SOUTH SWELL

THE DOHENY STATE BEACH INTERPRETIVE ASSOCIATION E-MAGAZINE

SUMMER 2012

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Doheny State Beach Summer Camp Fire Programs



Doheny State Beach 25300 Dana Point Harbor Drive Dana Point, CA 92629 Park Hours: 6 AM - 10 PM

Gift Store Hours: 10AM-4PM

Kiosk Phone #: (949) 496-6172

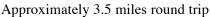
TAKE A HIKE!

Nearby hikes for those who like to stretch their legs on a scenic trail. PART 1 OF 3

Ed Neelv

A walk along the beach with the sound of the surf, the lapping of the waves on the shore and your toes in the sand is a great experience; and to be sure, Doheny State Beach provides a long length of beach on which to ramble. From the harbor jetty to passed south day-use area, a stroll in the Doho sand in the early morning calm; in the midday excitement of surfers, swimmers, volleyball players and sun worshipers; or to watch a fiery sunset and perhaps catch the green flash is a wonderful experience any time of year. But just outside our park, only a short car drive away, are other wonderful hikes to be had amongst the wonders of this coastal community. In this and the next two issues of **SOUTH SWELL**, we'll feature three great hikes. As with all hikes, appropriate preparations are important: good shoes suitable for the terrain (all three of these hikes are good with tennies), water, sunscreen and a hat. Optional items to carry along in a fanny or backpack are binoculars, camera, snacks and (depending on the weather) a sweatshirt or jacket.

THE DANA POINT TIDEPOOLS AND THE PIRATE'S CAVE



You may want to time your hike so you'll be at the tidepools in the two-hour window surrounding low tide. Check at the Visitor Center or with the Lifeguards. Those wishing to skip the walk along Dana Point Harbor Drive can motor or bike to and park at the Ocean Institute or in public parking nearby. This hike should be avoided during extreme high tides with large surf running. Dogs are not allowed on the beach or in the tidepools.

The Pirate's Cave / Franz Zhilmahn

This is a hike you can start in the State Park, no driving required. At the entrance to the State Park, walk west (left) along Dana Point Harbor Drive (DPHD) to the entrance of the Ocean Institute, about 1.2 miles. Along the way, you'll pass the harbor village, the bridge that crosses to the island, Baby Beach (favorite launch site for outrigger canoes, stand-up paddlers and kayakers), and the good ship "Pilgrim". DPHD ends at the entrance to the Ocean Institute's parking lot. Continue walking through the parking lot, on the hill side of the Ocean Institute and out to the breakwater jetty.

This is a great spot for a break and to take in the beauty that surrounds you. To the south is the outer channel leading to the entrance of Dana Point Harbor, and beyond that, the coastline down to San Mateo Point in San Clemente. On a clear day, you can see all the way to the La Jolla peninsula. In front of you (west) is a beautiful stretch of California shoreline; a sight Richard Henry Dana called the only romantic spot on the California coast. The three large rocks just beyond the breakwater are (Continued on page 6)

President's Message Bill Brooks, President, DSBIA

Both gift shop and fire wood sales have shown an increase in the past calendar year which has allowed us to continue to fund our **Visitor Center renovation**. Work in the Visitor Center continues to progress. Bob Scholfield and his maintenance staff have completed drywall and the installation of FRP (fiberglass-reinforced polyester) panels around the aquarium work area. These new panels won't react when exposed to salt water. Most of the light fixtures have been installed, and the LED spot lights

around the tide pool look especially sharp. Our association just purchased interior doors which are in the process of being installed by the maintenance crew. Most of the interior has been painted and many of the spaces only need floor covering to be completed.

Manwarren Corporation, the specialty construction company building our aquarium

grotto area and tide pool, is in the middle of their installation. They are waiting the delivery of plastic shims for our aquariums, and once those are delivered, the aquariums can be installed. The tide pool is due to be installed any day now.

If you've been in the park for the last month you've probably noticed a lot of construction taking place. Doheny has been selected as being an ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) park so a lot of work has been taking place on walkways, in bathrooms, and around fire rings so they are accessible to people with disabilities. The ADA construction will complete our **Visitor Center** entrance, front door, and gift shop counter space in the near future. I am hoping that soon I'll be able to report that our Visitor Center has opened to the public once again.

Recently, we purchased a set of **nine kayaks** which were requested by Head Lifeguard Todd Shanklin.

Shanklin and his lifeguard staff plan to do **interpretive paddles** in the water area of our park. Look for the opportunity to kayak around Doheny in the near future while learning about the marine, bird and mammal life found at Doheny. This is the first time that your interpretive association has supported interpretive activities for our lifeguard staff which your board was pleased to approve. If any of you are interested in helping in this new area of interpretation, please contact Head Lifeguard Shanklin at tshanklin@parks.ca.gov.

