

California State Park Rangers Association



Promoting California State Park
Professionalism for 50 Years

1964 to 2014

The First California Ranger - Galen Clark



Galen Clark was appointed State Guardian of Yosemite on May 21, 1866. Clark was California's and the nation's first park ranger. He is pictured here near Nevada Falls. Yosemite Valley and the Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias were State Parks from 1864 to 1906.

Photo courtesy of Yosemite National Park Research Library



On June 30, 1864, President Lincoln signed a bill granting Yosemite Valley and the Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias to the State of California. On September 28, California Governor Frederick Low accepted the Grant and appointed the first State Park Commission. These actions represent not only the birth of California State Parks, but also the birth of the national park ideal. CSPRA's 50th birthday coincides with the 150th anniversary of the Grant in 2014.



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Cover art designed by **Jose Miguel Mayo**, graduate of CSU Monterey Bay in Science Illustration

50 YEARS OF CSPRA

Introduction

*by Patricia Clark-Gray
CSPRA Historian
Co-Editor, CSPRA 50 Book*

I hope you enjoy this California State Park Ranger Association (CSPRA) 50th Anniversary book. As the current CSPRA Historian I would like to thank the past Historians for storing and safeguarding our comprehensive collection of newsletters, correspondences, minutes, photographs and other materials. This collection not only is the history of our professional organization but also the history of State Park leaders, issues and park family.

The most important part of the CSPRA files and this book are the stories. These files document the beginning of the fledgling organization and are covered in this book in the CSPRA history pieces written by Kirk Wallace and long-time Executive Secretary Doug Bryce.

The section on CSPRA Presidents illustrates the issues during the Presidents' tenures but also the leadership of the department. The annual meetings were an opportunity for the organization to attend training, discuss issues during the General Executive Council (GEC), recognize our Honorary Ranger, and most importantly, network and socialize with employees throughout the state. We also interacted with other park professionals from the Park Rangers Association of California (PRAC).

Through the board and membership, CSPRA has accomplished significant achievements through the *Save Bodie* campaign, the effort to protect Mono Lake, the Bottle Bill and several bond acts which were critical for building new parks and maintaining our parks.

The Retiree Rendezvous section showcases 20 years of retired employee gatherings to camp and eat together, sharing fond memories of park careers.

My personal favorite is the Women Rangers section. We feature Paula Peterson, our first full-time female State Park Ranger, who was my supervisor, mentoring me and many of the other pioneer women rangers. Paula faced unique challenges as the first and her story

reflects these challenges. Many of the pioneer women rangers faced parenthood issues reflecting society at the time. My mom sewed me a maternity uniform, there being none available commercially at the time. This uniform and other hand-made uniforms were shared by many women rangers until an official uniform became available. Once our son was born, I found supportive managers like Dick Troy and Tory Long who approved job-sharing my position so I

could spend more time with our son while continuing my park career.

In our last section, current President Matt Bellah and Past President Nina Gordon reflect on the future of CSPRA. Looking at our past challenges, I am confident that with our dedicated employees we will continue to provide guidance to the department's management and that the park family will continue to provide park employees with support. I feel blessed to work for California State Parks with such dedicated, creative, and passionate employees.



How CSPRA Began

Mission Statement



The California State Park Rangers Association is an organization of park professionals dedicated to advancement of the highest principles of public service, and established to support, protect, and defend the integrity of State Parks for present and future generations.



by former Executive Manager Doug Bryce

The idea for an organization like CSPRA had been discussed now and again for several years, but the spark that ignited the organization was struck at a park supervisors' meeting held in Columbia in 1964. The issue was a proposal that rangers in historic parks be required to wear period dress. The rangers at Columbia felt that no one would be able to tell them from the local townspeople. It was decided that an organization was needed that could represent the interests of rangers to park management, and with the help of several people and the California State Employees Association that organization was formed.

On November 4, 1964, CSPRA held its first meeting of the Board of Directors. In the fall of 1965 the first annual conference was held at Asilomar. In 1967, CSPRA was incorporated as a professional organization and two years later it was recognized by the state as an authorized representative of the members.

In 1978, with the passage of the Employee-Employer Relations Bill, CSPRA became a professional organization only. Since 1979 CSPRA membership has been open to all state park employees, and now includes trades and maintenance workers, resource ecologists, guides, district interpretive specialists, and office technicians to name a few. Employees from all disciplines support the advocacy work that CSPRA does for state parks.

Together with the Park Rangers Association of California, CSPRA sponsors an annual California Parks Conference, attracting park professionals from many agencies throughout the state. CSPRA publishes a quarterly newsletter as well as a web page, to keep members up-to-date on current issues and trends.

In the 1990s, we began sponsoring an annual Retirees Rendezvous in the early fall. This has helped keep our retired members together and more in touch with CSPRA. The last decade of the century has been a very difficult time for park professionals with tighter budgets and ever-increasing demands on the park heritage. As the population has continued to grow and pressure to find prime land for development has increased, the pressure on parks has also continued to increase.

More than ever CSPRA and its members are needed to serve as the conscience for the Department of Parks and Recreation, and to do everything they can to maintain the integrity of our natural, historical, and cultural heritage.



