

THE BATES BEACH BEAT

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December 2023

Vol 2 No 12

Toy Distribution Delayed as Santa Discovers Bates Beach



**A VERY HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON FROM
YOUR FRIENDS OF BATES BEACH**

UPCOMING EVENTS

DECEMBER

Saturday, Dec 18, Noon – 4 PM
Annual Holiday Brunch and Gift Exchange

JANUARY

Saturday, January 20, 10 AM – 4 PM
Annual Inter-club Winter Games at Olive Dell
Saturday, January 27, Noon – 5:00 PM
Nudes at the Getty Scavenger Hunt

FEBRUARY

Tuesday, February 20, Online Meetup, 7:00 PM



Guide To Visiting Bates Beach During The Winter Months

Even as the seasons change and the weather turns colder, there will still be days throughout the winter months when the air temp suddenly rises, the sky is clear, and the beach beckons.

Although we have no more planned activities at Bates until March and the mid-week visits have stopped being scheduled, that does not mean some of us won't venture down to our favorite clothing-optional spot when the sun is out and the weather tolerable.

The air temp at Bates averages 70 degrees in early November and drops to about 60 degrees in January. Sea temperature is currently 62 F and will drop to about 55 F by the end of January, at its lowest.

There may be occasional opportunities through the rest of the Fall and Winter, but these will be on very short notice. Please read our www.meetup.com/friends-of-bates-beach/ website where we post comments from our members and beach leaders daily.

If you do go on your own, remember there will be fewer Beach Ambassadors on the sand, so we ask everyone to make sure those nearby follow our behavior guidelines. If you happen to see our blue sign on the sand, that means one of our beach mayors is there. Depending on the day, be sure to say hello to Helen, John, Robert, Colin, or Diane!

Seal Sanctuary Is Off Limits

Remember the area north of our designated spot will be off limits between February 1 and May 30 as it is a protected area during sea lion mating season. This is when they give birth and raise their pups. You will be given a ticket (and possibly be arrested) if you wander north of our area or disturb the animals in any way. If you see a sea lion in our area, please.



11/18/23: John and Helen pose on their favorite Bates Beach rock.



Diane relaxes on one of the washed-up tree trunks.

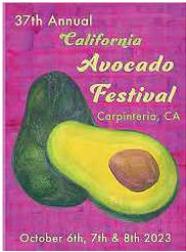


Colin poses with a crab that came in on the tide.



Helen took this photo of the sunset from above Bates Beach.

So Far, AvoFest Is Ignoring FOBB Demand for a Booth Refund



Following our main story in last month’s newsletter, the October 15th letter we sent to the Avocado Festival Board of Directors demanding our refund (\$879.00) was ignored.

On November 13, Cynthia asked her attorney to review our draft of a second letter. After making several edits and additions, this letter was sent on November 17, 2023, to the registered signing agent for the Avocado Festival corporation. As of this writing, we have not yet received any reply. A possible future option should we choose to take it, is Small Claims Court. We will keep you advised.

FOBB Plans 2024 Activities

The administrative staff is taking the months of December and January off from our dinner and ZOOM meetings, but that does not mean they aren’t working hard collecting the thoughts and ideas from our members via email to plan a robust 2024 calendar for our members and to create an affordable budget to underwrite these activities.

What Are Your Ideas?

Do you want more organized beach picnics? More planned mid-week trips? How about us hosting a Carpinteria picnic at the Pavilion above the beach next summer? Should we organize periodic “\$2 Bill Days” to support the local merchants and restaurants?

Submit your thoughts before the end of the year via email to: friends@friendsofbatesbeach.org.

FOBB 2023 Fiscal Report

Our Treasurer David Tiktin has provided us with a summary of the FOBB Income and Expenses for 2023 through November. This itemized report is available to all members upon request. O summarize:

Net Income	\$ 2,025.10
Net Expenses	\$ 3,130.25
Net Profit (Loss)	(\$ 1104.71)

We started with \$1500 in the bank, and we still have an operating balance of \$300. This loss will be greatly reduced if the \$879 refund from the Avocado Festival booth is ever received.