Your board just approved the association's annual plan, and there are two goals I'm especially excited



about. The first is that we are producing a **Junior Ranger's Coloring Book** for Interpreter Vicki Wiker to give away during her very popular **Junior Ranger program** this summer. Not only will this serve as an interpretive tool for our youngest visitors, but we are hoping to gain new members to our organization by

promoting membership on the back page. I just finished looking at the draft, and it looks great.

The most exciting news is the **Doheny Surf Festival**. We have joined forces with the San Onofre Foundation to host this event which will celebrate Southern California's rich surfing heritage. This two day event replaces Surf-A-Rama, and we are working on a new entertainment venue that will feature surf music. Surf artist Drew Brophy has been working on the art for this event, and I've just been privileged to see his drafts. I can tell you that the art work looks awesome. The other big addition to the Doheny Surf Festival will be a variety of water events. I cannot tell you the details yet as they haven't been finalized by the Doheny Surf Festival Committee, but I can tell you to be sure you keep the weekend of August 11 and 12 open as this is an event you won't want to miss.

Looking Back-Facing Forward

Retired Doheny Supervising Ranger Jim Serpa reflects on special moments in his career.

Well folks, it's been a long time since my first nature hikes out at Torrey Pines State Reserve. Most of you know that I retired from full time duties at the end of December. Since then I have kept busy filling in some holes in our schedules, as well as keeping track of the Aquarium/Visitor Center project. Recently, I've been reflecting on all the fun times over the past twenty-something years and have come up with **"Ranger Jim's Top 10 List of Best Interpretive Experiences."** In random order, here they are.

1. Once I was speaking to a group of first graders about local Native Americans practices, especially relating to plant uses. I explained that some males would sleep with sage under their armpits. I asked the class why they thought people might do that. One little girl raised her hand and said, "Everyone knows that Indians would have had bad BO back then because they didn't use deodorant." I almost lost it on that one.



2. I spent a fun-filled week at Disney's California Adventure" the first week it was open, working as "Real Park



Rangers". I was fortunate enough to be selected with three others rangers (including Crystal Cove's own **Winter Boninn**) to work in the park giving campfire programs and doing roving interpretation when we were not on stage presenting our formal program. What a blast! People would actually stop me and ask, "Are you a Real Ranger?" I would ask them how they knew. They told me it was because we had beards. I'm not sure they knew just what Winter's job was, as she was the female member of our group and most assuredly did not have a beard. I got to be there for VIP night before the park officially opened, mingling with Hollywood stars who were walking around checking out

the new Disney park; no lines and free food! Disney had two other "acts" on the campfire stage when we were not doing our programs. One was a "Barney Fife" type ranger and the other was a beautiful Indian storyteller. The acts were very good, but the public figured it out quickly and would pack the "Real Park Rangers" programs with standing room only space left over, while the "professionals" got only minimal attendance. Score one for us!

3. I remember cleaning the Visitor Center tidepool tank the night before our Annual Grunion Run Night in anticipation of a big crowd. **Park Aide Erin Shea** and I were finishing up around midnight and went into the office to do a few last things. When we came out just a bit later, **we looked in horror to see a foot high topper of foam over the surface of the tidepool causing all the sea stars, urchins and mussels to spawn all at once!** We had to remove all the water and make two gigantic water changes before we got the tidepool clean and presentable for the next evening's program. We drug ourselves out of the Visitor Center around sunrise the next morning only to return again at nine that same evening for our fish feeding show! Seems funny now, at least!

4. I was on the **National Geographic Shark Men** show with **Michael Domeier**. I was flattered he even thought about me and would give me a call. I remember not believing the park aide who told me that National Geographic called and wanted to talk to me about sharks. I learned a ton just watching and listening to Michael while they filmed each segment. To follow that up, National Geographic again came calling this year. This time, our lead lifeguard Todd Shanklin and I did a program with each of us playing off each other's comments. Stay



tuned for a hilarious "How To" bit by Todd that should make it to the final show. (Continued on Page 7)

WHAT'S COOL IN THE DOHENY GIFT STORE?

Time to go shopping at the Doheny Gift Store, currently located in the Lifeguard station by San Juan Creek. Park Aide Rachel Hammer has a great selection of items selling for very inviting prices. DSBIA members receive a 20% discount. How can you beat that? Visit the Doheny Gift Store on Facebook.

http://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100003539533566

HOW CAN YOU HAVE TOO MANY TEE SHIRTS?

