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DOHENY UPDATE for MARCH 2011

SOUTH SWELL IS COMING: The twice-yearly South Swell Newsletter created by the rangers and park staff at Doheny State Beach will be tucking itself into your e-mailbox soon. In this edition are articles on shark finning, the return of the Whale Walk and a “Where’s Jimbo” search for special places in the park.



<= SURF’N AT DOHENY: “Down at Doheny where the surfers all go...” Doheny in the early 1960’s. Photo from Facebook, “Sons and Daughters of Capistrano Valley.”

FESTIVAL OF WHALES: March is the Festival of Whales in Dana Point and Doheny State Beach Interpretive Association is right in the middle of the second weekend, March 12th and 13th. See the events calendar below.

WHO LOVES THOSE TIDE POOLS? A major gaggle of gulls, egrets, herons and other shore birds love the negative low tides we’ve had the past 5 months. As the planet changes its attitude towards, and orbital distance from the sun and we head into spring and summer, negative tides will start occurring in the dark early AMs. {Does one have anything to do with the other? Don’t know, just my guess}



EEEEWWW, WHAT’S THAT SMELL: Visitors to the San Juan Creek outfall just passed the lifeguard headquarters may be bowled over by the smell of sulfur, especially on sunny days. Ranger Serpa reports the following. “(The water company doing drilling / testing of underground conditions for a potential desalination plant) tell us it’s safe. We have looked into it. It is caused by the oxidation of iron and manganese that is in the water they are pulling out of the pump in front of Station 30 (life guard headquarters). They do nothing to (the water) beside releasing it back into the ocean, but with the way that area changes, it has ... gotten stagnated and, along with exposure to sunlight, the oxidation releases some sulfur smell.” The park and the company are working on solutions.



I LOVE SHARKS: The upcoming edition of the Doheny State Beach South Swell Newsletter has an informative article on sharks, the practice of shark finning, and how you can join the students at Eastshore Elementary School in Irvine working to protect sharks around the world.

One way is to purchase an “I Heart Sharks” tee shirt (\$10) at the Doheny State Beach gift shop located in the lifeguard headquarters building by San Juan Creek. The proceeds benefit Iemanya Oceanica <http://www.adoptashark.com>. Visit the students’ website at <https://www.ilovesharks.org>.

CRITTER OF THE MONTH: Chitons (ki/tons), sometimes called “sea cradles,” are mollusks with an 8 part calcareous shell embedded in a leathery skin known as the girdle. Using a large flat foot that acts as a large suction disc, they attach firmly to rocks. Their gills are set in a deep groove that lies on both sides of the foot and their anus is near the posterior end. A chiton’s head lacks eyes and tentacles, but does have a mouth equipped with rows of chitinous teeth on a long radula. The radula is used to rasp plant material from rocks and browse on bits of seaweed. Look for these critters on the rocks of the Doheny breakwater on the west end of the park. They’re usually small so look closely. <http://home.inreach.com/burghart/wcoast.html>



MICKEY MUNOZ MONGOOSE CUP: **Saturday, March 12. 2nd Annual Mongoose Stand Up Paddle** event will be held at Baby Beach in Dana Point Harbor. Join Mickey and friends for a day of paddling fun, a Waterman Expo, camaraderie and a delicious BBQ. The event kicks off the 2011 Stand-Up Paddleboard schedule and is designed for SUP enthusiasts to get ready for another exciting SUP season. Event **proceeds to benefit local organizations such as the Doheny State Beach Interpretive Association and Doheny Longboard Surfing Association.** For more information: <http://paddleathlete.com/2010/event-mickey-munoz-mongoose-cup-expo-2011/>

WHALE OF A BEACH CLEAN UP: **Saturday, March 12.** Let’s celebrate the return of the majestic migratory Gray whales by getting that debris off the beach before it washes out to sea to pose a threat to marine life. The cleanup is from 9:00 am-Noon. We meet at the Lifeguard Headquarters and don’t forget those gloves.

