

1997 Pride March and Festival

Monterey's 3rd Annual Pride Festival Draws 1,200

Monterey's 3rd Gay Pride Festival and 2nd Gay Pride March drew over 1,200 locals and visitors June 7th & 8th, up significantly from last year's events.

Monterey Pride March

While turnout was lighter than expected due to overcast skies, the march down Lighthouse Blvd. in New Monterey drew over 200 local celebrants in a colorful and enthusiastic show of local gay pride.

March organizer Wes Kashiwagi was pleased with the show of support, especially the large number of young men and women under 21. "Monterey can finally have a pride celebration that is making a difference in our community" said Kashiwagi.

"We had coverage in every paper and on every TV station. It's become the best opportunity for gay men and women to show their peers that they aren't alone in this city, and perhaps more importantly to show the diversity of our community."

Monterey Pride Festival

An estimated 1,000 women and men gathered at Monterey Bay Park along the bay on Sunday for an afternoon of fun, although the celebration was cut short by unexpectedly high winds. Over 20 vendors and social and service organizations gave festival-goers a chance to see how the local gay community has grown over the past year.

Pride founder Scott Steinman presided over the event, and accepted the proclamation by the Monterey County Supervisors contested earlier in the week by Christian fundamentalists.

Local politico Dave Potter gave an impassioned speech voicing his support of the right of lesbians and gays to share in the same rights our straight counterparts enjoy without question. Matt Friday and Bruce Carlson collected proclamations and letters from the California State Assembly and Senate, as well as from the White House and the U.S. Congress. Pacific Grove, Marina, Carmel, Seaside, and Monterey all supported the weekend of events by issuing proclamations.

The events raised approximately \$550 in donations for next year's events.

Photos by Alan Stephenson and Wes Kashiwagi

1997 Community Pride Award Winners

Gay Person of the Year

Ernie Sanchez, owner of Franco's Norma Jean in Castroville

Most Out

Kevin Logan, Autumn Unck

Most Political

Service Award

Bill Twyford

Community Building

Bruce & Tex of the Monterey Bay Bears

Organization of the Year

Gay Teen Alliance

Big Ol' Queen Award

Cummeal Lofton

Best Dressed

Michi Pierce, Maggie

Worst Jokes

Larry Perrigo

Couples of the Year

Flanders Setchel & Kim Michael Kimmel & George Zavala

Most Talented

Tony Kaforski

Newcomer Award

Craig Wenzl

New Businesses

Lighthouse Bar & Grill, Eddie's

Most Supportive Business

Kevin Hartley and Weldon Webb of the After Dark nightclub



Special Thanks to

Supervisor Dave Potter and the Monterey County Board of Supervisors • Glen Schaller • Mel Mason • Sandra Koffman • Mayor Ken White and City Council of Carmel • Mayor James Vocelka and City Council of Marina • Mayor Dan Jordan and the Seaside City Council • City Councilwoman Helen Rucker • Mayor Dan Albert and City Council of Monterey • Councilwoman Ruth Vreeland • Assemblyman Fred Keeley • Senator Bruce McPherson • U.S. Senator Barbara Boxer • U.S. Congressman Sam Farr • Bruce Carlson and Matt Friday • Tom Crudo and Danny Azevedo • Kevin Hartley and Weldon Webb and the handsome staff of the After Dark • Ted Roach and the equally handsome staff of the Lighthouse Bar & Grill • Brad Harlan • and the many, many others without whom this event would not have been possible.

'98 Pride Planning Begins July 17th

A new organization will meet Thursday, July 17th at 7:30 in Monterey to start organizing next year's gay pride march and festival. Pride of Monterey County will be a state registered 501(c)3 non-profit organization run by community members.

Accountability is the Difference

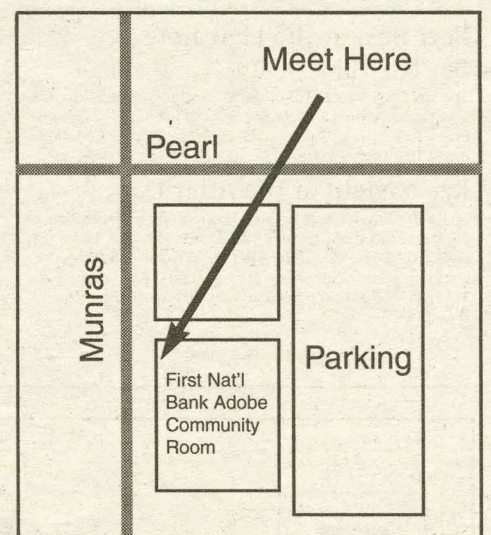
Monterey resident Brad Harlan has stepped forward to coordinate the effort. Flyers have been distributed to bring new members into the organization.

At the first meeting, members will vote on the groups Board of Directors and ask for volunteers to head committees. Harlan has identified fundraising for next year's festival as the group's top priority.

What They're About

The groups statement of purpose reads as follows: "Pride of Monterey County® is a non-profit organization dedicated to the celebration of the lives of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered people. To accomplish this end, Pride of Monterey County® will create and/or sponsor activities and events which will raise awareness of the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered community in Monterey County, and of how the people of this community are integrated into Monterey County as a whole."

"I think this is where Monterey's Gay Pride celebration needs to go," said Pride co-founder Wes Kashiwagi. "Now that we have support from the community at large, we can concentrate more on growing the festival rather than maxing out our VISA cards. It's a great opportunity to have your



Map to the First National Bank Adobe Community Room in Monterey

say in what happens next year." Kashiwagi added that *The Paper* plans on sponsoring a float for Monterey's gay community in San Francisco's 1998 Gay Pride parade.

For more information call 655-2045.