

DEEP CREEK VOLUNTEERS

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SPRING 2006

LATEST SPRING NEWS

So far this winter did not bring us any major flash floods. However, the few storms there were did do a good job of cleaning out a lot of the sand that was in the lagoon between the Arizona pool and the wide lagoon in front of the womb. The water there now looks clear and deep so it will be a great year to jump off the large rock that sits in the middle of the lagoon. I know this is a favorite activity of the children and even for some not so young. However, remember that there are some large rocks at bottom so always check carefully the depth before jumping.

In these past few weeks there have been several late storms. One of the most recent covered the rocks close to the Serenity and Crab Cooker pools. As a result both these pools are less than a foot deep and will need a cleaning as soon as the storms have ended.

The large beach is still intact unaffected by the winter 2006 storms. Unfortunately the same can't be said about the Arizona pool that still had many leaks from last year's storm. The recent storm once again has ripped into this pool which will need a substantial amount of work to get it back in shape.

The PVC pipe that constitutes the shower below the Anniversary pool has been yanked from its bedding and is currently sitting under the trees that are just downriver from the crab cooker. It is not clear if this was the result of the latest storm or the result of vandalism. The fact that the pipe is quite intact, makes me believe it was the first.

Another consequence of the latest storm is that the creek will remain real cold for a while. It also removed more sand from in front of the beach. As a result the easiest way to cross the creek is to wade in about 10 yards down from the beach and go for the submerged rock that can be seen in the

middle of it. From there, one needs to wade up the sand bank that runs down the middle of the creek, and aim for the rocks just off the Crab Cooker. Crossing this way it is about waist deep.

It won't be long now before the desert flowers start to blossom making it one of the best times of the year to visit Deep Creek. I hope we get to see many DCV members attending our gatherings the last Saturday of every month as well as other times of the month. It is always good to have some members there to help educate visitors.

RATE INCREASE AT THE BOWEN RANCH

After a long time of charging \$4 per person for day use and \$5 for overnight stays, Mike has decided to raise his rates. The new rates are already in effect. He is now charging \$5 for day use and \$7 per person for overnight stay.

The camping area now has some tables that were brought in by tree-man Dan during 2005. Maybe we could organize a camping event there this summer. If any of our members would be interested please let me know and we will try and pick a date that is suitable for all.

WHAT IS NEW AT OUR WEBSITE

When was the last time you visited our website? Do you know that our site has received more than 12,500 visitors? Our webmaster Ralph is continuously making improvements so that it is a more useful tool to both members and visitors. It is now the first site that comes up when you type Deep Creek Hot Springs on most web browsers.

Following our March meeting I met a Japanese couple with their adorable toddler that arrived while I was getting ready to leave. I walked over and offered them one of our brochures. They then thanked me for our website and the guy pulled out a printout of the directions from our website which

he credited for getting them to the spot without

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getting lost. He expressed his gratitude and really thanked us for having such detailed directions.

In addition to the directions, some of the useful information you may find on the site are:

- A link to the local and 10 day weather forecast
- Frappr Map & Pictures where members and visitors can post their photos and map where they live.
- A detailed list recommending what to take
- A link to our store where you can purchase articles with our photo and name
- A link to the USFS regulations and from there to their Deep Creek Hot Springs page
- A explanation of the clothing optional custom with a link to The Naturist Society website
- A detailed list of the visitors etiquette
- Photos of some of our meetings and projects
- A form for new members and visitors to request information or submit questions
- A link to the DCHS Discussion Forum
- A page with links to other related websites
- A calendar of our upcoming events
- A link to print our flyer at the foot of every page

If you have not visited our website for some time please take a few minutes to do so and provide some feedback and kudos to Ralph for a job well done. Thanks Ralph.

DCV NEWS

Deep Creek Volunteers continues to grow. We are currently at 66 members. This recent growth has come 100% from our website. Unfortunately we had run out of brochures at the box at the trailhead. However, this is now resolved, as in addition to stocking it this Saturday I also dropped off 150 flyers to Paul, one of our local members that lives close by and will continue to drive over and fill the box once a week. Thank you Paul.

