



Deep Creek Volunteers

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SPRING 2004

LATEST NEWS

Deep Creek Volunteers continues to work towards educating visitor in regards to appropriate etiquette and local customs. In the past, our brochure was approved by the USFS, and we had their permission to keep a brochure box on the trailhead.

Recently, we updated our brochure to include our web site, to improve our contact information section, and to add information regarding The Naturist Society, with which our group is affiliated. While we were in the process of getting the USFS endorsement on the minor changes, however, we were informed that our flyer did not meet USFS format requirements.

For this reason, we are in the process of relocating our brochure box off of USFS land. While we have been able to accommodate this change in location, please keep in mind that it is more important than ever to have DCV members spread the word while visiting the springs.

This first newsletter will be going out to our members and to those of you who have emailed us at one time or another to inquire about some aspect of the springs. I would encourage those of you who have not yet joined our group to consider doing so. Please send us an email to the address indicated above if you would like more information. Thanks for your inquiries and support.

HOT SPRINGS AT THIS TIME OF THE YEAR

Spring at Deep Creek Hot Springs

It is sometimes said that there are no seasons in Southern California. If you visit Deep Creek regularly, you will experience all four seasons. Deep Creek is beautiful year round, but spring is probably one of the best seasons of the year to visit the springs.

During the months of April and May, all the desert flowers blossom as a result of the winter rain and snow. The creek slowly returns to its normal, lower levels . . .

again, revealing the inviting Arizona Pool. This pool is often submerged under the creek's cold water during the high water of winter and spring.

As summer approaches and the weather warms up, the hot pools become less attractive, while sunbathing on shore and swimming in the cool creek become more appealing. The water temperature generally becomes tolerable around May or June. This year, the creek is already very enjoyable, due to a less-than-average rainfall and the unseasonably warm weather of early spring.

Spring is a great time to hike in the Deep Creek drainage area. You should dress in layers, as the temperature may change suddenly. Always take some warm clothes, extra food, and plenty of water. Mornings and evenings can be quite chilly, even down to freezing, while days are often hot and sunny, with highs in the 60's-80's.

Nude hiking is tolerated on forest service land within the Deep Creek drainage area, with the exception of one quarter mile of the T-6 crossing that is close to Lake Arrowhead.

If you have not been to the area recently, maybe it is time to treat yourself to another visit. Remember not to take glass, to hike out your own trash and help look after this jewel.

REPORT FROM A FIRST TIME VISITOR

This past winter, my friend and I went to Big Bear and went snowboarding. Then, we left that evening and drove to Hesperia, ready for our big hike the next day. Almost every way that we could get lost, we got lost, but we finally found Bowen Ranch.

We parked at the ranch and walked all the way to where we were supposed to park then we began our hike. Somehow, when we were supposed to go down and right, we went down and left, never even saw the right sign, and ended up following the trail for off-roading vehicles and walked further and . . .

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further away. After about probably two miles in the wrong direction, we ran into some cyclers, who told us we were about four miles away. We had never even seen the creek, so we headed back, determined to find our mistake and do it again the next day.

We kept walking, we decided to look twice at one particular sign, but still had not seen the fence. We saw where the sign says "trail" and points to the right, but it's kind of right and down where that fence is. Well, we still hadn't seen it, and kept going. then we saw another hiker coming down the hill, so we asked him where it was. His name was Brian. He said we were only about 30-45 minutes away, and that he would show us, so we decided to take him up on his offer. He led us to the fence (maybe 50 yards behind us that we had passed now TWICE!), where I got my Deep Creek volunteer pamphlet. YAY!! We made our way down to the creek, you know, I do not know that I would have ever found it without Brian. He was so helpful, like a guardian angel who appeared out of nowhere, so thanks to him, we made it at last! He even showed us how to cross the creek on the rocks. I thought at one point that I was looking down at waist-deep water, so I was happy that I only got my one foot wet!

There were two men cleaning one of the pools when we arrived, and they explained to us that there had been a bad rainstorm a few days prior that had washed in a lot of mud. Brian showed us every pool, and even though they said the Anniversary Pool was the only one that was clean, Roxy and I went into a smaller pool near the beginning of the rocks across from the Anniversary Pool. We wanted to be alone, because, well, I got naked, and so did everyone else there, but I am a little shy. I did it, though, and it was wonderful and beautiful. At about 4:45 p.m., near sunset, I looked up at the sky through the trees, and saw the moon and it was soooooo beautiful. It was not of this world., perfect, calm, serene, and since it was New Year's Eve, I felt like I was washing off all the energy of 2003, and being reborn to a new year. It was a little dirty, but it was so warm, and the air felt good, and the world felt happy. Then, we got dressed and made our way back at about 5:15 p.m. Brian, our tour guide, helped us maneuver the way safely, drove us back to the Bowen Ranch, and we were in our car at 6:00 pm, after having been hiking since about 1:00 pm.

Brian, thank you for your kindness and consideration. You truly are an angel! Thanks also

to my friend, Ron, the Deep Creek Volunteer who helped get us there by answering my emails. Thank you so much for taking the time to respond! It truly was an amazing experience, and we definitely will come back in the summer. We love Deep Creek!!! Thank you all again for helping us, and for helping keep up such an amazingly wonderful place.

By Leigh Silver

OTHER NATURIST OR HOT SPRING NEWS

TNS Gathering

The Naturist Society's 2004 Western Gathering will take place at Laguna Del Sol from May 20 to 23. Laguna del Sol is a clothing optional resort located in Wilton, California. Sacramento is the closest major Airport.

At the gathering, you will find a series of different activities for people of different ages. There are many different one hour workshop or talks, as well as other social activities and outings. Some of this year's activities include a day trip to one of Folsom Lake's remote beaches, a kayak demo, morning nature walks, bonfire night, a DJ dance, etc. Some of the workshops include home brewing your own beer, raising children in a "body acceptance" family, the future of nudity on public land, women's issues in naturism, etc. For the younger visitors, there will also be organized games and yoga.

For more information check out this website: <http://www.naturistsociety.com/events/default.asp> or email us at the address on the header of this Newsletter.

OTHER NEWS

San Onofre Beach: if you have never visited this clothing optional beach, you might want to consider doing so. The water at the beach is now in the low 60's, and becoming quite enjoyable. This year, there are many less stones on the beach. If you need directions, just send me an email. Camping is also available at San Onofre.

Trip to De Anza Springs resort: A group of DCV members and Friends of San Onofre are considering a weekend trip to this clothing optional resort. Possible dates are Memorial Day Weekend, May 29-31, or June 12-13. If you are interested, please send us an email.