

A.C.L.C. NEWSLETTER

April to June 2022

VOL. 32, ISSUE 3

IN THIS ISSUE



**President's
Letter**



**2nd Quarter
financial report**



**Education:
Blood Play**



**The Alameda
County Leather
Contest 2002**

President's Letter

I have been active with our club for 20 years this year (see the Know the History section for more details on my beginning titleholder time). The last few months have been full of ups and downs, losing leather family and club members as they crossed the rainbow bridge. The gathering of friends and family to celebrate and remember them has provided us time to reconnect and recall our past together.



In addition, we raised money at the SF Eagle beer bust and kept up with our administrative tasks. It's been a pleasure to go out to social gatherings with masks, vaccinations, and, admittedly, some ongoing COVID risk. We are planning to restart our Events Committee and a new Archives Committee, so please consider participating in one or both. Spring brings 2 more dates for SF Eagle beer busts and socializing on May 1st and July 3rd. I hope to see more of you at some of these events. We need to continue our outreach to new people in all communities and invite them to join our club and attend out events. In April we headed to San Jose for a boots and cigars meet & greet at Renegades. If you see us around, join in the fun and say hi.

In Leather, Nyna

Blood Play

by Dave L

I must start this writing with a disclaimer. I am not a doctor. I don't have a medical license. I invite you to do your own research. I invite you to discuss these items with your doctor. Like all activities related to BDSM, we are discussing acceptable risk. Please make sure to have discussions with your play partner or partners to discuss acceptable risk before venturing into blood play.

A short while ago I was at KinkFest playing around in the medical area. While it was a great evening, it got me thinking about blood play safety and what it might mean to not only the people I play with, but the people around me. In this article, I'll address what it means to be a safe blood play player and how you can limit and mitigate any potential risks.

The Basics

The two basic areas to be aware of in blood play are:

- The players in the scene
- People outside your scene, such as the people in adjacent play spaces, onlookers, or the other players preceding/following your scene in your play space.

Let's start with the elephant in the room: nothing in the play space is sterile. You are not in an operating theater. There aren't air filters cleaning the air. The table on which you are placing your instruments hasn't been sterilized. The paper towels you are using aren't sterile. We need to be as clean as we possibly can and yes, everything that is going into the human body needs to be sterile, but your environment isn't.

Protecting the Bottom

The two biggest risks to your bottom are cross contamination and infection. We can never bring the risk down to zero, but we can reduce it to a very small amount.

Cross contamination is the mixing of bodily fluids. If the top accidentally breaks their own skin and bleeds, there is a chance of cross contamination. If you are wearing used gloves and reach into your toy bag, there is a risk of decontamination. Here are some things that you can do to help reduce the risk:

- Gloves are disposable for a reason. Wear them at every step of the scene and change them often. You touched the sharps container? Change your gloves. You need to get something from your toy bag? Change your gloves. You want to touch a bottle of rubbing alcohol on your work space? Change your gloves. It's a new moon? Change your gloves. You get the idea.
- Plastic sheeting is your friend. You don't know what was on the table or

Blood Play (continued)

workspace before you and you can have open wounds in your play. Plastic sheeting is inexpensive and can be found at your local home improvement store. Please treat it as single use. Also, make sure that your sheeting is thick enough so that you won't tear it with your boots.

- Take out all of your sterile toys before you start playing. That last thing that you want is to go back into your toy bag or piercing kit with dirty hands. If you have to go back in, change your gloves (again).
- Wrap all of your toys in plastic. You like to mix canes and blood? Cool. Wrap your canes (or other toys) in plastic wrap and then thoroughly clean them afterwards.
- The sharps container is the dirtiest thing in the play space. Treat it like it's radioactive. If there is a remote chance that you touched it, change your gloves (note the theme). If you touch it with bare skin, wash your hands thoroughly.
- Always keep a pair of wire cutters in your kit. Sometimes the top will accidentally break skin on themselves after piercing a bottom. It happens. While the top has to deal with cross contamination issues, the bottom shouldn't have to. Cut the hub off of the needle and continue it through the skin so that the part of the needle that broke the top's skin won't go back through the bottom's initial wound. That way, the needle is able to continue on its initial path and the part that broke the skin on the top doesn't go through anyone else.

Preventing Infection

Another issue to be aware of when breaking the skin is the danger of infection. Infection can happen when a foreign object or bacteria enters a wound. Fortunately, this is an easy risk to mitigate.

Before play, wipe down the area where you will be playing with rubbing alcohol. This will clean any debris from the wound area and help to prevent infection. Next, clean the area of the skin with an antibacterial such as Hibiclens.

