

AANR, an Abbreviated History

Organized nudism is a creation of the last century. The movement began in Germany, around the turn of the 20th century, with the emergence of the youth movement known as Wandervögel ("migratory birds"). Back-to-nature groups of young men and women wandered through German forests and meadows, singing, playing musical instruments, and casually shedding their clothing whenever they found refreshing streams or lakes in which to bathe and swim. A second German influence was the Naturheilbewegung (Natural Healing Movement). A number of German sanatoriums featured, as part of their programs, nude sun and air bathing.

A German sociologist, Neinrich Pudor, published *The Cult of the Nude* in Dresden which extolled the virtues of nudism. Some consider Pudor to be the "father of nudism." Free Body Culture, as it was called in Germany, started in the first years of the century and the first known nudist park, known as "Freilichtpark (Free Light Park) near Hamburg, Germany, was established over 100 years ago in 1903 by Paul Zimmerman. Most early European nudist organizations had a heavy emphasis on physical conditioning and abstinence. Their members practiced vegetarianism, shunned alcohol and tobacco and had rigid codes against any type of physical contact in public. Around 1905, the first British nudist organization, The English Gymnosophist Society was formed. In post-war Europe in 1919 and 1920, modern nudism began to be practiced, starting in Germany, then spreading to France, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, South America and England. The first nudist magazine *Gymnos* was published in 1921 in Germany. Many immigrants from Germany came to the United States following the First World War. Some of them brought their nudist ideals with them.

A quarter century after Free Light Park came into being, the first American nudist club was established by immigrant nudist Kurt Barthel on December 7, 1929. He named the club the American League for Physical Culture (ALPC). The ALPC was created in Spring Valley in the Hudson Mountains of New York. The members met in a rented gymnasium, worked to increase their membership and raised money to eventually get property in the area. Membership was open to Americans and Canadians alike, as well as immigrants. The new club proved popular enough to rate an additional added-on chapter in a book published in early 1931 by an American couple, Frances and Mason Merrill, who had visited both German and French clubs. They entitled their book *Among the Nudists*.

The ALPC developed Principles and Standards, under Barthel's guidance, that are used today by AANR in a revised form.

In 1930, thousands of men in Long Island, New York took off their shirts in public, a mass breaking of the laws of the time which considered such action lewd and unlawful. The fledgling nudists, although not in public view, went much farther by espousing and practicing social family nudism, including not just single gender exposure, but that of both sexes, including children.

Henry S. Huntington had joined the ALPC in November, 1929 and Ilsley Boone and David Livingston joined in July 1931 after reading *Among the Nudists*. Huntington and Boone were ministers and Livingston, also known as Gilbert (or Gil) Parks, was a businessman. Boone was elected vice president of the ALPC in 1931. These three men got together in late 1931 and created another new organization they named the International Nudist League (INL). Livingston became the first appointed president and also was chosen to edit a new INL publication entitled *The Nudist*.

That same winter, the police raided the ALPC gymnasium and those present were charged with public indecency. On December 9, 1931, a New York court dismissed all charges, stating that the exposure was neither public nor indecent. A first positive legal precedent had been set.

A second nudist club was founded in Cleveland, Ohio by Dr. Russell B. Abbott in December 1931. Like the ALPC, they also rented a gymnasium. A third club, in Chicago, followed in 1932.

The first annual meeting of the INL was of a select group of three clubs in August, 1932. The name of the International Nudist League was changed, without explanation, to the International Nudist Conference (INC) following that meeting.

The ALPC, having obtained enough money, held a vote on purchasing property. A location favored by Boone was rejected because of its distance from the New York metropolitan area (120 miles), and the club purchased the New Jersey location known as Skyfarm (which exists yet today as Sky Farm, an AANR club), the first nudist landed grounds in the U.S. Boone dropped out of the ALPC and devoted himself to the INC.

In 1932, the Merrill's second book *Nudism Comes To America* and Jay Gay's book "On Going Naked" inspired more clubs, which were created in late 1932 and beyond. A movie *Elysia*, filmed at one of the new clubs (known for years as McConville, in southern California, which still existed until recently as Mystic Oaks, an AANR club), was shown (and sometimes banned) in theaters in 1933 and also contributed to the popularity and growth of organized nudism in the U.S. and Canada. Following the finalizing of the purchase, Skyfarm was established on May 15, 1932 as a cooperatively owned landed club of the ALPC.

