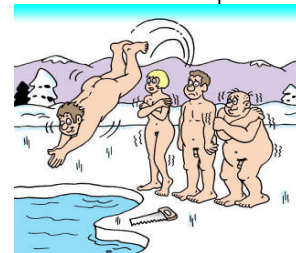




LARC

NUDE VIEWPOINT



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Lake Associates Recreation Club

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AFFILIATED WITH THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR NUDE RECREATION, IT'S NORTHWEST REGION, AND THE INTERNATIONAL NATURIST FEDERATION – PARTICIPATING WITH THE NATURIST SOCIETY. LAKE MCMURRAY RECREATIONAL RESORT – HOME OF LARC

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President's Message

The past few weeks have been some of the most challenging winter weeks I've experienced since I moved to the west coast over 30 years ago. I'm sure I shoveled more snow in the weeks since December 13th, 2008 than in the rest of my life combined. It has been a challenging winter so far in so many ways, the cold, the snow, the rain, the cold again!

There is a wonderful letter to the editor in the most recent issue of The Bulletin. It's called "Resignation" and if you haven't read it yet, it's not what you think. After the challenges this winter this letter was just what I needed. The man that wrote it, Steve Smith, is resigning from adulthood and has decided to accept the responsibilities of an 8-year-old. Following are a few of my favorite lines:

- I want to go to McDonald's and think that it's a four-star restaurant.
- I want to think M&M's are better than money because you can eat them.
- All you knew was to be happy because you were blissfully unaware of all the things that should make you worried or upset.
- I want to believe in the power of smiles, hugs, a kind word, truth, justice, peace, dreams, the imagination, mankind, and making angels in the snow.

My life here at LARC, with my LARC family, gives me the ability to believe in all of the above. I'm so looking forward to this coming season at LARC. I'm going to take some time out to be "happy and blissfully unaware of all the things that should make me worried or upset", leave my stress at the gate and enjoy a simpler life. I hope you can do the same thing when you come through the gate.

See you soon!

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**IN MEMORIAM
LEE BAXANDALL
1935-2008
FOUNDER
THE NATURIST
SOCIETY**



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MEMBER'S BIRTHDAYS

JANUARY: 5 Patti v., 6 Jim G.,
6 Matt R., 8 Carl M., 19 Mike K.,
21 Lori D., 21 Denise P.

FEBRUARY: 1 Fay H., 3 Mary R.,
5 Robert D., 5 George I., 13 Johnny W.,
16 Therese B., 16 Russ R., 16 Lucky E.,
17 Joleen G., 18 David M., 21 Tammy S.,
24 David S., 27 Christi C., 27 Lori D.,

MARCH: 1 Lloyd A., 1 Tim H.,
3 Curtis W., 9 Elizabeth Y., 25 Julie I.,
26 Teresa H., 31 Shawn W.

This is the time of year when we plan for the upcoming year, when you can join in the planning and scheduling all the fun events that will be happening all year. Come to a board meeting! February Board Meeting, Feb 14, 10AM

Upcoming Events in March:

“The Beginning of the Season”

14 Board Meeting 10am

28 “Tent Up” Work Party 9am

Mardi Gras Dance** 8:00pm,

Potluck snacks

This event is our only Adults Only event of the year

29 Potluck Lunch 12:30

General Membership Meeting 1:30pm

(See March Newsletter)

To all our members and guests:

We are an all-volunteer group. Please keep this in mind when using the facilities.

If you do not know where the cleaning supplies are stored, please ask.!

Expand your Nudist Experience—

Join the Naturist Society

Ask Astrid for details!

From the Editor's Chair-



Last year this issue of the newsletter was dedicated to Valentine's Day and we took a look at relationships, romance, and the concept of “forever”. As a follow up to that idea, we have a “behind the scenes” look at wedding preparations by Jack on page 3. What he describes is the hectic side (last year we merely showed the typical *Happy Couple* Picture of the bride and groom), which could cause one to wonder how a relationship survives even its first few moments.

The balance of this issue is in Memoriam for Lee Baxandall, the founder of the Naturist Society. Lee passed on November 28th, this past Fall.

I first became *exposed* to the Naturist Society in the seventies, when it represented the Free Beach Movement, and nudism mostly outside the organized clubs. To me this represented more the idea of “freedom” than the ASA (now AANR). Most clubs were, at the time, moving away from the strict rules associated of their past traditions (no holding hands, no hints—like kissing--that married couples might have a sexual bond, no alcohol on club grounds, etc.) but were struggling with these issues.

As a much younger person at the time, I was all for pushing the boundaries of the clubs and was attracted to the Naturist Society for its openness to change. Now I'm older, and have changed somewhat, as has the Naturist Society and the AANR. Not to say that any of us have “flipped over” to the other extreme, but I will say that we all have mellowed.

A recent editorial, by Mark Storey in *N* magazine represents this. When Caliente resort in Florida decided to market their club to swingers and those of alternative lifestyles, both the Naturist Society and AANR dropped them from association: certainly appropriate. But the Naturist Society sees a need to solve the financial issues involved, and seeks more of a middle ground. They were after all, the organization that first accepted openly gay members, while AANR seemed to take a “Don't Ask, Don't Tell” approach. The editorial commends Mike and Astrid for allowing non-nudist use (such as fire fighter picnics, music concerts, the charity poker run, etc.) of the LMRR property, while at the same time remaining valuable assets and true to the nudist/naturist community.

