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2020-2021

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A.C.L.C.

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First Quarter Newsletter

Well, here it is, November already. I want to thank everyone for participating in our first year as Alta California Leather and for voting to move forward with our new board and bylaws in place. Thank you also for participating in the online Anniversary party and Halloween meet up. It's great to actually see your faces. Congratulations again to our member of the year, Frank La, Business of the year: Sf Eagle and Lee Bell winner Leroy Sellberg, ie Lena Mae. The people and organizations that support us year after year are paramount in our success helping others.

The newly elected board has been moving forward and setting goals for the upcoming year which has many new challenges for us. Still without the ability to meet and hold events we are brainstorming and taking suggestions for ways to raise money not only for charity but to keep the club budget in the black.

All of you should have seen or heard about our online Santa's service auction set for December 5th. The event is set to be an online silent auction concluding in our traditional service auction live. Lenny Broberg has agreed to MC the live auction for us. If you have Covid 19 safe service you would like to auction please contact a board member.

Dues letters have been sent out with your anniversary pins inside, I want to thank our members who have paid and made additional donations of cash or items.

I want to take a second here to remember a friend, Santos Rangel, Santos passed away on Sept. 29 peacefully at home after a long bout with cancer. Santos was a member of ACLC from 2000 – 2006 and part of the Phoenix uniform club for many years. He was a sweet guy always willing to help at our events or anytime people need help in life. Here is the link for his

obituary. <https://www.ebar.com/news/news/298327>

In leather service,

Joan Norry

ACLC President

Treasurer's Report: **Annual Report 2019-2020**

Income:

SF Pride 2019	\$1,000
Dues	\$505
Fundraisers	\$1,240
Amazon Smile	\$20

Total Revenue: \$3,358

Expenses:

PO Box	\$268
Storage	\$1,536

Insurance	\$1,324
Anniversary	\$624
Grants	\$962
Fees	\$93
Website	\$431

Total Expenses: \$4,276

Annual Dues are due, and notices were sent to all active members with their anniversary pin in October. Dues are \$25 for full members, \$10 for associate members. You can pay by sending a check addressed to A.C.L.C. to PO Box 20759, Castro Valley, CA 94546. You can also pay via Venmo to President ACLC @ACLeather, or by paypal aclc-board@acleather.org. Finally, any donation you are comfortable making to assist the club in meeting our expenses while COVID-19 continues to limit our ability to fundraise is so valuable, now more than ever. All donations are tax deductible. The board is continuing to find every opportunity to continue to cut costs as well. Please read this newsletter for an exciting fundraising event this quarter!

In Loving Memory

News » News

Obituaries: Santos Rangel

Wednesday Oct 21, 2020



Santos Rangel and his dog, Daisy.

September 16, 1956 — September 29, 2020

On the morning of September 29 at 2:23 a.m., Santos Rangel died peacefully at home with his partner, Don, and his close friend, Tony, after a very difficult three years battling myeloma. Santos faced his cancer as with much of his life, with humor, kindness, humility, and love.

Santos was a second-generation native Mexican American, growing up in the Bay Area and attending his first gay Pride in San Francisco while still in high school. He was an active part of the leather community, having been a lifelong member of the Phoenix Uniform club, for which he held several offices.

He loved the outdoors and taking annual trips to Yosemite to hike and camp. Santos also loved a good brownie and was equally happy to share.

He had many friends, some from his childhood, many through his activities with the Phoenix, and others through his work at AT&T. Santos spent many days with his beloved Aunt Jessie until she passed.

In addition to Don and Tony, Santos is survived by his dog Daisy, his childhood friend Terrell, his ex David from Australia, many friends from the Phoenix and elsewhere including Jimmy, Curt, Warren, and other friends.

Thank you for Joining Us At ACLC's Annual Meeting and Anniversary Party On 19 September, Happy 1st/27th Anniversary!

Congratulations to Leroy Sellberg, Lena Mae, our Lee Bell Award 2020 Recipient!

The award was created in memory of Lee Bell, a much-loved local man who worked tirelessly in all aspects of the community. Lee supported every club, organization, and even lending a hand, shoulder, or ear as needed.

Congratulations to Frank La, our 2020 Member of the Year!

