



SCNA: 2014 OUR YEAR IN REVIEW

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Thank you for making this our best year ever! Some of the highlights in words and pictures:



January

In January, SCNA hosted our annual **Nude at the Getty** scavenger hunt, where about three dozen members and guests had a lot of fun going room to room at the museum answering questions about nude paintings and statues. Starting precisely at noon, teams of two sought answers to 85 written questions about different artists, nude sculptures, and nude paintings to be found in every room of the 4-building complex. The first team (Mike and De Glinzak) reported back in record time of 1 hour 37 minutes, with the second team (Michael Heneghan) coming back just two minutes later. Most teams took between two and a half to three hours to complete the course.

Also in January, we are sad to report Southern California lost another nudist park. **Deer Park** in Devore was leased to a new management group who announced they were converting the property to an adults-only “swinger/lifestyle-friendly” resort, effective immediately. SCNA replied by cancelling its calendar of events there for 2014. Both the Naturist Society and AANR withdrew the club’s national affiliation with those organizations.

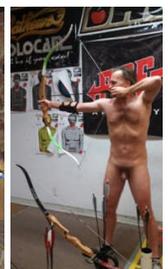
February

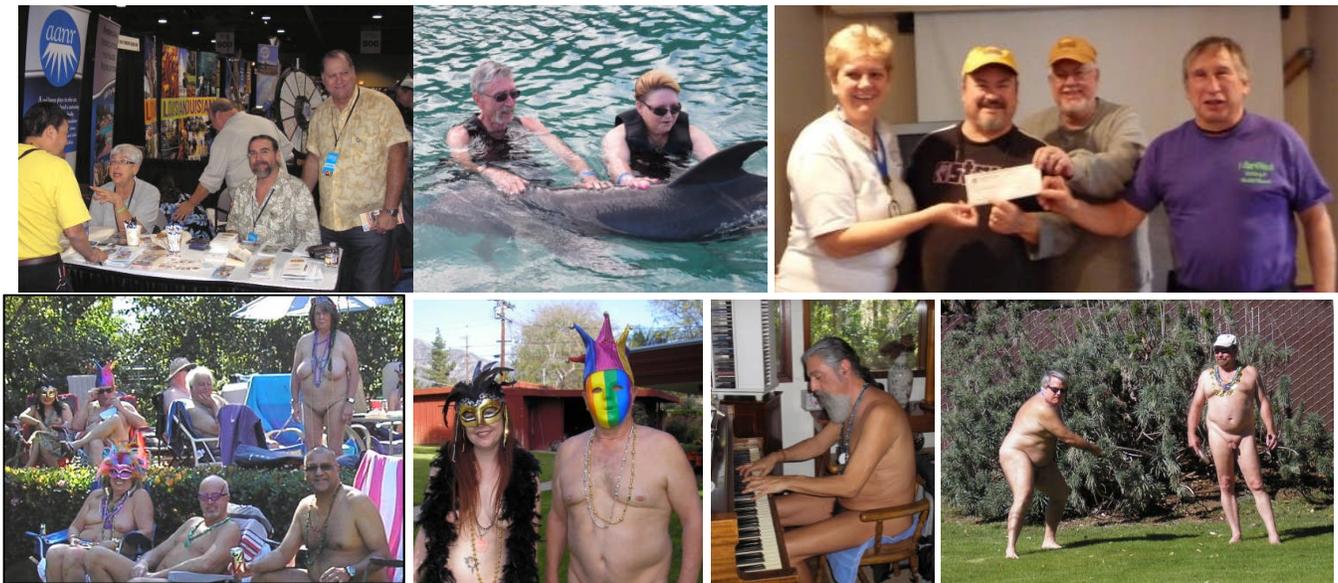
On February 2, we hosted our traditional **Super Bowl party**. SCNA always combines this with a Chili Cook-off and Best Soup contest. Members enjoyed an amazing pot luck variety and sampled the food entered in the Best Soup (winner: Paki’s lentil soup) and best Chili (winner Rachel’s sausage and beef) cook-off contests. For the record, the Seattle Seahawks routed the hapless Denver Broncos, 43-8, much to the dismay of many in the room.

