Club Headlines

Northern Nevada Club Receives Full Participating AANR Status

We have been notified by the AANR main office that the Northern Nevada Naturist club has grown with enough members to graduate from provisional to full membership status.

Non-landed clubs, when they are first organized, must grow to a minimum of 15 members during their first two years to be granted full membership rights. NNN did it within its first nine months.

NNN is also designated a “100% Club” meaning all of its members also belong to AANR. The club is located in and around Reno, Nevada, and had frequent outings to Lake Tahoe and other places nearby.

Online Video Blog Remembers History of Elysium Fields Club

Former AANR-West Directors Rolf Holbach and Ricc Bieber and current regional President Gary Mussell presented an online video blog last month about the history of the former AANR club Elysium Fields, now closed for 20 years.

The online event took place Thursday evening, March 18 with about 60 people attending. Rolf began with a discussion of Elysium founder Ed Lange’s early years as a nudist photographer and presented a slide show and history of all his publications that led to the founding of the fields. (Lange is a member of ANNR’s Hall of Fame). Ricc recalled the club’s early years in Topanga including problems with the neighbors, county zoning challenges, and the infamous meditation rooms. Gary focused on the park’s last decade discussing Ed’s untimely death, the member’s revolt against the new managers, and the land’s subsequent sale by Lange’s two daughters. Included in the audience were many former Elysium members who joined in with their own memories from time to time.

Also online was Paul LeValley of the American Nudist Research Library.

The hour went by very quickly with many important stories left out for time. It was decided the topic needed a follow-up discussion and so a second workshop may be scheduled shortly.

All AANR-West clubs are encouraged to schedule similar video events to discuss their club’s history and events.

What Are You Doing for World Naked Gardening Day?

The April 2021 AANR Bulletin is filled with articles about the upcoming World Nude Gardening Day (WNGD) on Saturday, May 1. AANR-West is doing our part too as we wish to gather stories about what our members are doing to celebrate the event.

WNGD is celebrated the first Saturday in May each year and 2021 marks the 16th annual year when people across the globe are encouraged to tend their gardens, flower boxes, and backyards clothed only as nature intended.

If you don’t have the means to plant or to tend a backyard garden, you can make an effort to pull weeds, grow simple vegetables or herbs in a patio flower box. Most importantly, you must tell someone about your experience. So, tell us what you did, where you did it, and how it went. We will publish your stories here in a future newsletter.

And of course, feel free to make World Naked Gardening Day an everyday event.

Nude Gardening Day Photo Contest!

As we did last year, AANR-West will be soliciting photos from its members for World Naked Gardening Day. Send a photo of your World Naked Gardening Day experience to information@aanrwest.org. We will publish them in a future newsletter issue. The submission deadline is June 1. Prizes for the best ones. Let’s see some originality!

The criterion used for the judging will be as follows:

- Relevance to Theme
- Uniqueness/Originality of Concept
- Composition/Color/arrangement
- Overall Artistic Impression
- Clarity and Quality of Submission
- Persons photographed must be AANR-West members for the entry to be considered.

Last year’s winning photo was submitted by Bob Brown of Thousand Oaks, California.
Western Region News

AANR-West Spring Board Meeting Held in Arizona

Three times each year, the AANR-West Board of Directors meet to discuss policy issues and to check the progress on their planned activities for the year. This spring’s meeting was held March 13 at the Mira Vista Resort, just outside Tucson, Arizona. It was cold and windy, with snow on the nearby mountains and over an inch of rain falling the night before. Not very hospitable nudist weather! Clothing was definitely optional!

All AANR-West members and club leaders were invited to participate via GoToMeeting video conferencing if they did not want to attend in person. Seven of the nine Board attended in person and observed the required social distancing and mask-wearing (except for the group photo above).

Here is a summary of our discussions and actions:

- It was announced AANR is planning a large celebration for its 9th Birthday this summer and all clubs are being asked to participate (see story elsewhere in this newsletter).
- Trustee Bev Price reported that AANR is still discussing new terminology to replace “landed vs non-landed” clubs and calling those not affiliated with a club something besides “associate.” She said any such changes will require a vote of approval from the full AANR membership.
- AANR has agreed to a set of recommended guidelines when posting on social media. This was found to be necessary to make sure all the clubs display a positive message about nude recreation and avoid questionable photos and discussions that may deter from that message (see story elsewhere in this newsletter).
- AANR President Kathy Watzel has asked the seven regions to oversee enforcement of the organization’s non-discrimination clause in its By-Laws. Both the Northwest and Florida regions have asked their clubs to sign a pledge and avoid questionable photos and discussions that may deter from that message (see story elsewhere in this newsletter).
- A rack card in Spanish is being designed for clubs to use in high bi-lingual communities, and at beaches and trade shows. The goal is to attract more interest in nude recreation than we could get from English-only literature.
- The Scholarship program chair disclosed the program has been reduced in size to fit available funds and is being promoted to all the clubs and individual members at this time to all kids and grandkids of members of college-age.
- The 2021 Passport program was officially launched with books distributed to the clubs attending the meeting. The rest will be mail during the next few weeks. (See story elsewhere in this newsletter.)
- Director Linda Weber displayed the new “GPS T-shirts” to be sold on our website and at regional clubs. (See story elsewhere in this newsletter.)
- Claudia Kellersch revealed details for the upcoming Kid’s Kamp in June at De Anza Springs. Including the planned activities, supervision, meals, and camping supplies. Plans for a Kid’s Summer Camp.

[Note: A few days after our board meeting, we learned the Camp may have to be postponed because of some construction going on at the park at the same time. We are still in discussions about alternative dates and locations.]

- The WINR (Women in Nude Recreation) committee has launched meetings online meetings similar to what SCNA is doing. If you would like to participate, email information@aanrwest.org.
- The Sports Committee is planning some inter-club competitions this summer as the clubs come out of their pandemic slumbers. There will also be 5K runs are several different clubs throughout the year and the region plans to heavily promote these.
- A letter of resignation was received by the President a week before the meeting from Curt Flynn, a member of the board. Flynn agreed to stay in office until this coming July when he can be replaced at the annual regional assembly.

AANR-West Seeks Awards Nominations

The region invites all members to nominate people they know who have made outstanding contributions to the social nudist movement to be our Man/Woman/Family of the Year. We wish to honor those unsung heroes among our clubs (and also those with no club affiliation). If you a nominee, contact us at information@aanrwest.org. Deadline for submission is July 1.
AANR West

Women’s Workshop Online
April 14

By Treena Saavedra, WINR Co-Chair

AANR-West hosts a monthly Women in Nude Recreation (WINR) online workshop for an hour or so. We encourage members to “bring a friend” who are not AANR members but who are curious and might like to “dip a toe” so to speak, into the nudist/Naturist world and find out what it is all about (YOU DON’T HAVE TO BE NUDE TO ATTEND!)