The INC publication *The Nudist*, which had been experimented with, and was released in very limited circulation (probably mimeographed) in 1931 and 1932, hit the newsstands with the May 1933 issue as the first nudist magazine with illustrations and photographs.

The November, 1933 issue of *The Nudist* contained "The Magna Carta of Nudism", which stated:

Under proper safeguards and for the public weal we demand:

- 1. The elimination from our statute books of all legislation that makes social nudism per se an illegal thing.*
- 2. The setting aside of at least some part of our public beaches, parks, picnic grounds and recreation centers where nudists may freely live the natural life in the open.*
- 3. The constitutional right of a free press to print text and unaltered pictures which decently and naturally represent nudism as it actually is being lived and practiced.*

Today these demands represent the rightful desire of a minority; tomorrow they may represent the priceless heritage of the majority.

The first convention (and second annual meeting) of the INC was held at the Town Hall club in New York City on November 23, 1933. It was a delegates-only executive session. In that closed session, Henry Huntington became the first elected president, Gilbert Parks the first recording secretary and Charles P. Titus the first treasurer. Length of individual officer terms were set for one year. Vice

president positions were to be filled by caucuses from the states or provinces. These positions eventually became the trustees of the organization. Ilesley Boone, also known as AUncle Danny≡ did not take an elected office, but called himself the “Executive Secretary” and gained editorial control of *The Nudist* and personally consolidated most of the power in the organization.

The first club to affiliate with the INC was the Rochester Outdoor League in New York. By December, 1933, the list of groups had grown to 44 with 18 clubs affiliated. Most were individually or family owned, but some were cooperative clubs. The 18 clubs were located as follows: one in California, one in Washington, D.C., three in Illinois, one in Maryland, one in Michigan, two in Missouri, one in New York, one in Oregon, four in Pennsylvania, one in Texas, one in Massachusetts and one in South Carolina. Only four of the clubs were confirmed at that point as landed camps.

Following the second INC convention, held at the Northern Ohio League of Naturists Country Club (NOLON) in Ohio in October, 1934, yearly conventions were always held in August with one exception in 1938 at Rock Lodge in New Jersey, when the convention was held in September.

More early nudist movies were released, among them “The Unashamed” and “This Nude World.” These further increased the public’s awareness of nudism.

In 1936, the law of New York and some other states was changed and men were allowed to go topless at the beach or pool without the threat of prosecution.

Early camping at fledgling landed clubs meant tent or car camping, with few amenities. Because of the prevailing legal climate, many clubs were located in rural or very rustic areas, often with no phone or electricity service and with vehicle access on very primitive roads.

By early 1936, the INC also began using the name American Sunbathing Association (ASA) in conjunction with use of the International Nudist Conference name. It was explained that the word nudist was being used by many burlesque houses and film makers to exploit mostly female nudity. There was an internal decision to remove the word from the association’s name to prevent linkage with those whose prime motive was titillation for profit. The INC name was dropped that summer, and the organization was known as the ASA for the next 60 years. The ASA was incorporated in New Jersey on February 18, 1937. The first nudist convention on the west coast was held by a loose western conference from September 18 to 20, 1937. There were no official regions as yet. Numbered charters began to be issued to the affiliated clubs. The first listing of chartered clubs in *The Nudist* was in January, 1938. Many of the original clubs to affiliate in 1933 had already fallen by the wayside and only ten of them were left by 1939, although many new ones took their places. New groups were forming in many parts of the country, although not all became affiliated clubs. They were each assigned numbers upon being recognized as potential clubs, a process that continues through the present.

In 1939, a fire on the grounds of the club where the ASA had its office (Sunshine Park in Mays Landing, N.J.) destroyed almost all association records that had accumulated up to that point. Much of the first eight years of the association’s existence is only recorded in other published works.

The first official ASA west coast convention was held in 1939 at The Suntanners in Soquel, California. Following 1940, conventions were supposed to be rotated - east, central and west, every three years. The Second World War put that plan on hold. The ASA board was increased in size from three to nine trustees at the 1939 meeting, an action that was to have unexpected consequences some years later.