February 7, members journeyed to Fountain Valley to attend the **Naked Archery** Night hosted by the NitOC club. Brian wrote an article describing his thrill finding his inner “Katniss Everdeen” (i.e. *The Hunger Games*).

February 8 & 9, SCNA members helped staff the AANR booth at the annual Los Angeles **Adventure & Travel Show** in Long Beach. Over 30,000 people came through the gates for the event, and we passed out literature and other giveaways. Many people were introduced to the idea of nude recreation.

February 9-16, John and Ruth Harvanchik enjoyed a Bare Necessities **nude cruise in the Caribbean**. They wrote an article for the newsletter where they said the highlight of the trip was an hour swim with dolphins in Ocho Rios, Jamaica (see photo on page 2). “Worth every penny,” John wrote.





March

March 1, Rolf and Gary braved a heavy downpour and drove to DeAnza in Jacumba to attend the quarterly meeting of the **AANR-West Board of Directors**. Gary gave a report about our progress to regain the clothing-optional section at Bates Beach and also reported on the proposal SCNA was submitting to the CA State Parks Forward Commission to legalize a list of nude beaches, hot springs, and hiking trails across the state. The Board awarded SCNA \$1500 to continue the efforts in 2014.

Instead of a St Patrick's theme for our March 8 party, we chose a **Mardi Gras** theme instead. It was a beautiful warm and sunny afternoon that kept the 33 who attended outside on the porch or lawn, soaking up the last vestiges of sun on this amazingly mild winter day. One of the highlights of the party was a New Orleans/Cajun Pot Luck that brought out some spicy new dishes that everyone seemed to love. So much so that we had a four-way tie for the best dish between Tim & Paki's Shrimp and Chicken Jambalaya, Rachel's Creole Okra side dish, Amanda's tasty Firecrackers, and Rolf's Sausage and Chicken Jambalaya! We also had a traditional King Cake for dessert. Most people brought a colorful and inventive Mardi Gras mask, and everyone ended up festooned with the obligatory beads. Michelle and newcomer, Bob, took 1st and 2nd place for Best Masks (pictured). Kevin was instrumental in making our party even more fun, and in getting many butts out of their chairs, when he set up a Frisbee Golf course on the lawn.

California State Parks

Also during this period, the **Parks Forward Commission** held several public hearings on how to reform and reorganize the California Parks Department. Several SCNA members testified at these hearings, asking that nude recreation be included in any new plan. After one meeting, the Chairman of the Committee pulled us aside and asked us to submit our ideas in writing. Rolf and Gary wrote several drafts and sought approval of the other naturist groups throughout the state before finally submitting our best ideas in mid-June. As submitted, we are asking for areas be set aside for clothing-optional recreation in ten parks where it has always been traditional. The plan also sets up a process for setting aside hiking trails, lakes, and hot springs throughout the state where nude recreation can exist without legal hassle. During the spring and early summer the commission seriously considered our ideas.

Nude Yoga

Another indoor activity that has proved very popular year round is **Nude Yoga**. The Canoga Park location proved very successful, however, we ceased offering our yoga classes in Atwater Village in February due the small size room and some parking concerns. In September, a second location was added, this one in West LA. It was an immediate success.

Meetups

This year, we saw a marked increase in people interested in exploring naturism or looking for a local group to join. Our monthly **Introductory Meetup dinners**, in 5 different restaurant locations throughout the greater LA area, provided the perfect venue for these newbies, giving us a chance to answer their questions before they are invited to a clothing-optional event. Currently we have over 700 "Meetup members" who potentially can join us as (paid) participating members in the future.



April

The headline story for the April newsletter was an expose by editor Gary Mussell of **Facebook's** inconsistent and unfair censorship policy regarding nude content. The article went on to win Best Feature Article by the American Association for Nude Recreation, but it also cost Gary his Facebook account. Guess we rattled the Facebook Gods?

