

AANR-SW takes your privacy seriously! AANR-SW does not divulge or sell your membership email or any of your personal information.



Happy October fellow AANR-Southwest members!

2024 is flying by. On the fifth of October Star Ranch will be holding the last 5K in the 2024 racing series, the Chilly Cheeks 5K, so get your registrations in at <http://starranch.net/star-ranch-5k-races>.

Just perusing the websites of some of our affiliated clubs, I see that Wildwood and Oaklake Trails are holding Oktoberfest events also on October 5th. If you're not a runner, you might want to check those out. And it looks like most clubs are holding Halloween dance parties the last weekend of the month.

We are making a big push for AANR membership, both at the clubs and toward individuals. I've heard the question asked, what benefits do members get for joining AANR? The first things that usually come up are discounts on day fees at affiliated clubs and a subscription to the digital edition of *The Bulletin*, and while those are

immediate benefits, they should be considered secondary to supporting the work that AANR does for naturism.

State governments like to copy each other. Thirty or so years ago, state after state passed mandatory seat belt laws for automobile drivers and passengers. Fifteen to twenty years ago, many states passed laws mandating that drivers move over a lane (or slow to 20 mph below the posted speed limit) when passing emergency vehicles stopped on the shoulder. Legislators latch on to ideas from other states, especially if they think it will gain them votes. Recently, a few lawmakers in Wisconsin thought it would be a good idea to prohibit children from being any place where there might be nude adults. They were acting, they said, to “protect children.” Child safety is, of course, one of those things that politicians can run on. Of course, such a law would have been disastrous for family-friendly naturism. And if it had passed in Wisconsin, history tells us that other states would have quickly taken up similar bills.

Thankfully, the Government Affairs Team of AANR sprang into action. Our Southwest region even devoted resources to the battle in Wisconsin (better to fight it there at the beginning than fight it here in our own region after it has the momentum of earlier passage). The bills died before making it to a floor vote. But the threat of similar bills being filed in future legislative sessions remains. AANR exists to fight for and protect our access to nude recreation. That access is under constant threat.

The National Rifle Association remains busy in combating legislation it views as detrimental to the Second Amendment right to keep and bear arms. Regardless of what you think about the NRA, we need to think of AANR’s mission toward nude recreation as similar to the NRA’s toward gun ownership. The main difference is that gun owners can point to a Constitutional Amendment prohibiting the government from abridging the right to keep and bear arms. We nudists, unfortunately, have no such provision in the Constitution (I wish we did). AANR is much smaller and has far fewer resources than the NRA has. Every person with an interest in nude recreation should become a dues-paying member of AANR.

We are fighting a battle on fifty different fronts just at the state level and many more than that when you include county and city governments and court cases. Letting just one of these anti-nudity bills get past a state legislature makes it just that much more difficult in the other forty-nine states. We need as many resources as we can get to monitor and act on proposed legislation. So, renew your AANR membership and encourage your non-AANR nudist friends to join.

We are stronger in numbers. And even though it’s cliché to say, it’s cliché because it’s true: **we are all in this together.**

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American Association For
Nude Recreation -
Southwestern Region

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