After play, we will have open wounds. We have all dealt with cuts and scratches in our day to day lives. The same strategies apply here.

This may be a wound caused by play, but it won't react any differently than any other wound.

1. Stop the bleeding with pressure.
 2. Clean the wound.
 3. Dress the wound with something like a bandaid or tegaderm.
 4. Keep the wound clean and dry.
 5. Change bandages on a regular basis and continue to keep the wound clean.
- Let the body do the rest.

Blood Play (continued)

Protecting the people around you

The biggest risk to people not immediately involved in your scene is bodily fluids that escape your play area. This might be blood that was left behind after you leave the area or blood that gets flung about while you are playing. The last thing you want is for germs from your scene to go visiting a neighbor during the scene or sticking around someplace so to visit you again.

Here are some tips:

- Again, plastic sheeting is your friend. Cover any surface that you will be playing on or using. Cover any surface where bodily fluids may go. Cover the walls. Create a partition between you and your neighbor. Cover the table. The TV show Dexter showed great examples of this.
- Take your plastic sheeting with you when you leave. The great thing about this is that you can throw all of your trash in the plastic sheeting, wrap it up, and throw it out.
- If a toy was used that is made of metal that can withstand high heat and pressure, consider using an autoclave to clean it after a scene. If you don't have access to an autoclave, an instant pot can help in a pinch. It might not get to the pressure or temperature of an autoclave, but it can do an excellent job. Please read up on the limitations of an InstantPot to disinfect items before attempting this.
- Use a disinfectant on all toys after play. Hibiclens is a great start.
- If it is disposable and wasn't used, just throw it out. If you took out 10 needles and only used 9, throw the tenth one out instead of putting it back in your kit.
- Wipe down all equipment with cleaner after you have taken off all of the plastic sheeting.

Conclusion

Like with all play, you can never eliminate 100% of the risk for blood play. That being said, following the steps above and doing personal research on bloodborne pathogens can help mitigate the risk and make you a safer player.

Links

- [Hibiclens](#)
- [Plastic sheeting example](#)
- [Tegaderm](#)
- [Exam glove example](#)
- [Rubbing alcohol example](#)

The 2002 Alameda County Leather Contest

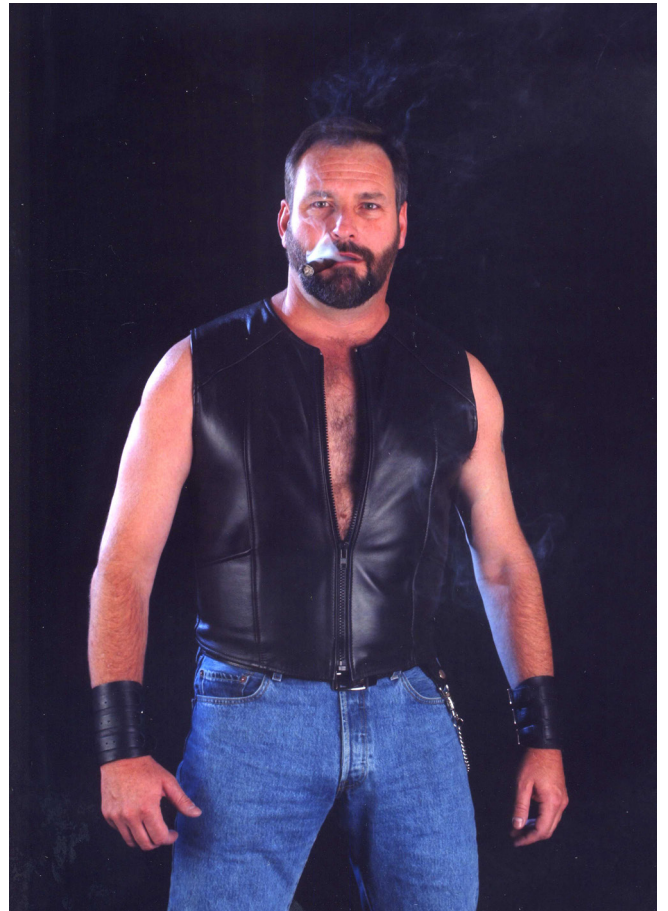
A Look Back 20 Years

John Grisamore

What motivated to run for the title? I was at the old Turf Club, having a chat with Randy Wright about the upcoming contest and his concerns that there were no contestants for Mr. ACL, and the contest was just two weeks away. He explained that not having a title holder had impacts on fundraising for the community, and asked me if I would consider running. I had participated in ACLC events and even performed at a few... I felt a strong pull toward giving something back to the community, so I agreed to run.

