



Beach Boys: The Joys of Nude Sun Bathing

I'm not a prude, but I've never felt confident enough to be nude in public, the recent picture of my bare ass in *Just Out* notwithstanding. But I realized I could get over my fears and do a service to my readers at the same time by discovering and comparing the merits of Portland's two nude beaches, Sauvie Island and Rooster Rock.



Category 1: SCENERY

Both are exceedingly beautiful. The drive north past St. Johns to Sauvie Island is perhaps a tad prettier because once on the island, you're greeted by row upon row of cornfields, acre upon acre of fresh berries. Then, too, Collins Beach on the island faces east and Mt. Hood looms majestically in the distance. But many, including my guide **Brent Lank**, consider Rooster Rock, with its reedy riverbanks, superior. "It's just so fucking beautiful here," he says. Which you prefer depends on what kind of atmosphere you like. With its sandy shores, Sauvie feels more like a day at the beach, while Rooster Rock has a more rustic riverfront ambiance.

Winner: A TIE

Category 2: CONVENIENCE

Because it sits at the juncture of the Willamette and Columbia rivers, rather than in the gorge, Sauvie Island is closer to downtown Portland. More significantly, according to

Lank, its beaches open earlier in the season, so it holds a monopoly on nudity until early July.
Winner: SAUVIE ISLAND

Category 3: WATER

It never occurred to me to avoid the water at Sauvie Island until one seasoned pro reminded me that the Willamette River is Oregon's greatest environmental challenge. There's no such problem on the Columbia at Rooster Rock, though beware of jet skiers flying through the water with little regard for you.

Winner: ROOSTER ROCK

Category 4: FACILITIES

Rooster Rock has a spigot in the parking lot where you can wash the sand off your feet before getting into the car. There's also a fully equipped bathroom, whereas Sauvie has a porta-potty by the roadside. And, from what I'm told, the chances of your car being vandalized are slimmer at Rooster Rock.

Winner: ROOSTER ROCK



Floyd and friends get as bare as they dare in the name of research.

area at its farthest tip, while gays and straights mingle more freely at Rooster Rock.

But, as attractive as the young men are at Sauvie Island, for a clothing-optional beach, most of the men opted to keep their clothing on—including Urban Humanity founder **Bryan Boyd**, who wore a black T-shirt in the water although it wasn't even one of his own designs. In fact, I'd say only 10 percent, at most, of the men took off their suits. Also clothed but looking good were **Doug Mendenhall** and **Michael Spangler**.

Many of those young men looked damn fine in bathing trunks, including one hot Latino whose skimpy blue suit said Aussie Bum on the rear (which, to my myopic eyes, looked like Awesome Bum). But I was there to experience nudity, and I found it difficult to relax with everyone covered up while I let it all hang out.

To be fair, I visited Rooster Rock on a weekday. And while I did get to see **Blaine Johnson** naked, most of the men were—like me—at an age where we have the confidence to be naked, but also of the age when we probably shouldn't be. So, I plan on returning to Rooster Rock on a weekend in the hopes that more of the young and beautiful are willing to shed their shorts and be more Out Going. ☺

FLOYD SKLAVER is looking for new adventures and experiences. Email your ideas to floydsklaver@comcast.net.