There continued to be court fights over the legality of communal nudism and a number of states passed laws against mixed-sex nudity. Most now have been repealed or amended. Arkansas remains, to this date, as the only state with a complete ban on communal nudism. *The Nudist* began to get banned from various newsstands and the ASA started to offer mail subscriptions. In late 1939, the ASA changed the magazine's name to *Sunshine & Health*, a less controversial name. In 1941, the post office department made use of a 1873 law called the Comstock law, named after mining magnate Andrew Comstock, a 19th century vice crusader, to prevent mailings of the magazine, and the ASA went to court against the department. The magazine continued to be published, with recurring requirements for airbrushing of private parts for many years. At some point, the Sunshine Publishing Company was established by Boone.

Before the first ten years of nudism in America saw nudists in all 48 states, Alaska, Hawaii and the Phillipines. Landed clubs in the U.S. were busy building grass and sand volleyball courts and damming up streams to build swimming areas. Many were adding temporary and permanent buildings, such as cabins and gathering rooms. Rural electrification during the depression actually gave some clubs the ability to hold evening activities inside buildings without the use of oil lamps and camp fires.

The war caused many younger male nudists to end up in the military - some who volunteered, some from conscription. The lack of so many able bodied men, coupled with the rationing of gasoline, caused many clubs to close, some forever. At least one offered itself as a rest and recreation camp for those in the military, after rationing put it into a hiatus, but the offer was rejected by the Department of War. The 1942 ASA convention, held at Zoro club in northern Indiana (owned by Alois Knapp), had the delegates that could make it to the convention all arrive by train. Knapp was elected president and remained so until the next in-person convention in 1946. The next few conventions (1943-1945) couldn't be physically held at all and were "by mail" and were considered "correspondence conventions."

Through the war, Ilesley Boone held tight control over the organization. Whether by correspondence or at in-person conventions, delegates carried proxies - not for clubs, but for individual members. Boone and those allied with him always showed up with hundreds of signed proxies to mostly control voting. Trustees of the association continued to be elected at convention and they were usually hand-picked by Boone. Besides that, the then-current bylaws allowed any decision made by convention delegates to be overturned or amended by a vote of the board, which rarely met.

Leaders of nudist clubs around the association began private meetings and correspondence on how to prevent perceived one-person control of the association from continuing indefinitely. Their decision was to establish separate quasi-legal entities in geographical areas with their own officers, dues, conventions and publications. These were to be called Aregions.

Following the Second World War, some older clubs reopened and some newer clubs came into existence. Most were still very rustic, with cabins and lodges being the norm for those with buildings. Many returning veterans had been exposed to some overseas populations with a less puritanical view of the human body. They visited the clubs and many who were newly married brought their wives.

The first large sub-group of the ASA was the already established Eastern Sunbathing Conference, which later became the Eastern Sunbathing Association (ESA). An unofficial Western Sunbathing Conference, established in 1937, had claimed to represent virtually all nudists west of the Mississippi river, but was merely a loose affiliation of clubs. In 1946, a second region (and the first to request and be granted official affiliation with the ASA) was formed following a first Aregional conference (or

convention) at Cobblestone Lodge in Washington State. The Northwest Sunbathing Conference, which became the Northwest Sunbathing Association (NSA), was chartered soon after. Following soon were the Southwest Sunbathing Conference which later became the Western Sunbathing Association (WSA), and the Central Sunbathing Association which faded away.

In 1946, the first post-war in-person convention was held again at Zoro. Ilsley Boone had handpicked a nominee for ASA president (an individual purportedly residing in Australia) and owner of multiple clubs J. Reed Suplee, who was helping at his new club in Homestead, Florida, was nominated from the floor. Contacted after being nominated, Suplee hitchhiked for several days and literally entered the convention assembly, to great applause, at the appointed election hour on the final day and was elected President. Having been elected, he was repeatedly denied access to the association's records and resigned some months later in protest. He was one of the prime leaders in formulating a historic change that was to occur six years later.

Nudist clubs were no longer mainly vegetarian, non-smoking, non-drinking establishments, which was the older Germanic ideal, although there were still some that were adhering to various of these tenets. Many newer clubs built swimming pools to replace older dammed swimming areas. The introduction of more modern travel trailers also changed the roughing-it atmosphere of many clubs. More camping sites were added at landed clubs, but most were still primarily very rustic.