GPS T-Shirts Have Arrived and Are Available for Sale

The attractive new 2021 T-Shirts showing the GPS coordinates for each of the nudist parks/resorts in the region are now available for sale at our website store.

The shirt displays the latitude and longitude of nine of the destination parks located in our Western Region without naming them. It is designed to be a conversation starter when out in public, such as when shopping at a store, as people are curious to ask what it is all about. This allows the wearer to start a conversation about nude recreation.

Shirts come in white and range in size from Large to Triple XL. The cost is $20 plus $5.95 shipping if purchased online.

Visit the new AANR-West Store online at:

https://aanrwest.org/our-region/store. The Q-R code for the regional web page is also imprinted on the back of the shirt.

Reminder: AANR-West Scholarship Applications Are Now Available

AANR-West is offering a merit-based scholarship this summer to students graduating from high school during the 2020-2021 academic year. Specific requirements are available on the AANR-West website for those interested.

The deadline for receipt of all material is June 1, 2021, with a subject line of “AANR-West Scholarship.” A completed application consists of the most current high school transcripts required material in the same email. The committee will review the applications and respond no later than June 10, 2021.

All material must be sent via email to Larry.Gould@nau.edu. Visit the Scholarship web page at www.aanrwest.org/our-region/scholarship.

Reminder: AANR-West Has a Blog for Your Nudist Stories

AANR-West has launched a Blog on our website for your stories and articles about nudist activities. We are looking to have a wide range of articles including but not limited to first experiences, funny experiences, informational experiences, special places that you have visited, travels to nudist resorts, clothing-optional beaches, or other clothing optional places.

Send your story as an attachment to an email to information@aanrwest.org. To view the Blog, go to the www.aanrwest.org home page to find the link.
AANR’s 90th Anniversary Events Being Planned Across North America

The international organization began in 1931 as the American Sunbathing Association in a few small parks and remote camping areas in New York and New Jersey. While it has gone through several name changes, the organization now known as the American Association for Nude Recreation will celebrate its 90th anniversary this summer.

Ideas are being solicited for how this event should be acknowledged both on a national level and within its affiliated clubs.

AANR is asking its members for suggestions on how to celebrate its 90th anniversary this summer. July 10 is the designated date and clubs are being asked to take a photo of their members standing in the design of a “90” and submit it to the main office for inclusion on a double-page collage of similar photos from the other 230 AANR clubs across North America. How the thousands of members not affiliated with a specific club are still open and your ideas are appreciated.

Meanwhile, the organizing committee has agreed on its logo, which will be used on temporary tattoos, window clings, patches, pins, and emery boards to be distributed to all AANR members who want them.

Also, the hashtag #AANR90th will start to be used on all social media.

A special issue of the monthly Bulletin magazine in July will focus on AANR history with a year-by-year retrospective going back to 1931 when the original American Sunbathing Association was founded. Also being discussed is a special recognition for those AANR members over the age of 90 and those who have been members of AANR the longest or across multiple generations of members.

Las Vegas Naturists Looking for People to Interview on its Weekly Video Podcast

The Las Vegas Naturists club has started a weekly “podcast” on “Clubhouse”. It already has thousands of listeners from all over the world.

A successful podcast requires interesting guests to interview, and so AANR-West is joining with the Las Vegas club to recruit guest speakers from our clubs to talk about themselves, their clubs, and/or about social nudism in general.

If you or your club is interested in participating, contact Hardy Brunell, the owner of LV Naturists at ActionNude@gmail.com.

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Western Nudist Research Library

New Nudist Library President Named

Mark P was the unanimous choice to become the new president for the Western Nudist Research Library. The election took place in January at the library, located on the grounds of the Glen Eden Sun Club in Temescal Valley, near Corona, California. Also unanimously elected was John S. as Vice President as the VP position had been vacant.

The Board thanked AANR-West for its generous grant of $1,500 to the Library. The money will go to much-needed office supplies and equipment specifically designed to protect donated slides and old photographs.

The board also approved the creation of a Twitter site for the Library. Please feel free to follow us on Twitter at @NudistLibrary and use the hashtag #WNRL.

Digitizing VHS Tapes

In the past few weeks, John B. has converted more than two dozen of our old VHS tapes to .mp4 format and they are now available in the Library’s G Suite archive. Due to the age of the tapes, there was some degrading of quality in a few, but at least they are preserved now for future generations to watch.

The staff plans to digitize additional VHS tapes soon.

“Connett Trailer” Cleanout Results

Editor’s Note: The “Connett Trailer” is the travel trailer that belonged to Ray and Mildred Connett, Glen Eden’s founders. The trailer has been used by the Library for the storage of unsorted items for our collection.

In February and early March, pulled out some historical treasures out of the trailer, especially those that could suffer additional heat or light damage. A partial list of items retrieved from the trailer:

- Six cassette tapes of audio recorded by Ray Connett in 1953 when he was starting Sunny Trails in Surrey, BC, Canada. He no doubt recorded the audio on reel-to-reel and donated them to the Provincial Archives of British Columbia, which created the cassettes.

- Diary to Adventure: The Trailer Travels of Ray and Mildred Connett. Describes their Journey to the U.S. in 1958-59. Included were a cache of photographs.

- A binder containing the original manuscripts that Ray and Mildred got published in various journals. before Glen Eden was founded. These include Fence in the Desert written on February 7, 1960, which tells the story of Gerry Shaw’s founding of Shangri La, one year earlier.

- A box of pictures, negatives, and slides apparently from the mid-sixties.

- A stack of credentials that belonged to Alicia Lloyd, the first woman elected to the AANR Hall of Fame, and the woman who left her estate to GE for use in enhancing our Chapel in the Sage. They show that Alicia’s story was more complex than previously known. In addition to founding Air-a-tans, she was at times a member of the Acacia Club, Oakdale Ranch (near San Bernardino), and Samagatuma (which was near Escondido).
Registration Now Open for Glen Eden’s 5K Nude Run June 5
Nestled in the foothills of the Santa Ana Mountains with the Cleveland National Forest as its backyard, Glen Eden with its beautiful landscaping, wonderful hiking trails, and spectacular views offers the perfect backdrop for its annual “Dare to be Bare” Nude 5k walk/run on Saturday, June 5, 2021. Whether you sign up for the race day or spend the weekend with us, it’s sure to be a fun time! This year’s 5k run coincides with Glen Eden’s AANR West Summer Festival, adding to the many activities and events. Glen Eden sits on over 150 acres with tons of activities including, tennis, pickleball, music and entertainment, hiking, volleyball, three pools, two hot tubs, and much more.

If this is your first nude event, don’t fret! Before you know it, any anxiety of taking off your clothes will disappear as you realize that underneath our clothes, we are all naked! Not to mention that once the race starts your focus will be on its enjoyment! You will be rewarded for your efforts from our cheering section of residents and guests as you navigate this fun course. There is no better way to see our entire club, as you zigzag through our private streets, trails, and neighborhoods. After racing you can visit our Sunshine Café for food and drinks, enjoy poolside music, visit the complimentary beer and wine garden and enjoy entertainment, sports, and other hiking throughout the weekend.