What was the value of being a titleholder in 2002? Wow. Asking that question really made me think, and get really grateful. First off, I got a whole new family... I had always been somewhat connected to the East Bay folks, but being a titleholder allowed me to be closer to the community and feel like I belonged to something SO much bigger. The partnership ACLC had with the Ducal and ISE expanded my understanding and love for our community as a whole. Becoming a part of the siblinghood of leather nationally really connected me to the heart that is the leather community. Also, I was able to step outside my comfort zone and just be myself in ways that I had never considered (demonstrating flogging in the streets on willing passersby during Hayward Pride comes to mind). But the biggest benefit I received from my participation was a relationship with my title partner, Nyna... Even though we are miles apart, and not always in touch, my relationship with her always feels like a big warm familiar blanket... always.

My title year was amazing, and I will always remember my years as a member of the ACLC with love and warmth (like how warm my rear got at that one Santa's auction... ouch). Since then has leather remained part of your life? Interesting you should ask... I auctioned most of my leather gear off at an ACLC function before I moved to North Carolina because, you know, North Carolina. Since that time, I have moved from NC to the Dallas Metroplex and have met a great man who is very interested in leather and kink. I am so titillated by his interest and excitement that it has opened a whole new chapter of leather in my life. We are having a great time exploring. And he really likes my flogger.



John Grisamore
Mr. Alameda County Leather 2002

The 2002 Alameda County Leather Contest

A Look Back 20 Years

Nyna

I decided to run for the title to “give back” to the east bay community time and money for our leather community. I was living in El Sobrante and wanted to participate in the area where I lived and not always across the bridge. ACLC was the type of organization-club I felt comfortable and connected with men, women, non-binary, young, older and multi-racial persons that shared an interest in leather, levi and other activities.

The value I gained as a club member and titleholder was enormous and one of the best years in my long life. I connected with my title husband John G. whom I adore until this day. I learned the ACLC way to produce events, about being on a board of a California non-profit organization, and how to represent leather in communities near and far. It introduced me to many long-term friends, members of court systems and leather communities in the US. I graduated from being a “player” to “belonging” while meeting mentors like Dave Barker, Den, Randy, Beth, Marcus, Lenny, Jeff and so many past titleholders that continued to support the club (too many to mention by name). I learned what leather leadership means-mentorship, accountability, responsibility, honesty, integrity, pride and not just what looks “hot” or serves my needs.

Since 2002 I’ve been on the ACLC board more years than not, and served on the board in many positions more than once. I have gone to IML, MAL, MS World, IMSL, LLC, W.I.L.L., ABW, Desire, and WOD both with my leather family and alone. I have judged a few contest and coached others running for titles. Watched tons of bar contest and gone to educational presentations across the country. I taught classes, did demos, and played hard while loving every minute. I am part of Mama family, was a leather Marshal in SF Pride and received Dave Barker award and Phillip Turner Achievement award. I am also associate member of the Golden Gate Guards and have won a Woody. These 20 years have been a blessing with great friends, lovers, experiences that have excited me and got me off. I am a grateful member of ACLC and for all the opportunities being an active part of the club has given me.



Nyna

Ms. Alameda County Leather 2002

Treasurer's Report

January-March 2022

Starting Balance	\$ 9,881.93
Income	2,384.45
Expenses	314.98
Ending Balance	\$ 11,951.40

\$ 1,481 was paid for the liability insurance premium after the close of the report

Don't Forget: Dues Are Due!

Annual Membership dues are currently due. Full membership is \$25 per year and affiliate membership is \$10 per year.

Dues can be paid through:

- Venmo (go to www.venmo.com/u/ACLeather)
- Paypal (go to www.paypal.com and search "Alameda County Leather Corps")
- Use one of the QR Codes below
- Send a check to

ACLC
P.O. Box 2981
Castro Valley, CA 94546



Scan. Pay. Go.

@ACLeather



venmo



Alta California Leather Corps



Sunday, July, 3rd 2022

3pm- 7pm

\$15 beverage bust including meal

\$5.00 for meal only

www.acleather.org



Catch the Patch

ACLC Members Out and About

Eagle Beer Bust



Joan in Lost Wages



Golden Dildeaux Awards



Bootdog at IML



ACLC Board of Directors



President

Nyna Kaiser

Vice President

Joan Norry

Treasurer

Andrew Johnson

Secretary

Caity Lynch

Member at Large

Evelyn Sullivan