

## Ricc Bieber Biography (5/13/1952 - )



Ricc was a founding member of several clubs in the greater Los Angeles area since the 1970's, including the Clothing Optional Society (COS), The Sun and Fun Seekers, and BARE. He was a charter member of Elysium Fields (1967), The Naturist Society (1980), and Beachfront USA (which advocated nude us of Venice Beach, California in the mid-1970s). Ricc also served as Vice President for the Western Sunbathing Association (now called AANR-West) and as a Board Director for that body for over a dozen years. He was a founding member of SCNA (Southern California Naturist Association) in 2002 and served on its Board for several years. In his "spare" time, Ricc also builds model airplanes and like to play the ukulele.

**Below is a list of his various nudist affiliations and positions during the past 45 years:**

### **ASA-AANR Positions and Involvement**

Member AANR-West Board of Directors 2016-2020  
 ASA-Western Region Director, 1980-1992  
 Founding Member of the Public Relations Team w/Hap Hathaway  
 WSA Scholarship Committee Member  
 WSA Internal Affairs Chairman  
 Show Booth Participant at various shows, 1992-2020  
 Free Beach advocate within the Western Region  
 Regional Vice President for one term with Bob Banks as President  
 Served on other various committees at the will of the board and president as necessary and needed.  
 AANR-West Man of the Year

### **Elysium**

Member, 1967-close

### **SCNA (Southern California Naturist Society)**

-Founding Member (2002)  
 Member, Board of Directors 2002-2008

### **Beachfront USA**

Director since inception of Beachfront USA (1992-2019)  
 -Director, Callen-Davis Fund (Current)

### **The Naturist Society**

-Member since 1980  
 -West Coast Pudding Czar

### **B.A.R.E (Beaches are Really Everyone's)**

Founder (Mid 1980's)

### **Sun & Fun Seekers (Travel Club)**

Co-owner with Ted Wilcox (1990's)

### **C.O.S. (Clothing Optional Society)**

Founding Member (Late 1970's-Early 1980's)

## Free Beach Movement

The Free Beach Movement began in 1974. Ricc met Kurt Barthel, an elder statesman of the nudist movement, who was trying to get a “free” (meaning free from clothing) section established at Venice, Ca, just a few miles south of the Santa Monica pier. The organization BeachFront was born, and Ricc was a founding member.

After the 1978 defeats of the free beach proposal by the LA City Council, and later, by the County Supervisors, the Clothing Optional Society (COS) came into existence, whose founders Jim and Lynn Hensley, wanted to continue the fight alongside Beachfront USA (Beachfront was fighting the good fight in the courts while COS was fighting it by showing up at the beaches and being more confrontational.)

Ricc was active in both groups, even to the point of making a sign that went up at Pirate’s Cove at the south end of Zuma Beach, much to the chagrin of the lifeguards. “We managed to plant the steel sign poles 4 feet in the sand with a lot of cement very early in the morning, and they couldn’t remove it for a few weeks, until they got a heavy duty crew in to pull out the poles.”

While in COS, Ricc also organized the first “Boogies in the Buff” nude dancing nights ever held in Los Angeles. “We held them in the basement of several different local churches. We had music, dancing, and body painters. We even got some of the churchgoers to join in the fun!”

Within a few years, the COS leaders “got burned out” and it looked like the group had run its course, so Ricc formed a non-profit 501(c)(3) club named called B.A.R.E. (Beaches Are Really Every-ones). “Yes, the name was a bit hokey, but it kept the nude beach dream alive for a while longer.”

At about the same time, Ricc met Lee Baxandall, founder of the Naturist Society (TNS), at its first Gathering event at Elysium Fields in May, 1980. It was the start of a long relationship between the two of them. Ricc attended practically every one of the annual 4-day Gathering workshops, where nudists representing all the clubs and beaches on the west coast would meet to renew friendships and discuss common concerns. Within TNS, Ricc became infamously known as the “Pudding Toss Czar” as he organized the annual “food fight” of tossing chocolate pudding. That tradition continues today.

## WSA

At nearly the same time, Ricc met a man named **Hap Hathaway** while visiting the nude beach at Pirate’s Cove in Malibu.

“He was impressed by my activism, and he asked me if I would like to attend a convention of the Western Region of the American Sunbathing Association (ASA). So I packed my bags and drove down to Swallows Sun Island in El Cajon, near San Diego.

“Hap talked me into running for a Director position. In the ensuing years, I was elected as a Board Director many times, and I even became Regional Vice President at one point.”

While on the Board, Ricc served as a founding member of its Public Relations Team, and he also served on the Scholarship Committee which awarded cash endowments to high school graduates. “I served a couple tumultuous couple of years as Internal Affairs Chairman, where I investigated occasional charges of impropriety and inappropriate conduct at several parks, and it was not a very fun task.” Ricc also worked the group’s annual booth at local trade shows, and was awarded **AANR-West Man of the Year** for his decade of service.

Ricc’s advocacy of having the beach people and the club people working more closely together were not always met with favor by this more conservative park-focused organization, “but people always knew where I stood.”

## Elysium and SCNA

“Elysium always remained my ‘home club.’ It was the place on weekends where I could escape to for a few hours and decompress. I spent many hours in relaxation, and many hours in building and renovating the Robinson Road facility. Being an electrician by trade, and in construction in general, I offered my talents.” Ricc was responsible for building the large concrete BBQ used for years at the Sunday Nigh Pot-luck dinners.

When Ed Lange’s daughters sold the Elysium property in late 2000, the members attempted to relocate the club to another property in the Malibu hills. “I did my level best to make it a success. We poured cement, ran electric, did plumbing and added lighting. We made it our home again, for a while.” But the rebirth was not successful as the new site ran out of money within a year.

“When Elysium Malibu closed its doors, we knew it couldn’t end this way, so the members got together and formed and a new non-landed club: SCNA.

“I am very proud to be a charter member of SCNA (membership card #2). I also continued to support TNS and AANR. *[Ricc is also one of SCNA’s most prolific cooks and makes a dynamite chili each year for the Super Bowl party! – Ed.]*

Ricc remained a member of Beachfront USA until it closed in 2019. He remains a Director of their Callen-Davis Fund, a legal defense fund works for the restoration of clothing-optional beaches throughout Southern California.