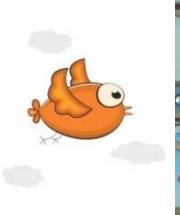


30% off the regular price on these great tees!!!



SOUTH SWELL SPECIAL for June and July. **Salt and Pepper Shakers** regularly \$6. 20% discount when you say you saw them in the **SOUTH SWELL** (Sorry, no additional DSBIA discount on top of this special deal)

A Special Home for your Special Bird! Just \$18.00







Doheny State Beach: A Lifeguard's Perspective

Todd Shanklin, Head Lifeguard, Doheny State Beach

Doheny State Beach provides visitors with a beautiful location for a number of high quality outdoor recreational activities: surfing, swimming, picnicking, walking, running, and biking are but a few of the many ways park users enjoy this little pocket of paradise. Doheny also has cultural and historical significance as well; from the Mission days of Richard Henry Dana throwing cattle hides off the nearby cliffs to famous mention by the Beach Boys harmoniously name dropping popular surf spots in their songs. Collectively, all these characteristics conjoin to create the Doheny Imagepalm trees swaying in the gentle breezes that curve around the Dana Point headlands and down the Capistrano Valley; cross-stepping to the nose while surfing one of Doheny's well-groomed waves; stoking a beach bonfire festooned with hotdogs and marshmallows and all kinds of goodness on a stick while watching the sun set behind Catalina island. The very mention of the name calls up good memories and images for many a park-goer. But for the lifeguards who call this stretch of beach their workplace, school, gymnasium, playground, and church, the Doheny image can be adorned a bit with some additional brushstrokes. These might serve to further illuminate and enrich the public perception that makes up Doheny State Beach. It also might just inform the public a bit and help make our jobs a little easier.

Doheny can be seen as being two very different beaches: North Day Use area and South Day use area. In Lifeguard lingo we refer to each as simply North Day or South Day and each area has a lifeguard patrol vehicle assigned to respond. The delineator of the two has traditionally been the San Juan Creek and "Thor's Hammer", the concrete post found at the end of the algae covered jetty in front of the Lifeguard Headquarters building. The main reason for this area being the unlikely separation point of the two beaches (an uneven and unfair division for the South Day patroller: small and compressed North Day having 3 towers, the long stretched out South day having 6 towers...) is that you need to have enough sand on the beach to drive past Thor's Hammer to respond to South Day. Most of the time the sand isn't there, so the South Day unit just stays down there. The Lifeguard Headquarters Tower, Station 30, sitting directly

behind Thor's Hammer, received its designating

title decades ago as a radio call sign, and even though it is long obsolete as a radio reference, in keeping with human language development patterns, we



simply call it that because that is what it has always been called. Effort has been made to change the name from Station 30, but the replacement names have never proven fit enough to survive any forced evolution. Station 30 houses our lifeguard dispatchthe brain of our beach operation. Each lifeguard tower at the waterline has (ideally) a direct phone line to the communication hub that is our dispatchall rescues, first aids, public assists, and enforcement requests run through our dispatcher who in turn relays the messages as required to the chosen responder. Communication is the critical key to an efficient and successful lifeguard operation.



NORTH DAY

North Day holds many of Doheny's treasures: snack bar and bike rentals, a verdant picnic area, the volleyball courts, and a palapa amongst other things. But aquatically, North Day for a lifeguard means three towers (Towers 11, 12, and 13), four surf spots, a few fixed rip currents and one big public nuisance in the form of a small jetty.

The northernmost area of North Day is known as The Boneyard. A popular surf spot even before construction of the harbor wiped out the neighboring big wave break of Killer Dana, the Boneyard still showcases some of the best longboard surfers in the world when a good south **[Continued on page 9]**

TAKE A HIKE Tide Pools and the Pirate's Cave Continued from page 1



home to numerous tide pool critters: sea stars, limpets, chitons (ki/tons), barnacles, muscles and more. Depending on the season and the tide, you can climb on the first rock. The rock furthest out often

provides the daytime haul-out for "Sammy", a local harbor seal. The large rock island far out off the headlands is San Juan Rock, also noted by Dana in his book, <u>Two Years Before the Mast</u>. On most clear days, you can see Santa Catalina Island on the horizon and just south of that, the hilltops of San Clemente Island.

If you look carefully at the farthest headland cliff visible from this location, you'll see an Indian's profile, "The

Whale Watcher". One local historian tells us the local Acjachemen Indians had a story that the Whale Watcher would keep look out for whales off the coast and call them when whales were close enough to hunt. The Acjachemen were not great whale hunters, but they did bring some in, probably gray whales. The Whale

Watcher provides a service to us today. As interesting as the tidepools are closest to the jetty, the really good ones start down by "The Whale Watcher," and just get better the further out you go.