CSPRA's first President, L. Paul Griffith photo from 1939 at Seacliff State Beach

The first Board, below, in 1965. This flyer celebrated 10 years of CSPRA in 1974.

CSPRA

Decade Old - And Growing!



*Standing (l to r) Darrell Knoefler, Gordon Kishbaugh, Henry Saddler, John Michael, Kirk Wallace, Mel Whittaker
Seated (l to r) Lewis Myer, L. Paul Griffith, Philip Geiger*

Nearly ten years ago, June 12, 1964 to be exact, a letter was sent to all Rangers in the California State Park System, putting forth the idea of forming a California State Park Rangers' Association. This letter pointed out seven specific objectives that could be realized from such an association and asked for ideas, interest and, of course, donations for organizing funds.

* * * ENTHUSIASTIC RESPONSE * * *

By September 13, 1964, 178 Rangers had contributed \$870.80 and elected an Organizing Committee. The original committee was - L. Paul Griffith, Chairman; Henry Saddler, District 1; Gordon Kishbaugh, District 2; Mel Whittaker, District 3; Darrell Knoefler, District 4; Lewis Myer, District 5; Kirk Wallace, District 6; John Michael, Sacramento Office District. By December 18, 1964, in time for the second (now) Board of Directors meeting, elections had been held and Al Salzgeber attended as the newly elected Vice President. L. Paul Griffith had been elected President and the District Representatives became Regional Directors of Regions I thru VII, respectively. Philip Geiger, then a staff member of CSEA, worked with the organizing committee and accepted the responsibilities of the Executive Secretary.

* * * CONSTITUTION FORMULATED * * *

By March 13, 1965, The Board of Directors had formulated the Constitution and By-Laws and, with the sanction of the growing membership, adopted the articles in the name of the "CALIFORNIA STATE PARK RANGERS ASSOCIATION."

* * * OUTLET FOR IDEAS * * *

Along with the formation of this Association in 1964 came an outlet for ideas that had been long overdue. Two particular ideas that have borne fruit came to light in the form of resolutions at the first GEC in 1965. One was to support CSEA in its legislation to obtain a uniform allowance, the other was to encourage and assist the Department of Parks and Recreation in establishing a State Park Rangers Training Center.

Members and friends, look around you. This Association is just 10 years old and growing. Not growing old - but growing in stature and accomplishments!

Marking the 25th Anniversary in 1989



CHARTER MEMBERS celebrated 25 years

*Top row, L to R: Al Ulm, Jerry Johnson, Ron McCall, Milt Frincke, Jim Geary, Kirk Wallace.
Middle row: Bill Reinhardt, Herman Schlerf, Chuck Lyden, Phil VanDuesen, Ron McCulloch, Chuck Mehlert, Jim Davis, Joe McCall, Wes Cater, Dick Brock, Doug Bryce.
Kneeling with cake : Bob Foster and 1989 CSPRA President Don Murphy.*

OTHER CHARTER MEMBERS not shown: Harry Batlin, Keith Caldwell, Glen Farris, Bud Getty, Dominic Gotelli, Bud Heacox, Gene Junette, Floyd Lemley, Carl Lonnecker, Ken Martin, Kirby Morgan, Jim Neal, Bob Perkins, Jack Schlotter, Bill Stahlberg, Jack Stowe, Dick Felty and Ken Pierce.

BENEFACTORS: Peggy Whitehead, Doug Bryce, Elaine Price, Michael G. Lynch and Mike Wells

CSPRA 40 Year Members in 2014

* FIFTY YEAR CHARTER MEMBERS

- | | | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Anderson, Robert E. | 17. Freigien, Gary O. | 34. Lynch, Michael | 51. Snider, Jeffrey D. |
| 2. Bitting, Samuel R. | 18. Friend, Dan C. | 35. Marshall, Wm. E. | 52. Soderlund, Fred |
| 3. Brean, Ron | 19. Getty, "Bud" M.H.* | 36. McCall, Ron * | 53. Stahlberg, W.A. * |
| 4. Bryce, Doug * | 20. Grant, Donald E. | 37. McGowan, Glen R. | 54. Stewart, Samuel |
| 5. Cater, Wes E. * | 21. Gray, Kenneth L. | 38. Melvin, John G. | 55. Stowe, Jack * |
| 6. Cermak, Larry A. | 22. Hill, Stephen C. | 39. Moore, Steven D. | 56. Treanor, Steven B. |
| 7. Chavez, Carl | 23. Hoyle, Donald W. | 40. Muetz, Michael G. | 57. Troy, Richard E. |
| 8. Clark, H.L. | 24. Irwin, Richard L. | 41. Neal, James E. * | 58. Ulm, Al |
| 9. Clark, L.F. | 25. Jenkins, Ray | 42. Patton, Don C. | 59. Van Cleve, David H. |
| 10. Cook, George E. | 26. Jones, Barry Wayne | 43. Peterson, Paula J. | 60. Verardo, Denzil |
| 11. Davis, James * | 27. Jones, Glen | 44. Price, Jeffery B. | 61. Wallace, Kirk * |
| 12. Doberneck, Dennis A. | 28. Jones, John W. | 45. Reed, J.J. | 62. Walter, Gary E. |
| 13. Dooley, Clark E. | 29. Jones, Ken | 46. Reinhardt, Ted A. | 63. Westberg, Ray E. * |
| 14. Felty, Richard * | 30. Kolb, John | 47. Ritter, Jimmy M | 64. Willard, Charles E. |
| 15. Ferri, Larry E. | 31. Krumbein, Wm. Jr. | 48. Salzgeber, Garland | 65. Wohl, Robert S. |
| 16. Freeman, Robert M. | 32. Leigh, Kenneth D. | 49. Schlotter, Jack W.* | 66. Woodward, M.A. |
| | 33. Long, Dana B. | 50. Sly, Walter R. | |

