

Western Region GAT Report – October 1, 2018 - July 1, 2019

By Gary Mussell and Ron Weimer, AANR-West GAT Committee

Here is a summary of what has been happening in the Western Region since my last report in July for the summer AANR convention:

BEACH/COASTAL NEWS

From June through September, Friends of Bates Beach hosted monthly clothing-optional group picnics where 30-50 people attended. Other nudists came down on their own mid-week throughout the summer. Our goal is to get the beach officially legal, but so far, the politicians remain reluctant to take that final step.

During the summer I took the opportunity to have meetings with several Carpinteria city and Santa Barbara county officials and local law enforcement. Most were “off the record” supportive about the unofficial clothing optional designation for our 1000-yard stretch of sand, however, the state park and sheriff department leaders reminded me, if the county nudity law is not changed, deputies still have the right to come down and issue warnings or tickets to nude beachgoers. So changing the law remains our long-term goal.

We continue to host community dinners monthly in Carpinteria and in Ventura for anyone interested in our beach efforts. We graduated another class of Beach Ambassadors this summer (formal “neighborhood watch” – type training)

On social media, we promoted heavily a Bates Beach picnic for July 8. We had distributed flyers promoting the event at the World Naked Bike Ride in June, and also on Facebook and www.Meetup.com. The result: we counted about 50 nudists, some coming as far away as Orange County (100 miles to the south) and San Luis Obispo (75 miles to the north)! There were quite a few first-timer visitors as well.

At our mid-August beach picnic, we actually beat July’s record with 62 people on the sand. Unfortunately, one of those textiles complained to the Sheriff’s Office, so they had to come down and tell us to put our clothes back on. No tickets were issued; they just gave us a warning and left. An hour after the deputies left we were all nude again, and there were no further hassles from law enforcement. Since our verbal agreement with the county nearly 3 years ago, there have been no citations written at Bates.

In September, Friends of Bates Beach again helped coordinate the annual California Beach Cleanup Day in the area. In Santa Barbara County, over 1150 volunteers picked up 4500 pounds of trash from 27 beaches, hiking trails, and creeks. Statewide, over 57,000 volunteers collected over 376 tons of trash! We received a thank you in the local newspaper for our efforts.

OTHER BEACHES

The NitOC naturist club in Orange County organized the Beach cleanup Day at San Onofre Beach, and the Whales Cave Conservancy club cleaned up Pirates Cove near San Luis Obispo. The Bay Area Naturist Club, as they do every year, cleaned up Bonny Doon Beach just north of Santa Cruz. Good publicity for all the beach nudists!

The Whales Cave Conservancy group that oversees the nude beach at Pirate’s Cove had no hassles this year with the rich neighbors who live on the bluffs above the beach. The homeowner’s association there has received many fines over the years trying to obstruct access to the nude beach, and they may just be tapped out for the moment. San Luis Obispo County continues to talk about developing the beach for textile use, but the California Coastal Commission continues to oversee the well being of the beaches and has told the county the beach is to remain in its original undeveloped condition.

In November, Friends of Bates Beach ran an on-line poll in Carpinteria to see if the local residents would support the idea of us hosting a nude yoga class in Carpinteria. We found a local yoga studio open to the idea if we could demonstrate enough interest, as it will require a guarantee of six yoga students. Although the total number who voted was small (under 100 people over 20 days) a majority (60%) said they were in favor with only 5% opposed. We may give this a try in 2019, as the goal is to get the public acclimated to social nudism in appropriate places.

In related news, a new law effective January 2019 allows the state to designate dogs be allowed on certain state park beaches. They had been banned from most beaches in California for many decades.

OCTOBER, 2018

AANR-WEST AVOCADO FESTIVAL DRAWS 120,000 VISITORS

The first weekend in October, we hosted an information booth at the Avocado Festival, an annual street fair in Carpinteria that attracted over 120,000 people in three days. We handed out literature about AANR and AANR-West, our local clubs, the local nude beaches, and we took an informal poll asking people what they thought of having a legal nude beach nearby.

The results of the poll (500 people) were very gratifying:

I agree that Santa Barbara County should designate a section of beach for clothing-optional recreation. The beach should have proper signage to let people know it is there, so they can decide where to go or not.