At the base of the jetty by the cliff is a caged covered staircase down to the beach. The first piece of ground to cover on this stretch is across the sand, no problem. Where the sand ends and the rocks begin is a trail at the base of the cliff that leads out along the headlands and eventually (a bit more than half a mile) to the entrance of "The Pirate's Cave." In places, the trail becomes a bit tricky as you'll be walking on round rocks rather than dirt. Getting down to explore the tidepools requires care as well, as the rocks are round and once in the intertidal zone, wet and slippery. Either on your way out to the cave or on your way back, do take time to explore the tidepools. They are much different than the tidepools at Doheny. While exploring, remember the Good Tidepooler Rules: 1) Never remove critters, shells or rocks; 2) Don't pull critters off rocks or poke them; 3)



Walk gently taking care not to step on plants or animals; 4) Never turn over rocks.

The trail turns northwest at the end of the headlands. There's a sandy beach here, affectionately known to some as "Golf Ball Beach". You will often find golf balls in these tidepools that have been washed down from a local golf course after the rains. This stretch of sandy beach ends with large rocks and you'll need to find the trail again at the base of the cliff. Where the trail dead-ends, you've reached the entrance to the Pirate's Cave; a large crack in the hillside wall. Depending on the tides, the weather and the waves, the entrance can be dry and easy or wet and a bit of a challenge. Once through the entrance tunnel, the cave opens into a large cavern with an opening to the sea. Although called the Pirate's Cave, real pirates probably never used it. There are stories, however, that rumrunners may have stashed their contraband here during Prohibition on ocean runs between Mexico and Los Angeles.

> For most of us, this is the end of the trail and we'll be heading back the way we came. For those more adventurous, at the right time of year and the right tide, this hike can be extended. It needs to be done during very low tides occurring in late November, December, January and early February. With a low tide of negative one foot or more, hikers can go through the cavern's opening and around to Dana Strands Beach, passing two smaller caves

and an arch along the way. You can backtrack your route to return, or see the return route below in the Dana Point Headlands Hike. The piece from the Pirate's Cave to Dana Strands Beach can be difficult, as you will be climbing over large rocks and outcroppings.

For those of you reading on-line, here are two YouTube

videos of the Pirate's Cave. The first will show why, although fun, you'll probably not want to take this hike at high tide. The second will show you why low tide is best.



http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6COc7aJJlqU http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mo-mZ-Pi-Jc&feature=endscreen&NR=1

Looking Back – Facing Forward Continued from page 3

5. I mentored new rangers on the lost art of giving campfire programs. Over the last 20 years, I hopefully instilled some of that old school thinking of what it was to become a "Ranger." I know it's not politically correct in today's climate to say, but I think we, in some ways, have lost our souls as far as our original mission to the parks of California and the people who entrusted them to us. It's a strange new world we live in and we must adapt, I know, but if this Department is to carry on, we need to make ourselves a part of the joyful experience people take home with them and stop treating them like statistics.

6. Overseeing the aquariums and Visitor Center for the last 21 years has been both a blessing and a curse. It's has killed me a little inside over the last five years that the center has been closed; to think how many lives we touched while it was open, instilling the love of the ocean environment, and how so many have missed out while the center lay shuttered. It was magical just how many people we did affect while it was open. I remember one little autistic boy who would show up with his mother almost every day to start their mornings off. After we closed, his mother would bring him down several times to show him that it was now closed and that was why they could no longer gaze at all the animals in



the tanks. That was heartbreaking. We taught teachers, volunteers, rangers, lifeguards, scouts and anyone who wanted to learn about our precious marine resources. I have had the pleasure to work with some great assistants: Jill Brown, Vicki Wiker, Erin Shea, Sara Shouse, Christine Steinke, Tracy Turbeville, Scott Ehlert, Brian Lane and now, Ashley Nelson. I feel confident that Ashley will do an unbelievably good job and I may come back to volunteer my help if she will have me.