More CSPRA History from Kirk Wallace

Interviewed by Patricia Clark-Gray, CSPRA Historian

Kirk's Park History

Kirk started his park career at 18 as a Park Attendant at Big Basin. He later was a Ranger I at Anza-Borrego Desert SP for 7 months and then worked at Cuyamaca Rancho SP for 5 months in a swing position. He and his wife moved to Borrego Springs so his sons Richard and Tim could attend school. He also worked at Franks Tract SRA, D.L. Bliss SP and Pismo SB. Then he went to work at Headquarters in Manpower Utilization. He worked as a Ranger IV at Silverwood. In 1988, he was the Regional Director in San Diego. He retired in 1989. For 10 years he worked as a Background Investigator as a Retired Annuitant. He has had a varied career during his 43 years with the department.



California State Park Rangers Association

In 1964 there was a meeting where many Supervising Rangers gathered to form a Ranger organization. Paul Griffith was instrumental in setting up the organization. There were representatives for the districts and these were the founding fathers. Kirk represented Region VI. They met with Phil Geiger from the California State Employee Association (CSEA) who helped them form the new organization, California State Park Rangers Association. They developed a constitution and by laws. The first board was selected and the first convention was held at Asilomar.

CSPRA became a professional organization and later all employees of the department were encouraged to join. During the years, there were many discussions about changing the name of the organization. But, it was felt that having "Ranger" in the name held more weight.

James Whitehead Scholarship & Award

The scholarship started when Doug Bryce was Executive Secretary. It was decided that any funds leftover from the registration and the raffle of the Retiree Rendezvous would be given to the James Whitehead Scholarship. James Whitehead was a Regional Director in San Diego who had passed away and the association wanted to honor him. The money would be used for staff to attend needed training.

The Whitehead Award honors a person in each cadet class in recognition of outstanding achievement and dedication to park service.



*Ranger Jennifer Grady was presented with the **James Whitehead Award** by CSPRA's Sara Skinner, Training Specialist at the Mott Training Center, in 2012.*

My Years With CSPRA, 1968 - 2001

by Doug Bryce

In February of 1964 I attended the second day of a Park Supervisors meeting in Columbia because my Supervisor, Ron McCullough, came home sick the previous evening. I really have no recollection of any of the items on the agenda. However, there was one item that was not on the agenda that was on everyone's mind. Should we create a Rangers Association? The day before, Doug Metcalf, from Columbia SHP, said that a Park Commissioner from Oceanside, Karl Wray, was lobbying to get Rangers to wear period dress in such units as Columbia. In most units of the State Park System wearing clothes of a hundred years before would give the Rangers a look that would separate them from the ordinary look of a present day resident. But not in Columbia. A plaid shirt and bib overalls was the dress of the day for the locals and period dress for the Rangers would also be bib overalls and a plaid shirt. We unanimously decided to create a Rangers Association.

A few months later when they were selecting persons to run for office they needed a token candidate to run against Paul Griffith for President. Paul had been working with CSEA and Earl Hanson and others on the creation of the Association so he was the logical choice for President. So I agreed to be the token. I don't believe I even garnered one vote.

In 1968, CSPRA needed someone to replace CSEA lawyer Phil Geiger as Executive Secretary. Board member Chuck Lyden, asked me if I would be interested in being Executive Secretary. Needless to say I said yes. I went to the May board meeting and looked for the other candidates — there were none. So I became an employee of CSPRA from June 1968 through 2002.

I worked with many fine people that were on the board, committees, and members that were frequent helpers and advisors. My work with CSPRA led to Executive Manager jobs with PRAC, Western Interpreters Association, the Cal Ranger Foundation and 4 or 5 other organizations. I incorporated about 6 organizations. I joined the Sacramento Society of Association Executives and tried to



Doug began working with State Parks in 1955 as a Park Aide at Cuyamaca Rancho SP. His first permanent position was Park Attendant at Silver Strand State Beach. He was a ranger at Anza-Borrego Desert State Park, as well as Bolsa Chica and El Capitan State Beaches. He promoted to Supervising Ranger at Calaveras Big Trees, Park Supervisor at Marshall Gold Discovery SHP, and

Area Manager at Anza-Borrego. In 1969, he became Assistant Superintendent of District One in Eureka. His last assignment was at Sacramento Headquarters in Interpretive Services, retiring as Supervisor of the Audio-Visual unit in 1988.

learn how to be a top notch Executive Manager.

