

THE BATES BEACH BEAT

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September 2023

Vol 2 No 09

Preparations Ready for 18th Annual Beach Cleanup Day at Bates

UPCOMING EVENTS

SEPTEMBER

Sept 5, 7, 12, 14, 19, 21, 26, 28

Mid-Week Group Visits to Bates

Fri, Sept 15, Meetup Dinner in Ventura, 6:45 pm

Sat, Sept 23, National Beach Cleanup Day and
Bates Beach Picnic

Fri, Sept 22, Online Meetup, 7:00 pm

OCTOBER

Oct 6-9, Avocado Festival, Carpinteria

Fri, Oct 13, Meetup Dinner in Ventura, 6:45 pm

Sat, Oct 14 3 pm -9 pm, The Dragonfly Ladies
(Women Only) Gathering, Santa Paula

Fri, Oct 20, Online Meetup, 7:00 pm

Sat, Oct 28, Halloween Pool Party, Camarillo

Saturday, September 23 Is International Beach Cleanup Day

For the eighteenth year, Friends of Bates Beach (FOBB) will be coordinating the annual Beach Cleanup Day at North Rincon (Bates) Beach in Santa Barbara. The event is now observed around the world at hundreds of beaches, lakes, rivers, and creeks. An estimated 2,000 other volunteers will do the same at 38 designated beaches, streams, and hiking trails throughout the county.

Important beach condition update: There are areas covered with washed driftwood accumulation that have possible sharp ends. Also, there are fresh tar blobs present on the intertidal zone, bring spare old shoes to protect your feet. Baby oil or similar products can be used later to remove tar.

Throughout Spring and Summer 2023, FOBB hosted monthly members performed flash cleanups of our designated clothing optional site, about a quarter-mile stretch at the northern end of the beach, so our focus will be on the “textile” side to the south and east, the parking lot, and on the foot trail on the cliff above.

“We average around 100 pounds Over the previous 3 cleanups we ranged between 50 and 80 pounds of trash for our efforts,” said Robert Byl, the coordinating Captain for the event, “which isn’t much since we work at this year ‘round. Some compared to some of the dirtier beaches which collect up to a thousand over 100 pounds or more of trash.”

Over the years we have found interesting and bizarre items left at the beach, from a set of four new SUV tires, discarded bathing suits, beach chairs, and even a broken surfboard. Usually, however, the haul includes a few rusty lobster traps, plastic drinking cups, pieces of Styrofoam ice chests, and fishing lines.

The event starts at 9 a.m. on the West Coast and lasts until about noon, but you can come later (up to about 11 10:30 a.m. is okay, but earlier is better). Check-in early at 8:30 a.m. We will meet at

THE STORY CONTINUES ON PAGE

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FOBB member Joe Hettinger shows his recent haul of discarded items collected during our July beach cleanup day at Bates.

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Coastal Cleanup Day

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

a table set up alongside the Pavilion area next to the Bates parking lot. There will be a short orientation for safety, eligible items for the CCD item tally, and items to leave in place.

We supply trash bags, rubber gloves, and a few “poking sticks.” Volunteers are strongly encouraged to bring a paper bag for recyclables, and they are welcome to bring their own buckets or other supplies.

Please bring your own filled water bottle to stay hydrated, there is a fountain near the beach access stairs for refills.

At around noon, at the end of the event, FOBB will take a group photo with what we collected and submit it to the local newspapers for publication to reinforce our positive PR with the community.

The county strongly recommends that all volunteers register ahead of time using the following link:

[Coastal Cleanup Day 2023 Santa Barbara County Tickets, Sat, Sep 23, 2023, at 9:00 AM | Eventbrite](#)

From the long pulldown list of beaches, select **North Rincon County Park**.

Click the number of people in your group (or just enter “1” if it is just you). Then click the “**Check Out**” button. The screen will ask you to enter your name and email address so that additional important information can be sent to you. **Including a required printed waiver form to sign and bring to the event or have it ready on your Mobile Device.**

Pre-registering on Eventbrite before the event automatically enrolls volunteers in a **prize drawing**. This year there are over 20 prize packages from Santa Barbara area establishments! Once the winners are selected, Explore Ecology, the Santa Barbara County Cleanup organizer will email them how to claim their prize.

Bates Picnic To Follow Beach Cleanup on September 23

At noon on Saturday, September 23, after the beach cleanup, FOBB invites everyone down to our clothing-optional section for a picnic!

After Labor Day the textile beach area has fewer visitors so we may have much of the day to ourselves. We have invited members from other Southern California nudist clubs to join us, so we expect a good crowd!