In 1951, major bylaw changes were passed at the ASA Convention held at PennSylvan that would change the association forever. These changes included: creating a representative board of three trustees per region who were to be elected by each region instead of at the ASA convention; a requirement for regular ASA board meetings; and the elimination of the ability of the board to amend or veto legislation passed by the general assembly at the convention. Boone immediately held a second "convention" and declared the prior one invalid. In the weeks following the convention, a court suit was filed by Ilsley Boone and his supporters to invalidate the results of the bylaws voting. Part of the argument revolved around the previous expansion of the board from three to nine trustees in 1939, and whether that action itself was legal. Vincent Hanamann, the judge in the case, ruled that the bylaw changes would be set aside until the 1952 ASA Convention, where they could be re-ratified or disapproved by the general assembly. The judge also appointed NSA trustee Jim Sutherlin Jr. To administer the association funds for the following year.

A number of non-Boone published publications had emerged, among them the *American Nudist Leader* which was a replacement publication for the *Northwest Nudist News*, published by the northwest region. Information not under the scrutiny of Boone was published in this and other regional journals.

At the 1952 ASA Convention held at Sunshine Park, the bylaw changes were once again approved by the delegates. The regions, expecting the changes to pass, had already elected their three trustees each at their own conventions that year. The terms continued to be staggered, one elected every three years. Ilsley Boone left the ASA and founded the National Nudist Council (NNC), which still existed until recently. He took the publishing company with him, including *Sunshine & Health*. The ASA made the *American Nudist Leader*, published by Mervin Mounce its official publication. It was later renamed to *American Sunbather*. Jim Sutherlin was allowed to relinquish executive control of the organization. The ASA Bulletin page was a section of *Sunshine and Health* for many years. With the loss of S&H to the AHA, a Bulletin Page was established in the *American Nudist Leader* and a mimeographed newsletter entitled *The Bulletin* also began to be published.

The following year, the international nudist organization now known as the International Nudist Federation (INF) was formed and the ASA quickly became the American affiliate.

The motion picture “Garden of Eden”, which was made partially at Lake Como, had the ASA seal of approval and was released in 1954. It too became ensnared in the continuing fight over censorship of simple nudity, even though there was no full frontal nudity shown. Many communities banned the movie from being shown and one court case supported by the ASA went on to be hailed as the landmark that opened the silver screen in America to less censorship by government.

The Midwest Sunbathing Association (MSA), which covered the same territory as the Central Sunbathing Association came into existence following a meeting at Forty Acre Club in 1954. It was followed that same year by the Canadian Sunbathing Association (CSA) There were now five regional organizations (with two more to come in later years), with their own separate dues, rules of governance, boards and officers. The regions, which eventually became their own registered corporate entities, were never under the direct control of the ASA, although all chose to be governed by ASA bylaws and policies. J. Reed Suplee was once again elected president of the ASA in 1954 and retained the position until 1956, the 25th anniversary of the association.

A fairly newer phenomenon, the travel club, began to really take off. With no grounds of their own, travel club members visited whichever landed clubs that they were welcomed to and held their own activities in members’ homes and sometimes rented facilities and property.

In 1956, the ASA held its Silver Jubilee at Sunny Rest Lodge in Pennsylvania, and American nudist mentor Kurt Barthel wrote an article for the convention program about the history and changes in the organization. Clubs by then carried the votes, rather than individuals, and proxies were limited at conventions. A “Policies and Objectives Committee” report from that convention reported the top four problems of the association were: 1) Loss of members; 2) Education of Members; 3) Increase membership by selling ASA; and 4) Building affiliated clubs into member clubs.

On another note, in that same year, the last recorded police raid of nudists getting together in private was carried out at Sunshine Gardens in Battle Creek Michigan. A state Supreme Court ruling prevented any further raids on nudists in private locations. State Supreme Court Justice Robert Traver (who also wrote the book “Anatomy of a Murder”) delivered the prevailing ruling opinion. Nudist clubs continued to rent gymnasiums, pools and even bowling alleys for activities, when the owners allowed them to do so.

In August of 1957, the ASA had 86 clubs (including four regional associate clubs, which were only open to people who had lost their clubs due to disbanding or closing or who dropped out of a club). There were a total of 7,116 members. The largest club was Lake Como with 686 members.