CSPRA went through organizing pains and became a strong advocate for California State Parks as well as a conscience for the Department of Parks and Recreation. We learned to use committees not only to get work done but to find good people and train them to run for office.

Donna Pozzi chaired the *Save Bodie* Committee for about 5 years. They accomplished wonders. Donna says, "The committee and extended group of helpers worked because people stepped forward and got involved. Often I asked them but as momentum grew, people volunteered. All kinds of people who had never been active in the organization got involved. I think you (Doug) and I were good at matching people to specific tasks: someone managed the mailing list, a couple people took on the t-shirt sales, someone helped process donations, every mailing was a party, etc. Everyone wrote letters to elected officials and newspapers. "

It was a huge amount of work but it was so much easier because there were so many people helping."

Let's get started on the next 50!

Executive Managers



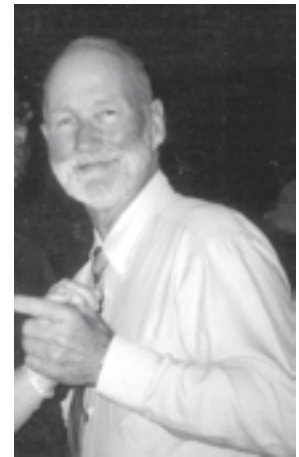
PHIL GEIGER 1964 - 1968

Phil, a lawyer on staff with the California State Employees Association, assisted with the incorporation of CSPRA and was the Association's first Executive Manager. Phil became an Honorary Ranger in 1968.

DOUG BRYCE 1968 - 2001

GAR SALZGEBER 2002 -2005

Gar is the son of Al Salzgeber, one of the founding members of CSPRA. Gar began his park career as a Park Aide at Mount Diablo in 1960. He became a Park Attendant in 1964 and a Ranger at Salton Sea in 1968. Gar worked at Anza- Borrego Desert State Park for many years before becoming a Yosemite National Park exchange ranger for 2 years in 1976. He then returned to Big Basin, and finished his career as a Supervising Ranger at Pismo in 1994. Gar worked many summers thereafter in the redwood parks.



LAURALEE SVENDSGAARD 2005 - 2006

Lauralee's introduction to California State Parks began in 1981 as a volunteer interpretive hike leader with the Mount Tamalpais Interpretive Association, a group she later served as President. In 1992, she founded the nonprofit, grassroots advocacy organization, Friends of California Parks, successfully defending California State Parks on the political front. Lauralee now lives on the Oregon coast and is the Executive Director of the California Trails Conference Foundation.

ALLISON PEDLEY 2007 to present

Allison developed a love for California State Parks through her husband, Ranger Scott Elliott. Allison and her family have lived in and near some of the most beautiful parks in the system, including Big Basin Redwoods, Big Sur, Seacliff, and the many parks in the Truckee/Tahoe area. Allison grew up frequenting gems in the Oregon State Parks system. In addition to her work as CSPRA Manager, Allison works part-time as Executive Director of the Truckee Trails Foundation.



Accomplishments

by Doug Bryce

Over the past 50 years CSPRA has accomplished many tasks and achieved some important goals. CSPRA has been in the forefront of many environmental battles. Accomplishments include arguing for Pescadero Marsh reclassification from park to reserve status, successfully urging that the Off-Highway Vehicle units be included as part of the state park system, stopping burl sales in the redwood parks, and support of various initiatives such as the California bottle bill and a ban against offshore oil drilling.

Since 1974, CSPRA has strongly lobbied in support of all Park Bond Acts and initiatives. In 1988 CSPRA continued to lead in the effort to maintain the integrity of the State Park System by establishing the SAVE BODIE! Committee. This committee worked hard for nine years to prevent the mining of Bodie Bluff. This has been the largest project undertaken by CSPRA and is considered to be California's largest statewide historic preservation battle of the 20th century.

Just as CSPRA is concerned about the resources of the State Park System we are also concerned about individual members. CSPRA has been providing scholarships to its members since 1967. CSPRA has always provided relief for its members in times of disaster or personal tragedy. Keeping the spirit of the park family alive is one of CSPRA's most important objectives.



MY TWO CENTS

Amid threats of park closures and budget cuts, CSPRA President Gail Sevens spoke at Park Advocacy Day in Sacramento in April, 2008, explaining to the crowd that the proposed cuts to State Parks would save only 24 cents per California resident or 2 cents per month.

Accomplishments



Former CSPRA President John Mott led the charge in Sacramento to promote Proposition 21, which would have granted free access to State Parks for all Californians in return for a surcharge of \$18 per year on vehicle registration, creating a dedicated funding source for parks. Prop 21 failed to pass in November, 2010.



TOLL ROAD at SAN ONOFRE : President Gail Sevrens displays a T-shirt made to fight a proposed toll road through the heart of San Onofre State Beach State Beach. The toll road was defeated in 2008.



