

Wave Makers of the West Coast

A decorative header featuring a blue and white scalloped wave pattern. Above the waves are several protest signs on wooden sticks. From left to right, the signs read: "WNBR 2011" with a bicycle icon, "NO MORE OIL", "Garden Naked Every Day!", "Nude Rec Week", "Nude Beaches YES", and "HIKE IN THE BUFF!". The main title "Wave Makers of the West Coast" is written in a large, red, cursive font with a white outline, centered over the waves.

Judy Williams

Judy Williams has been the grounding of the grassroots activism that keeps British Columbia's Wreck Beach a model of clothing-optional recreation for all of North America. Using artful play when possible, and determined energy when needed, Williams has surfed some of the West Coast's biggest naturist waves. Her continued and vigorous work with the Naturist Action Committee, the Naturist Education Foundation, the Federation of Canadian Naturists, and the Topfree Equal Rights Association is unparalleled. She knows when to sit quietly and allow "the system" to work itself out, but is ready to orchestrate creative, effective, and nerve-shaking tactics to promote and defend naturist freedoms in her region.

NAC Executive Director Bob Morton recalls speaking about nude beaches at an international parks conference near Seattle, Washington a few years back. He was talking with some parks officials from Wreck Beach, and without saying that he knew Williams, asked if the officials had heard of her. "Oh yes," the officials said nervously, "We don't like to mess with her. If she wants something, she's a royal pain to challenge." Their tone was both respectful and weary. They knew what it was like to butt heads with a seasoned naturist wave maker.

Williams' activities take her well beyond her beloved Wreck Beach, but that's where her heart lies. If she's not initiating a letter writing campaign to hold back construction that will cause unhealthy cliff erosion above the beach, she's speaking vigorously before municipal or university committees, arguing cogently for the authenticity of both the natural environment and continued naturist presence at the beach. Her promotion of the annual Bare Buns Fun Run/Walk at Wreck Beach may offend some pinched souls in Vancouver, but her willingness to place naturism squarely in public view has helped keep Wreck Beach known around the world as a healthy naturist site.



Daniel Johnson

Seattle, Washington is arguably the most nudity-friendly city in the U.S. At least some of that is due to Daniel Johnson. His wave making accomplishments are in indirect proportion to his modesty. Always giving others involved in his projects more than their fair share of credit, Johnson has orchestrated more events promoting fun, artful, playful public nudity than anyone in North America.

Sometimes working with TNS or NAC, more often of late working with more local groups, Johnson has been instrumental in organizing the Naked Freedom Film Festival (held in part in the Seattle Art Museum), a series of one-act plays about nude beaches performed at the Seattle Fringe Theatre Festival, multiple annual Seattle contributions to the World Naked Bike Ride, and a nude bike ride promoting organic gardening and permaculture. He was instrumental in the formation of World Naked Gardening Day, the naked Seattle Pumpkin Run, and the Body Freedom Collaborative. From his work with Naked Wiki providing information on social nudity to the many public photo-ops he's orchestrated and participated in, he's been a key factor in the Seattle area's willingness to live with a degree of public nudity.

Johnson has taken flack for some of his projects. Sadly, much of that flack has been from nudists and naturists. He's aware that some people claiming to want greater naturist freedoms will undercut others' attempts to attain that very goal. Johnson, however, has mastered the art of going to city officials, politely requesting nude use of a city park or swimming pool, waiting until the administrative assistant finishes hyperventilating, and calmly accepting the pile of forms handed to him, filling them out, and taking his request to the next step. He alerts local police regarding his plans for a nude public event, and boldly goes where far too few naturists are willing to go. Public. Clothes-free. Making waves all the way, and surfing them nude.

So far, Seattle officials have expressed no interest in clamping down on the city's varied events enjoyed clothes-free. Perhaps making waves is more effective than timid naturists imagine.



Allen Baylis

It's been three years since the California Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) announced that it was summarily revoking the Cahill Policy, at Trail 6 at San Onofre State Beach. The Cahill Policy allowed for nude use of certain traditionally clothing-optional areas in various state parks. In those three years, we've seen highs and lows. Right from the beginning, there was a division between those naturists who would stand their ground at Trail 6, and those who would flee south of the fence onto the marine base, or just not come to San Onofre at all.

The brave souls that chose to continue the 40-year tradition of clothing-optional use at Trail 6 realized that, to abandon the beach would mean certain defeat, and that without feet in the sand, nothing that the Naturist Action Committee and Friends of San Onofre Beach could do would save the beach. This group consisted mainly of the close knit bunch of folks who enjoyed playing volleyball naked on the beach. The fact that they chose to stand their ground and continue the tradition of nudity resulted in several of them receiving

misdemeanor citations for nudity in the state park during late 2010 and early 2011. Fortunately, attorney and NAC board member Allen Baylis was able to represent the victims of DPR's wrath in court. At this writing, all ten of the naturists who stood their ground and insisted on fighting their cases in court had their cases dismissed by the San Diego District Attorney.

Those who continue to go to Trail 6 and enjoy the beach in the natural manner are doing their part to continue the clothing-optional tradition at San Onofre. Without them, not only Trail 6, but all of the traditional nude beaches in California State Parks would, sooner or later, be lost. In the fight for our liberty, little of value can be achieved without making some waves.

Claudia Kellersch

Claudia Kellersch may have the record for appearing nude in the greatest number of naturist magazines worldwide. Some would take that to be a trivial matter, but it points to this Bavarian's readiness to support anyone who is promoting naturism. NAC board member Mark Storey said respectfully of her, "I know of no one who is more ready to get naked in public if it stands a decent chance of changing someone's attitude toward fun, lighthearted, social nudity."

Indeed, up and down the West Coast, if there is a public nude event, Kellersch is likely to be there to add to the mix. Participating in Jacumba, California's World Naked Bike Ride? That's her orchestrating the event. Assisting Black's Beach Bares near La Jolla? She's there. Walking proudly naked in San Francisco's Bay to Breakers race? She's a photographer's best friend. Assisting the Body Freedom Collaborative in their early public photo shoots? Yep, that's her smiling ear to ear as she runs naked out of a public phone booth down the sidewalk.

Kellersch is not afraid to stand up to unjust laws or enforcement policies. In 2005, she suffered an unlawful arrest, was thrown in jail, and fingerprinted after being topfree in New York, even though the courts have ruled women have topfreedom. In 2010, she was also briefly detained after participating in a nude peace sign on Delray Beach in Florida, where she had also been participating nude and topfree in theatrical productions on MacArthur State Beach with T.A. Wyner.

Kellersch a few years ago gave birth to a beautiful son. She—with the support and assistance of her extended family—have been routinely ready to be visual proof of the value of naturist living. Aiming to be photographed breastfeeding in all 50 states, Kellersch and her family have been willing to roil the waters if needed to model for the clothed (and unclothed) a commitment to body acceptance and the value of social nudity.

This is not just silliness, and Kellersch knows it. Making waves need not be "in-your-face" or demanding "I want what I want now." Brief, simple, playful naked forays into the public sphere demonstrate incrementally that the human form, fully and naturally revealed, can be part of everyday life, and the world will continue to spin. **N**



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