

AANR-SW PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE FOR APRIL 2023

PURPOSE AND MISSION OF AANR-SOUTHWEST

Section I – Purpose

The Purpose of AANR-SW is to protect, publicize, and promote the practice of social nudism in a wholesome, family environment at nudist resorts and clubs chartered by AANR, and at such other places where social nudism is legal under all city, state, and federal laws.

Section II – Mission

The Mission of AANR-SW is the awareness and acceptance of social nudism and nude recreation in this region.

Greetings!

April has come in with a blast of rough weather for many of our Members in the four-state area of our Region. Our thoughts and best wishes go out to all who have been adversely affected. My husband and I even had a wee bit of damage on our farm, but nothing compared to some who have lost everything.

April also brings out the warm-weather lovers and many fun events are taking place throughout the Region. I have a couple of reports to share with you:

First, from AANR President Mitch London, concerning the recently held Hill Country Nudists' Bowling Party:

"Nude Bowling is not just something you see in the other regions in the Bulletin. It also happens in the Southwest Region. Usually in springtime, the Hill Country Nudists in Austin gather folks from all over and offer them a chance to bowl in the nude in a 6-lane bowling alley. One special treat is the bowling alley lanes are vintage 1960's and 70's. Complete with manual scoring on overhead projectors. There was an almost maxed out crowd of 50 people or so at the event that brought people in from Houston, Abilene and points elsewhere.

There were a couple special games that evening. One called Strikeout! In which anyone could participate, but in order to make it to the next round, they had to either strike or spare their frame. It went three rounds before a winner was found. There was also poker bowling which pitted teams against each other to get strikes or spares to win playing cards and after 7 cards they had to make the best 5 card poker hand they could. Winners went home with trophies and towels for prizes.

There was plenty of food, music and fun this year and folks are already planning for next year's event."

The second event I want you to know about is the kickoff of the AANR-SW 2023 5K Nude Racing Series. The following report comes from our AANR-SW 5K NRS Coordinator, Rick Wall:

"Hi Lucy,

Just wanted to let you know that the 5K run at Star Ranch last weekend was a huge success and a lot of fun! 199 folks registered for the run this year versus 169 registrations for last year's run, which at the time was an all-time record for that particular run. That's an 18% increase in registrations... What a way to start the 2023 Nude Racing Series!!!

Star Ranch did a fabulous job...The 5K came off without any problems and the pre and after activities were flawless also...for me the best part was the diversity of faces (familiar, new, young, old, different ethnicities and orientations) and the camaraderie that was flowing all around. Heck, even the live band got into the spirit and stripped down to play nude. That was So much fun and it made me "proud" to be a nudist!!!! Of course, Minnie and Ted were there trying to get people to join AANR (*and*) they "beat the AANR drum" loudly."

The next AANR-SW NRS 5K is scheduled for **April 29, 2023, at Wildwood Naturist Resort.**

In March, the President's 2023 Club Visit Tour began, and I believe we can declare the trip a success! Four of us (me, my husband, and our two nudist neighbors) started off at **Star Ranch** where I attended a Board of Directors' meeting and also worked with Star Ranch representatives on Convention Plans. I also participated in an interview for StarCast, the Podcast produced by Star Ranch. Check it out – I talked this time about the upcoming Convention and all the fun stuff we have planned for everyone. Goody bags, a Water Slide, Games with cash (equivalent) prizes, music, good food, indoor and outdoor events and entertainment and lots more. Star Ranch is updating more of their cabins and RV sites as well as working on hiring summer office help.

While at Star Ranch, we helped facilitate a new AANR membership and presented that new member with our own (just out!) AANR-SW Koozie in appreciation of her joining AANR.

The next Club we visited is a new AANR-affiliated landed Club known as **Freedom RV Resort**, located just south of San Antonio in Pleasanton. It is close to Hwy. 181, easy to get to and has RV hook-ups, two furnished rental trailers and a lovely pool. (There are two hot tubs!) In summer, a food truck has food and drinks available for sale. There is a clubhouse for dinners and dances and the owner, Dee Williams, gave us a warm welcome and a nice tour of her property. It is a family-friendly resort, and no memberships are required to visit. Dee wants to increase the number of AANR members at her Club because she firmly believes that more AANR members will mean a stronger and more successful club. Dee signed on as Club Delegate to be included *ex officio* on our Board and be included in Board communications. I arranged for her to receive AANR support publications and training on the new Membership software program. I also offered support in updating the club website. I talked to all the Clubs about co-op advertising reimbursement and handed out cards advertising our AANR-SW 5k Nude Races.

We continued our trip South, stopping for a night to visit some dear nudist friends in George West, just across Interstate 37 from Beeville. (It is always so nice to visit our nudist friends – some of the very best kind of friends one can have!!) The four of us were treated to great BBQ and a taste of South Texas country (nudist) living. Our host was once a Director on the AANR-SW Board of Directors, so, of course, we discussed the latest AANR news.

The next morning, we headed further South, making it all the way to the Rio Grande Valley and the town of Ed Couch, home of **Nature's Resort Nudist Park**. This beautiful club has new ownership (Bruce and his wife, Cindy Fullerton) and many improvements have been made, but it is hard to see where any improvements were needed to begin with!