Park supporters from around the state lobbied against closure of their favorite park units. The MONO LAKE TUFA STATE NATURAL RESERVE has survived several closure attempts. This group gathered in June 2009. CSPRA was involved in the 1980s & 1990s in the original effort to maintain the level of this salty inland sea.

SAVING A GHOST TOWN

by Donna Pozzi, Chief, Interpretation & Education Division

As CSPRA observes its 50th anniversary, it's appropriate that we pause to reflect on what was arguably the organization's greatest achievement to date: leading the campaign to SAVE BODIE! What I hope to accomplish here is to help us celebrate our organization's successes and remind us what we are capable of when aroused to protect the integrity of our cherished State Park System.



This is the saga of a 9-year long fight to stop an open pit gold mine that was going to be built by a Canadian mining company adjacent to Bodie State Historic Park. If you have not been to Bodie, it is the Mono County ghost town that we say is "preserved in a state of arrested decay." When the state acquired Bodie in 1962, it consisted of most of the townsite with about 100 remaining buildings full of furnishings left behind by the town's former residents. However, much of the land surrounding the park was retained as mining claims, awaiting new technologies and/or a higher price for gold. It was these claims that were proposed for development by Galactic Resources, Ltd. in 1988.

The technology of the day was a far cry from that of Bodie's heyday; it involved heap leach mining in which mountains (in this case the historic mining area and backdrop to the town) are removed, pits are excavated and the ore is processed in piles that are saturated with a cyanide solution. Investment literature referred to Galactic's mines in places like rural South Carolina and Summitville, Colorado. In fact, they pointed to Summitville as a model of what Bodie would become since it was also an historic mining district in a remote, high altitude setting. We knew that a modern mine was incompatible with Bodie's ghost town ambiance, would threaten the fragile buildings, and compromise wildlife habitat.

More background: this was during the Deukmejian administration; Henry Agonia was our director; the field was still organized into regions. Bodie's supervising ranger Brad Sturdivant had learned about this mining proposal and called Inland Region where I was working as the Visitor Services Superintendent. While we were quite alarmed about this in the field, it quickly became apparent that the administration would not let the department take a position opposing the project. Several department managers including Regional Director Bill Monaghan and Sierra District Superintendent Bob Macomber turned to CSPRA. Don Murphy was our president; I was on the board along with Bud Getty, Nina Gordon, Jeff Price and others. I still don't quite know how it happened but I agreed to head up a committee to do what we could to stop the mine. I naively thought that we would call some of the big name environmental organizations and they would take this on for us. Of course it doesn't work that way.

CSPRA's SAVE BODIE! Committee got organized with a meeting in my living room of Joe Engbeck, Cindy Woodward, Frank Lortie, Bill Dillinger, Dorene Clement, Bruce Kennedy, Doug Bryce, and Patty Gregory. The board allocated \$5000 and we hired a law firm in San Francisco that specialized in environmental issues. We spent that in no time but fortunately we had mounted a major publicity campaign (front page stories in all the major papers; state and national television coverage) and William Alsup of Morrison and Foerster came forward to help us on a pro bono basis. We also started fundraising through direct mail, t-shirt sales and benefits. Many, many other CSPRA members and caring people all over joined our crusade. Carolyn Edwards, Inez Cook, Fred Soderlund and Don Napoli handled the t-shirt and treasurer duties so we wouldn't overburden CSPRA's executive manager Doug Bryce. Doug was already helping in countless ways with mailings, newsletter production and all kinds of secretarial support. That may sound trivial but this was before the time of the internet and e-mail; home computers and fax machines were not common. We had to drive back

Accomplishments

BODIE, from page 10



and forth with typed drafts!

We became experts on modern mining techniques and ultimately got very involved in efforts in Congress to reform the 1872 Mining Law since it was largely responsible for allowing this type of exploitation of public lands. I became friends with a neighbor of the Galactic mine in South Carolina and learned that the tailings ponds were killing birds including gulls. With Bodie's proximity to Mono Lake, this was a huge concern. We toured mines

and networked with other grass roots groups dealing with similar threats. Local activists joined us by forming Eastern Sierra Citizens for the Protection of Bodie. The courageous Andrea Lawrence was on the Board of Supervisors and was often the lone vote supporting Bodie. Nancy Whitmore chaired the local effort.

