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Mission: the awareness and acceptance of social nudism and nude recreation in this region.

Suwannee Valley Resort, February 9, 2020

Yes, I started this over a month ago. With Spring Break I'm finishing up a lot of undone stuff.

So, Mitch and I are way down upon the Suwannee River at a wonderful resort with a Stephen Foster Drive address. It's beautiful here, though I'm freezing my a__ off. Even in north Florida I'd imagined the weather would be warmer. Monday in San Antonio it reached 84 degrees, but when I got on the plane Thursday morning it was 32. Not much warmer here, in the 30s in the mornings though today it got to near 70 with beautiful sun. We're here for the AANR Midwinter. Not much controversy this meeting, though several times we debated some motion for 5-10 minutes before voting for it unanimously.

The main highlight was the club and its owners, Tom and B.G. They've not been in business long, but they've been in business well. Tom is a Navy Vet, and they take service to veterans very seriously. In a nearby town there is a center for vets. They feed the center 7 times a year, and 7 times a year they feed the town's fire fighters. Their liaison at the vet center mentioned that something these vets really need is dental care. VA doesn't cover dental care, so Tom and B.J. started a program to provide the vets with free dental care. They have spent over \$100,000 of their own money on this, and they've raised money from others, and as of this date the program has expanded to 9 counties. B.G. said that when they arrive at the vets' center with a meal they are greeted with such things as, "Hey, here are the naked people."

The club has 30 acres, most of which are woods, with a nature trail. Tom told me that when they have filled the developed area they will quit growing. He doesn't want to destroy what is basically a nature preserve. The club has won the AANR greatest growth award 2 of the last 3 years.

During the meetings one presentation was by Ramon Maury who has lobbied for AANR in Florida since 1985. He had one simple suggestion: People outside AANR don't really know what is meant by landed and non-landed clubs. He suggests that we use the tourism industry vocabulary and call the landed clubs, "Destination Resorts."

A challenge Ramon had for regions is, are we in touch with the state tourism organization of each of our states? The official Florida tourism materials and website prominently displays a section for nude recreation. In Oklahoma, Louisiana, and Texas we need to be in touch with our state tourism agencies to see if they will give nude recreation destinations any coverage. For Arkansas, once again I encourage all our members to contact the Arkansas Department of Parks and Tourism, when you're on vacation. Send them a postcard from wherever you're vacationing with an explanation that you are enjoying a naturist vacation in a state where such vacations are legal. If you're not aware, in Arkansas, it's against the law (since 1957) to even have a conversation in which you advocate nudism.

Ramon also referred to a study which showed the overall economic effect of nudist destinations in Florida is 7.2 billion dollars. I doubt that we could afford to commission such a study for AANR-SW, but we can refer to the Florida study when talking to city councilmen and councilwomen, with county commissioners, and with legislators.

A topic near and dear to our hearts was the upcoming 2020 AANR Convention at Star Ranch. Here's what you need to be doing. First, make plans to be there. You don't even need to be afraid you'll have to attend boring meetings. Star will have fun activities even when the meetings are happening. This could have two effects. One, the meetings may be shorter because we want to get out to the fun activities. Two, we might even find a way to make the meetings more attracting.

A negative—you can pretty much forget my last letter about Eden Ranch. The owners saw a picture in the Undressed Press that had two males sleeping and the males appeared most likely to be gay. Eden Ranch was so offended by this that they removed the club from AANR and cancelled their individual memberships. When I visited I asked a question about non-discrimination. Obviously, my question should have been more explicit. Anyway, I wish them well in their effort to create a nudist Christian retreat.

To clubs, both destination and travel: I sent an email asking if you'd be interested in a pilot program to see the impact if AANR sent a cash rebate for every membership the club submits to AANR. All you have to do is tell me you're interested. I'll send your club info to AANR and you'll start receiving the rebate. I'd asked for these to be sent to me by February 5. I've received no replies. If a club is interested, it can still let me know at tdpeck@hotmail.com.