



The Western Sun



News from the Western Region of the American Association for Nude Recreation

December 2018

Vol 2 No 12

LOOKING BACK AT 2018...

By Gary Mussell,
AANR-West President



The end of the year is a good time to look back and reflect on all the things your regional team did on behalf of our members.

AANR-West usually works behind the scenes, assisting new clubs (in Colorado, Utah, California, Arizona and Mexico) get started coordinating activities between all

30+ clubs wherever possible and directing interested people to visit all the existing clubs and our affiliated Bed & Breakfast network.

We also make great efforts to educate an often-skeptical public (and public officials) about the joys of social nudism.

The region also has retained its own attorney who can counsel advice when necessary.

Some of the things we accomplished during 2018:

Educating the Public:

AANR-West sponsored information booths at the Quartzite RV Show in Arizona, the Los Angeles Travel Show, the World Naked Bike Ride in Los Angeles, and the Top Freedom Expo in Denver. Many of those we spoke to have since joined a local club or AANR directly.

We also had booths at both the California Parks & Recreation show and the National Council of State Legislatures where the focus was more on talking to public officials about laws affecting our chosen way of life. Thanks to all the clubs who sent volunteers to help staff these booths.

AANR also had a booth on the Bare Necessities Nude Cruise in February where brochures and other information was distributed to interested "cruisers."

Sports:

Our region co-hosted four 5K runs this year, at Olive Dell, Glen Eden, De Anza Springs, and at Shangri-La Ranch. We also coordinated both a 3-day Summer Festival and a 3-day Fall Festival, where we provided prizes to the winners of various inter-club competitions in volleyball, tennis, etc. The multi-club Summer Games event at Olive Dell in August attracted over 100 participants!

Board Actions:

The 9-person Board of Directors coordinates all the various programs we sponsor in the 8 Western States. This volunteer group meets in person three times a year and it holds video/telephone conferences monthly to keep each other up to date.

This year we met in March at Laguna del Sol near Sacramento where a freezing rain tested our courage to be nude during the meeting! The summer meeting at De Anza Springs east of San Diego was just the opposite with temperatures hovering between 90 and 100 each day!

At the Summer convention, we elected a few new Directors while saying goodbye to others who rotated off the Board. We hosted some interesting workshops on (a) Discrimination Policies and Enforcing Behavior Guidelines at Nudist Parks, (b) Social Media Do's and Don'ts for Nudists and Clubs, and (c) an update on the growing nudist movement in Mexico.

The November Board meeting at Mira Vista in Tucson, Arizona approved major revisions to both the Scholarship Awards and Youth Camp programs (these will be discussed in the January newsletter). They also approved an ambitious budget for the coming year (see last month's November newsletter).

New and Continuing Program:

Among the new programs: members will see is the AANR-West **Nudist Passport**, which encourages members to visit different clubs around the region to be eligible for some great raffle prizes. This also starts in January, 2019.

The region's web site at www.aanrwest.org continues to increase its number of visitors as it also grows in depth and variety of information. The Facebook and Twitter social media sites continue to attract new followers interested in social nudity and our club network.

The monthly newsletter continues to grow in popularity as more clubs are starting to share it with their members, and the Associate members (those not affiliated with any club) see all the opportunities their AANR card brings to them.

I continue to be very proud of the assembled team of volunteers that do all of this work on a continuous basis. Our reward is seeing the number of AANR members continue to grow as social nudity becomes more accepted in the general population as it becomes less and less sensationalized in the media. We still have a long way to go, but 2018 was a good year for us as we look forward to whatever challenges 2019 may bring.



MANY CLUBS AROUND THE REGION PLANNING HOLIDAY-THEMED EVENTS

One might assume that with the cooler weather, that activities at many of the clubs would start to slow down. Not True! In alphabetical order:

De Anza Springs, Jacumba, CA:

On Dec 16, De Anza will hold its annual Gift Exchange party. Dec 22 is Full Moon Social, and Dec 31 is a New Year's Eve Dinner and Dance.