Your registration fee includes the 5K Nude run/walk, timing chip, continental breakfast, 1 drink ticket in the beer and wine garden, a free tote bag with commemorative gifts, medals for top 3 in each age group, and awards for top overall male and female finishers, admission, and gate fees to Glen Eden on race day (or the weekend if camping). It also includes dry camping (tents or RV’s) from Friday through Sunday. Experience the entire weekend of fun festivities. Any guests not registered to run will need to pay gate fees accordingly. Anyone wishing to book for camping should call the Glen Eden office at (951) 277-4650. Additionally, we have 16 rentals you can reserve if you do not want to dry camp.

Registration for the race will be conducted online through our website at GlenEden.com. There you will find a link to guide you through sign up for the race. We encourage early registration as Covid restrictions may limit the number of registrants we are allowed. All registrations will be online, even if you show up on race day.

- Early registration ($40. Thru 5/21)
- Reg registration ($45. Thru 6/21)
- Late registration ($50. 6/3/21 Thru 6/5/21)
- 17 and under ($10.)

As our Dare to Be Bare theme indicates, this is a mandatory nude event. Only shoes, socks, hats/visors, sunglasses, water packs, and big smiles may be worn during the event. (Guests too!) Women will be permitted to wear a sports bra if desired only during the actual race. No exceptions will be made.

Openings Still Available for Olive Dell Ranch 5K Bare Burro Run April 25
COLTON, Calif. – Olive Dell Ranch has opened online registration for its annual nude running race, the Bare Burro 5K Trail Run, set for Sunday, April 25. Space is limited, only 300 runners are being accepted this year due to covid restrictions. More than 275 runners completed the course in 2019. Awards are given to the top three male and female finishers and the top three finishers in each decade age range from under-20 to as high as 80.

Registered runners may bring friends on race day to cheer them on; they will be required to pay the Olive Dell daily entrance fee. Runners and their friends are welcome to remain on the Olive Dell grounds for the awards ceremony and use the property's pool, hot tub, and other facilities for the rest of the day.

Runners are invited to spend the entire Bare Burro weekend at Olive Dell with karaoke Friday night and Saturday events including a cornhole tournament in the morning and the annual Naked Beer Mile in the afternoon, with runners downing a 12 oz. beer (or soft drink) every quarter mile.

Registration is through the Olive Dell website at olivedellranch.com. Registration for Bare Burro runners is $40 in advance through March 31, $45 until April 22, and $50 from April 23-25, if space is available. Bare Burro registration for runners 17 and younger is $10.

When walking through the pool and clubhouse areas, everyone is requested to wear a mask. When seated, it can be removed — much like at a restaurant. "We believe we have a responsible and considerate group of runners, walkers, and volunteers," Kilborn said. Running shoes are strongly recommended for runners on the gravel and dirt course, but nudity is not an "option" at the Bare Burro: It's a requirement. "We're a nudist resort, and we expect our runners to get with the program”

The Bare Burro Run was first held in 2010, and the Bare Burro is now established as the premier nude running event in Southern California.

Olive Dell Ranch is located at 26520 Keisell Road in Colton, California. Gates open at 8 am Sunday for check-in and the Bare Burro 5K race starts at 10:30 AM.
For the privacy of its members, Glen Eden has a very strict “no photography” policy. Only an authorized club photographer may take pictures and only persons that have signed a photographic release will be photographed. Glen Eden works hard to provide a comfortable and safe environment for all of our guests and members by adhering to clear guidelines for acceptable behavior and does not tolerate conduct that violates those guidelines.

Ray Connett, our founder, when speaking of Glen Eden once stated: “This is not the story of a one-man show, It is the story of a members club which we hope will stand as an example of generosity and selfless enthusiasm….that spirit, of member cooperation and enthusiasm, is the secret of our success.”

We hope that this spirit of enthusiasm provides you with a memorable experience! See you on race day. Doors open at 6:30, Race starts at 9:00 a.m.

Our address is 25999 Glen Eden Rd. Temescal Valley, Ca. 92883.

Instagram: @Glenedensunclub Twitter: @Glenedensunclub

If you have any direct race questions, please contact Heather at 5KNudeRun@gleneden.com.

Registration Opens April 3 for Bare Booty 5K Fun Run at De Anza

Date: Sunday Sept 26, 2021, 9 am
Registration Fees: $34 Adults, $5 Children under Age 18

Event limited to first 100 to register. No Registration after Sun Sept 19, 2021.

Registration includes a custom beach towel. There will be prizes for the top six female finishers and top six male finishers.

This event, like the original Olympics, is a nude run. Shoes, hats, sunscreen, and big smiles are welcome. De Anza Springs Resort is clothing optional, so feel free to dress/undress, as you feel comfortable.

To register, go to: https://www.runguides.com/event/10652/bare-booty-5k-fun-run

Los Angeles World Naked Bike Ride Moved to Sept 18

The World Naked Bike Ride - Los Angeles (WNBR-LA) which usually occurs in June each year has been moved to September 18, to allow more time for the COVID pandemic to be resolved. The date change was announced today by a coalition of Southern California nudist clubs that have set Saturday as the new date for 2021. The gathering location will again be near downtown Los Angeles at the same spot we’ve used for the last 2 years.

Each year about 400 riders from across the Western United States gather to celebrate body freedom and advocate for better bicycle safety with a ride “as bare as you dare” down the major streets in the heart of the city. More information will be announced as the event comes closer.

On Your Mark . . . Get Set . . . Go!

All About the Glen Eden Naked RC Drivers Club

By Cindy Savage, GE staff

During the first complete shut down from the Covid 19 pandemic in April 2020, Site holders, Roy M. and Melissa S., brought their Radio Controlled (RC) monster trucks to GE. They drove them on the berms and bumped along in the dry riverbed. Having fun with those prompted them to get others. One monster truck is never enough. Another Site holder, Al B., pulled his RC cars out, too. He drove them in the same areas, but also drove his at Campbell Lake. The day the trio met was the first day a vision began to form. Al’s hobby is RC cars and racing. Al’s knowledge of the cars is astounding. Many other members began to show interest as they watched how much fun the trio was having. With social distancing in mind, they got approval to create the RC Racetrack Park just southwest of the Skyview crossing.

Over the course of 10 months, Melissa and Roy worked on the track almost every weekend. Al brought in PVC barrier piping and his knowledge of different layouts. They brought in 23 truckloads of clean dirt, moved rocks, built ramps, created berms and turns, and racers’ platforms. Raceway themed with gas pumps, signs, and checkered flags, the finished layout will even have a helipad for RC helicopters, drones, and planes. Picnic tables have been added and benches will come soon.