Membership Renewal Notices

Beginning in mid-December, we will begin sending out renewal notices to our FOBB members whose memberships expire in January, as well as second notices to everyone who did not renew during the past year. We need to have everyone respond promptly so that our coffers can be refilled to cover anticipated overhead expenses such as the website and newsletter, and for any planned activities for 2024.

How To Become A Member Of Our Bates Beach Group

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. 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).

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

Total Nears 2,000 Goal

Our online petition to Santa Barbara County, asking them to make Bates an officially designated nude beach, has reached **1,905** 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 cand 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, we can ask the Board of Supervisors to change the county’s nudity ordinance.



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Carpinteria Council Selects New City Manager



November 2, 2023 - After several rounds of interviews, the Carpinteria City Council has decided on Michael P. Ramirez, to be Carpinteria’s next City Manager. Ramirez is the current Assistant City Manager, so the transition will be a smooth one.

The current City Manager, David Durlinger, retired at the end of November after 22 years on the job.

FOBB leaders have met Ramirez informally but our beach at Bates was never discussed with him. After he gets settled into his new position We plan to meet with him and bring him up to speed. Although technically a County Park, Carpinteria includes North Rincon (Bates) Beach in the city’s sphere of influence.



Santa Claus Lane Bikeway Now Open

The new 0.6-mile bike and pedestrian pathway connecting Carpinteria Avenue and Santa Claus Lane, just north of Carpinteria, was officially opened on Wednesday, November 8. The concrete path cost \$3.33 million and took two years to build. It is located on the beachside of Highway 101 between the freeway and the railroad tracks.

End of Freeway Construction In Sight

Caltrans reports the traffic quagmire that is the 101 Freeway between Carpinteria and Ventura is expected to be finished by March 2024.

Rincon Trail Seeks New Funding

Meanwhile, the **Rincon Trail project above Bates Beach** is still on hold as city and county officials continue to seek new construction funding as the deadlines for using the previous grant money from the state and feds have expired. It remains several years more before that section of the pedestrian/bikeway can begin construction.



More Mesa Open Space Up for Sale

11/14/23 - The *Santa Barbara Independent* reports that a large portion of the More Mesa plateau above that local nude beach is up for sale. The 265 open acres currently crisscrossed by hiking, biking, and riding trails on the edge of Hope Ranch, were listed at the beginning of the month at \$65 million, up from the \$50 million asking price attempted in 2019.

The property owner is listed as Khalid Saud Al-Shubaily LLC, a Saudi Arabia-based real estate group. They bought the property in 2012 for \$40 million, hoping to build a large family compound, but the county’s General Plan and the state Coastal Act restrict any kind of development there. Most of the property must remain in its natural state to ensure public access to the beach below and to protect the native habitat.

The newspaper quotes Valerie Olson, president of the More Mesa Preservation Coalition saying the parcel has no water, and no power.. She wasn’t certain that the owner understood this when they purchased the property in 2012.

So after years of frustration not finding a compromise with the Coastal Commission and the county, the owner has decided to sell. Access to More Mesa Beach across the private property is always of concern, but the county seems committed to requiring public access regardless of who might next buy the property.

OTHER NUDIST NEWS

SNL Goes Naked In NYC



On December 2, 2023, Saturday Night Live did a sketch revealing how several cast members share what cheers them up during the winter – going fully naked in New York! Catch the 3-minute musical number on YouTube at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hg0x3-jsKGM>

Kilborns Fired As Managers At Olive Dell

By Rolf Holbach, SCNA President

After nearly 20 years as owners and then managers of Olive Dell Nudist Resort in Colton, CA, Bobby and Becki Kilborn “have resigned” from their official duties effective November 30. A letter announcing this news was sent to all park residents in mid-November.

Bobby vehemently insists that they never “resigned”, but were fired by one of the outside investors, 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.