Thank you for your constant enthusiasm and support for every event and so many club members this year, we couldn't have done it without you!

Congratulations to the SF Eagle, our 2020 Business of The Year!

The SF Eagle generously provided the opportunity for us to host 2 Beer Busts this year. In the midst of a year that has seen so many challenges, these beer busts were our biggest fundraisers. We can't wait to be back at the SF Eagle, thank you for your support to countless organizations!



EDUCATION: Puppy Play from the Eyes of Taz by boy Tyler

Disclaimer: All content in this article are from my personal experiences and are my personal opinion. My views are shared by some and not by others. There is no absolute right or wrong. My intention is to share my stories so that you can make some of your own.

Definition - human animal role play, specifically the role of puppy, pup, dog or other canine; currently has taken on a broader meaning of pets which is not exclusive to canines and expanded further to animals that may or may not be traditional pets (wild animals).

Puppy play has become very popular for several reasons. Pup play can be explored with NO financial investment. If you can fit your face in a bowl from the kitchen you have a water dish. A couple of pairs of socks do wonderfully as mitts. Long pants provide a little bit of knee coverage.. No gear or special clothing is required. No large or costly furniture or equipment is required. Mastering a skill or attending numerous education classes is not necessary prior to engaging in puppy play. Most learn as they go and/or participate in pup events.

My History

I attended my first Puppy Play workshop in 2001 at Leatherfest in Palm Springs. It was a new thing that did not have the old humiliation component to it. Being a pup was a good and positive thing, not a form of punishment. I saw my first puppy contest in Los Angeles in the mid 2000's as well as my first puppy mosh (Indoor dog park for human pups and their friends) at IML (International Mr. Leather contest weekend).

I have observed an increase in interest of many young gay men seeking out and engaging in puppy play. Some may have a BDSM interest but are too shy or don't have the resources to find a local connection or group. Pup play affords them the opportunity to slowly try something new and inquire about BDSM from the friendships built within the pup arena.

Now all genders, orientations and body types engage in puppy play and is only limited by personal imagination. Foam matts or wrestling matts work well to protect knees at moshes, but every now and then a ball pit appears.

Why I do puppy play

My identity as a pup is an integrated part of my personality as well as a form of kink as play. At times I need to get out of my role as a responsible human being. Pup play allows me to be in the moment without worry or obligation to my human responsibilities of home, work or finances. I also get to meet like minded individuals who also enjoy pup play in one or more of the roles of Handler, Trainer, pup or other animal identity. Common ground is the basis of building friendships and I ultimately build a network of contacts around the world. Physical events are great opportunities to meet others, but for now social media is more common place. The internet has been a blessing in that one can easily meet someone from another country and Not have to travel, take time off from work or spend any money. On the other hand, physical contact is necessary for a true "Puppy Pile" experience!

Puppy play is role play and not particularly sexual for me. For other pups play can and is very sexual. Like any other kink, everyone is an individual and cannot be grouped under one definition of a label. When I'm in a puppy mosh can leave all my human responsibilities behind and just enjoy the moment. Literally the space in front of me and within feet all around is where I am and it determines what I do. No agenda or roadmap of what I will be doing, just right here right now spontaneous. No schedule, no worry about bills, no grocery list to write, etc. I also do it for the sensation of having to move about on four limbs vs two, picking up things with my mouth, chewing on stuff, rolling on my back, getting belly rubs, wiggling my tail/body in happiness and excitement, putting my face in a water bowl without wiping off with a towel afterwards...It's about doing non-human or atypical human behaviors and receiving praise from my surroundings as well as acknowledging the actions and interactions of the pups and handlers around me.

Too often I find folks are too serious about life and don't have the opportunity or afford themselves the opportunity to just play and have fun with it worry free. Thinking about play to the point that it's a chore is not fun. Worry about not having the right gear or enough gear is not fun. I want to celebrate all the unique pups and handlers as they express their inner personality.

Fun things I've seen at puppy moshes

NON-pup roles can enhance a play experience. I have seen a postal carrier and UPS delivery as well as a human "chew toy" and a human fire hydrant in the middle of a puppy mosh. Such excitement when a rush of pups try to pounce. Bonus to the pup who fetches the package being delivered!