I do not agree.

	2018	2017
Agree	71.3%	68.0%
Disagree	7.1%	10.7%
No Opinion	21.6%	21.3%
Totals	479 votes	450 votes

The poll shows an overwhelming number of people in favor of our clothing-optional beach. The Carpinteria ZIP code results were: Agree: 73%, Disagree: 10% No Opinion: 17%

The next step is to take this information to the County Supervisors and begin the next and harder step, which is getting the law changed so the beach become legal.

NOVEMBER, 2018

SALINE HOT SPRINGS

The National Park Service completed and released its long-anticipated report recommending changes to the Death Valley National Park and adjacent areas under its jurisdiction, including the traditionally clothing-optional Saline Valley Hot Springs. To our relief, there were very few changes recommended to this remote and under-developed Springs except to officially approve the makeshift airstrip called the “Chicken Strip,” basically a strip of flat dirt used by people to access the Springs who do not want to drive the bone-crushing four-hour drive on a rutted 50-mile dirt road to get there. This lack of major improvements means the place will never become a major tourist destination; so much the better for both the resident nudists and occasional visitors who come during the spring and fall months when the pass to get there isn’t snowed in, or during the summer when the temperature average above 100 degrees!

CALIFORNIA’S SEXUAL HARASSMENT LAW STRENGTHENED

For many years, the relevant provisions of California’s Fair Employment and Housing Act (“FEHA”), sections 12950 and 12950.1 of the California Government Code, require employers with 50 or more employees to provide sexual harassment training for all supervisory employees. As of January 1, 2019, the law requires employers of **five or more** employees—including seasonal and temporary employees—to provide sexual harassment training for both supervisory and non-supervisory employees. **AANR-West needs to make sure its landed clubs in the state are aware of this change and make sure our clubs comply.**

ADDENDUM

HOW DID THE 2018 MIDTERM ELECTIONS AFFECT NATURISTS?

The Government Affairs Team (GAT) is still assessing the effects of all the various state changes that occurred as a result of the November 6 midterm elections.

Some interesting factoids from this year’s election:

- With Idaho and Utah voting yes, it is finally the law in every state that mothers can legally breastfeed in public.

- With the defeat of Gov. Scott Walker in Wisconsin, local nudists have emailed me they are hopeful the new Democrat administration will be more open to the restoration of the clothing-optional area at Mazo Beach, which Walker closed several years ago.
- “Trifecta states” (where one party controls the governorship and both houses of the state legislature) saw a net gain of six states for the Democrats. The current count is Republicans have 22 trifectas and Democrats hold 14. This means essentially “one party rule” in those 38 states.
- The only state left with a divided legislature is Minnesota. The remaining 49 state legislatures are all controlled by one political party or the other. Of those states, Democrats control 18 legislatures while Republicans control 31.

Some of the new legislative sessions will begin in December and others in January or even later. We will be watching for bills that affect nudists, and we will report these to you in future newsletters. Here is more election information about our region’s individual states:

CALIFORNIA

This state remains the “bluest” of the “blue” states, with Democrats holding all statewide elected offices, and holding a 2/3 majority in both the State Assembly and State Senate. New bills can be introduced starting December 1.

Fifty-three members of Congress come from California. The election flipped four of these seats from Republican to Democrat, so the count is now 40 Democrats, 13 Republicans, depending on if there will be any recounts.

U.S. Senator Diane Feinstein (D) easily won reelection to her sixth (and probably her last) term. At age 85 she is the oldest and the longest current serving member of the Senate.

In Carpinteria, one of our nude beach supporters was defeated for reelection to the City Council, to be replaced by someone who is “open to discussion” about it. The council challenger who was vocally opposed to the beach was defeated and came in last.

Carpinteria Gets A New City Council Member

After 28 years on the Carpinteria City Council, its longest serving incumbent, Brad Stein, lost his bid for re-election on November 8 by 301 votes. He will be replaced by newcomer Roy Lee at the end of the year. Two incumbents (Gregg A. Carty and Al Clark) were reelected.