This all goes back to the ideals of Lee Baxandall, and his support of the *individuals* right to be nude. In honor of that idea, we present on page 4, our individual members, expressing what they like/enjoy about being naked as individuals.

The individual support idea of the Naturist Society is also born out by its reviews of resorts, books, movies, and scenic locations where the *individual* can be nude.

And that does include clubs where one can visit, such as Desert Shadows Resort, as *reviewed* by one of our member-couples, Ken and Cheryl, on page 3.

They may cause you to want to pack your bags!

Enjoy!

—Jay Gearon

A More Than Pleasant Winter Surprise!

After enduring four or five weeks of our typical nonstop Pacific Northwest drizzle, who would not want to go to a “clothing optional” resort in Palm Springs, California? With three separate and unique pool areas, two with their own large hot tubs, and all the expected amenities including its own restaurant, Desert Sun Resort was more than just a pleasant surprise

For us the pre-Christmas \$49.00 airfares, discounts on car rentals and just about everything else, and, five days of open space on our calendars (plus the weather mentioned above) kicked the whole thing off. And, for reasons that we did not understand until we got there, let me be the first to suggest – that you just might want to give this resort a good look. It has new owners, has returned to its traditional values around social nudism and is most of the way through a major upgrade.

This historic resort (often visited by Hollywood celebrities) was purchased in 1992 and became Desert Shadows Resort with the clearly stated goal of “providing first class resort experiences for naturists and their families”. After several renovations and the successful inclusion of a significant number of upscale condominiums the original owners wanting to retire sold this “very successful” resort to a group of developers in 2007. Nice idea. Details are sketchy because of ongoing litigation, but it appears that the new owners intended to take the resort in a much different direction right from the start. This new direction would have included tearing down a significant portion of the existing facilities, and most significantly, would not have included families nor “some of the other ideals” that had been a part of the resort’s past.

The condo owners, who clearly had the most at stake in all this, were split as to what should happen. Which of course resulted in litigation, with the development stopped and the bank foreclosing on the mortgage.

The good news in all of this is that two “brave hearted” condominium owners, John and Elizabeth Young, no doubt concerned with what the future might hold, purchased the mortgage from the bank, fought through the foreclosure and an appeal, and are now the new owners and operators of the facility. With what I’m sure took a great a great deal of effort, and money, John and Elizabeth are succeeding in putting this resort back on track – and this was clear to even us as first time visitors.

When you understand the story and see all that is happening right now at Desert Sun Resort you can’t help but wish them well. They have been able to retain key staff, return the facility to its founding principles and are now working hard to reconnect with the resort’s long standing customer base.

The renovations underway are impressive and almost complete. They include extensive room upgrades, new restaurant equipment, new lawn furniture, in-room movie rentals, upgraded spa facilities, resurfacing the pool surfaces, to mention but a few.

I’m not sure that if we had known the whole story on this resort, as outlined above, that we would have chosen Desert Sun Resort, but as things turned out we had a great get away and will be going again. And, if it keeps raining and snowing like, this that might be very soon! (see <http://www.desertsunresort.com>)

The 72-hour Wedding Planners

Recently my youngest daughter announced she is getting married next June. Then she started going into all the advance planning that would be going on.

It brought my thoughts back to the seventy-two hours Cassandra and I spent planning our wedding last Valentines Day. I have to say, we are good wedding planners; just give us 72 hours!

Here is the story: When we decided to get married on Thursday, Valentines Day, it was already Monday of that week. We check on the Internet to see what is required for the license and head off to the court house. After waiting in the obligatory line, we discover we are missing one important piece of information—Cassandra’s social security card. Not just the number: The actual card. We have forgotten that in Texas *nothing* happens without the actual card. She had looked in her Important Papers file before we left and it had not turned up; silly us, we figured the number alone would do.

So back home we go (a forty mile round trip) and she again searched, item by item. Bingo! Her card, taped to a sheet of paper was stuck to another sheet. Back to the court house we go. After doing the bureaucratic shuffle for the license we go to find a judge. A judge it seems is the only one who can give us a waiver of the 3-day time limit before a ceremony may be performed.

As we are looking completely lost, an armed officer offers to assist and navigate us to the judge’s chamber. In a few minutes we have the precious waiver and are happily on our way home.

By now we old folks are already exhausted but still have the wedding clothes, the cake, the meal etc. to arrange. So we call a halt for the day, to start fresh on Tuesday.

On Tuesday, Cassandra and I along with, Cindy, the matron of honor go out shopping. The cake is the first major item. Not to worry Cassandra said, any Mexican bakery, used to short notice, will have no problems. We stop at a nearby Mexican bakery and, voila, we have that problem solved and a 3-tier cake is on the way.

Now we have the meal to arrange. We had heard about a BBQ place called Johnny’s BBQ. On to Johnny’s we go. A very funky old place, but willing to not only prepare the food, but to deliver it personally! And he buys the three of us lunch; good brisket BBQ, perfect to get our energy going.