The interest and support from other members grew during the construction of the RC track. So much so that the track evolved into what it is today as we officially launch and invite racers to join; so far, 21 members have already brought cars and are driving the track. Other visitors can enjoy the RC park on a walk or bike around just to watch or enjoy that part of GE’s beautiful grounds. The Naked RC Drivers Club will start meeting once a month to drive, crash, flip, drift and fly. All visitors are welcome whether you drive or watch. It’s all incredibly fun.

The beauty of GE is the way we grow and adapt. This last year was especially challenging with the COVID-19 pandemic, and throughout, we have done some hard work to create areas where socially distanced gatherings can be accommodated, where we can enjoy the safety and camaraderie we long for at our club. We’re social nudists after all. The addition of the RC track is an example of how contributing members can develop the club even during difficult times. Head up to Campbell Lake and check out the RC Racetrack Park. Fun for all!
Nominations for AANR Awards Sought from Clubs and Members

The AANR Convention is just around the corner and I am looking for award nominations. The deadline to have nominations received at the main AANR office in Florida is May 31, 2021. Winners of all awards will be announced at the AANR convention in Texas next August.

There are several areas of awards such as Man, Woman & Family of the Year to newspaper articles in nudist or non-nudist publications, and many more. The awards are for events, services, or publications between June 1, 2020 and May 31, 2021 in various categories:

- **Schofield Trophy Award**
  This award is given to the non-landed club that accumulates and documents the most mileage on visits to landed clubs.

- **Man, Woman, Family of the Year Awards**
  These honorary awards are presented for outstanding contributions in promoting and/or furthering nudism in AANR. Only nominees who have made outstanding contributions to AANR above and beyond the club level shall be eligible. Nominees must be AANR members.

- **Young Man and Young Woman of the Year Awards**
  These awards are based on the best essays written by AANR Youth under age 18 that detail what benefits the author has derived from being a nudist.

- **Youth Award for Nudist Studies**
  This award is presented to a student up to 25 years of age, who used his/her nudist activities and interest to further his/her scholastic endeavors.

- **Glen Eden Award**
  This award is given to the AANR club that holds the most outstanding publicity event during the year.

- **Hal O'Neill Award**
  The Hal O'Neill Outstanding Public Relations Award is awarded to a club that joins in a community effort that results in the improvement of the club's image as well as the image of nudism in general.

- **Rick Ahearn Photography Award**
  The purpose of this award is to recognize photographers whose photographs best display the beauty and enjoyment of family and social nudism and have been published in the AANR Bulletin.

- **Best Original Article in a Club Newsletter Award**
  This award is given to the club whose newsletter is judged to have the most original article on any subject.

- **Isley Boone Best Club Newsletter Awards**
  These awards are given to club newsletters deemed to be superior in one of four categories. a. To be considered for this award, clubs must submit three different issues from the current year (May to May) to the AANR office.
  b. All newsletters submitted will be placed into a category based on club membership as of the year-end membership report. The categories shall be Group A (10 to 50 members); Group B (51 to 200 members); Group C (201 to 500 members); Group D (501 or more members).

- **Serendipity Park Web Award**
  This award recognizes Websites that positively portray nude recreation. Awards are made for the following:
  - **Best Nudist Personal Web site**: Awarded to a Webmaster who is an AANR voting member.
  - **Best Professional Nudist Club Web site**: Awarded to an AANR club whose Web site is developed and maintained by a full-time professional Webmaster.
  - **Best Amateur Nudist Club Web site**: Awarded to an AANR Club whose Web Site is developed and maintained by an amateur Webmaster.

- **Art Schumann Award**
  This award is given for best nudist reporting by a non-nudist reporter in a non-nudist publication.

- **Public Relations Non-Nudist Media Awards**
  These awards are given to encourage an increase in the number and quality of articles, programs, and photographs published in the non-nudist media. Awards will be given in six categories related to nudism:
  - Newspaper articles.
  - Newspaper photographs.
  - Magazine articles.
  - Magazine photographs.
  - Radio presentations.
  - Television presentations.
  Competition is open to any writer or photographer, broadcaster, or reporter whose work appears in any non-nudist publication or airs within the USA or Canada.

- **Erwin Koch Award**
  This award is given to the club whose friendliness and cleanliness have been described in writing by any individual in a letter to the AANR office.

- **Jim Cossins Memorial Award**
  This award is issued at the discretion of the AANR President to an individual or couple who, in the President's opinion has performed distinguished and meritorious services to AANR and who exemplifies the qualities of mature judgment, faithful dedication to high ideals, and continuous services to AANR.

- **President's Award**
  This award is issued at the discretion of the AANR President and is presented to a person, couple, or group deemed by the President to have performed meritorious service to AANR.
May 1 is the Deadline for Clubs to Submit AANR Hall of Fame Nominees

The AANR Hall of Fame award is the most prestigious award AANR bestows on its own. It is given only for contributions made by an individual for actions or services to family social nudism that are of considerable magnitude and truly of national importance.”

If you wish to nominate someone, there is a form that must be completed. Email me directly at information@aanrwest.org and I will mail it to you. All names must be submitted by May 1 and all forms must be completed and returned by May 31.

An article containing more details about eligibility may be found in the February Bulletin, published by AANR.

AANR Publishes Social Media Do’s and Don’ts Guidelines

The AANR PR and Marketing committees have approved a set of guidelines for clubs and individuals to follow when posting messages about nude recreation on social media websites.

The consensus is all of us should strive to maintain a positive message regarding the organization and nudism in general and to not get bogged down in exchanging messages with people who insist on negative posts.

While AANR members have a right to express their own opinions about their interests, stating extreme political or sexually suggestive content may require they remove any references or logos connecting them to AANR. A summary of the guidelines are below:

- General positive nudism messages Positive nudist news items
- To convey nudism is a fun, healthy, and beneficial practice that more people should try.
- Occasional posts about member benefits, Updates about legal battles
- Content about AANR's website AANR history AANR member benefits
- Information and semi-promotion for AANR clubs
- Generally positive messages about AANR; Highlights of AANR clubs, groups, and members trying new projects, reaching new communities, etc.

Every social media message that goes out - including shares and retweets - should align with one or more of these messages. Without exception.

That means no castigating people for their views of AANR; no memes and cartoons that don't match with these messages; etc.

Image and Written Content Approval

Images posted to AANR accounts must adhere to the same standards as written posts, as outlined in this document.

Written permission must be obtained for any images shared onto official AANR social media accounts, and a photographic credit should be included wherever applicable.

Informal written approval is acceptable where signed copyright releases are not available. In the case of historic photos, or images where written permission is not attainable but where it is believed sharing the image qualifies as “fair use”, a source must be cited.

Timing

It is useful to have a calendar that drives these messages (what are AANR's scheduled events? Are there nudist "seasons" and "holidays" that AANR can mark?) as well as a plan for how often AANR puts messages out on each platform.