Stein was a supporter of our clothing-optional section at Bates Beach. Lee, 37, is co-owner of the popular Uncle Chen restaurant in town. I spoke to him about the beach at a candidate’s forum in October, and he was open to hearing more about it. The fifth candidate for city council, Dar Ringling, head of the local Republican Party, came in dead last in the voting. At the same Candidate’s Forum, he told me a flat “No” when asked if he was open to our use of the beach.

A meeting with the Mr. Lee is pending.

ARIZONA

Arizona remains a Republican “trifecta” at the state level. Republicans control the state Senate with 16 seats to Democrats’ 13 seats. Republicans control the state House with 28 seats to Democrats’ 26 seats with two not yet decided.

Republican Rep Martha McSally was defeated by Dem Kyrsten Sinema for the U.S. Senate seat previously held by GOP Sen. Jeff Flake. In mid-December, the other US Senator from Arizona, Jon Kyl, decided to resign. He was appointed to fill the seat held by John McCain until his death this past August 25. The governor decided to appoint McSally to the seat, so both Senate candidates now represent Arizona. McSally must stand for re-election in 2020.

The state’s nine U.S. House seats remain split between five Democrats and four Republicans, a net gain of one for the Democrats.

COLORADO

The Democrats kept the Governorship in their column, and they also picked up a Congressional seat making that count now four Dems and three Republicans, with one not yet decided as of this writing. Congressman Jared Polis will be the country’s first openly gay man to serve as governor.

Colorado’s State Senate flipped with 18 Dems and 17 Republicans, while the state House now has a Democratic majority 37-23, a net gain of four for the Democrats.

HAWAII

Hawaii has been a Democratic trifecta for many years, controlling all state elected offices, and both state houses by wide margins. The party won the single US Congressional seat by a 50% vote margin, and Sen. Mazie Hirono was re-elected to the US Senate by a 71% margin over her Republican opponent.

Note: The closest AANR came to problem legislation this year was in Hawaii with HI 130, which asked for an investigation of all nude beaches. The bill died in committee without a hearing for the second year in a row. We will be watching to see if the same legislator tries for a third time in 2019.

NEW MEXICO

The Governor's office flipped to the Democrats this year, and all the other statewide elected officials are also now Democrats. Democrats control the state Senate with 26 seats to Republicans' 16 seats. Democrats regained control of the State House in November 2016 and increased their six-seat margin to 22 with two still undecided.

The U.S. Senate seat remained in Democrat hands by a 54% to 30% margin. New Mexico has three U.S. Congressional seats, and the Democrats now hold all three after flipping the last one.

NEVADA

The Democratic "blue wave" hit was never more evident than in Nevada this year, with Democrats taking the Governorship for the first time in two decades and toppling the incumbent Republican U.S. senator.

However – only in Nevada! - a brothel owner and reality TV star, Dennis Hof, who died a month before the election, still won his race for Nevada's 36th Assembly District. Hof, who ran as a Republican and calling himself “The Trump of Pahrump” defeated Democratic challenger Lesia Romanov by more than 7,000 votes, proving the old cliché that some people would rather vote for a dead man than for someone from the opposition party. According to state law, county officials will appoint a replacement, but as of this writing, this has not yet happened.

In other Nevada news, the **Burning Man Festival**, held August 26 – September 3. Nevada courts have maintained that simple public nudity in Nevada, outside specific types of businesses set aside for it, may be charged with both indecent exposure and open/gross lewd behavior for the same offense. Despite this, deputies did not cite any Festival participants for nudity, despite there being many hundred people there who were openly nude. Arrests were made for drug use, however.

UTAH

Utah remains a Republican trifecta, controlling the governorship as well as a majority in both the state Senate and state House (58-17 seats) although the Democrats had a net gain of two seats in the lower house. Former Republican Presidential nominee Mitt Romney won election to the U.S. Senate with 62% of the vote.

THEATER OWNER WINS LAWSUIT

Lawmakers and the governor in the conservative, predominantly Mormon state had backed a law that is largely aimed at strip clubs but also prohibited serving booze during films with simulated sex or full-frontal nudity.

Until now.