Clothing is next. After what seems like days at the Bridal Shop, the ladies have picked out the critical garments; to be ready Thursday, noon. This makes our schedule even tighter but there is nothing we can do.

Now it is my turn. I will need shoes. It was suggested that instead of spending a bundle on dress shoes I would almost never wear that we go barefooted. An excellent idea!

Wednesday we head to the beauty shop for Cassandra to

—see “72 Hour” p.4

“What I Most Like About Being Naked”

We asked our members to tell us what they enjoy about being naked. We received more responses than we can print in one issue of the newsletter, so we will continue in the next issue.

Here is The First Installment:

Jay,

What I like most about being naked is the immediate relaxation that occurs when the clothes come off. This and the feeling of the elements on my whole body (be it rain or sun) combine to make me a happier, more open person.

—Glenn

##

You made me think!

The breeze on my skin which connects me with my surroundings and makes me feel more alive and part of nature. It's somewhat spiritual. Of course, the ease of not having to dress up is also a big draw as it equalizes everyone. No status symbols! Plus absence of beauty requirements as I'd be a nudist with amputated breasts or limbs. Remember one of the reasons I joined LARC was a person in a wheelchair at my first open house visit. I knew then that this is an accepting place where everyone could be themselves.

Very grateful that LARC exists! Feel so lucky and privileged to go there every summer. Most of my family, friends, and even people at work know about my membership but so far nobody showed any interest to join LARC (except for Dennis and his wife, but he used to be a member years ago, just inspired him to return) Anyhow non-nudists miss out on something very beautiful!

Happiness is feeling the breeze on your skin and being alive!

Phew, that was a long answer as it was a good question!

—Margit

##

The thing I like the most is that being naked around other people takes away any facade of yourself or others. You see a person for who they truly are in their heart, not by their appearance, or clothing, or material goods. There is also a great freedom to being nude. It is the world that clothes us and makes us ashamed of who we truly are. The world judges us by our outward appearance of what we wear, how big our house is, and how much money we make. They don't see you for who you truly are inside, but once you have removed all the clothing, you have nothing to hide from the world or yourself.

—Jess

##

I like the physical sensations; the sun on the body, the air and breezes, the rush of water, uninhibited by clothes.

—Wendy

##

Hi Jay, I guess I like the feel of the warm sun on my skin, it is the best thing on earth. Oh, and the convenience of not having to get dressed before I run to the restroom. Down to earth enough for you?

—W.C.

##

What I like most about being naked is hanging out with people who are comfortable in their own skin - how refreshing !! - how freeing !! - how REAL !!

—Cheryl

##

The freedom to be easy with who I am in this world without the need to hide under clothes because of some silly philosophy of shame or fear.

Happy New Year to all the happy naked people!

—Angus

Hi Jay, Let me think about what I like about being a nudist — I must really like it a lot, since I like to be naked whenever possible!

—Bob

##

Hi, Jay! Having just spent a week in the homeland of the nudist movement, Florida, and being unable to be naked.....I wished for the chance to feel the sun & breeze on my skin, The freedom and sensation.....it would have been nice, but Disney frowns upon such things. It was a shock to come from 80's back to 30's last night! I like the freedom we have @ LARC to be as we want to be....semi-clothed or not as climate & inclination provide.

—Darlene

##

I like not having to worry about whether or not my clothes will fit properly-cause I'm not wearing any!!!!

—Alice

##

- 1.The immediate relief from waistbands, elastics, bra bands, scratchy labels, etc., etc., i.e., the confinement that clothing exerts on one's body.
- 2.The sensation of sun, rain and wind on all of me, not just parts of me.
- 3.The sense of equality with and acceptance by everyone else that feels the same wholesome freedom to drop and step out of everything, literally and figuratively, eh?

—Jean

##

I like how the air feels on my body. A sense of peace just seems to settle over me. Restrictions seem to go away. I like being at the club during quiet days when the breezes are mild and the days are warm and you can feel the trees whispering to you as you lounge and soak up the rays of the sun. That's what I like about being naked.

—Robert

##

Hi Jay! What do I like most about being naked. I feel more natural, closer to nature. I love the feel of the sun on my body. I feel young, like a little kid. The ultimate: playing in the waves at the beach.

—Julie

To be continued next issue

“72 Hour” cont. from p.3-

get her hair attended to and I to get a haircut. We return home to make arrangements for the music and photography.

Thursday, the big day, dawns nice, sunny and windy as predicted as we start on our list of things to do. Our first stop is to get Cassandra's nails done. Since we will be barefooted, Cassandra suggests that I have my toe nails painted to match hers. And why not, I say. So I get pink toe nails.

The bride is beautiful, the groom is, well, the groom, and at the last possible minute the food arrives! The minister and wedding party perform admirably, a hundred or so guests are fed, the food is good, the cake is good and the champagne is good. It is a great day.

We will be celebrating our first anniversary at Natures Resort. A Valentine Dance is planned and we will quietly assume it is really just for us, the 72-hour Wedding Planners.

—Jack B