Email stay@deanzasprings.com for details.

Glen Eden, S. of Corona, CA:

Dec 22, GE hosts its Winter Holiday Festival Dance Party! Dec 31 is the annual New Year's Eve bash with the theme: "It's OUR Time!"

Email for more info: info@gleneden.com

Front Range Naturists, Boulder, CO

This club invites everyone to its Christmas Party, Potluck, Gift Exchange (Location to be announced). Email them at: clubinfo@frncolorado.com

Laguna del Sol, just south of Sacramento, CA:

On December 15, LDS, is hosting its own Ugly Sweater themed dance. People are expected wear (at least at first) the worst colored or patterned sweaters they can find.

Dec 31 is the club's New Year's Eve Party, always a very big affair. RSVP at: office@lagunadelsol.com

Mira Vista, Tucson, AZ:

Dec 1, the park is hosting an Ugly Sweater contest and a Pajama-themed DJ dance. Dec 15 is a Christmas Gift Exchange, Dec 28 is Karaoke Night, Dec 29 is a DJ Dance, and Dec 30 is also a DJ Dance.

New Year's Eve Dec 31 will see a "Welcome 2019" Celebration Party with a special Buffet Dinner in the Desert Café Restaurant, followed by a "Rockin Year's Eve" party in the clubhouse.

RSVP to (520) 744-2355 or relax@miravistaresort.com

Mountain Air Ranch, near Denver, CO:

On Dec 15, MAR hosts its annual Cookie Exchange party. Dec 31 there will be a New Year's Eve Dance

Email: marinfo@trynude.com

Olive Dell Ranch, near Colton, CA:

ODR invites its members to participate in its annual Christmas Caroling around the park event December 15.

The same day the club will host a Texas Hold'em poker tournament. Dec 25 there will be a Potluck Christmas Dinner in the clubhouse, and Dec 29 is the "Coco & Cookies" Game Night. Dec 31 there will be a New Year's Eve Dance starting at 8pm, followed by a Midnight Buffet. Email: olivedell1952@gmail.com

Special Note: January 1, Olive Dell hosts its annual "Polar Bare Swim". in its (unheated for the event) pool. The event is open to anyone brave enough to try!

Roadrunner Naturists, New Mexico:

The club holds its annual holiday party on Dec 8. If interested, go to www.roadrunnernaturists.com.

SCNA, Los Angeles, CA

The club hosts its annual Holiday Brunch Dec 9 where it will present its annual awards for Member of the Year, Best Potluck Cook, Best New Member, etc.

Details at: www.socalnaturist.org

Sequoians, Castro Valley East of San Francisco:

Although the park is closed to non-members during the winter, members of the Sequoians may enjoy a Christmas Holiday Party on Dec 15 from 5pm to 9pm.

Members should RSVP at: sequoians@gmail.com

Lupin Lodge, Las Gatos, CA

Lupin is hosting a dinner on Christmas Day for members and guests (\$20 plus gate/day fee). RSVP to (408-353-9200).

New Year's Eve features a special dinner menu and dance featuring Dan Gogh's live band in the clubhouse. With champagne, raffle, hats, balloons, confetti and whistles provided.

Buff-a-teers, Tucson, AZ

December 6 is a holiday dinner at P.F. Chang's restaurant in Tucson. RSVP at buffateers2@aol.com

Shangri-La Ranch, north of Phoenix, AZ

The park's annual gift exchange is on December 8. The office is closed Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, but the members have a potluck Dec 25 in the clubhouse. The New Year's Eve party is open to members only.



BREAKING NEWS!

GLEN EDEN EVACUATED AFTER MUDSLIDE WARNING

By Gary Mussell

As we were going to press, we learned residents and staff of Glen Eden Sun Club in Corona, CA, were evacuated Wednesday afternoon, Nov. 28, because of the threat for flash flooding, mud slides, and debris flows during and immediately after an approaching rain storm.

The mandatory order was issued by the Riverside County fire department to those living in areas affected by the Holy Fire, which burned over 30,000 acres right to the back of the Glen Eden property in August.