The beach is open until sunset, which on September 23 will occur around 6 p.m., after which we must leave. It is hoped some of the beachgoers will decide to drive the 2 miles into Carpinteria for dinner and pay for the meal or the tip using \$2 bills to remind them that we nudists support the local businesses.



One More Month of Mid-Week Visits To Bates Planned



September is usually the best month for visiting Bates from a standpoint of fewer textiles on the beach to better weather, so FOBB will continue its schedule of mid-week visits throughout the month. **The dates are Sept 5, 7, 12, 14, 19, 21, 26, and 28.**

When our group leaders are there, they will display our blue/yellow standup sign so people will know where we are. Come by and say hello.

As always, check with our website at www.meetup.com/Friends-of-Bates-Beach/ to see what time others may be there, or to read if we have to cancel a Tuesday/Thursday due to sudden overcast, etc. On that website, we coordinate meeting times and carpooling (given enough lead time). It's free to sign up and you can do so anonymously if that is a concern. Please sign up if you haven't already.

Tropical Storm Hilary Postponed August Picnic Date By a Week

A Tropical Storm Warning and a moderate earthquake on the same day? We were very glad we decided to postpone our scheduled 8/20 Bates picnic that day for an additional week.

The fast-moving Hurricane Hillary moved up the coast from the Baja but quickly dissipated from a “Category 4” storm to just a heavy rain by the time it reached Carpinteria. It dumped an inch onto the town in three hours, and many of our members to the south received as much as three inches with moderate flooding.

Nobody reported any damage from it nor from the 5.1 earthquake that hit mid-afternoon of the same day. Epicentered in Ojai, about 20 miles from Bates, it was felt nearby as a sharp back-and-forth motion while members in the San Fernando Valley felt it as a heavy rolling motion.

The storm caused the churning ocean to carry away an estimated two feet depth of sand from Bates and it etched some terraced sand steps parallel to the shore. Revealed again were some of the rocks that we saw last winter that were otherwise hidden beneath the sand beneath our feet. There is also some newly fallen rock from the cliff behind the beach, so people do not sit directly below.

The August 27 Beach Picnic

The word went out quickly that the beach picnic was postponed a week, and our members and friends responded by coming in large numbers the following Sunday. The weather was perfect, with temps in the high 70's, bright sun, and a sea temp around 68 degrees. A few people reported getting tar on their feet, attributed to the ocean churning it up off the bottom during the recent storm. The tar was easily removed with a few drops of baby oil.

Because of the newly revealed rocks from under the sand, those who came decided to move farther to the west/north up the beach from the normal clothing-optional boundary line. Our group spread out further and into smaller clusters than in one large group, laying their towels as far as the sign marking the start of the seal sanctuary. Those who did co-mingle said they met new folks from as far away as San Diego and as far north as Santa Cruz. It was another perfect day at the beach!



FOBB Director Gary Mussell (left) and Nudist Podcaster Evan Nix (right)

More Volunteers Still Needed for Our Avocado Festival Booth

FOBB will host an information booth during the three-day Carpinteria Avocado Festival, October 6-8, 2023. An estimated 80,000 attend the Festival each year, and perhaps 3,000 of those stop by our booth to learn about our beach

Last month we asked for volunteers to help staff at the booth during these three days, and some of our members responded, but we need more to fill out the schedule.

Especially needed are Saturday during the late morning and afternoon, when the peak number of visitors is expected, and also Sunday 10 am to 3 pm. We are asking people to volunteer a couple of hours, not the full day (although longer shifts are always appreciated!) We need people to run the spinning prize wheel, hand out our giveaway items, and interact with people who may have questions about our clothing-optional beach area. It isn't hard and most volunteers in past years say it is a lot of fun!

After your shift, feel free to enjoy the rest of the Festival, the Ferris wheel, a hundred food booths where avocado is a prime ingredient, or enjoy one of the 60 bands playing a wide variety of music styles at six different music stages set up at the end of each street block.

FOBB has had a booth at AvoFest since 2015. We always receive a warm response. This is an important way we show the local community that nudists are just normal people like themselves and the importance of positive body acceptance.

Please contact us if you can spare a couple of hours to assist us. Email: friends@friendsofbatesbeach.org.

Freedom is Not Free. It is Only Through Volunteerism That We Can Continue to Earn Our Beach Privilege!



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FOBB Director Interviewed on Nudist Podcast

On August 25, the Director of Friends of Bates Beach, Gary Mussell, was interviewed for 40 minutes on the Planet Nude podcast, available online.

