

Winter, 2005
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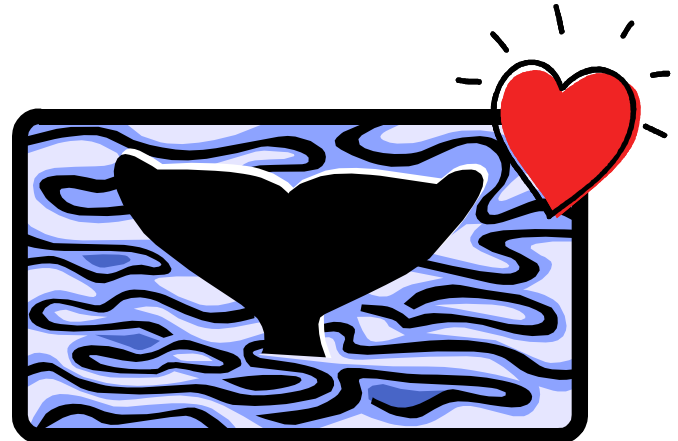
Cruise News

Valentine's-Whale Watch - 2/13/05

Get out your binoculars and camera, grab your sunscreen and sign up for the 9th Annual Valentine's Whale Watch Nude Cruise Sunday, Feb 13. We will cruise on the Maui Magic again and will board about 12:45 for a 1 – 4:30 PM cruise. The boat leaves from Slip #55 at Maalaea Harbor. Wine, beer and sodas will be provided so we ask all cruisers to bring a pupu to share. The whales are here so we expect this to be another great afternoon.

The cost for this cruise is \$50 per non-member, \$45 per member or \$85 per member couple. A gratuity is not included in this price so please bring a generous tip for the crew.

Remember to bring sunscreen, hats and a towel. The boat provides snorkel gear and has a water slide. As in the past, this is another popular cruise and we have many reservations already, so to guarantee your space send a check to Friends of Little Beach, PO Box 841, Pu'unene, HI 96784.☀



Little Beach Beat

It's winter and that means the winter swells, surf and tides are upon us. In mid-Dec the famous Jaws surfing area on the North shore experienced 25-50 foot waves for a couple of days and many days of smaller swells. While that's on the North side it does have some influence on the South-west-facing shore of Little Beach. There has been some erosion of the South end of the beach and there has been quite a bit of erosion at the North end of Big Beach at the base of the path to LB so the big rocks are showing.



A huge weather front passed over Maui from Dec 31 to Jan 3 and dumped about 2-3 inches of rain on Kihei and probably more on Makena. There were undoubtedly a few die-hards on the beach New Years Eve and Day, but they were the exception. It appears this will be the weather pattern for the next couple of weeks.

The Annual Christmas Day Beach Brunch was another roaring success. The singing started around 11 AM with 20-25 participants. Then the brunch spread was put out. What a feast it was. Several brunchers also brought champagne to share with the group. It was a beautiful day with hardly a cloud in the sky. A great time was had by all.

On a sad note, there was another drowning off Little Beach Friday, Dec 10. A visitor from California got caught in a

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rip tide and despite all the efforts of several beachgoers and (later) paramedics, the visitor was pronounced dead at Maui Memorial Hospital. This was the fourth drowning off Makena beaches in 2004.

Probably the greatest excitement in the Park this year was the discovery of 5 Hawksbill Turtle nests, 4 on Big Beach and 1 on Little Beach. The first was discovered in July and the last (on Little Beach) in mid-Nov. Each nest contained approximately 200 eggs. Nest 1 produced 165 live turtles, nest 2 134, nest 3 40, nest 4 about 185 and nest 5 (on Little Beach) 70. All nests were uncovered by local biologists after the first turtles emerged. A female Hawksbill named Orion was responsible for these nests. She had a satellite tracker attached to her in 2001 after which it was determined that she lives on the North Shore of Oahu but nests on Maui. After her nesting activity at Makena this

year, she took the long way home by going around the south end of Maui, up the East side past Hana and then she traveled at sea until she reached "home" on the North shore of Oahu. It is believed she nests every three years.

Hawksbill Turtles are a critically endangered species around the Hawaiian Islands. There is good news for their outlook, however. The Green Sea Turtle was critically endangered many years ago but is now making a significant comeback so hopefully this is a good omen for the Hawksbill.