Rick Rayburn and Ross Henry got the department to hire someone to deal with the Bodie issue and we were incredibly fortunate to have Noah Tilghman join the cause. Noah made sure the state did everything it could in dealing with Mono County, the Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service and elected officials. Likewise the park staff, especially Brad, coped with the onslaught of media attention, local controversy, and increased visitation. When Pete Wilson was elected governor, Don Murphy became the State Parks Director. Things started looking up and there was a sympathetic ear in the Resources Agency. Two national organizations provided significant support: the National Trust for Historic Preservation and the Wilderness Society. Others began to sign on. At the time CSPRA was part of the Planning and Conservation League and Jennifer Jennings, Corey Brown and Jerry Meral all helped us. We got our feet wet in the legislative arena by getting a Senate Joint Resolution through the California Legislature. While it was only advisory, it was still hotly contested, to the astonishment of our sponsor Senator Dan McCorquodale and our pro bono consultant in lobbying, Jeff Arthur from the Dangermond Group. Next the Bodie Protection Act was launched and I went to Washington, DC for the first time in May 1992 to testify and lobby in Congress. (Before it was over, I would testify on CSPRA's behalf twice in the House and once in the Senate.) Unfortunately, State Parks was not allowed to attend and BLM appeared to be closely aligned with Galactic. Bill Mott was the NPS director and he sneaked me a copy of the federal testimony to help me prepare mine. Although Galactic's mine in Colorado had begun to malfunction and leak, this was covered up when they testified. Summitville's disaster ultimately led to Bodie's salvation when the mine, called "the Exxon Valdez of mining" destroyed all life in a 17-mile stretch of the Alamosa River. To this day the taxpayer funded clean-up continues, having set records for toxic remediation costs. In late 1992, Galactic filed for bankruptcy and with the Bodie Protection Act of 1994 finally passed by Congress and signed into law by President Clinton, State Parks was able to put together an incredible acquisition deal to purchase the mining claims from the bankruptcy trustee and the other property owners. Along with Noah, Warren Westrup, Charlie Willard, Heather Fargo and others all worked tirelessly to pull it off.

This is obviously a very abbreviated version of a long, convoluted tale. I have had to leave out a lot including the names of scores of people who played huge parts in this story (please forgive me)-- from CSPRA officers and members to Bodie lovers from all over the nation. I've omitted the intrigue and drama but to give you an idea of how bizarre it was, our fight inspired a murder mystery by a well-known author!

In addition to giving us all cause to celebrate on the occasion of CSPRA's anniversary, I wanted to share this with you in the hopes that it would serve as inspiration for others to get involved. I believe that we were a stronger, richer and more effective organization when we all pulled together the way we did for Bodie. Very, very little of what I have related here was done by paid consultants. Our members were energized and mobilized, supported by donations of time and money from hundreds of others who wanted to be part of our righteous cause. I am not willing to believe that you won't rise to the occasion again.

Could that time be now?

Presidents



PAUL GRIFFITH
1964 - 1966



AL SALZGEBER
1966 - 1968

RICHARD BROCK
1968 - 1970



WES CATER
1970 - 1972



HERMAN SCHLERF
1974 - 1976



JACK WELCH
1972 - 1974

“We took care of business during my tenure as President of CSPRA. I felt an obligation to work for a good organization. I also liked that guys at the bottom got to talk to guys at the top like Director Bill Mott. We worked hard on recognizing our employees.”



Park Career: 1960
Park Attendant, Ranger I (Angel Island State Park), Supervising Ranger (MacKerricher State Park), Maintenance Specialist (District Office), Asst. Superintendent (Eureka), Area Manager (Santa Cruz Mountains) and District Superintendent (Eureka)



Past Presidents Al Salzgeber, Dick Brock, Honorary Ranger Earl Hanson, and Past Presidents Jack Welch and Wes Cater in 1972.

Patricia Clark-Gray: I interviewed Herman over the phone and found him a most charming 83 year old man. He told me that he has had a stroke and his memory has been affected. But when he told me about his park career I was impressed by his ability to recall where he worked and what his job classification was. So I decided that we should include this information about his amazing career.

Presidents



RON MCCALL 1976 - 1978

“Our major accomplishments of CSPRA during my tenure were the unionization process for State Park Rangers. Originally CSPRA was to be the representative organization for Rangers. Early on, that changed with the formation of the State Park Peace Officers Association. Law Enforcement was a big issue then. The change-over to full status peace officers was underway. The first firearms were issued to State Park Rangers in 1975-76. Admitting all classes of State Park employees into CSPRA was a big issue.”



DENZIL VERARDO 1978 - 1982

“My Presidency of CSPRA occurred from 1978-1982 (two, two-year terms). This short synopsis of those years is by no means complete, but I believe they do illustrate a period of high activity and major change for our organization.

“In 1978 CSPRA adopted its Code of Ethics. CSPRA was also extremely active with environmental issues. Two examples readily come to mind. CSPRA joined with the Save Mono Lake Committee to fight for preservation of the Reserve’s environment and we were also a major player in preventing oil and gas development off the Central Coast, supporting then Member of Congress Leon Panetta. CSPRA

testified at the drilling hearings where our point of view prevailed. Monterey Bay was later made a marine sanctuary free from exploration.

“A major change occurred to our annual conference beginning in 1979 with the expansion of professional workshops and presentations at the GEC. During this time period we affiliated with the Park Rangers Association of California and for the first time held our conferences jointly. CSPRA’s advocacy for safety retirement for State Park Peace Officers also was successful during this period, and rangers and lifeguards were required to obtain POST basic certificates.