A movie theater sued in 2016 after Utah regulators threatened to fine it up to \$25,000. The state defended the measure in court, calling liquor and sex an "explosive combination"

In September 2018, after a lengthy trial, a Federal judge struck down the law last year as a violation of First Amendment rights, ruling the theater is not an adult-oriented establishment, and *Deadpool* is a mainstream, R-rated movie. The judge ordered the state to pay more than \$475,000 in legal fees after it lost a court fight over a law that banned serving alcohol during the racy, foul-mouthed superhero film *Deadpool*.

Liquor authorities were concerned about a suggestive scene in the film's credits involving a cartoon unicorn, among other things. The theater's attorney and former Salt Lake City Mayor Rocky Anderson argued that the law was so vague it would apply to Michelangelo's "David."

His office was awarded attorneys' fees and an additional \$3,800 in other legal costs. *Deadpool* star Ryan Reynolds held a fundraiser that raised \$22,000 for the plaintiffs, and this was deducted from the final financial award.

Idaho lawmakers repealed a similar law last year when a theater sued after its liquor license was threatened for showing *Fifty Shades of Grey* while serving alcohol.

WYOMING

Wyoming is also a Republican trifecta, with that party holding the governorship and a wide majority in both the state Senate and state House. The Republican U.S. Senator was re-elected easily, as was the state's sole member of Congress, Liz Cheney, daughter of the former U.S. Vice President. The state's legislative session starts February 12.

DECEMBER, 2018

FEDERAL LAWS AND REGULATIONS, December 2018

Several bills were introduced in the U.S. Senate this year affecting recreational areas in California and Utah where nudists like to hike and camp. They deal primarily with land transfers between Federal agencies and redefining the boundaries of existing Federal wilderness areas so that more of these protected lands can be used for oil drilling, mining, cattle grazing, and for other farm or agricultural use.

- Senate Bill S2809 (Hatch-Utah) affects over 500,000 acres in Utah are designated as national wilderness areas, including Candland Mountain, Crack Canyon, Desolation Canyon, Devil's Canyon, Horseshoe Canyon (North), Mexican Mountain, Muddy Creek, Nelson Mountain, San Rafael Reef, and Sid's Mountain.
- Senate Bill S140 (Flake -Arizona) amends the White Mountain Apache Tribe Water Rights Quantification Act of 2010.
- House Bill HR 857 (Cook-CA) This bill amends the California Desert Protection Act of 1994 to reduce its size and to allow off-road vehicles (ORV) in previously protected areas.

None were heard by Congress committees before it adjourned, but the Trump Administration went ahead and designated many of these proposals via revised regulation and executive order.

Because we lack the financial ability to retain a lobbyist or make the necessary political contributions, AANR is basically powerless to stop or amend any of these proposals. We will continue to monitor these proposals and regulations and report back to the GAT Committee on any future changes.

December: Tumblr social platform Bans All Adult Content, Including Artistic Nudity

As of December 17, 2018, the popular blogging platform Tumblr has permanently banned all nude images, including artistic nude photos published by professional photographers.

The move is seemingly in response to Tumblr's official app being banned from Apple's iOS App Store in November after child pornography was discovered on the social network. But Tumblr's new policy is much more wide-reaching.

Here's Tumblr's new definition of the "adult content" that will no longer be allowed:

"Adult content primarily includes photos, videos, or GIFs that show real-life human genitals or female-presenting nipples, and any content—including photos, videos, GIFs and illustrations—that depicts sex acts."

This definition seems to have spared boudoir photography and other suggestive photos if there's no explicit nudity such as exposed nipples or genitals. However, Tumblr uses the same automated algorithm tools used by Facebook and Instagram to identify offensive images, so famous paintings and statues are being banned same as they are on the other two social platforms, despite protests the identification process is too strict.

"Posts that contain adult content will no longer be allowed on Tumblr, and we've updated our Community Guidelines to reflect this policy change," writes Tumblr CEO Jeff D'Onofrio. "We will focus our efforts on creating the most welcoming environment possible for our community."

If a blogger believes their image was incorrectly flagged as violating the new policy, D'Onofrio says the site owner can appeal the decision, but in the few weeks the new policy has been in effect few appeals have been successful.