The winter storm, the first major one of the season since the fire, was expected to drop from 3 to 4 inches of rain on the burn area, more than enough to trigger flash flooding, according to fire officials.

As this event took place at our publishing deadline, we only have sketchy reports and some smart phone images posted on Twitter of what happened at and near the park.

The news reports said the roads around Glen Eden were covered with mud and rock debris, but the flood control channel through the park seemed to be doing its job and there are no reports of damage to any of the mobile homes or administrative buildings on the property.

Check the club website at www.gleneden.com for updates.

Breaking News: As of 6:30 am Fri Nov 30, all evacuation orders for the Holy Fire area were lifted. We will have more coverage in our next newsletter.



Photo courtesy of Glen Eden Twitter web site.

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23679 Calabasas Road, Suite 966

Calabasas, CA 91302

Web Site: www.aanrwest.org

Contact: Information@aanrwest.org

Guest Column



Skyclad Jain monks

NUDIST MOVEMENT IS A HARD SELL IN INDIA

By Don Giles,

Member, AANR-West Board of Directors

November 27, 2018

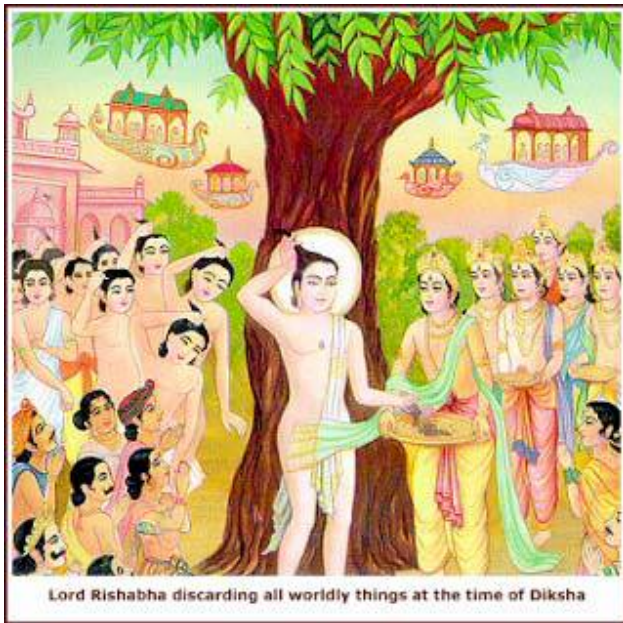
My wife, Bonnie, and I recently visited India on a self-planned tourism trip. We wanted to see their national parks and at the same time try to get a feel for the cultural aspects of the country. The trip was a success in that we went to quite a few places in the North of India then flew to the Southern coastal area near Kochi and experienced the lifestyle there. Southern India is quite different from Northern India. Religion, man's dress and cuisine are all different.

I set out to determine if social nudism as we know it is practiced in India and questioned quite a few residents about the subject including the folks who operate the travel agency we used to schedule cars, drivers and guides.

When I would ask about social nudism, I would get the same response from almost everyone. There is very little, if any, activity in this area and no public nudity is allowed on beaches, etc. I also asked a massage therapist if women therapists can massage men and he told me "Not in India!"

It turns out that most citizens of the country are religious and follow Hinduism, Islam, Christianity and Judaism plus a few other religions. About 80% are Hindu but when you consider that India has 1.3 billion residents the other religions contain quite a few members also. The strong religious beliefs and strict cultural practices probably cause the people to shy away from public social nudist practices.

Followers of Jainism lead a very strict life in that they are serious vegans. They do not eat anything that is grown below the surface of the ground like potatoes, carrots and peanuts. Also, they do not eat anything after sundown and they filter their drinking water in case it contains microorganisms. These daily practices lead to a very healthy lifestyle.



Lord Rishabha discarding all worldly things at the time of Diksha

They try to lead a pure life in thought and deed, and the motto is to do no harm. Jains also have the reputation of being very good businessmen and are successful merchants.