“With the passage of the Dills Act – the State Employer-Employee Relations Act --CSPRA changed in a major way. Until that act, CSPRA acted as both a professional and employee representative organization. In 1978, in anticipation of the unionization of park rank and file staff, CSPRA signed a “placeholder” affiliation agreement with C.S.E.A. The term of the affiliation was to last until December, 1979 when unit elections would be announced and the employee representative determined. CAUSE (SPPOAC) won the election and became the employee bargaining agent for State Park Peace Officers with CSPRA Vice President Mike Lynch elected as SPPOAC President. Mike and I worked together to make that controversial transition as smooth as possible. CSEA was successful in its election to represent our maintenance staff. Most of you are well aware of the remainder of the representative bodies. At this time 1979-1980, CSPRA became a “bona fide” professional organization and, as such, was precluded from representing its members to the state on employee issues. That allowed the organization to increase its focus on state park issues.

“While much more can be said about the period from 1978-1982, let me leave it with this statement: It was definitely an exciting period of change for CSPRA and State Parks.”



Presidents

JOHN MOTT 1982 - 1984

<<*John presented a CSPRA Certificate of Appreciation to Leon Panetta for protecting the California coast in 1982*

“In March 1982, I became CSPRA’s first Ranger 1 President, following Denzil Verardo and other superintendents. After serving two years as a Regional Director, I ran unopposed. The election ballot also contained a survey to determine what direction the association should take. SPPOAC/

CAUSE (the ranger union) was asserting its union responsibilities and many people questioned what a “professional” organization could do that a union could not. The board and I strove to involve more members in professional causes and steer the association away from issues of wages, hours and working conditions. The following two years CSPRA tackled many professional challenges that helped define the course for the organization for years to come.”

Saving the California Park and Recreation Commission: “A legislator introduced a bill to abolish the California Park and Recreation Commission. CSPRA responded by sponsoring legislation to strengthen and reaffirm the integrity of the Commission. The Department had to take a “neutral” position on both bills per direction from the Governor’s office. Aided by behind the scenes support from Commissioner Victoria Araujo and others, CSPRA successfully defeated the bill to abolish the Commission. Unfortunately, our bill to strengthen the Commission also died. Nevertheless, preserving the status quo was considered a victory.”

Coppertone Garbage Cans: “Early revenue generation and marketing efforts yielded a proposal from the Coppertone corporation to fund the purchase and maintenance of garbage cans on state beaches with the condition that the cans be bright yellow and contain a large Coppertone logo with the words *Tan, don’t burn. Use Coppertone.* The logo for Coppertone was a tanned young girl in a two piece swim suit, with a playful dog off leash pulling her swim suit off slightly her left hip exposing a pale posterior. CSPRA felt this was neither an image we wanted to promote on the state beaches, nor was DPR receiving a fair return for the advertising space the company would receive to a captive audience. CSPRA wrote letters, met with the director, and testified at Commission hearings with the result that Coppertone lost and CSPRA won.”

Funding Stewardship via the Bond Act: “CSPRA joined with Sierra Club and other groups in promoting a then-radical idea for a State Park Bond Act—providing money for resource management or “stewardship” projects. This idea raised many eyebrows. Up until that time park bond acts had always been for land acquisition and capital development. I remember deputy directors telling me, “Voters will never go for stewardship—that will kill the bond act!” The stewardship money stayed in, the bond act passed, and stewardship has been a part of bond acts ever since.”

San Onofre Golf Course – Not!! “A serious proposal surfaced to build a golf course at San Onofre State Beach, displacing campsites and destroying coastal sage scrub habitat. CSPRA vigorously opposed this proposal and helped defeat it.”

“Threats to park values and changes in State Park System management philosophy inspired CSPRA to form the Park Integrity Committee to provide a forum for evaluating and responding to proposals that reflect significant changes in traditional park philosophy. CSPRA also lent its name to support a variety of environmental issues (such as the bottle recycling bill, gill netting, federal wilderness efforts, off-shore oil drilling, and others) that were not unique to State Parks. Maintaining park integrity and supporting environmental causes were significant professional issues that clearly were not in the union realm. After two years CSPRA’s professional role was more clearly defined, conferences were well attended, and members received a monthly CSPRA Newsletter and a semi-annual professional journal, *The California Ranger.*

14 In March 1984, after a very exciting two years, I passed the gavel to President-elect Jeff Price.”



Presidents

JEFF PRICE 1984 - 1986

“CSPRA was undergoing discernible pressure from within the organization to become a global environmental watchdog and feeling external pressure as it became one of the leading voices supporting the integrity of the park system.

“The Board quickly took steps to focus CSPRA’s direction to California’s parks and move away from involvement in every environmental issue in the world. We concentrated on three main issues during my term of office: eliminate direct threats to individual parks, counter threats to the park system’s integrity and promote our professional image.

“CSPRA promoted a forum for specific issues such as improving the professional standing of our technical members when we formed the Maintenance Committee with Larry Tierney serving as chair. CSPRA also formed the Park Integrity Committee with Ken Gray as chair and we sought to reinvigorate our Environmental Issues Committee while Mike Whitehead refined his Legislative Committee mission.

“It was so easy to simply oppose the Department’s many destructive proposals in 1984. The Board decided to make a shift in philosophy and become as proactive and positive as possible. I met regularly with then Director William Briner to let him know what CSPRA was doing and to identify ways CSPRA could support the Department.