(Some of the above information and photos came from The Maui Wrap Newspaper and Dr. Leisure). ☀

Updates

Makena Resort

The Spring-Summer Issue of the Newsletter reported on the re-zoning request made by Makena Resort and the outcome of the deliberations and vote of the County Council's Planning and Land Use Committee. Since then, the Maui County Council has not taken action on the Committee's recommendation, as it is waiting for additional information from the Resort. Makena Resort says it is still studying and analyzing the potential impact the 41 conditions, imposed by the Committee, will have on their projects so they have not accepted the Committee's recommendations so far.

However, the Council's 2004 term expired in December so the status of the 2004 Committee's recommendations is unclear. It is unlikely that the new 2005 Council will ask the new Committee to start over again, but there is no indication how the Recommendations will be picked up and moved forward. ☀



Camping at Makena Beach State Park

We attended a meeting of the Governor's Maui Advisory Committee in Nov at which Mr. Peter Young, Director of Land and Natural Resources for Hawaii, addressed the Committee. He was invited by the committee to answer questions that were outstanding from their Feb 26, 2004 meeting. Before responding to Committee questions, he made a lengthy opening statement that covered updates on all ongoing and proposed DLNR projects that affect Maui County. One of the topics in his update on Maui State Parks was Makena State Park. According to him, all the various proposals for Makena State Park (including camping run by an independent concessionaire) are on hold. DLNR wants to update the Makena Park Master Plan first, after which Public Meetings will be held for input and comments. It is unclear who/how the Master Plan will be updated since the last Task Force was disbanded over a year ago. ☀

VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR REGULAR BEACH UPDATES:
www.littlebeachmaui.com

EMAIL Address Update

You may have noticed that this Newsletter was sent from a different email address. Due to technology upgrades, we are changing our email address, so in the future send all your correspondence to mauidaves@verizon.net. You can also contact us through info@littlebeachmaui.com or the other addresses on the website.

AANR Affiliation Update

For the last 2 years the number of FOLB members who join/renew their AANR membership through FOLB has fallen below our AANR charter requirement. We continue to point out to AANR that Maui is a premier vacation destination and that Little Beach is a very important part of that status. Little Beach has been voted one of the top 10 clothing optional beaches in the world. FOLB is the local free beach support group that will be the first to raise the alarm when the status of Little Beach is challenged. In addition, many of our members renew their AANR membership through their “home” club and not FOLB. Fortunately, several of the AANR Board Members understand our dilemma and recognize the importance of supporting FOLB and have therefore convinced AANR to extend FOLB’s charter status.



In return, we must recognize the importance of being supported by AANR. When we are faced with a challenge to Little Beach, we can call on AANR for support. With over 50,000 members, AANR will be able to generate significant support for keeping Little Beach clothing optional. That support may come as letters from hundreds of interested beachgoers; it may come in the form of background and strategic information used by others to maintain the status of a clothing-optional beach elsewhere; it may be lobbying capability and/or it may come as support for legal services beyond what FOLB can provide. By supporting AANR through FOLB we are maintaining a sort of insurance policy that we can call upon in times of need. But to make this a win-win situation, we need to maintain our AANR charter and to do this we need you to join/renew AANR through FOLB. As stated elsewhere there is a financial incentive to pay through FOLB instead of paying AANR directly also. Please use the application form on the back of this Newsletter, as all that information is required by AANR. FOLB thanks you for your support.☀

Annual Dues are Due

Like many PBS TV stations, Friends of Little Beach has only one Annual Dues Drive and it is now at the beginning of the year. We do not keep track of individual payment dates or send out individual notifications but instead rely on each of you to pay your dues at the beginning of each year. Your dues allow us to retain legal counsel in case the Clothing Optional Status at Little Beach is challenged. On this issue, it’s not a matter of if but a matter of when the next challenge will occur. In addition, the dues fund the small expenses we incur, such as mailing, supply and newsletter costs. So, please send in your \$15 for an individual membership or \$25 for a couple membership. You can also pay your annual AANR and/or TNS dues through Friends of Little Beach. Write only one check to FOLB instead of 2 or 3. TNS allows clubs to keep a small portion of TNS dues for club use and AANR dues are less when renewing through a club. So renewing through FOLB benefits all. There is an application form at the end of this newsletter for renewing your memberships.



Also, please keep us informed of any change in your email or USPS address. We have lost track of several members and others on our list because of failure to include FOLB on address change announcements.☀