The popular podcast covers current topics of interest to the naturist community. Its owner and main interviewer is Evan Nix, who also serves as a director of the Western Nudist Research Library in Corona, CA.

The interview is available at <https://www.planetnude.co>.

During the interview, Mussell recalls his history at Elysium Institute in Topanga, CA, before it closed, and of the founding of the SCNA club in Los Angeles.

He then discusses why he thought so many nudist clubs and parks had closed during the past 20 years and what was the winning business model that kept the remaining clubs alive and thriving.

He also voices his opinion about the recent change in policy at De Anza Springs from clothing optional to textile-only, and how to prevent other well-known clubs from closing their doors in the future.

He also discusses the long-term effects that the Internet, social media, and cell phones have had on naturism/nudism during the past fifteen years and how the future of that movement may look in another fifty years including the ongoing effort to attract a younger generation to the beaches and parks.

VISIT OUR ONLINE 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 8.5×11 and can be used at home on a bedroom wall, outside the backyard, or even on the front door! The price is \$20 plus shipping.

Our "I ♥ Bates Beach" cap is also available 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.





Bates Beach August 11 Steering Committee Selects Giveaway Items for AvoFest

Here is a summary of what was discussed at the monthly dinner meeting in Ventura on August 11. FOBB members and new guests are always invited to attend!

- Robert Byl will be the Beach Captain in charge of the Cleanup Day on September 23. He will attend a Captain's meeting hosted by the county on August 30 and provide a cover story for the September newsletter.
- Gary promoted the Summer Games for Saturday, August 12 and the Zorthian Talent Show/Pool party for September 9 but only a few said they would attend as they preferred the beach instead.
- The Avocado Festival was discussed in some detail and volunteers were asked to cover a 4-hour shift on the weekend. Most still had to check their calendars however Friday's shift got filled. We only need Saturday and Sunday.
- All agreed we needed to purchase giveaway items for the AvoFest booth with the FOBB website on them. The group consensus was to purchase writing pens, lip balm, emery boards, and beach balls. We will ask the SCNA club to split these expenses with us.
- A new 32" x 24" FOBB banner flag is being ordered for use at the booth as the old one has worn out.
- We have already received a new rotating rack that can hold up to 16 club brochures. This will be used at the Avocado Festival. It will hold information from all the local nudist clubs who are contributing to the cost of the booth.

Our next dinner meeting is September 8 at 6:45 PM at Denny's restaurant on Telegraph Road, near Ventura College. Anyone interested is welcome to attend. And bring your friends!

ADVERTISE IN THIS NEWSLETTER

\$55/month for a 2" h x 3.5" w adv. (Discount: \$400/year) buys you direct exposure to over 1500 naturists in the greater Southern California area. Personal ads are accepted for \$20/mo. for 25 words max.

We retain the right to reject ads that do not reflect our club's social media guidelines.

Email us at friends@friendsofbatesbeach.org for details

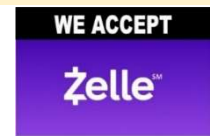
How To Become A Member Of Our Bates Beach Group

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.

Have You Asked Your Friends to Sign Our On-Line Petition?

Our online petition to Santa Barbara County, asking them to make Bates an officially designated nude beach, has reached 1,706 signatures but the rate of signing has slowed in recent months.

We ask that all members talk to their friends to support our efforts. The names are not made public (only a few of us know who signed) so anonymity should not be of concern.



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.

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.



The Carpinteria Skateboard Park Finally Opens to Public

It has taken about ten long years of petitioning, fundraising, planning, and construction to get it done, but the young dreamers who wouldn't say no finally got their way, as the long-anticipated Carpinteria Skateboard Park finally opened to the public on August 26.

Local community leaders and dignitaries, including the entire City Council, were on hand to cut the ribbon so that those with skateboards, roller skates, and scooters could enjoy the sculpted concrete walls and surrounding grass area, located at 3781 Carpinteria Avenue next to City Hall.

Helmets and pads were available for free on this day to anyone who didn't have the required safety equipment. The park is open daily from 30 minutes before sunrise to 30 minutes after sunset.

Over the years both Friends of Bates Beach and Southern Californi Naturist Association signed the group's petitions, spoke on their behalf at planning meetings, and purchased \$100 sidewalk bricks for their fundraiser. Our bricks join about a hundred others that line the sidewalk surrounding the play area.

