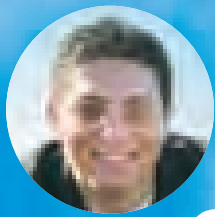


Angel's Be Alive!



Angel Gomez,
Member Services
Manager



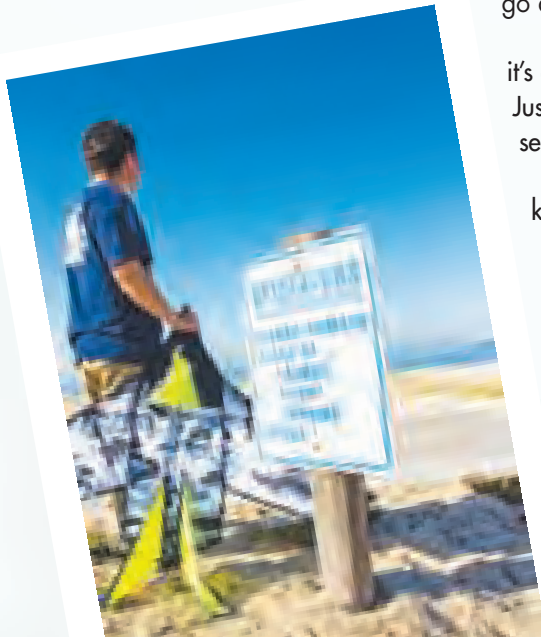
Let's Go

Hello again, everybody! Time to celebrate spring ... by flying a kite. C'mon, I know you want to. So go ahead!

Everyone has flown a kite, right? If you haven't, it's a great way to get outdoors and enjoy your day. Just find an open area and hope for a little wind. In seconds, you're a pilot sailing through the air.

But before you begin, what you will need? A kite, string, flying space and a little wind. Simple.

I chose Dockweiler State Beach, right across from all of our good Club Members at Hyperion, in Playa del Rey. There's plenty of parking (at least during the week), concessions, restrooms, the fantastic bike path ... everything you need to fly your kite. Even planes soaring overhead from LAX – true inspiration for true kite flyers! (And there's even a windsurfing landing at Dockweiler, to give you even more inspiration.)



Have you ever wondered where kites came from?

Well, the exact location is unknown, but it is believed that kites were flown in China over 2,000 years ago. The tale that is often told is of a Chinese farmer who tied a string to his hat to prevent it from blowing away by the strong wind, which was probably the first kite ever flown. In 200 B.C., Chinese General Han Hsin of the Han Dynasty used a kite to measure the distance that his army had to dig a tunnel to reach the city he wanted to attack.

In India, kiting is a part of a great social festival. In Japan, kites were flown to keep evil spirits away and were believed that they bring good luck in production of grain. Kiting is also believed to be one of the hobbies that made many people in Japan go crazy and forget about their work. There are many stories about how and where kites were flown, sometimes as a hobby, to carry messages, and sometimes for scientific experiments.

How to Fly a Kite

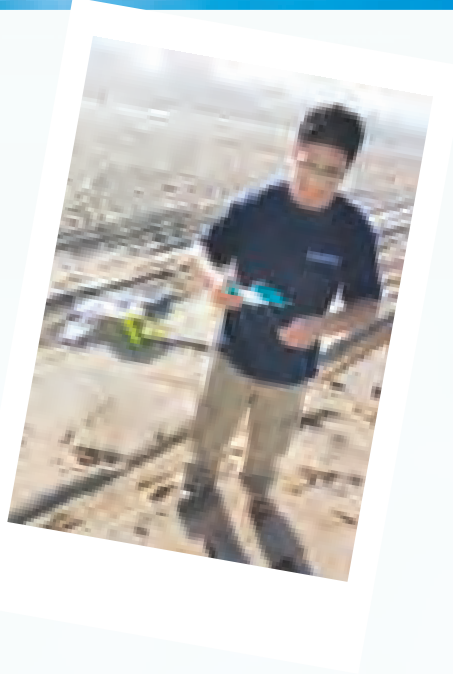
Hey, it's not hard. But here you go, anyway: Buy a kite at a local hobby shop or online – some grocery stores carry them this time of year, too (and you don't have to spend a lot) – and assemble it. Attach the string, and make sure you can grab strong hold of that string. Hold the kite in one hand and the string storage in the other, and stand with your back to the wind. Now, run backwards (or you can just stand there, if the wind is strong enough), and let out the string, a little bit more at a time, as the kite takes to the air. Soon, the kite will be flying, and you're having fun! But the higher the kite flies, the stronger you need to be, so don't be too adventurous.