Saturday, April 5, SCNA hosted another of its semi-annual nude bowling afternoons. We rented out the entire alley for three hours, and the NitOC club sent some great bowlers to join us. The winner of both high game (163) and high series was a member of neither club, but a member of Glen Eden. The low score was 59, thrown by a person who shall remain anonymous.

The following Friday, many from the same group carpooled to the Rodman Mountains Wilderness Area, out beyond the desert town of Hesperia, to view some ancient Indian petroglyphs carved into its hills. Most of the glyphs form geometrical shapes (squares, rectangles, circles) with dots and hatching inside them, or parallel wavy lines. A few are the recognizable images of a human, a big horn sheep, snakes, a tortoise (maybe), the sun or a star, but most are too enigmatic to identify. The next day, this group joined others up in the San Bernardino Mountains for a nude hike to Deep Creek.

A week later, on Sunday, April 27, an estimated 250 nude runners participated in the annual 5k Bare Burros Race at Olive Dell. The peek-a-boo sunshine provided very comfortable race weather. We had 15 SCNA members and some non-member friends show up. The fastest male ran the course in 21 min. 1 sec; the fastest female timed in at 31 min. 54 sec., but most SCNA participants took an hour (or in some cases, two hours) to complete the hilly course.

The following day, Rolf and Gary were visited by Ashley Behan, Marketing Coordinator from the AANR main office in Florida. Gary drove her to Santa Barbara to take a personal look at both More Mesa and Bates Beaches (yes, Gary and Ashley both went nude on Bates without any complaints or hassles) and to meet with Walt Stephens, VP of the AANR-Western Region.



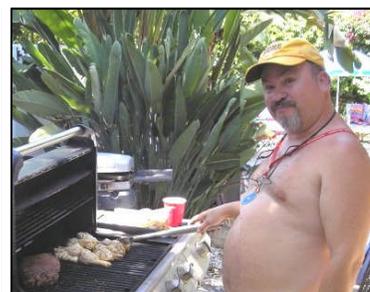
May

May 10, SCNA traveled to Palm Springs for a special event at the former home of the late actor Robert Stack. Now called Casa de Monte Vista, this lavish home is where they filmed the Liberace bio-movie, *Behind the Candelabra*. We invited all the other Southern California clubs to join us and they did! We counted the paid attendance at 72 people, each of whom contributed to a fabulous pot-luck! After a few intense games of volleyball on the south lawn, Kevin organized several rounds of Frisbee Golf.

Memorial Day came earlier than normal this year, and SCNA traveled back to Olive Dell to help celebrate its annual Pirates of the Caribbean-themed weekend. Saturday, May 24, was the day most people came, as that was the day of the fund-raiser booths for the Kids Activity Fund (we all enjoyed the dunk tank!). Bobby prepared an excellent meal of his famous baby back ribs, baked potato, corn on the cob, and side salad. Becky finished off the meal with her special strawberry cupcakes.

June

The seventh annual World Naked Bike Ride through downtown Los Angeles on June 14 brought a record crowd estimated by police at 350 riders. This was over 100 more than last year's event. The event attracted people of all ages, although a large majority seemed to be around age 30. Well over half did the 15.3 mile course completely nude, with the balance being top-free women and some families. Before the race began many took advantage of the body painter artists who placed designs and written slogans on the bodies of the riders so that onlookers could clearly see our twin messages of promoting bicycle safety and using pedal power instead of gasoline whenever possible. We also enjoyed the support of the local LAPD station commander who donated officers to direct traffic so the ride would go smoothly without any hassles. The crowds along the street were very enthusiastic, especially in Chinatown where everyone seemed to have a camera phone. CFI (Clothes Free International) taped the event for their webcast, and both KTLA-TV and KNX News Radio broadcast stories about the ride during the afternoon and evening.



Sunday June 22, SCNA held its annual Members Appreciation pool party in West Hills. Rolf BBQ'd some chicken and London broil as the main dish, but the pot luck table was filled with side dishes from salads to veggies, from fruit to pies and cupcakes. It looked like a mini-cruise ship buffet! While most people were relaxing alongside (or in) the pool, battling the Friends of Bates Beach balls back and forth, a small but enthusiastic group sat in the den to watch the World Cup U.S. game on TV. Rhenetta invited the women to the front room to demonstrate some new beauty treatment products. Meanwhile, outside under the awning, Harold was hosting a game of Scrabble, taking on all comers. The 50-50 raffle was won by Dennis Olson.