Do color choices follow the hanky code?

Sometimes they do and often they do not. Many just have a favorite color and it's just that, a choice of fashion. Remember that role play is often different from BDSM.

What does the collar mean on a pup?

Ownership may or may not apply. Often the collar is a differentiation of pup vs human. I use my collar to hold my name tag so folks know my puppy name. A good rule of thumb is to NOT grab the collar just as if it were a collar on a person. Look for a Handler/Owner and act accordingly regarding asking permission.

Do all pups wear a hood?

No, they do not. A hood is an optional piece of gear. It is often expensive so new pups may not have purchased one yet or may never purchase one. I like to play without a hood so I have easy access to my mouth for fetch

and chewing on stuff. I enjoy snuggling in a puppy pile both with and without a hood. The more likely time for me to wear my hood is in the gay pride parade or if I'm on a bar crawl with a bunch of pups.

What other gear can a pup have?

There are many choices when it comes to gear. Some examples are mitts/pup or dog paws, harness, show tail (attaches to a belt), butt plug tail, wrestling singlet, bandanna, leash, wrist cuffs, gloves, MMA gloves, knee pads, soft rear shoes/boots, muzzle, full body suit, etc. Gear can be made from leather, rubber neoprene or other materials or combination of different materials.

pup gear and accessories can be found in major leather shops. Random t-shirts can be found on t-shirt websites and if you're creative you can shop at your local pet store for supplies (collar, leash, bowl, toys, cages, name tags and bedding).

Resources

I have read a few books about human pup play. I'm certain there are more out there on websites and blogs as the topic of pup play is more common place. Major leather contest event weekends hold a Mosh for pup play and varied other social events within the larger event for pups to gather and chat with one another. Pups and Handlers have titles and their own weekend events.

There are some books specific to the topic of human puppy play. These are just a few of many resources to learn about puppy play and/or spark your creative mind for play possibilities.

Michael Daniels:

WOOF! Perspectives Into the Erotic Care and Training of the Human Dog

GRRR!

Justin St. Clair: Bark

Puppy Play is a dynamic kink which has lead to the formation of pup and Handler (PAH) groups. They have expanded to "pets" (P=Pet) and really any creature other than pup/dog (canine) identity. Get involved and explore your local PAH group! Facebook also has a variety of human pup play and pup identified groups.

Arf, arf! Puppy wags, Taz

EDUCATION: Communication by Lex McGowan

We've talked about vetting, negotiation, and consent. To add to that, we've also addressed aftercare, which is about what might be needed after people play. Communication is something that feels important to continue addressing before play, during play, after play, and in future play (with the same partner or with a different partner).

Several people employ the use of safewords during play to communicate their experience of the pace, sensation, intensity, physical and emotional limits. A safeword is a word that players have agreed upon to keep going, slow down, stop and check in, and stop playing entirely. Typically the bottom will use safewords to

communicate to the top, but it is not unheard of for some tops to use safewords as well. Some examples of safewords and what they can mean (roughly speaking...) are:

Green- Keep going! That's nice, I like it!

Yellow- Slow down, I'd like to keep going, but I'm feeling like this is a little too intense

Red- Stop what you/we are doing now, I don't want to continue

Your safewords don't have to be limited to green/yellow/red, although these are the more common ones. Some people like to be more creative

Other ways to communicate for some types of play (gagging, sensory deprivation) might include a squeak toy with a pre-arranged number of squeaks if the bottom cannot speak. A bottom playing as a puppy might use their mouth to pick up a color hanky to give to their top to communicate a safeword.

Body language is also important, because well...we want to tell the person that we're enjoying it, as well as what becomes a limit. For some bottoms, staying silent and "floating" while they are being pierced, flogged, etc, without making much noise may be their way of enjoying the play. Some tend to be more vocal depending on the people involved and the type of play. It is important for bottoms to tell the top as much as they can about how they communicate or how they might communicate. It's OK not to know about communication style if you're new to play (or a new to a specific type of play, or with a new play partner) but make sure that all parties involved are at least informed about that beforehand. At large street fairs where there are big crowds, noise can be a barrier for both parties, but it is possible to break that barrier. When I have played, and am not facing my play partner, one thing I have done to communicate in this type of environment to a play partner is use my thumb as if it were a dial, from minimum enjoyment to maximum enjoyment. Communication in scene goes both ways: A bottom should verbalize and be transparent as much as possibly known (as a top should as well), and a top should pay attention to body language and also check in during play especially if both people are new to playing with one another.