Since the web site now lumps nude pictures and videos into the same category as pornography, reaction was swift and negative among online nudists

Many posts on Tumblr, Facebook and Twitter during December indicate nudists are migrating their nudist content over to the Twitter, Mastodon, and MeToo social networks. True Nudist has also made a heavy pitch to receive any Tumblr refugees. Others have decided to open their own blogs using WordPress

2019

January: National Park service approves Saline Valley air strip

The National Park Service completed and released its long-anticipated report recommending changes to the Death Valley National Park and adjacent areas under its jurisdiction, including the traditionally clothing-optional Saline Valley Hot Springs.

To our relief, there were very few changes recommended to this remote and under-developed Springs except to officially approve the makeshift airstrip called the “Chicken Strip,” basically a strip of flat dirt used by people to access the Springs who do not want to drive the bone-crushing four-hour drive on a 50-mile long rutted dirt road to get there.

Both the difficult access and the lack of improvements means the place will never become a major tourist destination - so much the better for both the handful of residents and nudist visitors!

February: New Hampshire's supreme court upholds city topless ban by 3-2 vote

Feb 8, 2019 — In a 3-2 ruling, the New Hampshire State Supreme Court found the city of Laconia's nudity ordinance does not discriminate based on gender or violate the women's right to free speech.

The Laconia city ordinance defines “nudity” as “[t]he showing of the human male or female genitals, pubic area or buttocks with less than a fully opaque covering, or the showing of the female breast with less than a fully opaque covering of any part of the nipple.”

Ginger Pierro had challenged the law after her 2016 arrest. She'd gone to a public beach to practice yoga poses topless, and she was arrested after refusing police warnings to cover up. In protest of Pierro's arrest, Kia Sinclair and Heidi Lilley went to another beach in Laconia and exposed their breasts a few days later, also getting arrested.

Writing for the 3-judge majority, Associate Justice Anna Barbara Hantz Marconi stated, “The facts of this case, including the particular way in which men and women differ with respect to the traditional understanding of nudity, are unique... We are told that concepts of morality and propriety are changing; if so, then it can be reasonably expected that public demand will soon make it imperative that this portion of the ordinance be repealed. ... The people of Laconia may make such a decision, but this court will not make it for them.”

Associate Justice James Basset wrote a minority opinion and said he rejected the argument that the ordinance is not discriminatory because, “The challenged portion of the ordinance creates a public dress code which only one gender can violate,” Basset wrote. “This is a gender-based classification.”

Pierro's lawyer, Dan Hynes, said in a statement. “We are extremely disappointed in the Court's ruling that treating women differently than men does not amount to sex discrimination. The court has effectively condoned making it a crime to be female,”

The justices, though, said courts have generally upheld laws that prohibit women from exposing their breasts, citing a Washington Supreme Court case that upheld the different treatment “because there are more parts of the female body intimately associated with the procreative function.”

Authorities in Laconia and Gilford said they will continue to enforce the ordinances. Laconia Police Capt. Allan Graton said the penalty in his city is a \$250 fine. In Gilford, the ordinance is narrower, covering only the Gilford Town Beach. It carries a \$25 fine.

Similar court cases have had mixed results. In 2017 a federal court block a Colorado city from enforcing a law barring woman from going topless.

Meanwhile, a [Chicago company](#) announced it will offer New Hampshire residents a 10 percent discount on its \$35 flesh-colored bikini tops, which include a painted nipple. **TaTa Tops** said it made the offer considering the New Hampshire Supreme Court decision.

March: Federal Appeals Court Says Women Can Be Top Free in Fort Collins

The 10th Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that women can't be banned from going topless in Ft. Collins, Colorado.

The ruling potentially sets up a show down at the U.S. Supreme Court should the city decide to appeal to the next level.

The appeals court judges ruled 2-1 in favor of Free the Nipple activists who sued the city of Fort Collins over its ban on females appearing topless in public. The court ruled that ordinances that target a group based on gender— such as banning women specifically from going topless, while allowing men to do so — is a violation of the equal protection clause of the U.S. Constitution, attorney Andy McNulty said.

"I think this is a pretty historic moment in the women's rights movement," McNulty said in an interview. "Since the beginning of the 20th century, court decisions have slowly but surely chipped away at the idea that women should be stereotyped by their sex and gender. This is the next step to make sure women have equal rights in this country."