On January 13, 1958, the ASA finally won its case with the post office in a U.S. Supreme Court decision ruling nudist photographs not to be obscene and, therefore, able to be transported through the US mail. Airbrushing ceased to be used in ASA photos in publications. The case was Summerfield vs ASA. Summerfield was the name of the Postmaster General. Many phony nudist publications were started to try to cash in on the end of the restrictions. The winning of this case secured, at least in nudist publications, the third demand of “The Magna Carta of Nudism” first espoused in 1933.

In 1960, the Canadian Sunbathing Association split in two, with the eastern half becoming the

Eastern Canadian Sunbathing Association (ECSA), which ceased to exist in 1978. The western half became the Western Canadian Sunbathing Association (WCSA) and represented all of the western provinces of Canada. It remained as a region of the ASA.

In 1964, the first members of the ASA Hall of Fame were inducted. They were Kurt Barthel, Ilsley Boone and Alois Knapp. Various other awards were created over the years honoring individuals and families, club publications, and the friendliest clubs. They also recognized various achievements in public relations, including events, non-nudist publications and broadcasts. Youth awards were also established.

The ASA board met three times a year - twice at convention time (one outgoing board, a second incoming one) and again in the winter. The board could make policy and amend the procedure manual. Bylaw changes were still reserved for voting by delegates to the annual convention, and could only be passed by a two-thirds vote.

In 1966, the first edition of the ASA Nudist Park Guide was published and distributed. It continues to be revised and released every year or two into the 2000's. A promotional short movie, *A The Take-Off* was also made by the ASA.

The ASA made a major geographical move, from its old headquarters in Mays Landing, New Jersey to the Orlando, Florida area under the direction of ASA Administrative Assistant Roland Senecal, who was later made the first Executive Director of the association.

On Thanksgiving Day, Nov 26, 1968, Ilsley Boone died in Ohio.

The mid- to late-1960's saw many non-nudist movies and publications that made organized nudism seem extremely homespun, by comparison. By the 1970's, publications such as *Playboy* and *Penthouse* had moved to full frontal nudity and beyond. Pornography was ruled legal to exhibit in theaters. Burlesque had given way to topless go-go dancers and, in some cases, to live sex shows. The ASA began to seem old school to some people. The free beach movement was born and an internal battle raged over whether to protect and encompass those who wished to use public lands unclothed. Lee Baxendall, a nudist and ASA member, stepped in and founded the Naturist Society as a private corporation with paid memberships but without a membership structure or voting rights. The main benefit of membership was a quarterly magazine publication, which he published, initially entitled *Clothed with the Sun* and renamed *AN* magazine within a few years. He also published a *World Guide to Nude Beaches and Recreation*, which was occasionally updated in the pages of the magazine.

An award, the Schofield Trophy, named for the Canadian couple that funded it, was (and continues to be) given yearly to the travel club with the most mileage on visits to landed clubs and landed clubs' off-club grounds functions.

Clubs began to install newer amenities, such as saunas and hot tubs, although not without some internal dissension, in some cases. Full service RV sites also began to appear, with electric and water hookups, and sometimes even so-called black water waste facilities. Truck campers became popular as well as longer travel trailers. A company in the mid-west named Winnebago heralded the advent of the modern motor coach. The issues of non-private alcohol usage and nude versus clothed dancing were debated in many clubs. Some clubs were ejected from ASA membership over various issues such as racial discrimination, financial irregularities, swinging and other adult-only activities.

In the late 1970's, a continuing ASA debate over whether clubs must be only full membership or not was decided by the board at the 1978 convention at Empire Haven on a one vote margin. The decision was not to eject a growing club with an upscale membership that had challenged the existing system. The club was Cypress Cove. The owner was Jim Hadley.

In 1977, the Federation Quebecoise de Naturisme (FCN) was formed in Quebec. It is a French speaking nudist association not affiliated with the ASA.

In 1979, a separate non-profit organization, the American Nudist Research Library (ANRL) was established for preserving nudist history. It was, and still is, housed on the grounds of Cypress Cove. The ASA transferred much older memorabilia and publications to it over time.

In 1981, the ASA celebrated its Golden Jubilee with a convention at Lake Associates in Washington State. Jim Hadley was reelected as the ASA president. There were 23,000 members at the time.

The ASA made another physical move, from Orlando to its present location at Kissimmee, Florida. Instead of leasing the building, members' promissory notes helped pay the down payment, the notes were paid off in full, and continuing monthly payments were made to purchase it.