We visited a Jain temple and an antique store in Phalodi near the border of Pakistan. We bought a wonderful sitting Buddha statue that is carved from a block of marble paste and is about 50 years old. Additionally, we added a couple of camel bone boxes to our purchases. I did not want to lug the purchases around and asked that they be shipped to the USA. I had misgivings about the shipping process and even thought that I probably would never see the goods again. However, when we got home, they were in our mailbox. Jains are very honest and pay attention to business.

So, you are asking yourself, “What does this have to do with social nudism?” Well, there is a sect of Jain Holy Men who not only live their lives as Jains, they take it to an extreme. These Holy Men do not have any possessions—no money, no 401K retirement accounts, no houses, no vehicles and no clothes. They are celibate, live their lives completely nude and wander the byways without shoes.

They live by getting donated food from local people. The idea is that ownership of anything, including clothes, interferes with the quest for a life free of suffering and stress. They think that one can only be free by being completely unattached to worldly things and live their lives accordingly.

The acceptance of the actions of the Holy Men by the town residents is a bit difficult to understand. In a county where nudism is not recognized as being okay it is surprising that these folks can be nude all the time without any complaints from residents. I have to say that I do not pretend to understand much about Hinduism and Jainism. The small amount of knowledge that I have gained only scratches the surface.

Many times, nudists have been asked why we practice social nudism and there are many answers to that question. “It’s the freedom!” is probably the most common answer, but there are other believable ones. “I love the feel of the wind and sun!”, “I like feeling like I am One with Nature!” and “It’s so comfortable!” are all valid reasons. There are as many reasons as there are people practicing nudism.

I was thinking about the Jain Holy Men and their devotion to living their lives completely naked. When considering this seeming drastic way of life, I considered their quest of being unattached to worldly things and wonder if that is not a possible motivating reason for some of us to shed our worldly cloaks. When the Wall Street guy takes off his \$1,000 suit and socializes with the naked automotive mechanic there is a feeling of togetherness and understanding that probably would not have existed in other environments.

When the middle-aged woman visits a nude beach and nestles into the warm sand with her kids they are about as close to a meaningful reality as you can get.

Please take a few minutes and use the Internet to learn more about Jainism and India. Sometimes we need to realize that for over 5,000 years humans have been living in parts of the world and their beliefs and cultures have endured the test of time and still exist.

I have to say that I do not pretend to understand much about Hinduism and Jainism. The small amount of knowledge that I have gained only scratches the surface. I have included some URL references where you can learn more about the Jains:

<https://www.quora.com/Why-do-Jain-monks-walk-around-naked>

<https://www.quora.com/Why-do-some-Jains-monks-walk-naked-during-procession-causing-so-much-inconvenience-and-disgust-to-the-normal-peaceful-public-life>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cLQBgLkBAYA>

<https://player.vimeo.com/video/219105556>



There's Always Something Happening Around the Region!

Below is a list of major club activities for the next several weeks from around the region. This is only a partial list. Visit the aanrwest.org web site for a more complete list. Click on the club link at right to view some details about the event at the club's web site.

