email us at friends@friendsofbatesbeach.org and we will submit your name to them to contact you directly.

Have you Signed the Online Petition Yet?

Friends of Bates Beach launched an online petition last year to "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. Without a large positive response (somewhere in the neighborhood of 10,000 signatures), we will have to accept our current situation for a while longer. So far we have about 800 signatures, not nearly enough. You do not have to live locally to sign it, nor even live in the country!

We ask all of our members (and their friends) to log into the web site to add their names to the list. The petition site is: <https://www.change.org/p/friends-of-bates-beach-make-the-traditional-nude-section-of-bates-beach-official>.

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 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 are 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.

The sign joins other products for sale on the SCNA website. These include plush beach towels (35"x70") embroidered with our club logo. Four different towel colors are available (white, gray, cream, and turquoise). colors) Price is \$45 plus shipping. For \$15 extra, your name can be embroidered on.

Also available are SCNA hats for \$20 plus shipping.



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A Reminder: Why We Can Be Nude on Bates Beach

The reason we are allowed to have a clothing-optional section at the beach at all is because the county supervisor Das Williams was impressed with our Beach Ambassador program and saw there had been no tickets given on the beach for several years. He contacted the county sheriff department and the county parks department to direct their deputies and rangers to only come down to our section of the beach upon complaint. While ticketing is still possible, on the couple of occasions when deputies have visited our section, they have simply warned us to stay dressed and then left us alone. Since this is the agreement, we can expect such visits from time to time especially if nudists are not discreet whenever families or other beachgoers walk past. While we wish it was otherwise, this is our reality.

We continue to have a good relationship with Supervisor William's office, and I try to meet with his field deputy at least twice a year to update the staff on beach issues. At the last meeting in May 2021, she suggested we move our beach visits to mid-week to avoid the user conflict caused by so many newcomers coming to the beach from LA and Ventura Counties because those beaches were closed due to the COVID surge. We were starting to get extra visits from deputies on the beach, many not from the Santa Barbara office, as they tried to keep people masked and socially distant from each other when on the sand. The beach was far less crowded on Wednesdays and Thursdays, we found, but so was our own attendance since people preferred the weekends. Nevertheless, we cancelled our monthly weekend picnics for the duration of the COVID pandemic. We plan to return on weekends in the summer, and to keep the midweek visits there also, so we can expand our beach "feet in the sand" presence.

In the 2020 election, we contributed \$50 toward Supervisor William's reelection. He won handily in March and will serve until at least 2024. We anticipate this to be an expected expense in future elections.

Williams has told us several times he is not prepared to offer an amendment to the county nudity ordinance carving out Bates Beach as a designated nude beach. He says he doesn't see a groundswell of public support for it and until that happens, we should be happy with what we have. Indeed, there is not a large activist group at Bates, willing to visit the County Supervisors for meeting after meeting demanding our beach be legalized. We would need several city councils and Chambers of Commerce leaders to step forward in support, and probably an editorial in support from the Santa Barbara Independent newspaper. So, until the climate changes more favorable, I think we have as good as we can get, and we will just have to accept the current arrangement as the best we can do.

So do your part and protect the beach by speaking up if you see any inappropriate behavior or people being blatant about their nudity in front of textile families walking past. Always carry a towel or clothing if you decide to walk up the beach late in the afternoon.

Community News

What goes on in and around Carpinteria directly affects our ability to keep our hassle-free clothing-optional beach. FOBB is actively involved in several nearby projects, community issues and political concerns on our member's behalf.

Rincon Trail Path Rejected

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Several FOBB members submitted letters to the city council concerning the safety of the Rincon Park parking lot where the trail would empty into, citing its narrow width and poor sight lines for drivers to see bikers speeding by.

The hearing on March 28 took nearly four hours with perhaps a hundred protesters to the recommended path spilling into the parking lot outside. Helen O'Neill of Friends of Bates Beach stated that the Rincon County parking lot at the eastern terminus of Trail #3 was a dangerous safety hazard to cyclists.

Except for the city park department manager and several county officials speaking in favor of the trail (officially called "Alternative 3"), every other speaker – over 30 of them – spoke against the trail's path, most of them members of the Soaring organization. All said they favored a Trail be built, but they supported the "Alternative 4" path that ran on the freeway-side of the cliff, and which avoided the parking lot altogether.

One speaker, Kathleen Weddington, a former member of the city council, told the board she considered the parking lot a "death trap" and so she would never use the Trail #3 for fear of injury riding through the parking lot.

The final 4-1 vote by the Council to support the appeal filed was a pleasant surprise, but the arguments of the appellants proved compelling. Instead, the City Council asked the Trail designers to look seriously at "Alternative 4" as a preferred pathway. No timetable was given for when the designers will return a new plan, although it was mentioned during testimony that it may take 9-12 months to complete as a new Environmental Impact Report will have to be done.



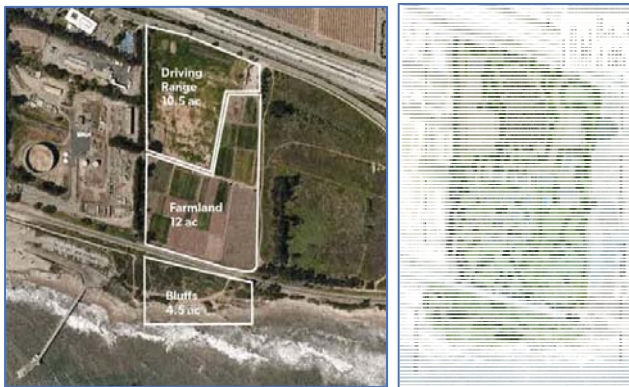
Council members saw no issues with the Trail's Alternative #4 (green line above) but they rejected Alternative #3 (the purple line) on the coastal side of the bluffs.