In the mid-eighties, a push was made to increase associate membership, a membership category then only available to people who had lost their clubs or who dropped out of a club. A new category of member, called a direct member was created. A differential was added to associate and direct members' dues that priced ASA membership obtained through the ASA office at a higher rate so as not to compete with clubs. The associate member category began to grow.

In 1986, another Canadian nudist association, the Federation of Canadian Naturists (FCN) was formed. The FCN and the FQN have a cooperative agreement and share INF jurisdiction in Canada. Neither was or is an ASA affiliate organization.

The ASA established matching college scholarship funds to be given in conjunction with those programs that had already been established in the regions.

The Southwest Sunbathing Association was created (as a friendly split in the MSA) followed by the Florida Association for Nude Recreation, the seventh and final region. The number of trustees was changed from three per region to two per region and trustee terms were changed from two three-year terms to three two-year ones. Fifteen trustees had been serving on the board. That changed to the current number of fourteen trustees representing seven regions.

Long range and strategic planning work was beginning to be done. Some of the early attempts were less successful, but with perseverance, progress was made. The ASA Principles were abbreviated and slightly revised.

Travel clubs became known as non-landed clubs, simply a change in name, without any change in their makeup.

The non-profit Nudist Action Committee was established by the Nudist Society, with an emphasis on protecting rights to be nude on public lands.

A fund was started by the ASA to make no-interest loans to landed clubs for improvements. It was named the AGlen Miller Fund≅ in honor of the individual (whose name was Glenn, but preferred the spelling of Glen) who died in April, 1988 and left the seed money (\$65,000) to the organization. When the fund exceeded a certain amount of principle, one loan of up to \$5,000 was authorized to be given out each year, with interest-free payments of \$1,000 each year for the next five years. As the fund grew from donations and interest on the principle, additional loans were authorized.

An emphasis was made on upgrading facilities, and better visual presentation to the public who visited landed clubs.

The ASA made a new promotional film, its first video, entitled ALet Yourself Be Free≅ to replace AThe Take-Off≅. A shorter version entitled AWelcome to our World≅ was also released.

A new ASA board meeting was established, soon named the fall board meeting. Budgeting for the next year was to be done at this meeting. One special board meeting was done via conference call. Disagreements over the legality and use of executive sessions caused new language to be inserted in the ruling documents, spelling out their uses and procedures.

A new display booth was purchased for use by the ASA, regions and clubs at fairs, trade shows and government group meetings around the country. Public speaking training was done around the association for assistance to regions and clubs in dealing with the media and the public.

Associate memberships grew faster than chartered clubs to the point that the ASA board began discussion of whether they were properly represented at conventions. The first club to reach 5,000 ASA members was Paradise Lakes. Cypress Cove had member figures in the mid-3000's. The ASA made a donation, which was accepted, to help put in a running track at the White House.

A major change came in 1994 when the ASA officially became the American Association for Nude Recreation (AANR). Membership by that time had doubled the 1981 figure, reached only 13 years earlier.

Regional names were again changed. The Canadian region became the Western Canadian Association for Nude Recreation (WCANR) and the northwest region became the Northwest Nudist Association (NWNNA).

A planned giving fund was started to bring in reserve funds for the organization with the intention that expenditures could not be made until the funds reached a particular goal. The fund was named the ARay and Mildred Connett Memorial Fund.”

By bylaw change, the president of AANR was allowed to serve up to three consecutive years. Another later bylaw change allowed AANR officer positions to be filled for two year terms, with a four year limitation. That term limitation is still in place.

AANR developed a mission statement Ato promote, enhance and protect, in appropriate settings, nude recreation and nude living in the Americas.≅ A Women=s Outreach program was started that evolved into the AWomen in Nude Recreation (WINR)≅ as it is known today. The AANR Government Affairs program regularly held fund raisers to fight restrictive legislation and in certain individual and property cases. Government Affairs Team GAT) training was given to regional volunteers and a contact

network was set up.

After a false start and some skepticism, approval was given for the organization to get a “web site” in the early-1990's, beginning the fairly rapid change to more AANR electronic communications.

Full service facilities at some clubs now included hotel rooms, bed & breakfasts, RV hook-ups including cable and satellite feeds, and 30 and 50 amp power hook-ups. With some motor homes approaching 40 feet in length, clubs had to upgrade and widen their access roads and make larger RV sites.

