

# THE BATES BEACH BEAT

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## THE FRIENDS OF BATES BEACH: OUR 2022 YEAR IN REVIEW

By Gary Mussell, Director

It was a very active year at our adopted beach in Santa Barbara County. The FOBB **Steering Committee** was formed in January 2022, to manage our group's many tasks as I continued my nudge toward retirement as your director. Over the year, the team has started to get comfortable with the delegation of work

### Feet on the Sand



Greg, Helen, and John were on the sand several times each week from May to October supervising the increased number of visitors as word had spread it is safe for clothing-optional use. The number of visitors continues to grow – thank you!

Our organized monthly picnics took place in June, July, August, and September and they attract upwards to fifty nudists each from all over Southern California. Joe donated a professional-grade volleyball set but it proved too heavy and bulky to haul down to the beach, so a second one was donated in December for use next year. Meanwhile, Frisbee tossing continued to be the preferred sport.

### Party On! Party Off!

Our initial house/jacuzzi party in April was a great success but the one scheduled for December had to be cancelled due to the host's exposure to Covid. Other parties away from the beach are being planned for 2023.

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### Membership Dues

FOBB began collecting **voluntary dues** from its members starting in January. By year's end there were 88 paid members, providing enough the funds for the Avocado Festival information booth in October. As of December 16, 2022, there are 492 members on the Friends of Bates Beach meetup site, so we still have some work to do getting them all to donate \$10/year so that we will have a comfortable and independent operations budget. The SCNA club continues to subsidize nearly two-thirds of our financial needs.

### Newsletter

In April, the Bates group started its own **monthly newsletter**. It allows more in-depth coverage of the stories and photos from the beach than there is room for in the SCNA club newsletter.

### Rincon Trail

Several times throughout the year, FOBB was invited to testify at hearings about the proposed Rincon Trail above the beach. We formed a coalition with the paraglider hobbyists to oppose the original path of the trail, which removed much of the hill above the beach as it would destroy any wind uplift needed to keep the people soaring in the air.

After an initial defeat in the Planning Commission, we managed to convince the City Council the plan was a safety hazard from the mixing of bicyclists and cars in the Rincon parking lot.

In August, we were asked to comment on and approve a different inland path parallel to the freeway. This second plan has yet to come back to the Council, as it is still seeking construction bids and state financing.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



New proposed trail path (red) includes bridge (yellow) across RR tracks. Secondary walking path (green) is also proposed. Nude beach is circled (blue).

### 2022 Bates Beach Year in Review

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

## Independence Parade

After a two-year hiatus due to Covid, the Carpinteria Independence Parade once again strutted its stuff down Linden Avenue on Saturday, July 2 to a large and very appreciative community audience. Friends of Bates Beach once again was invited to participate. This was our eighth year in the parade and the six-block route was filled with families and seniors applauding our decorated truck.



Five FOBB members participated, all waving American flags and decked out in red/white/blue-themed décor. We hung a huge Friends of Bates Beach sign and logo on the rear tailgate hatch.

There were 35 different entrees in the parade, representing local community or youth groups. It was important to be seen as part of the local community and supporting their events.

## California Beach Cleanup Day



In September, Robert Byl took over as supervising Captain for the 16<sup>th</sup> year we have overseen the Annual Coastal Cleanup at Bates Beach. We had a record 29 volunteers to help find and pick up 66 pounds of trash, record low, attributed to our constant cleanup effort there throughout the year.

## Sand Measurement Project

After several postponements, this project out of UCSB finally found some volunteers to help measure designated beaches along the coast over the next decade for sea level rise. FOBB members got trained last month but more volunteers are needed!

## Avocado Festival

This was one of our major events of the year. The September 30 to October 2 street festival down Linden Avenue saw an estimated 70,000 people attend during its three days.

Our raffle survey asked visitor opinion of our beach with 75% voting “Yes” and only 8% voting “No.” A second question asking if women should be allowed to be top free the same as men got a 50% positive response (see page 4 for more details).



## On-Line Petition



Our online petition drive to legalize the nude section of beach passed 1500 signatures at the beginning of December. We plan another big push in the spring of 2023.

We ask all of our members (and their non-nudist friends) to add their names to the list.

The petition site is at:

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

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

## In Memoriam

### Joshua W. Myers, 1974 – 2022

Joshua W. Myers, a longtime friend of our efforts at Bates died suddenly of a heart attack while walking back toward the beach parking lot at sunset on August 20.

Friends who were with him told us he had enjoyed the day there with the other nudists. He was in otherwise good health, but he told friends he had not felt well all day, having trouble catching his breath at times as early as his drive to Bates from his home in Thousand Oaks.



After he collapsed on the beach, 911 was called, but neither police nor fire department personnel were able to revive him.

Josh was an accomplished musician and played guitar and bass in many bands. He was also a passionate naturist. He frequently invited non-naturist friends and acquaintances to Bates Beach picnics. In fact, on his last day, Josh had organized a group of folks (newbies included) to come down to Bates Beach for the day.