The Next Big Fight: Proposed Carpinteria Bluffs Hotel



Above: Left - Bluffs area just east of city hall;

Below: photo shows beach pier bottom left to show proximity to clothing optional area just east of the project; Right - a detail of the proposed hotel layout.



April 4 - A developer wants to build a hotel with 59 rooms, 34 bungalows, and a 7-acre farm that would sprawl over 27 acres of what is now a driving range and the Carpinteria Bluffs. The site is above and just slightly west of the clothing-optional beach near where the pier is.

The public was asked for input in this first review of the project at a joint meeting between the Carpinteria City Council, Planning Commission, and the Architectural Review Board on March 30. The community’s message in a standing-room only, jam-packed City Hall was loud and clear: Carpinteria want nothing to do with a large-scale development on what one citizen called the “most accessible, equitable, and important natural space” in the city.

One speaker went so far of accusing the City Council of “an unforgiveable betrayal” of the public trust, according to the *Coastal View* newspaper, the local paper serving Carpinteria in its April 7 edition.

Several speakers pointed to the city’s own general plan, which states that the Carpinteria Bluffs are the “last remaining coastal open space” within Santa Barbara County. “The moment this land is developed, it is gone forever, we will never get the opportunity to get it back,” one speaker said, basically summarizing the sentiment in the room. The April 7 issue of *Coastal View* devoted several pages to Letters to the Editor that unanimously opposed the project.

New Skateboard Park Gets New Funding from City

One of our allies in Carpinteria has been the nonprofit working to build a skateboard park in town. We have spoken on their behalf at a city hearing and they are friendly to us having our beach. Currently they are raising matching funds that the city requires to get the skatepark built. The fundraiser is to buy a brick with our name on it to be put on the ground next to the skate bowl when it gets built. This might be a nice way to have our name and info right there for anyone interested.

The price for a 4” x 8” brick is \$50 (3 lines of text up to 20 characters per line). This is not part of our 2020 budget, but I request the Board consider doing this and allocating appropriate funds.

In February, Carpinteria began accepting bids for building the proposed skateboard park next to City Hall. Sadly, there was only one bidder, and his cost estimates were \$500,000 over what the city had projected for the job. The Carpinteria Skateboard Foundation has spent two years fundraising for the park. (This included two \$100 contributions from us, one from FOBB and one from SCNA, for bricks that will have our names on them at the park site). Now it seems that effort wasn’t enough.

At its March 14 meeting the Council decided to contribute the additional \$600,000 needed rather than ask the skateboarders to go out and fundraise for another year. The \$2.1 million project will take about six months to complete, so the park could be open as soon as January 2023.

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 it is important we be seen publicly supporting them now and remain financially hurt by the recent pandemic.

Buying things using \$2 bills not only supports them but it 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 a \$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.

Support Our \$2 Bill Campaign

FOBB advocates the return of the designated clothing-optional area at Bates (North Rincon) Beach. We are making purchases today using \$2 bills to demonstrate the purchasing power of our supporters, and to show support for our local merchants and vendors who will benefit greatly once the beach is restored. Please pass along these \$2 bills as change to your customers.

Friends of Bates Beach
Web Site: www.friendsofbatesbeach.org
Email: friends@friendsofbatesbeach.org





Meetup Dinners

Friday, May 13,

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



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 dinner as a courtesy to the service staff.

Meetups Online

April 19 and May 17, 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, Access Code: 724-415-629

Online meetings are held every third Tuesday each month.

Mid-Week Beach Visits to Begin in May



As the weather and sea temperatures start to warm, we will start our weekly mid-week visits again to Bates on Thursday afternoons. Look for the sign (at left) so you know where to sit.

The tentative May schedule (cancellations due to weather are possible) is the following:

Thursday May 5, 12, 19, 26 after noon to about 6 pm.

Contact our beach hosts **Helen or Greg** if you plan to come down so we can be sure to sit together. Email: friends@friendsofbatesbeach.org with your plans.

Weekend Bates Picnics to Begin in June

Starting in June we will be inviting all the nudist clubs across Southern California to join us at Bates for a community picnic. We expect 50-60 people to attend each.



This year, FOBB will be hosting beach volleyball although depending on local conditions we may need to get dressed temporarily while playing.

Bring all your own supplies and food. Mark your calendars:

- June 11
- July 12
- August 20
- September 17 (Beach Cleanup Day)

Parade Truck Needed for July 2 Independence Parade



Each year for the past 9 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 a Saturday a few days before the actual holiday; this year it falls on July 2.

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 to hand out literature and beach balls to the crowd.

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

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.

FOBB Will Attend Carpinteria Business Mixer in May

The Chamber also announced it will host an after-work Business Mixer in Carpinteria on May 11 from 5 pm to 7 pm at the Island Brewery Co off Linden Avenue. The cost to non-members is \$20 each but there is usually food and a no host bar available..

If you would like to attend, contact us via the club email at: friends@friendsofbatesbeach.org so we can arrange carpooling and other instructions.