Platforms

There should be a description of what kinds of messages AANR sends out on each platform. For example, we'll use Twitter to announce that the Bulletin is being released today; Facebook would have a post each week with an excerpt from a Bulletin article. Twitter message: "The AGM is tomorrow"; Facebook, "Here's the agenda and joining details for the AGM - and here's the membership link to join and be a part of it."

Follows and Blocks

AANR should only follow "official" accounts that are unlikely to change. This extends to essentially anyone included in the first list of retweetable accounts as well as a small selection of other accounts, like the Naturist Living Show, etc., which may provide valuable content.

There should be specific and consistent criteria for blocking people:

- That makes harassing or sexual comments in any AANR thread or the threads of anyone AANR follows.
- That spam AANR posts (whether replying with repeated similar comments, or with actual spam-like their OnlyFans link).
- That is clearly false nudist content, like the many nudist "dating" accounts, and accounts that repost images without permission. A list of these blocks should be maintained, to help identify other accounts.
- Having overtly sexually themed posts throughout their pages.

Note that we should not block people for:

- Being factually critical of an AANR policy (or lack thereof).
- Having an OnlyFans or Patreon link on their page.

Our Goals Should Be:

To improve public perception of nudism.
To demonstrate AANR helps its members to enjoy nudism more often, more happily.
To encourage people to consider AANR membership, and to renew their membership.
**Government Affairs**

**LITTLE BEACH UPDATE**

Last month we reported that state park officials had closed the popular Pu’u Olai Beach, also known as Little Beach, at Makena State Park on Maui, claiming the weekend parties and drumming circle contained “blatant nudity, illegal alcohol and hundreds of maskless people in close contact.”

Little Beach quietly reopened on March 13, 2021, but new signs at the park entrance ban drug and alcohol use, nudity, and fires. Also, the beach is only open Saturdays and Sundays from 5:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Yeah, good luck with that.

Meanwhile, the Hawaii Parks Department has announced it is reevaluating all of its recreational priorities and is hosting a series of virtual community meetings in April and May. Nudists are planning to attend to ask for designated clothing-optional areas on the different islands.

If you are interested in writing to the Hawaiian State Park Service to show your support for nude recreation there, or elsewhere in the state, contact us at information@aanrwest.org first so we can explain the guidelines we are following.

**Summary of Legislative Bills We Are Following in the Western Region**

By Gary Mussell, AANR-West GAT Chair

One of the primary reasons to belong to AANR (besides having fun) is to support our work that protects our right to be nude through legislation and the courts and, where possible, to expand social nude recreation opportunities. Here are some of the bills submitted for the 2021 legislative sessions in our region that we are watching:

**ARIZONA**

Arizona 2021 HB 2568 and HB 2502. This makes it unlawful for a person, with intent to terrify, intimidate, threaten, or harass a specific person or persons, to direct in an electronic communication any obscene, lewd, or profane language or suggest any lewd or lascivious act to the person or to threaten to inflict physical harm on any person or to property in any electronic communication. A person who violates this section is guilty of a class 1 misdemeanor. Bill passed Arizona House on 02/24/2021: 45 Yea, 15 No. Bill transmitted to Senate Rule Committee. No hearings scheduled yet.

Arizona 2021 SB 1248

It is unlawful for any person, with intent to knowingly terrify, intimidate, threaten, or harass a specific person or persons by directing any obscene, lewd, or profane language or suggesting any lewd or lascivious act to the person in an electronic communication. Any person who violates this section is guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor. The bill passed Arizona State Senate 02/25/2021: 28 Yes, 2 No. Bill passed House Rules Committee and it is now on the consent calendar for a floor vote soon.

**CALIFORNIA**

California 2021 SB 53. This bill would make it a crime for a person to knowingly send an unsolicited image by electronic means depicting any person engaging in an act of sexual intercourse, sodomy, oral copulation, sexual penetration, or masturbation or depicting the exposed genitals or anus of any person. The bill would make the crime punishable as an infraction by a fine of $500 for a first offense and $1,000 for a 2nd or subsequent offense. We are opposed to the bill in its current form as it directly affects our nudist websites, publications, and sharing of images between members. The bill has been referred to Senate Committee on Public Safety (Hearing set for 4/27/21).

This bill is sponsored by Bumble and is supported by Feminist Majority and the California Women’s Law Center. “There is no known opposition.”

California 2021 AB 307 Covers the same territory as SB 53 but focuses on lewd intent when images are distributed, and it requires registration as a sex offender if the person is convicted. The Judiciary Committee referred the bill to Public Safety on February 12. No hearing date set yet (maybe dead in favor of SB 53 above).

**UTAH**

Utah 2021 HB 147. Current Utah law forbids the distribution of “intimate images” (genitals, breasts, intercourse, etc.); that is a “reasonable person” might cause personal emotional distress or harm” if the person in the image did not consent to the image being taken. The definition includes the visual depiction of nudity or partial nudity. This bill would eliminate the requirement of actual emotional distress or harm.

In February it passed both houses unanimously and was signed by the Governor on 3/11/21 without amendment.

**WYOMING**

Wyoming 2021 HB 85. This bill makes the nonconsensual dissemination of an intimate image a crime; specifying elements and penalties of the offense; providing definitions; providing exemptions; and providing for an effective date. The bill passed the House 60-0 on 3/8/21. It passed the Senate 29-0-1 on 3/29/21. It was signed into law by the Governor on 3/31/21.

**REMINDER:**

Earth Day this year is celebrated worldwide on Thursday, April 22. Understanding we all have to work with various COVID-19 restrictions, find a way for yourself or your club to honor Mother Earth in some fashion.
In Memoriam

Les Dearing, 1954-2021

The coordinating director of The Camping Bares nudist club in San Diego, died suddenly in Mexico last month while on vacation of complications from the COVID virus.

Les was also one of the directors of The Naturist Society Foundation in Ashkosh, Wisconsin. Every year the Camping Bares and AANR-West would jointly host an information booth at the annual Earth day Faire in San Diego, CA, the largest Earth Day event in the country. The cooperation between both organizations to promote nude recreation to the public was always appreciated.

He was one of the nudist club co-sponsors that helped coordinate our World Naked Bike Ride – Los Angeles events for several years.

Leslie “Les” Dearing was born in 1954 in Glendale CA. He joined the Camping Bares in 1977. Les was an avid traveler. He would often go to Key West for the Fantasy Fest. Italy, France, Spain, and Australia were loved places. One place Les and Dave loved was Tahiti. Les would often go to Puerto Vallarta. He would stay with a longtime friend there, and that is where he became ill and died.

Les got his master's from San Diego State University in Speech Pathology and Audiology. Les worked in that capacity at many San Diego Unified schools.

Les met Dave Colo in 1993. They got together in 1994 but they could not legally marry until 2008. Jim Green, a Camping Bares member, officiated the ceremony in the back yard of the house Les and Dave shared. They were married for 13 years.