Editing of *The Bulletin* was taken in-house with a major leap on the board's part to take out a large loan to purchase expensive computer equipment and software. Color began to be used more extensively in *Bulletin* photographs and advertising.

Despite some dissension, a decision was made to pay off the mortgage bank loan and the computer loans from the Connett fund and pay the equivalent payments, including interest, back to that fund. The computer loan was repaid, on-time, to the Connett fund in full and a new loan was made for more modern computers, to be paid for in a fraction of the time of the earlier upgrade loans.

Nude cruises aboard luxury liners were planned by a travel company and became very popular, with AANR promoting itself on each one, using volunteers.

Membership reached over 50,000 in 1997 with well over 200 affiliated clubs. Membership went down and back up for a few years, partly due to a dues increase.

Associate members gained the right to elect their own delegates who could carry all the votes or split them with other associates from the same region. Representation for all delegates at convention was changed from one vote per 25 members to one vote per 100 members.

A number of new membership categories were introduced following the 2000 AANR convention. They included Elite Life, Premier, Student, National, Internet and Friends of AANR. *The Bulletin* began to print occasional magazine issues. Unfortunately, higher costs of printing a magazine and budget constraints have stopped the practice, except for very special issues.

Youth camps started by the FANR region were held for children of various ages, with a Nude U. for older youth. The camps spread to three regions with success, but not without some controversy.

Ownership of the Naturist Society changed hands when Lee Baxendall, in failing health, agreed to sell it to three of the company's female staffers.

Several large clubs changed from full to affiliate status and total AANR membership in 2001 declined by over 2,000 due to that one change of status. With the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001 coupled with the economic downturn that had started, membership in 2002 and 2003 was again flat with a slight drop, despite aggressive selling of memberships from the AANR office.

Two more regions renamed themselves - the western region became the American Association for Nude Recreation - Western Region (AANR West) and the eastern region became the American Association for Nude Recreation - Eastern Region (AANR East).

A landmark \$5,000 grant was made from the Glen Miller Fund to assist a club ravaged by wildfire.

The edition of the AANR Park Guide, entitled the ANorth American Guide to Nude Recreation, 21st Edition≅ released in 2003 as was the first CD-ROM version. The AANR website got a ACyberBulletin≅ open to all, and has a members-only section with AANR ruling documents, and more. AANR now also has a category of awards honoring club and individual websites. There are now two AANR Display booths, which were redone, thanks to a donation.

A number of high class resort clubs were opened and more clubs are upgrading for massive RV's of 40 feet and more, sometimes with tow vehicles and sometimes requiring 50 amp. power connections. Cable and satellite tv connections have been added and "wi-fi" computer connectivity is available at both large resorts as well as smaller clubs. Non-landed clubs have rented houseboats for their members to cruise lakes and rivers.

An AANR Educational Foundation was established, separate from AANR, with its own board of directors. It takes in tax-deductible contributions, make grants and fund various educational projects, including scholarships, which once were funded by AANR.

A number of major proposals were presented at the 2004 convention that meant momentous changes to AANR equivalent to, and perhaps surpassing, those proposed and accepted in 1951 and 1952. Beginning in 2006, the election of trustees and officers is now done by members, as are all changes to the by-laws. All officers and trustees serve two-year terms. Seven trustees are elected from the regions, one per region, and only by votes of members of that region. Seven are elected by all members from various sized levels of clubs. Voting may be done via postal mail or electronically.

By December, 2007, the remaining balance due on the AANR building loan was paid off and AANR now owns the building, free and clear.

The 23rd Edition of the "North American Guide to Nude Recreation" was the last one to be printed.

2012 saw the fourth member balloting for officers, trustees and for by-law changes.

Since its founding in 1931, the organization now known as AANR has faced numerous adversities and has seen many setbacks, but is still committed to be the foremost membership nudist organization. With histories such as this, it can look back objectively to the past. Few of the clubs that affiliated in 1933 are still active clubs. Most are long gone. The organization now has well over 150 active clubs of various sizes and types. Over a third of the memberships are now held by associate members. Trying to make nudism and nude recreation into mainstream activities has been a challenge, to say the least. Over the years, our leaders have tried new strategies, as well as utilizing tried and true methods of reaching and bringing in nudist singles, couples and families. AANR members have known change in the past, and certainly can expect it in the future. The key will be to work together as an organization representing nudists in the Americas no matter what the future brings.