For what works and doesn't work for future play, set up a time to check in afterward after a day or so that is agreed upon. Some examples of communication in the discussion the day after play might be:

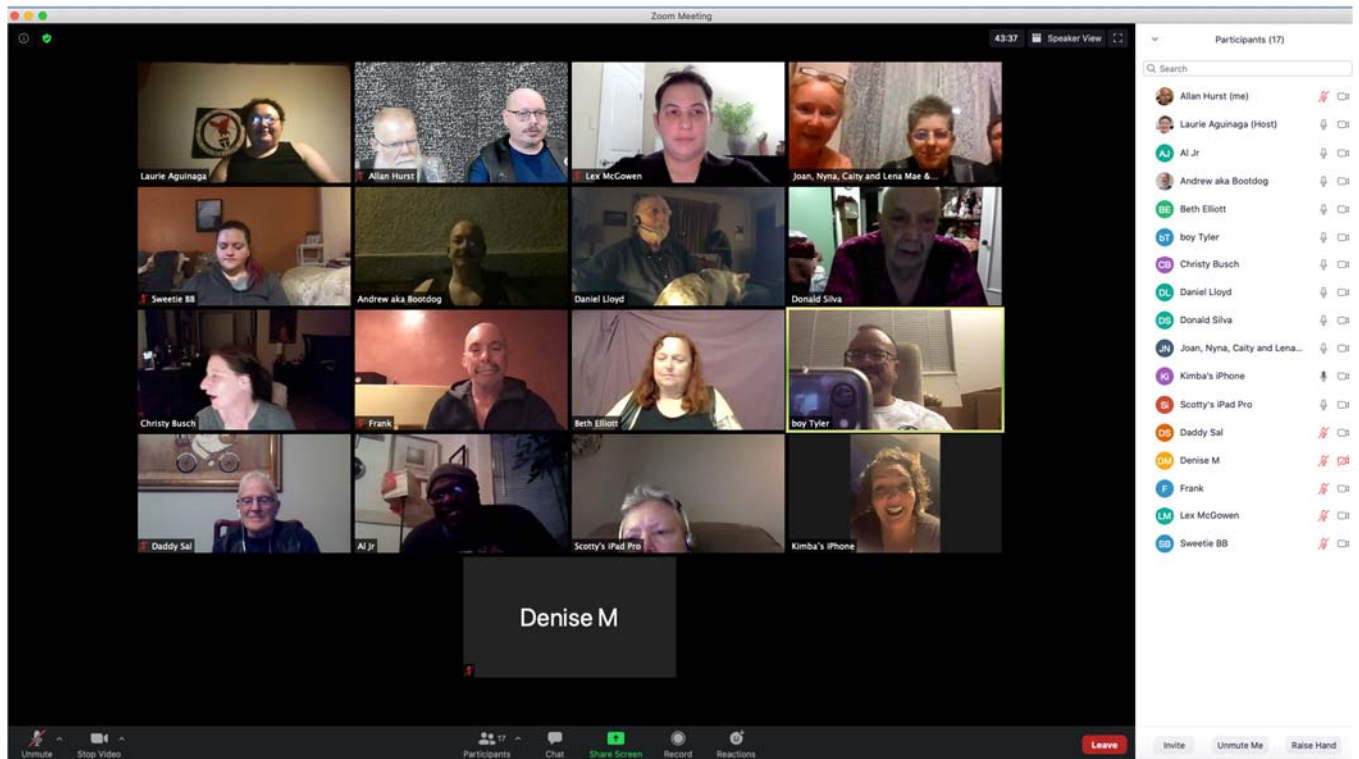
The top may ask the bottom: How are you feeling? They might also ask, "Did anything negative come up for you? What was most enjoyable and what was least enjoyable?"