Be careful at Dockweiler to not use the bike path for your kite flying. Bikes really whiz by, and it's dangerous and maybe even illegal to use the bike path for anything other than biking.

Safety

Kites are lots of fun, but they also need to be flown with a lot of care. People should always be aware of their surroundings and consider safety measures when flying a kite. Do not fly your kite next to any electric poles with wires going from one pole to another. They should not be flown where there are people walking by, the string can cause serious injuries. So, when you get your kite, take it to the beach or any park that has lots of open area.

Fly a Kite



Dockweiler History

Dockweiler State Beach is in Playa del Rey, between Imperial Highway on the south, and Culver Boulevard on the north. It's about three miles long.

Recently, the beach has been improved. General improvements of the completed capital beach project include replacement of four restroom buildings, an entry kiosk, refurbishment of the main-maintenance/life-guard facility, a concession building, a recreational (RV Park) with utilities upgrades, new phone lines, signage, landscaping and infiltration trenches to filter storm water runoff from the parking lots to the beach.

Up until the 1930s, the beach was known as the Moonstone Beach and was leased to the City of Los Angeles by the State in 1946. The name was changed to the Isidore B. Dockweiler Beach State Park in 1955. Isidore B. Dockweiler was a native son of California. He was the first graduate in 1887 of St. Vincents College. He served on the California State Parks Commission from 1939 to 1947. On May

24, 1955, the Men of Old St. Vincents placed a plaque at Isidore B. Dockweiler Beach State Park.

The 288-acre beach has been operated by the Los Angeles County Department of Beaches and Harbors for the City of Los Angeles since 1976. In 1992, the Department of Beaches and Harbors completed the Dockweiler State Beach General Plan, and it was approved by the State Recreation and Parks Commission.

Dockweiler Facilities

Description: The beach features the 22-mile-long bike path, fire rings, picnic areas, swimming, surfing, volleyball, restrooms and showers.

Parking: 2080 spaces, 23 disabled.

Food: Food concession

Lifeguards: Lifeguards are on the beach during daylight hours.

General hours: 7 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Until next time, Be Alive! and have fun!



May Events

Reading Magic

- All summer
- Abracadabra and alakazam, the Los Angeles Public Library is conjuring up some Reading Magic this summer. All children ages 4-12 are invited to join the free summer reading club at the 71 Los Angeles Public Library branches and at Central Library. Sign up at a library or online at www.lapl.org, and read and enjoy library services all summer long. Children who join the reading club during the summer will receive a free book bag, folder, bookmark and certificate of completion. Throughout the season, branches will host performers and authors and conduct book clubs, craft groups and storytelling.
- Information: (213) 228-7481.

Salute to Recreation Family Festival

- May 30 through June 1
- At Northridge Park, Reseda. Rec and Parks and Councilman (and Club Member) Greig Smith host the 25th Salute to Recreation Family Festival, with fireworks (Saturday night), an international marketplace and food booths, a beer garden, a silent auction, carnival rides and games, a mural competition, tennis tournaments, a skateboard competition, a daycamp fair, a children's area, inflatable's, a 50-plus dance, Hawaiian Village refreshment gardens, four stages of continuous entertainment, and more.
- Free admission; individual attractions might charge fees.
- Northridge Park, 10058 Reseda Blvd. Northridge.
- Information: <http://www.laparks.org/salute/>

Warner Grand Theatre

- All month
- Have you been to the revived Warner Grand Theatre in San Pedro? The theatre, which retains its atmosphere and décor from the day when it was built, in 1931, is managed by Cultural Affairs and presents a lively schedule of film festivals (both classic Hollywood and foreign), live performances from area entertainers and theatre companies, and is the launch location for area walking tours and preservation tours. It is truly one of the City's gems.
- Information: www.warnergrand.org

Lineman's Rodeo

- May 17
- City Employees are given a special invitation to watch the DWP lineman doing their thing during the annual DWP Lineman's Rodeo. The event is not open to the general public. The event is set for 8:30 a.m. Saturday, May 17, at the DWP Truesdale Facility, 11760 Truesdale St. in Sun Valley.
- Information: www.lalinenarodeo.com

Ticket Guy Recommends:



"Visit us at the New Club Store and Service Center, 120 W. Second St., right across from the new Parker Center. You won't have a better time all month!"



Directions to Dockweiler State Beach

Dockweiler State Beach is in Playa del Rey. Take any north-south freeway to the 105 Freeway, and head west. The 105 exits onto Imperial Highway, and the beach entrance is at the end of Imperial: 12001 Vista del Mar, Playa del Rey, CA 90293.