Bates Beach

Several beach parties were held at Bates Beach during the year, both to acclimate the locals to the existence of nudists on an underused section of this county beach, and also to demonstrate that law enforcement had higher priorities elsewhere rather than write tickets to nudists. We hosted beach parties each month during the summer season: June 7, July 5, August 16, and September 20. Each attracted from a dozen to as many as three dozen nudists who enjoyed their day with no law enforcement hassles. In fact, at the August event, several people walking down the beach decided to stop and join us!

At the July 5 party a film crew from Clothes Free International (CFI) came to the beach to interview us about our campaign. The 20 minute segment appeared on their webcast two weeks later.

In nearby Carpinteria, SCNA and Friends of Bates Beach were also active. On June 28, we participated in the city's Independence Day parade down the main street of the town. Before the parade, a dozen club members walked through the show booth area, buying little gifts and food using \$2 bills (our official nudist currency). Gary, Rolf, Sally, and Valentina then rode in the parade car while the others distributed Beach Balls (with our logo on it) through the crowd.

On July 23, SCNA and FOBB hosted a Carpinteria Chamber of Commerce Mixer in the Pavilion area above Bates Beach. We brought in some excellent food platters, and Rolf brought background "beach" music to further set the mood. We also handed out beach balls and leis to everyone to make them feel more "beach-in." We had an information table so the local business leaders in attendance could ask questions about our proposed clothing-optional area on the beach below. We received an excellent reception from the 50+ in attendance!



Saturday, September 20, was the annual California Coastal Cleanup Day, and our club was assigned to cleanup Bates Beach for the ninth year in a row. Meanwhile through the fall, Gary held a series of one-on-one meetings with local city officials in hopes of getting a public hearing on Bates. He wrote and circulated a formal proposal for how to implement a change in the county nudity law that is now circulating through the City Council.

Parks Forward (Again)

As we wrote on page 2 above, Parks Forward, the independent Commission created by the legislature to redirect the priorities of the California State Parks system asked SCNA to submit a proposal on how to integrate and legalize the traditional clothing-optional areas into the park system. After consultation (and many re-writes) with many clubs and leaders in the nudist community, SCNA submitted this **47-page report** to the Commission in June. We and other nudist spokespersons appeared at several of the public hearings held around the state advocating our proposal and the need to be included in their final recommendations.

In October we received formal notice that neither the nudists, dog owners (who wanted access to the beaches), nor bicycle riders (who wanted trail access) would be included in their final recommendations to the legislature. We are currently re-evaluating our strategy before going forward, as we are not going to go away!

July

After 11+ years of service, Gary and Patty decided it was time to retire from the SCNA Board so that a new generation of ideas could be heard. The transition took place at the annual club Member's Meeting in Northridge on July 12. Also stepping down were hiking coordinator Jim Carter and retired businessman John Harvanchik. John had served on the board for five years.

Rolf Holbach, Tim Doggett, and Cynthia Holbach were re-elected to the Board for the 2014-2015 term, and welcomed were new Board members Mike Glinzak of Bakersfield, Cheryl Case of Canyon Country, Mark Walters of Simi Valley, and Valentina "Paki" Arizo of North Hills. All were elected unanimously by voice vote of the 37 members present at the backyard meeting.

July 26, the club returned to Westchester, just north of LAX, for an enjoyable day of sun, Jacuzzi, and games. The proximity to the ocean made the weather far more agreeable to the 31 people who attended, compared to the oppressive heat being felt through the rest of L.A. The food theme this time was Mexican, and our volunteer chefs did not disappoint. Mike brought out his "Catch Phrase" game, and Rolf brought his "Cards Against Humanity," another favorite that occupied our attention for several hours.