We continue to do our part to take out trash and educate visitors. Our presence is more and more known and we continue to get words of support for our actions and presence down at the springs. We end up making more of a difference than we actually realize.

Unfortunately last year I was real busy and missed the payment on our P.O. Box which expired. As a

consequence I had to get a new one and the number changed. Our new P.O. Box address is:

DEEP CREEK VOLUNTERS
P.O. Box 5870
Orange, CA 92863-5870

An interesting tidbit for those basketball fans out there is that the previous owner of this box was The Dennis Rodman Group, so currently we are getting more of his mail than for DCV at this address.

HOW CAN I HELP

There are many ways to help Deep Creek Volunteers. The easiest are picking up trash and educating visitors. How do you go about doing this? As indicated earlier on our website there is a link to print our most current flyer. I suggest each member print a handful to take with you whenever you are out hiking. Then when you are soaking in the pools or on the trail hiking you can ask the people you cross if they have heard of DCV and use their answer as an opportunity to present our brochure and what we stand for. In addition, if you see someone breaking the rules, you can always share the information as well and let them know that you are doing so to avoid them getting a fine, this way you can avoid a more confrontational approach. Remember that we are not responsible to enforce the USFS regulations so the best we can do is educate people and hope they cooperate.

THE ROLE OF THE NATURIST SOCIETY

I would hope most of you know that we are associated with The Naturist Society. This is a national member organization formed in 1980; TNS welcomes both the lifelong naturist (aka nudist) and the first-time visitor to a nude beach or resort. If simple, family-friendly naturism is what you're after, wherever you are located throughout the country, you should check out their website or contact them.

The mission of The Naturist Society is to promote a culture of body acceptance through clothing-optional recreation, using the tools of education and community outreach.

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TNS celebrates the nude human form as inherently wholesome and natural. It promotes attitudes of tolerance and respect toward the body, and rejects the exploitation of the body for commercial or sexual purposes.

TNS views clothing-optional recreation as essential to body acceptance. They consider that through CO recreation participants, be they individuals, couples or families, learn to appreciate the diversity of body types, gain a better understanding and acceptance of their own bodies, and reap the social, psychological, and physical benefits of a healthy and natural way of life.

TNS has two non-profit arms, the Naturist Action Committee and Naturist Education Foundation (NAC and NEF respectively).

NAC monitors legislative activities from city hall to the halls of Congress, issuing alerts and lobbying on behalf of naturist interests. And when lobbying fails, NAC can be found in the courthouse, filing briefs and intervening directly on behalf of naturists and the naturist cause.

NEF's mission is to improve public awareness of naturism in order to achieve greater understanding and acceptance. In 2000, for instance, NEF funded a Roper Poll that revealed broad public tolerance of nude sunbathing.

This organization is the backbone to supporting our rights to nude recreation on public land. We can be sure that if ever the clothing optional custom at Deep Creek is challenged TNS will stand behind us.

A few of our members have joined TNS through DCV, while others were already members before joining DCV. For those of you that are not members of TNS please consider doing so. Annual membership is \$53 for an individual or a couple at the same household. Membership benefits include one year subscription to *Nude and Natural*, membership card for admission and discount at clubs, discounts on *Skinny-Dipper* Shop items, and advanced information on regional gatherings. For more information visit their website at <http://www.naturistsociety.com>. Remember if you join or renew through DCV we get to keep \$5 of your membership for our group's expenses. In order to do so, please complete the form on our website and send your check payable to DCV to the address to this newsletter.

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RON'S RECENT TRIP TO ARGENTINA

As some of you know, in January I took a three week trip to Argentina. After spending the holidays with my parents, my son and I spent a week visiting the province of Cordoba. This province is known for its hilly terrain and many streams and creeks.