Les’s Celebration of Life will be in April. The date and location have yet to be announced by the Camping Bares. N Magazine is planning a large memorial for Les in its next issue.

Obtain Your TreeSpirit Project Images from AANR-West at a Discount!

Jack Gescheidt’s TreeSpirit collection of fine art photographs are now available to AANR-West members at a discount.

AANR-West members can purchase one or more of three specific TreeSpirit art posters at 50% off their retail prices.

Visit the gallery at: www.TreeSpiritProject.com/gallery

To order, email your choice and a full name and mailing address to AANR-West at information@aanrwest.org. For custom sizes or materials, allow 2-3 weeks delivery time.

Three Books That Belong on Every Nudist’s Bookshelf!

Available Through AANR-West

Contact us at information@aanrwest.org

The Nudist Idea: $27.32 incl tax, plus shipping.
Nakedness $19.66 incl tax, plus shipping.
Free and Natural $32.49 plus tax and shipping

ADVERTISE IN THIS WESTERN SUN MONTHLY NEWSLETTER!

Western Sun Ad Rates
Effective 01/01/2021:

<table>
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<th>Business Ad Sizes:</th>
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Personal Ads

| Per Month Only | $25 one time | 30-word limit |

For more information and to download a contact form, contact information@aanrwest.org. Rates are above.
Below is a roundup from our 38 clubs in the Western Region, based upon their emails to us and a review of their websites. The list is organized alphabetically by state.

**ARIZONA**

There are no restrictions for individuals visiting Arizona from other U.S. States. Each resort is to advise guests to observe proper hygiene and maintain proper social distance but the mask-wearing mandate in the state has been lifted. Wear masks is now a personal decision in Arizona.

- **ARIZONA WILDFLOWERS (PHOENIX)**
  Bev Price is planning her annual Grand Canyon Nude White-Water trip for June 5 - 15. Reservations have been filled for months and there is a long waiting list, according to Bev. There are no other club activities planned.

- **BUFF-A-TEERS (TUCSON)**
  To somewhat lessen the pandemic impact on the Buff members, the Board has voted to suspend all Buff dues ($12/member) for a period of one year starting April 2021 and extending through March 2022. All membership renewals that come due during that time will only include the AANR-required portion amount. Meanwhile, the weather was great for our pre-Easter outing at Westworld on March 28. It was great seeing everyone after a sizeable time break.
  April is also Election Month for Buff-a-teers officers and its board. The election will take place at the Buff outing on April 16. We are still not having potlucks for the time being so please bring your own food, drinks, and utensils. Bringing your own chairs is recommended but metal rickety ones are available if you forget to bring yours.
  Email: buffateers@email.com

- **CANYON STATES (PHOENIX)**
  No club information available this month

- **DESERT SANCTUARY**
  The owner of this former clothing-optional camping park has informed the president of the Buff-a-teers club that Desert Sanctuary has been sold and escrow will close sometime during April. It is now closed to nudist use.

- **MIRA VISTA RESORT (TUCSON)**
  The Mira Vista Lounge is open for indoor and outdoor seating, Friday 5 to 10 and Saturday 4 to 10.
  Saturday April 5: Easter Dance. Music by Harry poolside under the Ramada. Wear your Bunny ears or Cottontail!
  No outside alcohol is permitted.
  Sunday, April 18th: Live Music Poolside 1 pm at the gazebo with Driveway Guy's: Tom Kasper with 2 fools on stools.

- **MOHAVE SUN CLUB**
  No club information available this month

- **SHANGRI-LA RANCH**
  Congratulations to AANR-West VP Jeff Tendick and AANR-West Treasurer Cyndi Faber who were married on April 1. Both are members of Shangri-la Ranch.

  If you plan to visit Mira Vista, please wearing a mask is now optional but please continue practicing social distancing and wash your hands often.
  Reservations: Please call 520-744-2355

**CALIFORNIA**

Statewide, different counties are operating at different levels of mandated pandemic sequestering according to their recent infection rates. These are constantly changing so check with your club before visiting for the latest information.

- **DE ANZA SPRINGS RESORT (JACUMBA)**
  As of March 22, 2021:
  “We invite you to come see what we have done thus far. Our clean-up efforts are moving forward. Many projects have been started, some of which have already been completed, others will end soon, and the larger projects will take several more months.
  “We know that many have expected major changes already, but we want to remind you that they are coming. These are the projects that will take a lot longer to begin. With having to apply for permits and find the right people for the jobs, we are hoping to begin the major project in the coming months.”

At the Ranch during April, Line Dancing returns on Wednesday evenings and Saturday afternoons. Weekly Dances every Saturday night in April. For more, go to the website activity page at: https://shangrilaranch.com/
“You will begin to notice some changes to our social media platforms as we revamp and strengthen our branding to bring you the best information possible about the resort and the direction we are going.

“Please visit our website online often. As each phase of our planned restoration of the resort begins, we will do everything in our power to ensure you a safe and relaxing visit.

“For those that would like to make De Anza your home we have sites available, with and without improvements. Please call the office for more information. Also available is RV and boat storage and self-storage units are available.

The park remains open with facial masks and social distancing required.

The website shows no activities for April. Meanwhile, there are weekend clothing-option hikes up nearby Round Mountain.

(619) 766-4301
www.deanzasprings.com
stay@deanzasprings.com

• GLEN EDEN (TEMESCAL VALLEY)

As the COVID-19 restrictions are slowly lifting in the county, Glen Eden is returning to a full slate of normal activities. Visit https://gleneden.com/calendar/ for a complete list, subject to change based upon pandemic restriction changes and the weather.

Among the event highlights for April are:
April 17: Night at the Races Dinner and a Movie, featuring “Secretariat”. Prizes for best derby hats worn.
May 29: A Rattlesnake Avoidance Class will be given especially for dog owners and also humans who want to know the best precautions to take.

GE is planning a “Grand Reopening” on Memorial Weekend May 28-31, anticipating a return to a post-virus world. Subject of course, to where we are with state and county regulations at that time.

• LAGUNA DEL SOL (WILTON, NEAR SACRAMENTO)

Reservation Day!

Reservation day for 2022 reservations will be held on Saturday, April 24th. Stay tuned for time and location on property. It will, again be a raffle-style system. Reservation forms and event previews will be available in the office this weekend. We will not be accepting any forms back before Reservation day! Please continue to follow the emails for further updates!

“If you were on the priority reservation list for the 2020 reservation year, and have maintained your membership, you will automatically be on the list as a priority for this reservation day. Due to Covid restrictions and the inability to use the reservations, we will honor that priority list. You should be contacted by mail, email, or phone within the next week. You will need to submit the new form request. If you were previously on the priority list and have questions regarding that, please call the office and speak with Amber, the office manager, directly.”

Restaurant update!

“We are hopeful and anticipate that we will be able to provide Restaurant service again beginning the weekend of April 16.