Nevertheless, the pools have been re-surfaced and shaded areas around the pools have been added. The grounds are beautiful, with paved streets, well-kept lots, very nice outdoor game facilities, sparkling clean facilities and very active members. (A Club Fun Committee keeps everyone on the go with indoor/outdoor games, trips to local attractions such as a day cruise just off the Gulf of Mexico coast - South Padre Island is very close – birding trips, bowling, etc.) There is a well-stocked game room, library, laundry, two pools, hot tub, large clubhouse, yoga, dance lessons, etc. There are four sleeping rooms and ten pull-thru sites as well as a few full-time lots available. Bruce and Cindy would love to have more visitors in summertime, so please consider a visit. The club is on a main highway, easy to find and close to stores, restaurants, etc.

We were all invited to a big Pizza Party on Wednesday night, where we two ladies were presented with sweet hand-made sachets by a very nice French-Canadian lady. Nature's Resort is home to many "Winter Texans" as

well as full-time residents. In fact, we ran into a couple that we knew years ago at our home club southwest of Houston - that was a fun reunion!

I spent time with the new owner, going over AANR and AANR-SW documents and working on membership training. The fine folks in the AANR office were extremely helpful in offering support with brochures, AANR posters, etc. I believe that four membership transfers were made to our Region during that time. I even met a lady who is the neighbor of our Vice-President, Minnie Carr, back at Oaklake Trails! Yes, it is a small (nudist) world!

The next morning, the four of us packed a picnic lunch and headed over to **Sandpipers Resort**, just across Hwy. 281 in Edinburg, Texas. Sandpipers Resort was the first club we visited when we moved back to Texas in 1988/89. We were greeted by my friend, Karen Willis, the owner of Sandpipers Resort. Although Karen lost her dear husband two years ago, she has continued to work on realizing their dream of having the very best nudist resort in Texas and our Region. Karen gave us all a tour of her amazing property. Karen told me later that she may attend our Convention in June. I would love to introduce all of you to this nice lady at our Meet & Greet at 5 p.m. beside the pool at on Friday, June 9, at Star Ranch.

Wow! We remember the large swimming pool (9 ft. deep at the deep end!), but now there is an additional pool for volleyball, a large hot tub, huge clubhouse with a large stage for live music – and church services on Sundays! There is a restaurant, craft room, laundry, gym with equipment, a circle with hammocks, lots of outdoor game courts, an outdoor (shaded) area for music with bar-height tables, paved streets with manicured lawns. Think: palm trees and tropical breezes. There are four full-size, fully furnished apartments for rent and residential lots as they come available.

Although Karen graciously offered us some lunch, we had made previous plans to have our picnic lunch on the deck of some friends who live full-time at Sandpipers Resort. During COVID, we had met via ZOOM with mutual friends in Houston for a regular “happy hour” get together, so it was so nice to see John and Mary in person and hear what life is like in tropical South Texas.

The next day, we headed home. While traveling, I was pleased to get to speak with the President of **Bexar Recreation Society** – a non-landed club in San Antonio. Nancy informed me that her club leadership may be changing due to some new folks who have stepped up to help re-vitalize the club and find ways to help the club become more active. A gathering of existing club members and those interested in being a part of the club will take place on April 8th, so stand by for the latest news for **nudists in San Antonio**! Nancy told me that she has been recommending that folks visit Freedom RV Resort in Pleasanton – I love that she does that!

You can find more information about all five of these clubs on our website at www.aanr-sw.org

Now, I have some news that is not so good - the club known as Emerald Lake Resort, north of Houston, has been “de-listed” by AANR and no longer appears on any of our websites. The AANR Board of Trustees will take final action on the status of this club at the AANR Convention in August. It is unfortunate to lose a club, but there are consequences when AANR standards are not followed.

I have made arrangements with the AANR office to begin working on the process of sending out your personal invitation letters with proxy forms for the Convention voting in June. These letters will be distributed in early May, via email and regular mail to all AANR-SW members who have valid addresses on file with AANR and who have not designated themselves to be on the “DO NOT MAIL” list. Please be looking for this important Meeting Notice and respond as soon as possible. You will only need to send ONE proxy form to the address

shown in the letter. No need to send one by mail and one by email. We just want to make sure that everyone has been contacted and has a chance to exercise their right to vote.

I hope you got to read my article in the April edition of *The Bulletin*. I wanted to inform our members of the importance of Midwinter Board Meetings and the opportunities to meet and get to know your leadership teams. I also wanted to share photos of some of the fun things we do at MWBM, along with the necessary administrative work.

I would very much like to hear from you. One member told me that he likes the idea of the "Nudist Trail" of Clubs. Another AANR member and his wife were traveling to several clubs in Texas from out of state and I helped them with information about each club. Now they say they are thinking about heading to one of the Rio Grande Valley clubs next winter. I know they will receive a very warm and friendly welcome if they do!

Till next time,

Lucy Heide, President

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NEXT MONTH! "NON-LANDED CLUBS"



**American Association For
Nude Recreation -
Southwestern Region**

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