Josh was kind, irreverent, and fun. At 48, he was taken from us way too soon. Josh spent his last day as he would have wanted it: naked, on the beach, playing his ukulele in good company, with a couple of loved ones by his side.

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

Beginning in January, we will begin sending out renewal notices to our FOBB members.

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?

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.

## Online Meetup Day Changed from Third Tuesday to Fridays for 2023

By Gary Mussell

My apologies to our members, but my new work schedule means I am often working until 7 pm Monday-Thursday. Therefore, FOBB has changed the **DAY** of our monthly online meetup to Fridays instead of Tuesdays, starting January 20. There was no online meetup during December.

Our monthly dinner meetings in Ventura continue to be held on the second Friday of each month, starting Friday, March 10 at the Denny’s Restaurant in Ventura (see back page).

## Bates Beach Steering Committee Wants Planning 2023 Budget and Activity Calendar

We have a draft of our proposed 2023 Bates Calendar of Events and the organization’s budget being reviewed by the FOBB Steering Committee.

Do you want more organized beach picnics? More planned midweek trips? More communication (i.e., \$2 Bill Days) with the merchants and restaurants in nearby Carpinteria? Let us know! We are seeking ideas and advice from our members.

Deadline for approval and posting this calendar online is January 15. Share your ideas via email at [friends@friendsofbatesbeach.org](mailto:friends@friendsofbatesbeach.org).

## Santa Barbara Parks & Recreation Master Plan Being Updated

Robert Byl and Gary Mussell participated in a 2-hour online meeting December 7 with 79 other stakeholders to discuss revising and updating the Santa Barbara County Recreation and Parks Master Plan. Most of the meeting’s participants were of local special interest and community groups, and discussions focused on additional hiking and biking opportunities through the mountains above Santa Barbara and in the northern half of the county. Little was said about the south county.

Robert and Gary submitted a letter to the Parks Commission that introduced them to our Bates Beach group and educated them about the need to make our clothing-optional section of the beach official.

## 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.

## PHOTO OF THE MONTH



Greg Cooper and Sharyn Nielsen enjoy a warm Christmas Day at Bates Beach. Greg says they were joined by several other FOBB members that day.

## Carpinteria City Council Elects Al Clark as Its New Mayor



On December 12 the Carpinteria City Council certified the 2022 election results. New councilmember Mónica Solórzano was seated as the new District 1 representative. Incumbent Roy Lee will now represent

District 3. Of importance to FOBB, councilmember Al Clark was certified as the District 5 representative.

Clark defeated Greg Carty in the November election. His council district sits along the bluffs overlooking Bates Beach. Carty, a strong supporter of our beach, had been a member of the council for 16 years and served as mayor from 2010-2014.

The new City Council voted 4-1 to elect Al Clark (photo) as Mayor with Natalia Alarcon as Vice Mayor.

Clark replaces Councilmember Wade Namura who has been mayor for the past four years. Carpinteria does not elect its mayor separately but selects the post from among its five councilmembers.

Also certified on December 12 was the loss of city ballot Measure T. It lost by 83 votes out of 5,000 votes cast after a divisive fight over the proposed Surfliner Hotel on Linden Avenue. Building of the hotel may now proceed.

## Santa Barbara Has a New District Attorney

After 12 years as Santa Barbara County’s district attorney, and more than 32 years in the county District Attorney’s Office, Joyce Dudley retired January 3, 2023. Her hand-picked successor is her deputy DA, John Savrnoch.

Dudley vigorously prosecuted nudists at Gaviota Beach while she was in office, and she was a vocal opponent of nude recreation. We are not yet aware of how Savrnoch feels on the subject.

## Upcoming Staff Meetings

As we always do, following local elections, several meeting are being planned by members of the FOBB Steering Committee to meet with the administrative staffs of Congressman Carbajal, Supervisor Das Williams, newly elected State Assembly member Gregg Hart, State Senator Monique Limon, Mayor Al Clark, and Carpinteria council member Mónica Solórzano. These meetings, which we hope will take place in February and March, will inform these elected officials who we are so we can gauge their feelings about our beach efforts to amend the county ordinance and make Bates an official clothing-optional beach.

The reason we meet with the administrative staff of elected officials is because they are easier to schedule, and they give us more time than the busy lawmakers.