The bottom may say to a top, "I like your energy. The bondage felt nice. I would like to talk with you about the possibility of another play date sometime". The bottom may also say something like, "I enjoyed our time playing, and I liked the sensation of the singletail whip better than the flogger". Someone may also say, "I enjoyed the experience of being tied up. Thank you for giving that experience. Where can I go to learn more about play?"

The more experience you get, the more skilled you will become with communication before, during, and after play. Enjoy the fun!

CATCH the Patch: ACLC Represented

On Saturday, 19 September: A.C.L.C. celebrated our 1st/27th Anniversary! After a week of annual voting via online ballot, friends and club members came together to hear the results, celebrate the year, and spend such valued time together. The current board was re-elected for the 2020-2021 year, all amendments to the by-laws were approved, and we recognized the members, friends, and business that made this year special to us all. Thank you to everyone who called in and celebrated with us!



On 28 October, ACLC hosted our Halloween Lounge on Zoom. From Superheroes to Ghosts, everyone dressed to impress and shared an “absolutely fabulous” cocktail! Thank you to everyone who attended, and thank you to Laurie, our Member-At-Large, for producing this spooktacular time!

Fall Cleaning! On 08 November, the ACLC Board and two dedicated club members all assisted in downsizing ACLC’s storage unit to a smaller size. This will allow us to continue to cut costs this year, as we continue to have fewer fundraising opportunities to support the club during this time. Thank you to grrl Kim and Denise for your support to the board on this big day!



We want to hear from you! We know you're out there, volunteering, misbehaving, and most of all, Representing. Take a (street legal) photo in your finest ACLC patch, pin, or other assorted swag and send to info@acleather.org. We would love to feature you in our next newsletter!

HUGE Congratulations to ACLC Member of the Year 2020 Frank La, your current "Mr. March" of the 2021 Bare Chest Calendar Men! You can buy your Bare Chest Calendar at <http://www.barechest.org/> Please select "Mr. March" from the dropdown menu for Calendar Man to Support when you buy!

Upcoming Events:

Please join us on the ACLC facebook group, "ACLC – Alameda County Leather Corps" at:
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/47216094228/> We'll be posting future opportunities to join Zoom chats and stay connected with your club!

November 14 - Ms. San Francisco Leather Coat Drive: Sweater weather is right around the corner, and with it comes the need for coats in San Francisco! Join ACLC Vice President and Ms SF Leather 2020, Caity Lynch, at The Eagle Plaza. Donate your used coats, sweaters, sweatshirts, hoodies, or raincoats, and get a free cup of homemade chili!

All donations will go to St James Infirmary. With roots going back to the 1970's, they continue to serve our city as "a peer-based occupational health and safety clinic for sex workers of all genders. It is our mission to meet the needs of people engaged in the sex trade through advocacy, direct services, and social justice."



**Nov.
14th**

**1-5
pm**

**Drop-Off
Coat Drive**

Hosted by
Ms SF Leather

Benefitting St. James Infirmary

***Help others stay warm & well
this Fall & Winter.***

Coats • Sweaters • Sweatshirts • Hoodies • Raincoats • Windbreakers

Receive a Free cup of chili for each donation.

**SF Eagle Plaza
12th St. & Harrison**

Social distancing & masks required at Eagle Plaza

December 1st - 5th - Santa's Service Auction: Virtual! We're kicking this off on the 1st with an online silent auction featuring leather items, garments, and prints (Christmas is coming!) All of that should get you warmed up for 4pm December 5th, when we are honored and excited to have Lenny Broberg return as MC for the live portion of Santa's Service Auction on Zoom! All services offered are social distance appropriate and feature those that are both in-person, as well as virtual services. Want to get in on the fun? We can still use services to sell, if you are interested and want to support ACLC raise much needed funds this year, please email info@acleather.org or contact Joan Norry on facebook messenger. Whether you're selling, buying, or both, this longtime favorite event is back and has something for everyone!



ACLC
presents

SANTA SERVICE AUCTION

Sat Dec 5th
4pm - 6pm
Live on zoom

This virtual holiday shopping event will include a 5 day silent auction at 32auction.com starting December 1 and ending on december 5th with an additional live service auction.



MC: Lenny Broberg