GRUNION RUN 10K, 5K RUN/WALK, KIDS’ 1K RUN AND PANCAKES!!! **Sunday, March 13:** 10K starts at 7 AM; 5K begins at 8:30 AM and Kids’ 1K at 9:15 AM. Awards scheduled for 9:45 AM. Pancake breakfast after the races. **Proceeds to benefit the Doheny State Beach Interpretive Association.** Pre-registration is available online at www.festivalofwhalesgrunionrun.com.

DOHENY TRAVELING MAMMAL MUSEUM: **Sunday, March 13.** Visit Doheny’s Whale Walk for an opportunity to see and feel authentic marine mammal artifacts (cool replicas, too!). Look for Naturalist Vicki along the Whale Walk (walkway along the beach from the snack stand to the west end of the park) from Noon – 3:00 pm.

FESTIVAL OF WHALES CONCERT AND BARBECUE: **Sunday, March 13:** Celebrate the end of the Festival of Whales at Baby Beach in the harbor with a rock’n concert and barbecue. DSBIA is sponsoring the beer garden with all profits going to the Association.

20TH ANNUAL GRUNION NIGHT: **Tuesday, April 5.** Join us as we greet the grunion back another year! This evening program includes a slide-show presentation that begins at 9:40 p.m. featuring grunion (and other marine life mysteries) and then wraps up with the actual grunion run at 10:40 p.m. Please bring along a chair, flashlight, and dress for weather. This program is for grunion viewing only as the grunion season is closed. Thank You! <http://arachnid.pepperdine.edu/grunion/default.htm>

SO. CAL. WOODIE CLUB CAR SHOW: **Saturday, April 16 (Dawn to mid-afternoon).** It’s classic surfdom transportation! Start your springtime Southern California style by visiting the annual Woodie Club and Car Show at Doheny State Beach! Woodies start lining up the south day-use area at dawn and begin departing in the mid-afternoon. Don’t miss out on this fun-filled day! <http://www.socalwoodies.com/doheny.htm>

EARTHDAY RESTORATION AND CLEAN UP PROJECTS: Saturday April 23, 9 AM to noon.

Earth Day Campground Native Tree Planting Project. Help us celebrate Earth Day Doheny-style by planting some indigenous trees and shrubs around the park! Please call for additional information. Thank you for bring along working gloves and your favorite shovel. Thank you to the California State Parks Foundation for sponsoring this crucial restoration project.

Earth Day Beach and San Juan Creek Cleanup. Let's clean San Juan Creek and the beach in honor of Mother Earth Day. This project meets at the new Lifeguard Headquarters (adjacent to the mouth of San Juan Creek) from 9:00 am – Noon. Please bring some working gloves and pack up for the whole day!

CALIFORNIA WINE FESTIVAL: Saturday, April 30th, 1-4 PM. Hit the grassy, palm-lined Doheny State Beach to experience the quintessential California wine tasting event at our Orange County California Wine Festival grand finale. Indulge in this heady, springtime 'right of pleasure' and join the afternoon-long celebration -- *Unlimited tasting* of fine wine & foods, plus sun, sea and music provided by popular Caribbean band "Upstream." Sip hundreds of vintage California wines, sample dozens of hot and cold gourmet appetizers, artisan breads and cheeses, fresh cut fruits, and for a change of taste, sample local and regional craft brews too. Ticket price includes an 18 oz keepsake wine glass.
<http://www.californiawinefestival.com/eventschedule.html#danatickets>

NOT A DSBIA MEMBER YET? Join us in supporting the mission of DSBIA to provide activities and materials to educate the public of the natural and cultural importance of Doheny State Beach. **Here's a printable membership form.**
http://www.dohenystatebeach.org/pdf/files/DSBIA_Membership_App_Rev-2010.pdf

MONTHLY BOARD MEETINGS: With the exception of December, DSBIA Board of Directors meetings are held on the third Thursday of the month, 7 PM at the main lifeguard headquarters tower (Station 30) in the park. Meetings are open to all DSBIA members.

VISIT OUR WEB SITE at <http://www.dohenystatebeach.org/index.html>

DOHENY SURF CAMERA: http://www.surflife.com/surf-report/doheny-southern-california_4848/

QUESTIONS? FEEDBACK? Please direct any questions, feedback or requests for removal from our mailing list to DPKayak@gmail.com .

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