A little background: Olive Dell Nudist Ranch was established in 1952 by Bill Keissel. In 1976 Ralph Kilborn and a partner bought the resort and took over the operation. This was the same year Becki’s mom became a member. When Bobby’s mother had a stroke in 1998, his father asked Bobby to come back to Olive Dell and run the Café which, until then, his mother had operated. Bobby and Becki were married in 2001. Bobby’s dad, Ralph, got sick and passed away in 2004. But before he died, Bobby was asked if he wanted to sell the resort or take over running it. Thankfully, Bobby and Becki decided they wanted to keep Olive Dell Ranch running and make it into one of Southern California’s premier nudist parks.

Olive Dell Ranch marked its 70th year in 2022.

In 2019 Bobby sold 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. Luckily, the new owners retained Bobby and Becki as the park’s managers. Until this year, everything seemed to return to normal, and they continued to invite outside clubs, such as NitOC and SCNA, along with other nudist-friendly groups for special events.

About 10 months ago, Tina, as controlling officer of the Olive Dell Management LLC, took on more of an active role and began demanding cost-cutting changes throughout the resort. She made changes to the park’s operations, in financial management procedures, closing the sauna, trash management, and firing the longtime groundskeeper. This led to tension between Tina and the Kilborns. The final straw was after she confronted Bobby about financial malfeasance in the operation of the Café. Bobby claims that he obtained an outside auditor’s review that proved the opposite. Despite that review, Bobby says Tina decided to fire the Kilborns anyway. The Café is now closed until further notice.

According to Evan Nix’s recent article on his Planet Nude blog (go to <https://www.planetnude.co/p/nudism-at-a-crossroads-in-california>), “Speculation among members about the intentions of new owners abounds, adding to the unease. Members have imagined possibilities ranging from owners’ intent to sell or go “textile,” to plans to level the place

completely. “None of us really know what Mark and Tina’s intentions are.”

Because of all the uncertainty, and fear of what the future holds for residents and members, a meeting was organized by some residents on Sunday, November 26. It was revealed that the Kilborns have until December 30 to vacate their home and permanently leave Olive Dell. It was also revealed that a replacement manager had been chosen, but they had asked that their name be kept secret until after November 30.

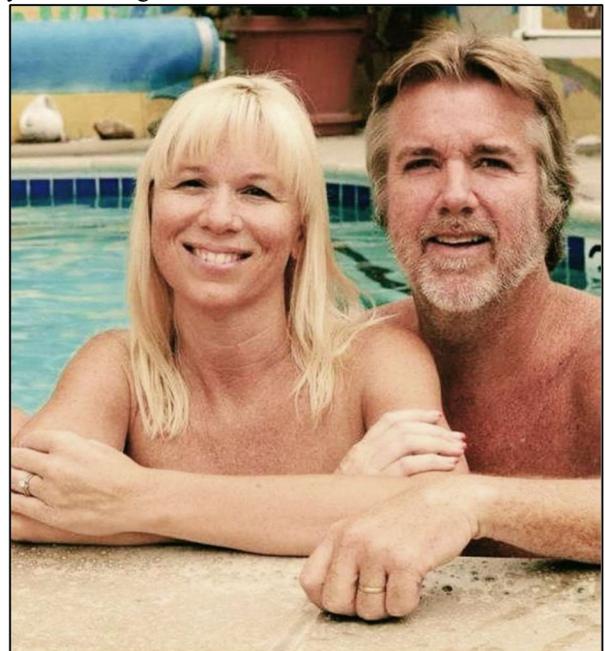
The meeting did little to allay members’ fears and uncertainty about the situation. Despite tensions and disagreements, it became clear that most of the members just want honesty and clarity, and to remain as members of the Olive Dell Family. To be fair, some members expressed support for the change in management and felt it could be positive.

With little transparency from ownership, it’s natural for members’ imaginations to run wild. The recent loss of De Anza Springs as a nudist resort, and the impending sales of both Lupin Lodge and Desert Sun have caused many to fear that nudist recreation in California is in terrible danger.

