

LIBERTY CALL

A place to get away



A young man enjoys solitude at Bellows Beach as he does some fishing. Bellows Air Force Station at Waimanalo Bay on the windward side of the island, offers a wide variety of activities for military personnel and their families. Oceanfront and backrow cabins, and family and group campsites are offered at a great price, for a great place to get away.

Bellows has more to offer than best beach on O'ahu

By JOCS(SW) Phil Eggman
NAVY REGION HAWAII

Whenever I have family visit from the mainland, a main stay of their O'ahu experience will always be a day at Bellows Air Force Station (AFS) at Waimanalo Bay on the beautiful windward side of the island.

This was our choice of location to greet Year 2000 last weekend, which I believe will be a family tradition for years to come because Bellows has all the trappings of a five-star resort.

You can't beat it. With its laid back charm, perfect beach, warm water, sugary white sand, Bellows has so much to offer military families stationed here, including cabin and campsite rentals, Beach Club, gas station, mini-mart and a plethora of outdoor activities both in and out of the water. Dry activities include horseback riding, paintball, mini golf, historical and nature hiking tours, and bike tours.

Bellows offers a tidepool tour on Thursdays at 8:30 a.m. Adults \$10, and Kids ages 5-12 are \$7. Or you can go on "Whale Watching Walks", an easy hike on a paved trail to Makapu'u Point with awesome panoramic views of windward O'ahu on Saturdays at 8:30 a.m. Adults \$10, Kids ages 5-12 are \$7 and Kids under 5 are free.

You can't beat the offering of water sports here either.

Bellows offers a two-hour ocean kayaking class every Wednesday and Friday at 1 p.m. Cost is \$12 for adults and \$10 for kids ages 12 and under. Price includes kayak rental for time of instruction.

Boogie Boarding classes are held on Thursdays from 1 p.m. - 3 p.m. Cost is \$10 and includes the use of a boogieboard and an additional \$2 charge for flippers.

Snorkeling adventures are offered on Wednesdays from 9 a.m. to Noon and Fridays from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Cost for adults is \$15; children 12 and under are \$8.

Plan ahead. If you are planning to spend the night, you better make your plans early. Bellows is a popular spot and tends to fill up quickly, especially the cabins.

Bellows takes reservations up to one year (365 days) during off-season. During peak season (from Memorial Day weekend until Labor Day), active duty Air Force have priority and can make reservations 90 days in advance. All others may make reservations up to 75 days prior to your planned visit. The maximum stay is 14 days, but may be extended if a vacancy exists. A sponsor may reserve up to two cabins per visit. Sponsors are responsible for the conduct of their guests.

Campsites can accommodate two tents with a maximum of ten people per site. Cabins will comfortably accommodate four people, but you are allowed a maximum

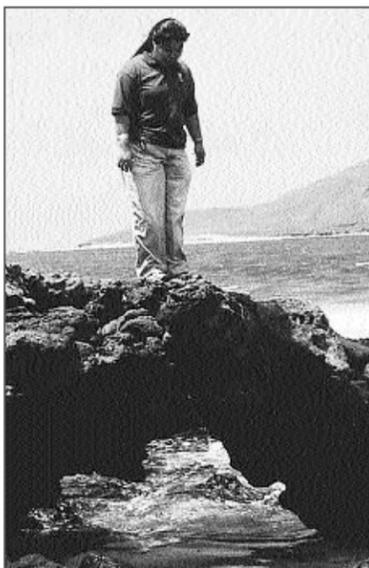
of ten if you wish. Cabin amenities include kitchenettes, full size refrigerator, barbecue grill, daily house-keeping service, telephones and cable TV.

Rates for oceanfront cabins are \$54 per night. Backrow cabins are \$49 per night. Family Camping sites are \$6 per night. Group Camping sites is \$30 per night. Check-in is between 3 p.m. and 8 p.m. at the Recreation Equipment Check Out desk. Checkout is before 2 p.m.

To get to Bellows from Pearl Harbor, take H-1 Freeway going East to Pali Hwy exits number 21A. Go North on Pali Hwy (Hwy 61). Turn right onto Kalaniana'ole Hwy (Hwy 72). (On the left is Castle Medical Center). There is a green Waimanalo sign. It's approximately 4 miles to Bellows AFS. There's a small green Bellows AFS sign on the right side of the road and a brown Bellows AFS sign on the left.

So, if you are active duty Navy and you never step foot on Bellows Beach during your tour of duty on Hawaii, you are missing out on a great place that has been made with families in mind. Whether you spend an afternoon, a weekend or two weeks, take advantage of this great recreational opportunity.

For more information about Bellows AFS, please call 259-8080 or check out their website at <http://www.bellowsafs.com>. See you on the beach.



First timers (above) try out kayaking at Bellows Beach. Bellows offers a two-hour ocean kayaking class every Wednesday and Friday at 1 p.m. Snorkeling, boogie boarding and much more is offered at Bellows. A young girl stands on a coral reef formation and enjoys the beauty of a tide pool, one of the many beautiful sights at Bellows. Tidepool tours are offered on Thursdays at 8:30 a.m.

Photos by
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