7. Halloween Haunt, what can I say about this event? It's probably my favorite, as most people know. It



started way back in 1994 as a way to get some of the non-traditional visitors into the park at a time of the year that might not be too crowded. The Haunt has evolved into a huge educational event with 1,000 visitors or more streaming in to learn about scary misunderstood animals. The thing I like best about the whole event is that **it harkens back to an era when kids and their families would attend the old Halloween carnivals,** only we put our educational twist on it. The scary walk, carnival games, snacks, crafts, face painting and Bryn's ever-popular temporary tattoos will always bring back great memories. Who can forget the beautiful mermaids handing out gold chocolate coins while

the old salty pirate guards the treasure nearby? Thanks must be given for the huge input and help from people such as **Rachel Hammer, Bill Brooks and the DSBIA, Jim Long, Jim Ortiz, Robbie Reschke, Bryn Faulkner, Michael Rowthbottom, volunteers from the Doheny Longboard Surfing Association, and Denise Estrada's and Lori Coble's families, ranger and interpretive staff, as well as most recently the Doheny maintenance staff, and of course, Ashley Nelson. This great event could not have become the huge success it is without them. To top it all off, we have collected and donated more than six tons of food to charity over the years, provided by our guests who attended The Haunt.**

8. Our annual **Grunion Night** educational talks was the brainchild of both **Ranger Brad Keitzman** and myself after watching so many grunion runs that nobody else saw, and then trying to tell people about them. I attended a talk at Cabrillo Aquarium one night and told Brad just how fun it was and that, with a little help, we could pull the same thing off here at Doheny; and proudly, we did. One year, word got out to the Boy Scout community and we had about 1,500 people attend the talk! Too many people really, but everyone had a blast. We accepted a one-dollar donation from many of the Scouts that night which earned them credit for their grunion badge. We took in 800 dollars on that evening alone! Just like the Halloween Haunt, we now get parents bringing their

children to Grunion Night just like their own parents brought them so long ago. What a grand tradition! This is the way to make State Parks a part of people's lives, to become relevant and to show them why we need to continue to support our parks. I hope this will continue, as State Parks needs this support now more then ever.

9. I am proud to be on the State Dive Team. While not exclusively interpretive in nature, I have taught the natural history dive refresher section. Being placed on the team allowed me to collect great specimens for our aquariums, as well as network with other marine scientists to learn more about our fragile oceans. I was able to assist with placement on the Dive Team of two other Doheny rangers: **Brian Kummer and Brian Lane**. Both became good collectors and assisted in supplying the aquariums with interesting specimens. They are great divers and we have had some memorable excursions over the years on collection trips and refresher / recertification dives.

10. Several years back, I was asked to do a one-day seminar in San Diego for a camp of wheelchair-bound children. My good friend **Dave Burk and his wife** helped set up the program. We had a blast doing all kinds of non-marine themed education on the natural world in the mountains of East San Diego County (a different environment for me). These kids were not dealt a great hand in life, but they were great and wanted nothing more than to fit in. They appreciated my involvement so much it really pulled at my heartstrings and made me even more committed to help educate all children in the future.

Honorable Mentions: Being my son's personal classroom "Ranger Jim" the last four years: Orange Coast District Interpretive training with **Jody Kummer**; APC for the interpretive section at Mott; speaking

engagements at places like West Marine, Casa Romantica, REI, Bolsa Chica Conservancy and others; Spreading my wings a bit and talking to a local garden club on native plant uses by indigenous people (I still remember Vicki being surprised I knew anything about this. Little did she know that was how I started my career at Torrey Pines - doing native plant talks was a standard there.); Working closely with now retired NOAA representative **Joe Cordaro** on all things marine mammal; Becoming good friends with such mentors as **Joe Cocke and Chuck Fisher** from the LA Museum of Natural History and **Michael Domeier** of the Marine Conservation Science Institute; These and all the other events I enjoyed but have forgot to mention, but certainly not forgotten.





THE DOHENY SURF FESTIVAL

INVITE YOU TO

August 11 & 12

A two-day celebration of the Southern California surfing culture with music, vendor village, food and drink, surf demonstrations and much, much more. <u>Music:</u> ALO, Honk, Everlast, Paula Fuga, Common Sense, Le Blorr, B-Side Players, Originalities, Fishbones, The Eliminators and more! <u>Beach Demos:</u> Legends Expression Session, Nose Riders, S.U.P. Scramble, Surfers Healing, Outrigger Canoes, Tandem Surfing, Paddleboards, Woodies, kayak paddling and more! <u>Vendor Village</u>: An amazing collection of all things of the Southern California beach lifestyle and Surf Culture! <u>Food</u>: LA Gourmet Food Trucks, Nalus, Daphne's Greek, La Sirena Grill, Sambazon, Kona Beer and more!

http://www.dohenysurffest.com/ Be stoked... Be very, very stoked!

