



Glen Eden—An Ideal Nudist Getaway

By Pete Williams

You'll have to excuse the dust at the Glen Eden Nudist Resort. It has less to do with the club's desert setting in Southern California than it does the many improvements made over the last five years. Construction of an additional swimming pool is underway and it is scheduled for completion in early 2018.

With over 1,700 members, the co-op club is impeccably clean, as always, with members working hard to constantly improve one of AANR's most upscale and established resorts. There's even a new name. Founded in 1963 as the Glen Eden Sun Club at a time when most nudist establishments had vague sunny-sounding names that emphasized sunbathing more than nude recreation, the club was rechristened Glen Eden Nudist Resort in 2012.

"We wanted to project a more modern image and reflect what we are, a nudist resort," says Tom Vineski, the club's treasurer and a longtime member. Nestled in the foothills of the Santa Ana Mountains on the site of a former olive grove with the Cleveland National Forest as its backyard, Glen Eden offers an ideal nudist getaway with its neatly manicured landscaping and spectacular views.

With 155 acres of cactus gardens and flowers and a year-round warm climate, it's perfect for nude recreation. In recent years, Glen Eden had added 64 additional RV sites, boosting the club's number of residential sites to 288. The club has added three pickleball courts in response to the growing interest in the sport that's a cross between tennis and Ping-Pong. There's a full-service restaurant, volleyball courts, book/thrift store, dog park, a community garden, children's playground, and even a pottery studio.

Then there's the spacious new Connett Building, which includes a conference room, gym, laundry, and showers. There are plans to add LED lights and retrofit two of the six tennis courts for better play, and permitting is underway for a new conversation pool and a water volleyball/lap pool.

No doubt Ray and Mildred Connett, the Glen Eden founders and namesakes of the Connett Building, would be proud of their legacy, which they ensured two years after Glen Eden's founding by converting the club into a cooperative, nonprofit, member-owned organization that became the business model for other AANR resorts in North America. Even though they owned the resort outright, the Connetts ensured it would remain a nudist resort. According to its bylaws, Glen Eden never can be sold for private gain.

"I don't believe in private ownership of nudist facilities," Ray once said. "It is a very sad fact of life in nudism that we lose clubs through the death of owners. If the clubs are owned and totally operated by all the members, usually you can count on them never wanting to sell." Ray Connett was a tireless promoter of nudism, writing for nudist publications and generating coverage in the mainstream media.

Connett challenged detractors to experience the nudist lifestyle for themselves. Many reporters and visitors to Glen Eden took him up on his offer and became nudists for life, finding Glen Eden's location

both convenient to Los Angeles but far enough away to feel like an escape from city life. Glen Eden has one of the busier calendars of events in all of AANR, many focused on live music. There's Nudestock, AANR-West's Parrot Head Summer Fest, Nudeapalooza, and a "Gypsies, Tramps, and Thieves" weekend.

Glen Eden also was scheduled to have its inaugural nude 5k run over Memorial Day weekend. There's also a kids' week (June 29 through July 4) focused on fun games and activities for children. With Glen Eden now 52 and among AANR's oldest and most established clubs, its leaders are beginning to aggressively market its new-and-improved status following all of the renovations. That no doubt would please Ray Connett, who had a knack for finding some nudist angle that could be built into a hard-to-resist story for newspaper editors. Glen Eden has one of AANR's most modern, up-to-date websites, which can be found at Gleneden.com.

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