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

Carpinteria's restaurants and retail stores have been very supportive of our beach efforts over the years, so we must be seen publicly supporting them now as many are still hurting financially after 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 (You can also use them anywhere, even in your own community!) Tell the store clerk we are nudists supporting local businesses. **Let us know if you want us to mail you additional cards to use.**



Local Dragonfly Ladies Event Sees Some New Faces

By Madeleine St. Claire

The Dragonfly Ladies' August event was a huge success at Cynthia's poolside oasis. Ten lovely and extraordinary women from all walks of life gathered for a day full of lively conversations, female bonding, and delicious foods.

Amidst the soothing ambiance of the sun's warmth and azure water, our interactions spanned a wide range from science to movies to education and everything in between. Later, while savoring the flavorful ginger beef dinner, we shared our unique experiences within the nudist community, lending to a deeper connection among us.

We had two new-comers who greatly added to the charm of The Dragonfly Ladies: Mona, the sister of Rachel and Nathalie, visiting from Taipei, shared a treasure trove of captivating life stories that left everyone in awe; and TC, a doctoral student at UCLA, hailing from Texas with strong ties to the Cheyenne Tribe, exuded elegance while infusing the event with a youthful spirit. We look forward to Mona's future participation.



Through shared laughter, heartfelt conversations, and the bonds forged by female camaraderie, this event has left a lasting impression.

Looking ahead, we anticipate future gatherings will offer us the promise of continued growth and cherished friendships within The Dragonfly Ladies.

The Next Dragonfly Ladies Event

The next Dragonfly Ladies gathering will be on **Saturday, October 14 at Rachel's home in Santa Paula, from 3 PM to about 9 PM.** This is a new location and there is no pool or hot tub, but we can still meet for some good conversations and a sumptuous meal.

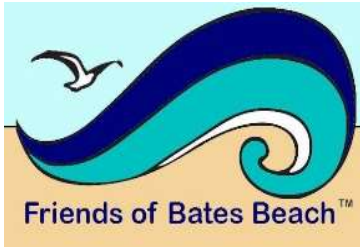
We will send out an email in advance to our women members.

I hope those of you in the **Ventura or Santa Barbara Counties**, can make it to this one. We always have a slightly different group which makes this a fun event.

This is open to any woman in the club or friend that a club member would like to bring with them, or a woman from another club that wants to join us. Any woman interested in coming should plan on bringing a dish for a potluck dinner, usually served between 5:00 pm and 7:00 pm.

RSVP at [818-225-2273](tel:818-225-2273) or scna@socalnaturist.org.

FRIENDS OF BATES BEACH WANTS TO MEET YOU!



Each month, the Friends of Bates Beach hosts a monthly dinner and 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.

Save the Date! Oct 28 is Our Annual Halloween Costume/ Pool Party!

Members: \$10/ Non-Members Guests: \$20/person and must have attended a Meetup dinner or online to be eligible)

Once again, we will hold our annual event with prizes for the Best Costume and for the Best Pot-Luck Food Using a Halloween Theme. For this year's location, we have a beautiful home in Camarillo with a private yard, an indoor heated pool, and a Jacuzzi. There is also a backyard BBQ on the patio and a fire pit. The club will provide soft drinks/water. Please bring a "Halloween-themed" dish or dessert to share. The host asks that you prepare your food ahead of time, as there is limited kitchen and refrigerator space. Please email your RSVP to friends@friendsofbatesbeach.org before October 25. More in next month's newsletter.

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>

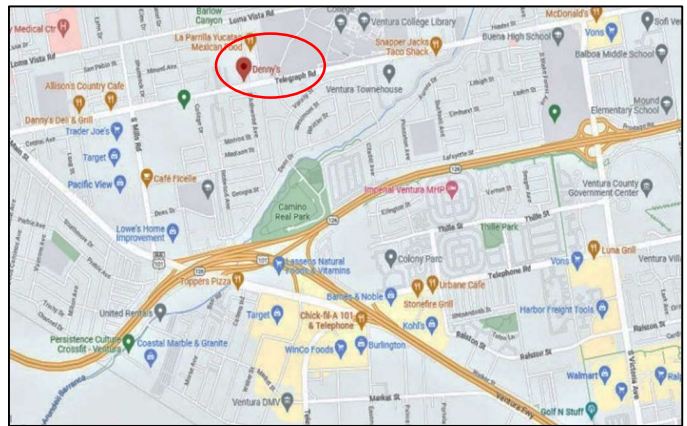
You can also dial in using your phone at: (571) 317-3122, Access Code: 724-415-629

Upcoming Friday Schedule for 2023:

- **September 15, 2023**
- **October 20, 2023**
- **November 17, 2023**

There is no online meeting in December

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.

Email us at: friends@friendsofbatesbeach.org

- **September 8, 2023**
- **October 13, 2023**

There is no Friday dinner meeting from November through February.