Doheny Beach: A Lifeguards Perspective Continued from page 5

swell rolls through. In front of Tower 13, the universe conspired to create an ideal surf break of a roughly triangular cobblestone reef deposited over the years by the North Creek, now primarily a frequently stagnant pond fondly referred to as "the Polio Pit." During a large swell, there is a tendency for a rip current to pull out to sea next to the Boneyard parallel with the stacked rocks that comprise the eastern harbor jetty. Many an old lifeguard can recount stories of running hell bent for leather down the Puerto Place road on top of the harbor mouth arm to rescue unwitting victims being rapidly pulled seaward by the jetty rip.



On low tides, the Boneyard shuts down as a surfable wave and dependent on the tidal swing can become a vast and curious world of tide pools and exposed cobbles. For the patient and quiet tide-pooler, crabs, brittle stars, anemones, the occasional octopus, and other alien life forms can be viewed in their natural habitat. Just remember to exercise good tide pooler etiquette when exploring. As innocent as they may seem, to lifeguards, small children with buckets walking through the tide pools are like a crew of vandals strolling through the Louvre with cans of spray paint in hand.

The other three surf spots at North Day are Second Spot, Creekmouth, and the Indicator. Second Spot is surprisingly enough the second spot to surf at Doheny moving from north to south. Second spot is usually a longer, slower, gentler wave- ideal for log styling and cruising. But this characteristic also makes the break popular with beginning surfers (the proposal has been floated by this lifeguard to seek sponsorship with Costco due to the prevalence of low price soft surfboards so popular amongst beginning surfers). Due to this popularity with novice surfers, Doheny is one of the

few big name surf spots in the world where a breach of surf etiquette is not met with gruff barks, cold stares, and uninvited breath holding contests. In opposition to the intensity found in the lineup at many California surf spots, Doheny has a decidedly different feel, a more optimistic aloha filled (some might accuse it of being naiveté): "Hey-stop-beinga-jerk-and-enjoy-yourself." It can sometimes make for a surfing bizarro world: I've personally been kindly yelled at to pull out by surfers who drop in on me ("dropping in" or taking off in front of someone else already surfing being THE surfing faux pas to be avoided...). But it also makes learning to surf a much more friendly and approachable pastime for the masses. Unfortunately, reality will hit them like a 2-ton cargo container of soft-tops when they try to paddle into a set wave at Lowers.

The Creekmouth is the next spot down and is the spot a heartbroken Lifeguard has to watch while sitting dispatch. When a good rain flushes all of South County down the San Juan Creek and deposits the flotsam and jetsam just right, this wave can get pretty good. Of course, most of the time it isn't. But it is a fun wave and depending on a number of factors can provide the selective surfer with some very lengthy waves at times. Just beware surfing or swimming when the creek mouth is flowing into the ocean. Unfortunately the dangers of urban runoff are very real and contact should be avoided unless you like ear infections and explosive diarrhea. Thankfully the creek silts over for the majority of the year and when it does water quality is not much of an issue.

Finally, we find the Indicator. The Indicator is something of a phantom wave, breaking off the reef found further offshore of Second Spot. With a low tide or a swell just large enough, the Indicator will cause a swell to rise up and break, then quickly hit deep water again and peter out as it passes over the reef and then disappears. It does serve as a good clue that a set of waves is coming though, hence the title. However, on a large enough swell waves will break off the Indicator and peel right all the way to the campground. Surfers with adequate patience, skill, and knowledge can grab two of these leg burners and call it a week.

Lifeguards stationed to guard North Day are primarily concerned with clearing out the stationary rips that form beside the jetty and between Towers

11 and 12. North Day is where the majority of visitors choose to swim and of course lifeguards are always watching for signs of distress in these swimmers: people vertical in the water, "climbing the ladder", head low in the water, hair down in eyes, looking towards shore, an ineffectual stroke, &c. Contrary to popular belief, when people are drowning they do not yell ,"Help!" and wave their hands in the air. In reality, drowning is a very quick and quiet process. Doheny lifeguards are trained to be very proactive in contacting people at the very first tiny inkling of a hint that a swimmer is in distress. Doheny Lifeguards also deal with a wide variety of first aids in the forms of everything from surfboard fin lacerations, sand abrasions, stingray puncture wounds, cervical spine injuries, to defibrillating the occasional heart attack.