Calendar of Major Events at the Clubs December 1-31

Date	Event Description	Host Club	Club Link
12/1/2018	Holiday Craft Fair & Party/ NYE Sign Ups	Laguna del Sol	office@lagunadelsol.com
12/6/2018	Toy Donation Weekend	De Anza Springs	stay@deanzasprings.com
12/8/2018	Jr's Tree Trimming & Christmas Party	Olive Dell Ranch	olivedell1952@gmail.com
12/8/18	Holiday Gift Exchange	Shangri-La Ranch, AZ	joinus@shangrilaranch.com
12/8/2018	Holiday Party	Olympian Club	olympianclub@aol.com
12/9/2018	Annual Holiday Party & Awards Ceremony	SCNA	scna@socalnaturalist.org
12/13/2018	White Christmas Weekend	De Anza Springs	stay@deanzasprings.com
12/14/2018	Karaoke Christmas Sing Along Dance	Glen Eden	info@gleneden.com
12/15/2018	Ugly Sweater Theme Dance	Laguna del Sol	office@lagunadelsol.com
12/15/2018	Cookie Exchange	Mountain Air Ranch	marinfo@trynude.com
12/15/2018	Texas Hold'em Championship	Olive Dell Ranch	olivedell1952@gmail.com
12/15/2018	Christmas Caroling	Olive Dell Ranch	olivedell1952@gmail.com
12/16/2018	Christmas Gift Exchange	De Anza Springs	stay@deanzasprings.com
12/08/2018	Holiday Party	Roadrunner Naturists	www.roadrunnernaturists.com
12/20/2018	Christmas Weekend Festivities	De Anza Springs	stay@deanzasprings.com
12/22/2018	Full Moon Social	De Anza Springs	stay@deanzasprings.com
12/22/2018	Winter Holiday's Festival Dance Party!	Glen Eden	info@gleneden.com
12/22/2018	Christmas Day Potluck	Olive Dell Ranch	olivedell1952@gmail.com
12/27/2018	New Year's Weekend	De Anza Springs	stay@deanzasprings.com
12/29/2018	Coco & Cookies Game Night	Olive Dell Ranch	olivedell1952@gmail.com
12/31/2018	New Year's Eve Dinner & Dance	De Anza Springs	stay@deanzasprings.com
12/31/2018	It's OUR Time! New Year's Eve Bash!!!	Glen Eden	info@gleneden.com
12/31/2018	New Year's Eve Party	Laguna del Sol	office@lagunadelsol.com
12/31/2018	New Year's Eve Dance	Mountain Air Ranch	marinfo@trynude.com
12/31/2018	New Year's Eve Dance / Midnight Buffet	Olive Dell Ranch	olivedell1952@gmail.com

Calendar of Major Events at the Clubs January 1-31, 2019

Date	Event Description	Host Club	Club Link
01/01/19	Polar Bare Plunge	Olive Dell Ranch	bnude@earthlink.net
01/01/19	New Year's "Start Your Year" Hike	De Anza Springs	stay@deanzasprings.com
01/04/19	Fri Dance Party (Oasis Lounge)	De Anza Springs	stay@deanzasprings.com
01/05/19	Karaoke Night	De Anza Springs	stay@deanzasprings.com
01/05/19	Rockin' Bathrobe Dance	Glen Eden	info@gleneden.com
01/06/19	Baked Potato Party	Roadrunner Naturists	RoadrunnerNaturists@hotmail.com
01/11/19	Happy Hour Open Mic - Bingo – Dance	De Anza Springs	stay@deanzasprings.com
01/12/19	Nudes at the Getty Scavenger Hunt	SCNA	scna@socalnaturalist.org
01/12/19	Karaoke Night	De Anza Springs	stay@deanzasprings.com
01/13/19	Indoor swim	RiverDippers	info@norcalexposure.com
01/17/19	Wii Bowling	De Anza Springs	stay@deanzasprings.com
01/18/19	Bingo. Dance Party (Oasis Lounge)	De Anza Springs	stay@deanzasprings.com
01/19/19	Karaoke Night	De Anza Springs	stay@deanzasprings.com
01/19/19	Women's Appreciation Weekend	Glen Eden	info@gleneden.com
01/20/19	Full Moon Social	De Anza Springs	stay@deanzasprings.com
01/21/19	ML King Day Holiday Water Volleyball	De Anza Springs	stay@deanzasprings.com
01/24/19	Wii Bowling	De Anza Springs	stay@deanzasprings.com
01/25/19	Bingo, Dance Party	De Anza Springs	stay@deanzasprings.com
01/26/19	Korean Spa Night	SCNA	scna@socalnaturalist.org
01/26/19	Air Gun Lessons (Shooting Range)	De Anza Springs	stay@deanzasprings.com
01/26/19	Karaoke Night	De Anza Springs	stay@deanzasprings.com
01/31/19	Wii Bowling	De Anza Springs	stay@deanzasprings.com

Note: These activities and dates are subject to change.