August

July 31-Aug 3, SCNA sent five members 400 miles north to Laguna del Sol (near Sacramento) to attend the annual AANR-West Convention meeting, two delegates and three alternates. The extreme heat of the weekend (100 to 110 degrees) meant if you were not attending the meeting in the air conditioned clubhouse you were in the pool. A weekend head count showed there were over 500 on the grounds over the four days, but few bothered to attend the formal proceedings. That is a shame because they missed the opportunity to spend some time listening to new AANR Executive Director Bill Schroer describe some of his ideas for turning around the organization's 10-year steady drop in paid membership. After many years of rebuffing their invitations, SCNA's past president Gary Mussell finally agreed to have his name nominated to their Board of Directors, and he was one of four new Directors elected to the 9-person governing body. He was appointed co-chair of the Government Affairs Team (GAT).

At AANR's National Convention a few weeks later, SCNA was awarded Best Club Newsletter for the third year in a row. The lead story in the April issue, "Facebook's Censorship Policy Draws Ire of Nudist Community" won Best Feature Article. Additionally, SCNA's Gary Mussell was presented with a Presidential Citation for his beach efforts. AANR's annual convention was held the week of August 15 at the Sunny Rest Nudist Resort in northeastern Pennsylvania.

SCNA hosted the third annual **Nude Summer Games** August 9, held this year at Olive Dell Nudist Park in Colton. They were a huge success with an estimated 50 members and guests from several nearby naturist clubs participating in the twelve events. Another hundred or so members and guests enjoyed watching the competitions. The day ended with a pudding toss, which is just what it sounds like.

The week of August 21-24, four SCNA members made the journey north to Worley, Idaho, to attend the annual **Western Gathering**, sponsored by the Naturist Society. We attended all of the serious meetings, which covered legal and legislative issues affecting naturists across the country. The Gathering always attracts a collection of naturist hikers, beach leaders, and other visitors from across the Western United States, so we found the most productive time was spent between the scheduled workshops sharing stories and useful information with the other attendees. Our club also hosted the annual Barnyard Games that consisted of several different contests (noodle relay race, hula hoop pass, and a paper bag toss that seemed to go on forever because nobody could hit the target). On Saturday afternoon, Ricc was in his glory running the annual pudding toss out behind the pool.



We returned to Olive Dell August 31 for their Labor Day Weekend Luau and Polynesian Festival. This is one of the resort's oldest and well-attended traditions. Bobby and Becki prepared a delicious Polynesian feast for the 150 in attendance, followed by a show featuring Polynesian singers and dancers attired in traditional costumes.

September

September 6, the club hosted what has become one of our most popular pool parties at the picturesque and eclectic surroundings of the 48-acre artist's enclave known as the **Zorthian Ranch** in the hills above Pasadena. It was attended by over 60 fellow naturists made up of members from the SCNA, NitOC, Camping Bares, and various guests. Those who attended last year could hardly wait to get back up to this wonderfully unique site which overlooks the northwest end of the San Gabriel Valley and has a decidedly esoteric vibe with all the artwork, structures, and sculptures which pepper the 48-acre ranch. Not to forget all the animals that wander around, including our hungry and inquisitive friend, Rama the Llama!

The refreshing salt water pool had been repainted and was crystal clear. All day long it was filled with people joining in for an enjoyable game of beach ball toss, trying out the water slide, or just cooling off from the humid summer heat of the day. Ed brought up his DJ gear and provided music for us until the late afternoon. The pot luck table contained a variety of scrumptious summer salads, fried chicken, chili, meat pies, and a wide selection of desserts for every palate.

Saturday, September 27, was our traditional "**Ice Cream Social**" pool party. We were greeted by a beautifully warm and balmy Indian summer day in Northridge. A little over 30 members and guests joined in, with many arriving in small groups throughout the afternoon. This meant we had fresh dishes for the potluck all day long, and most people re-visited the food buffet often to see the variety of nice salads, chicken, chips and fruit. Of course that was only until Gary and Paki returned with the Ice Cream which got everyone up and in line to get a cone or bowl of vanilla, chocolate, strawberry, mint chocolate chip, double fudge chocolate chip, smores, or a combination of those flavors. With all the fruit and toppings we had available, more than a few whipped up their own sundaes, mixed up a root beer float, or both. One could not spend a better afternoon than enjoying some cool ice cream with a bunch of cool nude friends to top off a warm afternoon!