And finally, we cannot forget the bane of all rookie Doheny lifeguards at North Day: the "Hammer Contact." As mentioned above, Thor's Hammer is a concrete protrusion on the end of the small retaining jetty put in place to prevent the San Juan Creek from deviating from the estuary and devouring Doheny State Beach. This small but effective jetty has a flat concrete top that for some unbeknownst reason attracts people like rangers to a picnic table of s'mores. Visitors are absolutely entranced with walking out onto this algae covered, slippery and slimy jetty, and watching waves wash over it and onto the sharp jagged rocks directly



Thor's Hammer, circa 1966 below them. An interesting dynamic is thus created: the salty and experienced senior lifeguard who sits up in dispatch overlooking Thor's Hammer; the park visitor who is compelled to walk on the jetty in spite of all the KEEP OFF signs; and the young rookie lifeguard sitting next to Thor's Hammer whose responsible for making sure people don't walk out onto the Hammer and subsequently

get pin-balled around on the rocks beneath. Many an older lifeguard has cursed the rookie who can't keep people off the Hammer. Many a rookie lifeguard, after his 54th contact of the day running down from his tower, has quietly cursed the conveyor belt of people who continually try to walk out on the Hammer. And many a park visitor yelled at by a skinny kid in red shorts has cursed the lifeguards for being jerks. Year after year, the drama plays out every summer. Come to Tower 11 on a Saturday in July, bring a picnic lunch, and sit back and enjoy the show. By the way, rookies love bottled water, cookies and sodas- don't forget to feed the lifeguards.

SOUTH DAY

South Day is a completely different animal. South

Day extends from the creek mouth, through the campground all the way to the south boundary of Doheny, the "hole in the



fence". South South Day Sunset / Russell Primrose Day is where all of California shows up on a hot weekend to park their RV's on the sand and drink beer from the apparently law enforcement proof red plastic cups ("I thought the NO ALCOHOL sign at the gate just means that it's OK to booze as long as vou can't SEE me drinking, right?"). Further, numbers of people choose to opt out of the day-use fee by parking on PCH and walking over the pedestrian footbridge to South Day. Many of these people are also from out of the area and not particularly ocean savvy. This is unfortunate as South Day is the last place you would want a nonocean-savvy person wading or swimming. Unfortunately, we've had drownings at South Day for just these very reasons. The shorebreak can be extremely treacherous on this end of the beach. Powerful swells travel thousands of miles through deep water and at other areas of the coast are normally slowed down and expend their energy before hitting shore by breaking on shallow reefs and sandbars offshore. Unless the swell is large enough to break off some of the deeper reefs offshore, the waves that hit South Day travel unobstructed until they hit shore at which point they quickly rise out of deep water and pound directly on the sand. In North Day you can wade out a good 20-30 yards and still touch bottom and jump over smallish, tame lines of whitewater. At South Dav the bottom drops off almost immediately. I have personally measured it at times to drop down 14'. This drop is directly at the shoreline, just steps from dry sand. We are talking about the sanding bottom one is walking on while wading into the sea, dropping from 1' deep to 14' in one step. This drop-off, combined with powerful, raw swells rising up from the deep to crash on the sand, creates a perfect storm of aquatic maelstrom making lifeguards cringe. I instruct rookie lifeguards while watching over South Day as such- "See that person getting thrashed on the sand? That is what drowning people look like."

At South Day you can watch toddlers and children of various sizes naively playing 5' away from certain danger, parents obliviously sipping wine spritzers or river kool-aid (beers) on the dry sand. The nightmare scenario plays out as follows: a young unattended child playing wave tag at the shoreline gets a little too close to the breaking waves. One larger rogue wave breaks in front of the child with extra ferocity, knocking the hapless innocent off their feet. The wave at first pushes the laughing child up the inclined beach towards safety, but quickly reverses direction and the child is swept directly down into the zone of mayhem. Suddenly

the laughing, playing child is pulled into the 14' deep trench underneath 6' walls of extremely murky and dark, turbid water. All this in a matter of 5 seconds! Accordingly, Lifeguards working this stretch of beach are instructed to be extremely proactive. For lifeguards working South Day on a busy day it is desired that they have NO RESCUES. Numerous safety warnings and public contacts are much preferred than even 1 white knuckle rescue, simply due to the unforgiving nature of this stretch of beach. The possibility for tragedy is much too great. Public education and prudence are what keeps visitors alive at South Day and that is what lifeguards stress down there. Do not be offended if the lifeguard talks to you on a busy day when the south swell is pounding onto the shore.

Doheny is a beautiful place- a postcard picture perfect stretch of beach on which millions of people from around the world have and will continue to create positive memories. And the lifeguards will be here to make sure those memories stay safe and everybody goes home safe, tired, and sandy after having had a great time.

I hope you have enjoyed this cornucopia of verbosity- and next time you are here, don't forget to say "hi" to the lifeguard standing vigilantly in the tower, watching the water for hours (again, snacks are always welcome...), doing what their job title says, guarding your life.