In an interview for Clothes Free International, Bobby has admitted that he’s made mistakes over the years which ultimately put them in the position they are in now. He emotionally stated that he is “grateful to have lived the best life at Olive Dell. A place where you meet genuine real people as they truly are, not as they present themselves in the outside world. I wish the best of luck to Olive Dell and all its members”!

As far as our club is concerned though, few stronger advocates for nudism have devoted their lives to creating a space for nudists to practice our way of life than Bobby and Becki Kilborn.

Thank You for the work you’ve done, for the place you’ve created, for the friends you’ve made, and for the lives you’ve changed.



Becki And Bobby Kilborn

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

Annual Holiday Party, Gift Exchange, & Awards Ceremony

Saturday, December 16, Noon – 4 PM

Location: Simi Valley, Clothed Event

Members and non-members: \$30/person, (This covers the hall rental and the catering.)

Our parent organization, SCNA, is coordinating the event for us.

Our party will be provided by Green Acres Farms and will include your choice of Chicken or Tri-Tip, BBQ Beans, Au Gratin potatoes, roasted vegetables, Caesar salad, and a dinner roll. Desserts, sodas, and water will be provided also.

This is also the one party each year where an individual can bring their non-nudist spouse or partner who would not otherwise share an event with us. The idea is to provide a non-threatening opportunity to have them meet us while enjoying a great meal!

The club will also present our **annual service awards** for outstanding volunteer service to the club and the community at large.



Then we will have some fun **exchanging white elephant gifts**. To participate, provide an interesting knick-knack or other odd item that you feel someone else might enjoy. These are preferably

something that you already have stashed away in your garage or attic, but if you decide to purchase a gift spend no more than about \$10. We will have a random pick-and-steal game to distribute the gifts—one gift per person (2 per couple). Your gift **MUST** be wrapped to participate; there should be **NO TAGS** attached to say who it is from.

There will also be a **raffle drawing** for some additional prizes. You **MUST** RSVP in advance so we know how much food to order. Call SCNA at (818) 225-02273 or email them at scna@socalnaturist.org no later than December 12.

“Nudes At The Getty” Scavenger Hunt

SATURDAY, JANUARY 27, Noon – 5:00 PM

Members and guests: \$20 parking fee plus \$5 to SCNA

You will not find this listed in the Getty Museum catalog; it is an event we made up for ourselves! Members and guests will search the museum galleries for the answers to questions about the art pieces containing nudity. Winners get a nice prize.

Since we will be indoors most of the time, this event goes on rain or shine.

The \$5 fee covers the preparation of the scavenger hunt materials and prizes. Carpooling is recommended to split the parking fee.

There are No Dinner Meetings Until March 2023

Because of the many upcoming holidays, and the colder weather, we are taking a few months off from our meetings

Next dinner meeting: Friday, March 10, 6:45 pm. at Denny’s Restaurant on Telegraph Road (west of Ventura College), 4095 Telegraph Rd, Ventura, CA 93003

The next Online Meeting will be on Tuesday, February 20, at 7 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

WHAT OUR MEMBERS ARE DOING...

FOBB Member Linda Weber Adopts A Highway

Starting in 1990, and for the past 32 years, Linda Weber has been part of the California Adopt-A-Highway program. She started on the 101 Freeway southbound at the Ventura/Santa Barbara border near Bates Beach. Construction projects took away her spot, so she applied for a different portion of the highway. The state assigned her a 2-mile portion of Highway 33 in Ventura, where it heads north toward Ojai.

“I wanted to give back to my community with volunteerism” as part of the AANR Altruism Project.”

She cleaned it alone at first, and now her husband Stan has joined her. The cleanup takes 2-3 hours, and she does it once a month. Per permit only allows her and Stan to clean her section but she encourages members of Friends of Bates Beach to adopt their own road section and join her mission in the future.

Email us a friends@friendsofbatesbeach.org if interested.



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