October

October 4, a group of SCNA members attended Carpinteria's annual **Avocado Festival** and paid for food and stuff from vendor booths using \$2 bills, which are widely seen now as the local nudist currency. Several booths also distributed literature for us and gave out \$2 as change to their customers. We handed out just over 220 Bates Beach balls to the crowd, who happily accepted the free gift.

We returned to Westchester again on October 11 for our last backyard party of the year. Mike brought out his library of board games, and many spent the afternoon under the canopy in friendly competition with others. The weather in October is always a throw of the dice, but this time summer held on a few weeks longer, so we had clear blue skies and 80 degree weather, perfect for some to grab that last bit of 2014 suntan to carry them through the winter to come. The Jacuzzi, always popular at this location, also was in use all afternoon. With a theme of **Oktoberfest**, many members brought German-themed dishes from red cabbage salads to strudels. Ricc made a delicious homemade sauerkraut. Oddly enough, nobody brought beer to the Oktoberfest party! Well, maybe next year.



Oct 19, SCNA again hosted a nude bowling afternoon in Montrose. Members of the Orange County NitOC group joined us. Both high score and high series were won by Micah.

October 25, the club attended the Halloween Party at Olive Dell. Over a hundred people from several of the local clubs helped make the evening especially enjoyable.

November

On Saturday, Nov 1, Gary, Rolf, Patty, and Ricc returned to Olive Dell to attend the quarterly AANR-West Board meeting. Gary serves as a Board member. This meeting focused on establishing the 2015 operating budget for the region. Gary was appointed Government Affairs Co-chair so about 25% of the planned budget expenses were earmarked for his team.

Two weeks later, SCNA hosted its traditional **Pre-Thanksgiving Party** on Nov 15. Over 3 dozen members and guests gathered at Rolf and Cynthia's home in Altadena to enjoy our annual potluck feast, the Jacuzzi, and many interesting conversations. Our most honored guest was **Shirley Mason**, Directors of the BEACHES Foundation, who was visiting from Haulover Beach in Florida. Also in attendance was Gabrielle, a student from Long Beach State, who interviewed many of the people for her college term paper. Members took advantage of the warm fall weather, sunning and mingling out on the patio or in the Jacuzzi, which was full all day. Some even got out on the lawn for a little football toss to work off the delicious appetizers and make room for dinner. At 4:15, Rolf brought out the carved turkey, and we were quite ready to dig in! The buffet was filled with all kinds of side dishes donated by the members, from various salads to dressings, potatoes to green beans, and other delicious veggie dishes. Then came the pies and ice cream – oh my! Voted the **Best Side Dish Contest** winner was Marsha Natelborg, who brought an amazing baked sweet potato dish. Second place was Kathy Robinson's green bean casserole.

December

As our annual holiday charity event, members contributed \$100 to the Carpinteria Food Bank, which distributed meals and other items to several targeted families-in-need for the holidays.

December 14, SCNA finished its year with the Holiday Party and Awards Brunch at the Mandarin King restaurant in North Hills. Rolf announced the winners of the annual club awards: Mark Walters (Robin Martin Volunteer of the Year Award), Mike Glinzak (New Member of the Year), and Rachel Smith (The Rubber Chicken Best Potluck Cook Award). Additional Presidential Certificates of Merit were given to Jim Carter (Hiking), Cheryl Case (Membership Committee), Kevin Meskew (Activities), and Helen O'Neill (Bates Beach).

After the meal came the white elephant gift exchange. The two most sought after items (traded most often) this year were a 1.5 quart crock pot and a set of kitchen pots. Kevin got a Frisbee, replacing the one that was broken last May in Palm Springs. Most unusual, three different people went home with identical heart-shaped gift boxes.

We look forward to an equally active and successful 2015!