DOHENY STATE BEACH SUMMER CALENDAR

June: Campfires and Junior Rangers Please call for Jr. Ranger start date 949 496-2704. See Campfire program below.

June 23: Lobsterfest http://www.danapointlobsterfest.org/

June 30: D.L.S.A.'s MENEHUNE SURF CONTEST

http://dohenylongboardsurfingassociation.org/Home_Page.php

July 4: Independence Day Fireworks Extravaganza: The fireworks show off the barge outside of the harbor begins at 9:00 pm. Doheny closes a 10:00 pm. Remember, no fireworks are allowed!

July 5 Independence Day Aftermath Park and Beach Cleanup:

Aug. 4: Whitey Harrison Outrigger Classic www.danaoutrigger.net.

Aug. 11 & 12: Doheny Surf Festival

Sept. 8 & 9: Doheny Days www.omegaevents.com

Sept. 18: Coastal Clean Up Day 9 AM to Noon

Sept. 23: Orangeman Triathlon http://orangemantriathlon.com/

Doheny State Beach Summer Campfire Programs

All Programs meet at the Campfire Center

<mark>Wednesday, June 20, at 8:15 pm</mark>

"California Marine Life" with guest Tom Haight

Friday, June 29, at 8:15 pm

"Kelp Forests" with guest Bill Brooks

Wednesday, July 11, at 8:15 pm

"The Underwater World" with guest Tom Haight

Thursday, July 12, at 8:00 pm

"Recovery of the Majestic Condors" with Lead Biologist Joe Burnett

Wednesday, July 25, at 8:15 pm

"The Megamouth Shark" with guest Tom Haight

Wednesday, August 15, at 8:00 pm

"The Amazing Grunion" with guest Tom Haight

Friday, August 17, at 8:00 pm

"The Spiders of Doheny" with guest Jim Ortiz

Wednesday, August 29, at 8:00 pm

"The Underwater World" with guest Tom Haight

SOUTH SWELL

THE DOHENY STATE BEACH INTERPRETIVE ASSOCIATION E-MAGAZINE Comments or questions to edneeely@dohenystatebeach.org



DSBIA WEB SITE http://www.dohenyst atebeach.org/index.h tml

DSBIA ON FACEBOOK https://www.facebo ok.com/pages/Dohe ny-State-Beach-Interpretive-

Association/255397

DOHENY GIFT STORE ON FACEBOOK:

901205401

http://www.facebook. com/profile.php?id=1 00003539533566

DOHENY SURF CAMERA: http://www.surfline.c om/surfreport/dohenysouthern-

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Jim Serpa, Supervising Park Ranger (Retired)

The Mission of DSBIA

The mission of Doheny State Beach Interpretive Association is to promote educational and interpretive activities at Doheny State Beach and to assist with the preservation and restoration of Doheny State Beach's interpretive facilities.

OUR GOALS

- A) Promote the educational and interpretive activities of the California State Park System at Doheny State Beach.
- B) Assist State Parks to produce and distribute appropriate interpretive and educational materials and resources to park visitors.
- C) Assist State Parks to acquire appropriate natural, cultural and historical artifacts related to Doheny State Beach and its surrounding area for display.
- D)Maintain a library of relevant interpretive media for Doheny State Beach.
- E) Assist in the development and maintenance of the interpretive facilities and programs.
- F) Provide funding to the State Park for Interpretive Staff support and professional development.



DOHENY STATE BEACH INTERPRETIVE ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

I want to support the Doheny State Beach Interpretive Association. Please enroll me as a:

Supporting Individual Member, \$25 annual dues	Supporting Family Member, \$35 annual dues (Parent(s) and minor children)
Individual Life Membership, \$100 (one-time dues)	Family Life Membership, \$135 (one-time dues) (children under 18)
Student Membership (Grade 6 through full-time College) \$10 annual dues	Senior (age 63+) \$10 annual dues
Junior Individual Supporting Member (Students in grades K-5), \$3 annual dues. Requires parent	Organizational Membership, \$50 annual
permission signature here.	date

YOUR MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE TAX DEDUCTABLE!

Enclose your Tax Deductible Donation of \$					
NAME:					
ADDRESS:					
CITY:	STAT	Ъ:	_ ZIP:		
PHONE: ()					
E-MAIL:	_@				

YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS WILL NOT BE SOLD OR GIVEN TO ANY OTHER INDIVIDUAL OR ORGANIZATION

Make check or money order payable to:

Doheny State Beach Interpretive Association.

MAIL TO:

DOHENY STATE BEACH INTERPRETIVE ASSOCIATION 25300 Dana Point Harbor Drive Dana Point, CA 92629