“While we anticipate some restrictions still being in place, we do believe we will be able to offer dine-in at a limited capacity and take-out service. Currently, as is normal for this time of year, the restaurant will be open on weekends only with limited hours. Please stay tuned for further details and information!”

Coming Events

• Apr 03, 202: Black and White Ball
• Apr 17, 2021: Toga Theme Dance
• May 01, 2021: Disco Theme Dance

(all events COVID-19 permitting)

If you have any questions or concerns regarding these updates, please contact the office directly at: (916) 687-6550. Email: office@lagunadelsol.com

• LUPIN LODGE (LOS GATOS, NEAR SAN JOSE)

Lupin is happy to announce the club’s pet peacocks are now 10 months old!

The Lupin Pool & Hot Tub are now open, with restrictions.
- There is a 55-minute-long maximum time per person in the pool or hot tub at a time. Sign-up poolside, first come, first serve.
- Please maintain social distancing and only soak with your pod
- The hot tub is closed on Thursdays for maintenance
- Please remember to put the blue cover on the hot tub especially in the evening and at night if you are the last person in the hot tub!

Please note events and pool availability can be impacted by weather and changing COVID restrictions.

- Apr 9 Movie Night on the Clubhouse Lawn. Movie To be announced.
- Apr 10, 8 pm: Birthday & Anniversary Dance
- Apr 17, 11:00 am: Earth Day Celebration
- Apr 24, 8:00 pm: Crazy Hat Dance
**NORTHERN CA EXPOSURE / RIVER DIPPERS (SACRAMENTO)**

Events are returning to this Sacramento-area club. For more info, contact the club at: members@norcalexposure.com

- April 3 is a Black & White Ball
- April 17 is a Toga Party
- May 1 is a Disco Ball.

**OLIVE DELL RANCH (COLTON)**

Visit Olive Dell Ranch’s Facebook page for the most recent information about our events. You must maintain proper social distancing from other guests at all times. Masks are optional but recommended.

Gatehouse hours: Thursday-Monday 8:00 am to 8:00 pm
Park is closed to nonmembers on Tuesday & Wednesday.
Website: www.olivedellranch.com
Email: bnude@earthlink.net

- Sat April 24: Naked Beer Mile Run
- Sun, Apr 25, Bare Burro 5K Run (see story page xx for details)
- May 29-30 Pirates of the Caribbean Weekend
Games, entertainment, and food!

**OLYMPIAN CLUB (TUSTIN, ORANGE COUNTY)**

All club activities have been suspended until it is safe for our members to attend functions. All dues paid during 2020 will cover two years and not be due again until 2022.

Meanwhile, we are planning more “Happy Hour” events on ZOOM. These will be free. Members will be notified as to dates and times.

Website: www.olympianclub.com
Email: olympianclub@aol.com

**SEQUOIANS (CASTRO VALLEY, EAST BAY)**

The park reopened to visitors on April 2. During the club’s Open Season (April through October) visitors may visit three times on Saturdays, Sundays, or holidays before deciding if they’d like to apply for membership. Sequoians is a clothes-free club, and all visitors are expected to be nude while on the premises

Several Dances, Hikes, and other activities for their year can be found at https://sequoians.com/calendar/year=2021&month=3&day=31&view=list Email: sequoians@gmail.com
Office hours are weekends/holidays: 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

**SCNA (LOS ANGELES)**

“After a year of being stuck in our homes or apartments with very little human contact other than basic touch or hugs from our closest family members living with us, I think most of us are suffering from some degree of COVID fatigue.

“While many of us have adapted to life in the ZOOM age of online work and play, as more of us get vaccinated and restrictions are loosened and lifted, the wave of optimism is palpable. SCNA has therefore planned a series of in-person events, subject to COVID restrictions.

- Sat, Apr 17, Crazy Hat Pool Party
- Sun, Apr 25, Academy Award “Oscar” Party
- April 29-May 2, Saline Valley Camping Trip
- Sat, May 8, Revenge of The Nerds Party

We continue to host our periodic Online Game and Cocktail Party, which have proved to be very popular:

- Sat, Apr 10 and May 15, Noon – 3 pm

Meanwhile, we continue to host monthly members meetings on Meetup.com:

- Tuesdays, Apr 13, and Apr 20, 7:00 – 8:30 pm,
- Tuesdays, May 11 and May 18, 7:00 – 8:30 pm

Email: scna@socalnaturist.org
Website: socalnaturist.org

**COLORADO**

**FRONT RANGE NATURISTS (BOULDER)**

No information was submitted this month. Web site is: https://frncolorado.com/

**MOUNTAIN AIR RANCH (DENVER AREA)**

Effective March 28, 2021, NEW Covid-19 safety restrictions are in effect for all members. Members are allowed to bring friends and family, no other visitors are allowed.

Members wishing to bring family members and/or guests are required to contact the office and make an appointment at marinfo@trynude.com. Effective April 1st the office is open 7 days a week from 9 am until 5 pm, by appointment only.

On the grounds. social distancing is strongly encouraged in all social situations. Masks are always required indoors, as well as outdoors whenever social distancing of 6 feet is not possible.

The health orders, there are capacity restrictions. Sports equipment cannot be adequately disinfected and therefore use is at your own risk.

Visit our website for our current activities: www.trynude.com

- Party Pod Dance, Poolside. 10’ X 10’ pods to provide separation and allow for each group of 6 to decorate their POD, provide their own food, and of course, dance in their POD or on the dance floor with masks. There will be a contest for the best-decorated POD! The Finaleyes band will be performing 80’s rock.
- Sat & Sun, April 24-25: MAR Cleanup Weekend
- Highway Clean-up - Join us to walk a 2-mile section of South Turkey Creek Canyon Rd to pick up trash.
- May 8-9: Mother’s Day weekend-themed events. More detail later.

**HAWAII**

Many of the quarantine mandates in the state are slowly being lifted, but still, there is no planned activity this month in any of the clubs or beaches.

**LITTLE BEACH (MAUI)**

See story under Government Affairs above.
**HANGIN’ LOOSE (BIG ISLAND)**

Hangin’ Loose has shuttered indefinitely, with the hope that a buyer will keep the 2½ hectare retreat clothing optional.

**SWIM FREE HAWAII (BIG ISLAND)**

Swim Free Hawaii is a clothing Optional boat charter that gives you the opportunity to explore the island in an exciting, safe, and comfortable environment.

Capt. Chuck has over 30 years of experience to guide our journey through the breathtaking waters of the Big Island. Whether you’re interested in snorkeling, swimming, or just sunbathing nude, we offer a unique, safe, and quality experience we guarantee to be unforgettable.

**NEVADA**

3/31/21 Update: “Nevada continues to strongly discourage those who have tested positive for COVID-19 and have not yet recovered, from traveling to the State at this time.