The city's ordinance prohibited women from knowingly exposing their breasts in public, with certain exceptions, like breastfeeding.

City of Fort Collins spokesperson Emily Wilmsen said City Council will decide next steps. "All we can say right now is that the city is reviewing the implications of the court's ruling," she said.

The city argued in court that women going topless could prompt public disorder, distract drivers and expose children to public nudity. The court rejected those claims, noting that children may already be exposed to topless women if they pass a mother

breastfeeding in public — an act that is specifically legal under city code. The judges further argued the ban "creates a gender classification on its face" and furthers gender stereotypes.

"Laws grounded in stereotypes about the way women are serve no important governmental interest," wrote the opinion of the majority, citing prior rulings. "To the contrary, legislatively reinforced stereotypes tend to 'create' a self-fulfilling cycle of discrimination."

The court acknowledged that men's breasts and women's breasts serve different functions and have inherent physical differences. Those differences didn't pass muster for banning one gender from displaying a bare chest in public view but allowing the other to do so, they ruled.

Other federal appeals courts have ruled against Free the Nipple activists, creating a patchwork of enforced and invalidated laws throughout the country, McNulty said. The 10th Circuit Court's ruling applies to Colorado, Wyoming, New Mexico, Kansas, Utah and Oklahoma.

April: Nudists Rally to Support Florida's Blind Creek Beach

In response to an urgent request by the Treasure Coast Naturists (TCN) group in Fort Pierce, Florida, individual naturists as well as national and regional organizations have taken immediate action to counter a state agency's threat to close the clothing-optional Blind Creek Beach on nearby Hutchinson Island.

The South Florida Free Beaches, Florida Naturist Association, the Naturist Society Foundation, the Naturist Action Committee (NAC), the B.E.A.C.H.E.S. Foundation, and other naturist organizations started fundraising together during the past month to hire a lobbyist and secure legal representation against recent actions and threats by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP).

Background

About 15 years ago, St. Lucie County established Blind Creek Beach County Park as an isolated Hutchinson Island preserve located immediately north of the St. Lucie Nuclear Power Plant. Before the county park's official startup, this same section of isolated shoreline was host to a long tradition of nude sunbathing and swimming. Begun as far back as the 1970s, the free beach attracted naturists from around North America. Skinny dippers encountered a pristine piece of coastline that was relatively free of arrests or harassment.

In 2014, negotiations between local naturist advocates, the St. Lucie County Sheriff's Office, and the St. Lucie County Attorney led to the recognition that this isolated stretch of beach and its tradition of family-oriented skinny-dipping did not run afoul of the state's anti-nudity statute (SS-800.03) as long as lewd behavior did not occur. County deputies quietly patrolled the beach just like any other and the local government tolerated and even cooperated with the non-profit TCN group who managed the beach by patrolling the shore protecting the sensitive dunes from human intrusion, providing portable bathrooms to beachgoers, managing the parking lot, and organizing beach clean-ups and occasional town hall meetings. A range of 500-1000 naturists show up on weekends, and the county saw a marked increase in tourist revenue in the area.

The Current Situation

Three years later, the Florida DEP sent a complaint to St. Lucie County objecting to the county's tolerance of a nude beach on what it sees as State-owned land (much of Hutchinson Island land is leased by the county from the state park system.) More threatening letters followed with the demand that the naturist use be shut down or moved away from Blind Creek Beach. The response from St. Lucie County has been largely silent. With the backing of business leaders and others, the county chose to let the beach continue and thrive.

In March 2019 TCN discovered that DEP was getting ready to take immediate additional actions to compel St. Lucie County to close down all nude use of Blind Creek Beach, since the naturists refuse to back down or leave this beach. Instead, they began a fundraising effort and hired Ramon Maury, the longtime state lobbyist and legal advisor to Haulover Beach, the South Florida Free Beaches, the Florida Naturist Association, and the American Association for Nude Recreation Florida Region.