## Avocado Festival Final Survey Report Shows Wide Approval for Clothing-Optional Beach

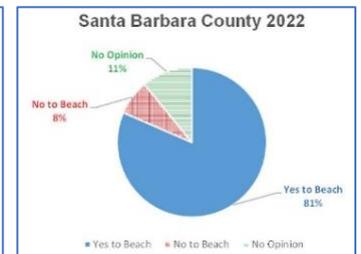
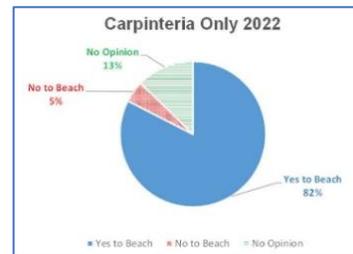
Below are the final survey results from the cards collected during the Avocado Festival. As we spoke to over 1,200 people during the 3-day event, it took a while to enter them all into a database so the statistics could be extracted. We asked two questions on the survey:

- **Do you support/oppose the establishment of a Clothing Optional Beach in Santa Barbara County?**
- **Do you support women having the right to go Topfree whenever a man has the right to do so?**

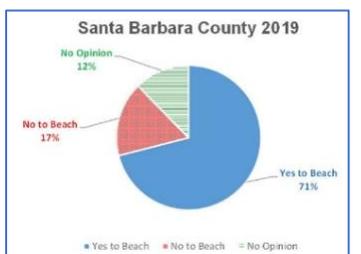
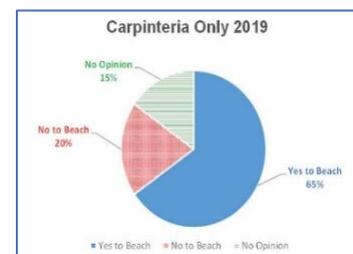
Although our immediate belief was that the event turnout was lighter than in previous years as it turned out there were only 22 less raffle applicants than in 2019 (the last year the Avocado Festival was held due to the Covid pandemic).

In summary, support for a clothing-optional beach and women’s top freedom has **risen by about 5%** across two counties since 2019:

Geography Zone Area Name	Pct of all Visitors	Nude Beach Yes	Nude Beach No	Topfree Yes	Did Not Answer
Carpinteria only	25.9%	79%	5%	58%	12%
Santa Barbara/Coast	23.9%	74%	10%	54%	8%
Ventura Co	19.6%	62%	28%	40%	6%
SF Valley	7.1%	78%	6%	33%	17%
LA Area	12.2%	58%	16%	35%	3%
CA Other	5.1%	62%	31%	8%	8%
Out of State	6.3%	44%	50%	13%	6%
Totals		69%	16%	44%	9%



Compare the 2022 percentages above to the 2019 survey results below.



This is only an informal survey and is in no way scientific, but we find it parallels the favorable results of the recent NEC nationwide poll on the same topics.

## 2022 PHOTO ALBUM

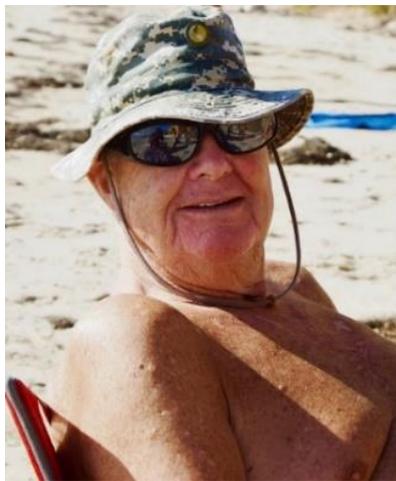
Many of our members continue to visit our clothing-optional beach on nice days through the winter months. We encourage you to submit your photos to [friends@friendsofbatesbeach.org](mailto:friends@friendsofbatesbeach.org).



Above: Helen, Gary, and Robert testifying before Carpinteria Planning Commission regarding path for Rincon Trail above Bates Beach.



Above and next page: Photos from Beach Picnic days in June, July, and August.



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Left: Lexine shows her joy. Center: members in August. Right: Helen explore sea anemones at low tide.

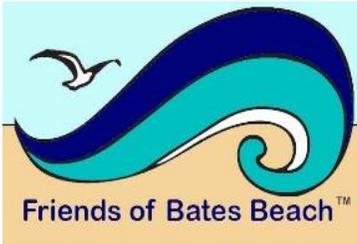


Left: Marialyce, Helen, and Dianna, aka "The Three Amigos," enjoy a nice day at the beach. Center and Right: Michael Jimenez and Vivian Barela visited Bates on November 25.



Above: Sunset at Bates, taken by Michael Jimenez on November 25. Right: Satellite launch Aug 30 from nearby Vandenberg base very visible from Bates.

# 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 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 FRIDAYS,  
7 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 Friday Schedule for 2023:

- **January 20, 2023**
- **February 17, 2023**
- **March 17, 2023**
- **April 21, 2023**
- **May 19, 2023**
- **June 16, 2023**
- **July 21, 2023**
- **August 18, 2023**
- **September 15, 2023**
- **October 20**

## 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.

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

- **March 10, 2023**
- **April 14, 2023**
- **May 12, 2023**
- **June 9, 2023**
- **July 14, 2023**
- **August 11, 2023**
- **September 8, 2023**
- **October 13, 2023**

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](mailto:friends@friendsofbatesbeach.org)