“Nevada is entering Phase 2 of reopening and our gaming properties are on track to reopen as of June 4, as we gradually and cautiously return to a new normal,” said Gov. Sisolak.

“We look forward to welcoming back all of the tourists who love Nevada as much as we do in the safest and most responsible way possible.”

**LAS VEGAS BARES**

The club has scheduled nude kayak trips from Willow Beach twice a month on Mondays or Tuesdays. We also do a full moon hike to AZ hot springs or other locations on the Full moon of each month. Contact us for more information. at nakedinvegas@yahoo.com

**LAS VEGAS NATURISTS B&B**

Las Vegas Naturists will give a free night’s stay at our B&B for hospital “front line heroes.” The B&B is open for business. We have a new shade structure, added to the hummingbird retreat, and starting to build a pickleball court. Looking forward to more water volleyball fun and the return of our guests and friends. Email for event information: actionnude@gmail.com

**NORTHERN NEVADA NATURISTS (LAKE TAHOE)**

“As the mercury begins to rise and the snow begins to melt in the mountains, the Northern Nevada Naturists plan on an evening meeting in April at a clothed venue to meet new interested members and kick off our nude season.

“This year’s plans include participating with Tan at the Lake Tahoe beach clean-up, a nude pizza party, a couple of BBQs, and a wine tasting swim spa night. We are also working on a theater night, that is yet to be finalized as we work with the theater.

We are a non-landed AANR club serving Northern Nevada and California. Based out of Reno, Nevada, and formed for the enjoyment of social nudism. We frequently meet at members’ homes for activities or Lake Tahoe Nude Beaches and Sierraville Hot Springs. For more information, visit our webpage at https://nnnaturist.org.

**NEW MEXICO**

**FAYWOOD HOT SPRINGS, LLC**

For camping information, call 575-536-9663 or email: faywoodhotsprings.nm@gmail.com

**SUN TREE TRAVEL CLUB (LAS CRUCES)**

For club activities, email: information@suntree.net

**ROADRUNNER NATURIST CLUB (ALBUQUERQUE)**

Roadrunner Naturists is an active group of nudists based in northern New Mexico, with most events held in the Albuquerque area.

The club’s website shows no events for the month of April due to state and county COVID-19 restrictions. Email us at: RoadRunnerNaturists@hotmail.com

**UTAH**

**SUNS (ST. GEORGE)**

Sat 3/27 - We had a fabulous day of sun and swimming today at the SUN’s first swim of the season. We enjoyed some great conversations and a yummy buffet and met some new friends!

Our next event is on April 10. In addition to swimming, sunbathing, etc., we will have a painting instructor here to help us complete the painting (left). Our instructor is fun and has geared the painting to those of us who haven’t painted before. For those of you who are a little more experienced, she will welcome you to add your own touches to the painting.

RSVP to SUNS.StGeorge@gmail.com

**WASATCH (SALT LAKE CITY)**

With the recent COVID-19 spike in Utah, our in-person events are still on hold.

We have developed a popular online blog for your stories and comments at: https://wasatchnaturists.com/blog

For more information, email the club at: wasatchnaturists@gmail.com

**AANR Bulletin to Feature Non-Landed Clubs in Monthly Column**

The AANR Bulletin publishes articles highlighting AANR’s non-landed clubs. To get your non-landed club and activities featured, contact Donna Mollan at donnamollan@gmail.com with information about events, your location, and other promotions.
Think Twice Before Complimenting a Nudist

By Matthew McDermott

You look amazing nude.
Your boyfriend better look out!
You’re a beautiful young woman.
You’re the kind of young person we love to see become a nudist!

These compliments are all positive, saying something nice about the person they’re directed at.

And they’re the wrong thing to say.
Compliments like these make nudism a negative experience for women and young people and ultimately drive them away from nudism.
But they’re nice things to say, right? Why would they cause problems?

Directing Attention at the Wrong Things

These compliments tell the recipient about where others’ attention is directed. The intended message may be positive, welcoming, and encouraging. But the more subtle underlying message is, “I’m sexually judging your body.”

Compliments make a person aware that someone is judging their body. Even if the comment is something positive, it voices a judgment. It tells the person that they’re being measured.

When a person judges someone on their appearance—even subtly—they sent the exact same message that non-nudist society gives about bodies. The message is that bodies are sexual, and to be judged and evaluated. With this, all the nudist ideals about it being safe and open and equal comes crashing down.

Whatever the motivation, a compliment still plays into the dynamics of clothed society, contrary to the ways that nudism seeks to be different. The subtext of a compliment speaks much more loudly than the complimenter usually realizes.

Tipping the Scales

One of the most appealing aspects of naturism is how it puts people on the same plane. Naturists know that what others see, and what they see of others, doesn’t matter. Social naturism established a shared trust when all of the participants are vulnerable together.

These compliments destroy all of that.
To compliment someone makes the complimenter a judge, and the recipient the judged. To give the compliment is to claim authority over the other person.

If a middle-aged-or-older man tells a woman in her early twenties that she’s good-looking, he is making a very loud assumption of power over her. Most women, in response, would probably think that everything she had heard about nudism was nonsense. And they wouldn’t be back.

Instead of Compliments…

If there is nothing else to say to someone else other than to compliment them on their appearance, it’s far better not to speak at all.

If there’s no good reason to talk to a stranger besides commenting on their looks, a simple smile and a “Hello” is enough. Unless the stranger says something more substantial in return, it’s fine to move on without another word.

If a stranger needs directions—for example, they’re walking around with garbage in their hand, in search of a receptacle—it’s simple enough to guide them towards what they’re more likely looking for.

If a stranger is nearby and they seem a little nervous about approaching, it’s okay to say, “These chairs over here aren’t occupied. Feel free to take any of them.”

And after any of those, unless the stranger says something more substantial in return, it’s fine to can move on without another word.

The key is to limit the interaction to the other person’s benefit. Unless they choose to engage further, the next step—where people respond with something about how good-looking they are, or how well-defined their muscles are, or any other compliment—is one that never needs to be taken.

Making It Better for Everyone

Some readers may feel insulted: they don’t need a primer in basic human interaction. Others might think feel like this is prejudiced against them, just because they’re men, or because they want to be nice to other people, or because…because…because...

Too bad.

All nudists need to pitch in to stop this dynamic of people being (supposedly) complimentary, and other people (actually) being made uncomfortable, and pushed away.

Instead, it would be better to concentrate on a key-value that naturists share: that social nudity brings everyone closer together. And in that context, the best approach is to avoid doing anything that pushes people apart.

Matthew McDermott is a naturist, author, and IT consultant from Oakville, Ontario, Canada. He has been a nudist for over 15 years and is the author of the popular guide How to Take Your Clothes Off: A Guide to Nudism for the Interested Beginner. You can follow him on Twitter at @canadian1, or you can find his website and blog at wrienteude.com

This article was reprinted with permission. It was edited for space. A slightly longer version is available on the author’s website.