According to Maury, there are two steps that must be undertaken:

Step 1 encompasses placing a hold on DEP's actions to quickly shut down Blind Creek Beach. Maury has opened up a dialog with each of the stakeholders in Tallahassee and is working to impose a temporary hold on all pending actions that might stop naturism at Blind Creek Beach.

Step 2 involves opening a conversation with key members in the Florida state legislature to rewrite state park rules and/or regulations that currently discourage the establishment of sanctioned nude beaches in Florida.

Undertaking both steps is expensive, so TCN is asking all naturists in the country to help by making a financial contribution.

How to Donate

Make your donations to the TCN Legal Defense Fund by check or via PayPal at [paypal.me/tcnaturists](https://www.paypal.me/tcnaturists). Make checks payable to: Treasure Coast Naturists, Inc. and mail to: PO Box 882281 Port Saint Lucie, FL 34988. Please indicate that your donation is for the TCN Legal Defense Fund.

May: Trouble at Pirate's Cove Near San Luis Obispo

Pirates Cove, near San Luis Obispo, CA has for decades been an undiscovered place where the main activity was getting all over tan, and maybe playing a little volleyball.

On Sunday June 9, about 20 young men (they appeared to be in their late teens) started bullying a couple of beachgoers near the nude section. When our WCC members came to the beachgoer's rescue, the gang backed off as they saw us coming. As they retreated from the beach, they attempted to start a fight with other beachgoers in the parking lot before they left.

WCC complained to the County Parks Department, whose spokesperson told us "There is no money in the budget [to do anything about it]." How bad do things have to get before they put it into the budget?

Meanwhile the nudist area is having a spectacularly good spring and early summer with many sunny days and warm temps.

AANR-West has offered assistance to this group when negotiating with county officials. The local supervisor is friendly to our cause, and several Coastal Commission members have also expressed support.

June: WNBR-LA

AANR-West co-sponsored the World Naked Bike Ride in Los Angeles again this year. The event on June 223 drew a record 520 bike riders who rode around downtown LA on a 13-mile course for about 3 hours. It was well received by the public! As a co-sponsor, we were entitled to an information booth, where we distributed brochures and flyers about AANR-West clubs. We gathered a nice list of names of people seeking additional information, and we handed our discount coupons supplied by some local clubs.

July 1: Nude Beach Threatened at Lake Tahoe

The Carson City Sheriff's Office stepped up enforcement Sunday June 30 to stop nudity at a Lake Tahoe beach after Washoe County Sheriff's Office deputies saw alleged lewd acts Saturday at the beach.

A Washoe County deputy Saturday from a boat told people at Secret Cove that indecent exposure is a sex crime and nude sunbathing is not allowed in public places by Nevada law. Washoe County Sheriff's Office spokesman Bob Harmon said men were sunbathing nude and made inappropriate and lewd gestures that deputies saw and that "got their attention." Since the men acted inappropriately, it had to be addressed, Harmon said.

"I think one of the issues, with the new bike path and increased use of the lake, areas where people may have gotten away with it before have to be looked at a little more closely," Harmon said. "We do have patrol officers up in there today to prevent that type of activity from happening," Carson City Sheriff Ken Furlong said. "No, it's not a crackdown. It's an enforcement activity."

Furlong said he and two deputies patrolled the beach on Lake Tahoe's east shore Sunday and did not see illegal sunbathing. Everyone they've seen has been cooperative. "I don't know if it was some out-of-control recreationalist or what is happening," Furlong said. "There's no question it did take place and our reserves are going to be up in the area."

GAT and NAC are looking into it as of this writing (July 2, 2019).

GAT and NAC

Last year, leaders of AANR's Government Affairs team and leaders of the Nudist Society's Nudist Action Committee met and agreed to stop duplicating effort wherever possible. NAC has a much faster and more efficient way to contact its members when letters and emails need to be sent to legislators or state park officials, while AANR regions appear to have more cash reserves for political action than does NAC, the latter relying almost solely on voluntary donations. Finding a way to use each group's strengths and overcoming weaknesses will take further discussion, but at least they have started.

This year, NAC directors were invited to join the monthly GAT telephone conference call, and several of them did. These lead to productive discussions about the situation in Florida at Blind Creek and also the efforts at Lighthouse Beach on Long Island, NY.