Four three of the days we hooked up with Claudia and Jeff, naturist from San Diego and Montana, that were visiting Argentina at the time. Together the four of us visited a distant naturist reserve called Yatan Rumi. It is located up on the rolling hills surrounded by hiking trails and creeks. We spent several hours exploring the pools and waterfalls together with other friendly Argentine naturist.



The rest of the week we spent at other non-nudist locations like Los Cocos, La Cumbre, Capilla Del Monte, La Cumbrecita. At all of them I was able to find a remote location within a half hour walk, bike ride or drive where there was the opportunity for a nude hike or skinny-dipping experience. Such was the case, that I was able to be nude part time six of the seven days. All in all this was a much more enjoyable naturist vacation than I had anticipated.



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DCV UPCOMMING EVENTS

Although DCV membership has increased, throughout the winter the number of members attending our month end gatherings dropped to between three and five due to the cooler weather and cold water. Maybe counting spouses and children we reached eight on one occasion. The meetings themselves became just a casual friend's get together with no formal meeting.

Now that the weather (and soon the water) will be getting warmer I hope to see more of you out there. This spring/summer we will also plan on having some gatherings down here in OC as we have a few members that would like to see old friends but are unable to make the trek this summer. Here are a few dates to keep in mind.

- Saturday April 29th – DCV Meeting and Spring Clean up
- Saturday May 27th – DCV Potluck and Bring a Friend day
- June 10th – World Naked Bike Ride at Jacumba/San Diego – See last year's report at http://worldnakedbikeride.org/san_diego/
- Saturday June 24 – DCV Meeting at the Springs
- July 10 -16 – National Nude Week
- July 20 – 23 – TNS Western Gathering at Laguna Del Sol close to Sacramento

MEMBERS TIDBITS

Vince

Some of you may recall Vince from Tennessee at a June meeting two or three years ago. Unfortunately Vince had a hiking accident two summers ago and has had a very bumpy road to recovery. He keeps in touch with us regularly via email and I share this information with those members that attend our next meeting. However, as this is generally a very limited audience I thought I would try sharing the information here instead.

It now looks that Vince is finally back on his road to a full recovery (did not want to say back on his feet not to jinx him). If you would like to know more you can check out his webpage at http://iweb.tntech.edu/wpitelka/broken_leg.htm.

You will also find a link to this page on our websites link page. As Vince won't be able to make it up to the springs again this year, I am

planning on hosting a DCV friends gathering at my place on June 17th. This date is tentative and may be shifted depending on Vince's schedule visit to LA. Watch out for future updates and details. Please keep Vince in your prayers and wish him a full recovery.

Bill

Several of you know fellow DCV member Bill who has been going down to the springs since the seventies and has attended a few of our meeting. Unfortunately he will not be able to join us this summer at the springs either as he recently found out that he will need to undergo heart surgery during the next month. Hopefully he will be on his way to full recovery by the time Vince comes out here and can join us at the gathering at my place. Please keep Bill in your prayers as well and wish him a full recovery.

Jerry

A few of you had the opportunity to meet Jerry who attended several of our 2005 meetings. Some of you may recall the day he slipped hiking nude down the front of Mofo hill and had a huge welt on one of his butt cheeks and up his lower back as well as a nasty scrape on his elbow. Unfortunately we will not be seeing him around the springs either this year. In September Jerry and his wife got the news that no one wants to hear. Their daughter had been involved in a head on collision and was very seriously injured so Jerry and his wife relocated back to Texas to take care of her. Jerry updated his contact information so he could keep in touch with us and continues to be a DCV member. We hope that he and his wife find a local club where they may continue to have the opportunity to practicing naturism while still looking after their daughter. Please keep Jerry and daughter in your prayers so that she may make a complete recovery.

NEXT NEWSLETTER

As you will see this entire newsletter was written by me this time. Do you have something to share with our group? For example, your first Deep Creek or clothing optional experience. An encounter you had with textiles while hiking nude. A clothing optional place you visited. Send them to our email address for our next summer newsletter.