“We fought hard to get Prop 18 (park bond) passed in June 1984. Ken Gray even developed a great “I LOVE STATE PARKS” bumper sticker. We also worked for the 1985 “Bottle Bill” which passed. We spent considerable effort trying to reverse the Director’s decision to sell commercial cattle grazing leases at Mt. Diablo, Henry Coe and other units.

“CSPRA was concerned that some Deukmejian-appointed Park Commissioners did not have a park-related background, so we sent them invitations to visit a few parks near where they lived, complete with CSPRA-provided guides. I believe it was a positive effort to get them involved and get their attention.

“During this time CSPRA also had a little fun, getting the first look at Roger Nelson’s weird sense of humor in a great Newsletter article titled, Flat Cats: A Guide to Compressed Critters, complete with illustrations. The Mixed Metaphor and Malaprop column concept was begun quite by accident at a San Mateo Coast staff meeting.

“Not all was fun, however. We set up the Shawn Fahey Reward Fund to assist in a search for the missing Big Basin seasonal. I accepted the first cash donations to the fund from Director William Briner and Operations Chief Garth Tanner. Sadly, the fund changed to support the arrest and conviction of those responsible for her death, when her body was discovered in 1984. I also represented CSPRA in presenting a portion of the eulogy at Charter Member James Whitehead’s funeral. This was a man who inspired me to a higher level of panache and professionalism early in my career and I was pleased that CSPRA then established an educational scholarship fund in Jim’s name.

“In 1985 we took a stand on restoring park staffing levels, cut from the budget, and presented testimony at legislative hearings in Sacramento and Monterey. We easily supported Director Briner’s budget request for an additional 362 positions. We also continued to collect and present actual, park-specific data to show that a lack of maintenance was allowing the facilities to deteriorate, natural resources threats were going unaddressed and that we needed staff to protect both the public and parks. CSPRA was able to carry points to the public and the elected that the department could not make in its own defense.

“It was an enjoyable term. I am proud to have represented a great group of park professionals.”

RICK PARMER 1986 - 1987



“I served as CSPRA President in 1986 and 1987. Like John Mott before me, I became the “second” Ranger I president. I owe much of what we accomplished during my tenure to the tireless administrative support and institutional memory of our long-time executive, Doug Bryce.

“Our Board of Directors served during Reagan’s term as President when James Watt served as Interior Secretary. I remember being in a state park training class at Asilomar and sneaking over to hear Ansel Adams address a convention of photographers on the threats and danger to public lands management and the National Park System from the policies of Secretary Watt.

“These were also the heady initial years of the development of SPPOAC and some in the department felt CSPRA might hear its death knell and be replaced eventually by SPPOAC. But with a spirited activist board of directors including Gar Salzgeber and Syd Brown we voted to become an institutional member of the Planning and Conservation League under Executive Director, Jerry Meral. This affiliation helped steered us in a direction of legislative and environmental activism on behalf of many state park issues (e.g. golf course development at Lake Tahoe, fees for movie making in state parks, advertising policy in state parks, removing land from Hungry Valley SVRA to build another prison in Los Angeles County).

“We launched a “staffing campaign” with the support of PCL media consultant, Leo McElroy, still a political consultant in Sacramento. Leo was successful in getting CSPRA media attention concerning the “woeful state” of the parks and short staffing. The late Superintendent Carol Nelson was a supporter of CSPRA causes and our 86/87 Board of Director efforts in my years as President at Candlestick SRA. The late Milt Frincke, assistant regional director of the Central Coast when he retired, was a confident and advisor to the Board on many issues. Behind the scenes, his friendship, idealism, and knowledge of park management were invaluable in navigating the contentious state park environmental issues of that 86/87 era.

“1986 was the year we established the Jim Whitehead Scholarship fund for CSPRA members after Jeff Price’s administration got the ball rolling and Peggy Whitehead, Jim’s wife, endowed it with a deeply appreciated contribution.

“CSPRA also hired a fundraising consultant, Linda Chew and Associates, to help increase membership and GEC revenues since we were entirely a volunteer contribution organization. John Mott was our master CSPRA recruiter at Asilomar for new ranger trainee classes and combined with Linda’s sage counsel on fundraising letter writing we netted nearly 100 new members in one year.

“Big Basin Ranger, Carl Burger, was an excellent guitar player and composer. He composed some creative, humorous, and cynical songs about State Park life and donated the proceeds of his original cassette tapes to CSPRA and the Save Bodie campaign.

“CSPRA gave me some of the most satisfying moments of my public service career and my thanks to the many members and board members who helped make our two years a memorable and effective time in the 40 year history of this wonderful association.”

Presidents



DONALD MURPHY

1988 - 1990

“Our major accomplishments during my tenure were a successful CSPRA conference in Palm Springs and lobbying. We lobbied both Democratic and Republican Gubernatorial campaigns to support California State Parks. A major issue was lack of sufficient operational funds. There was pressure to buy more land from Land Trusts who would take money from the State Parks Capital funds to buy the land.

“Challenges were dwindling membership, general apathy, and competition for membership from the State Park Peace Officers Association of California .

“I have many comments that would fill a book. However, the most significant thing that compromised the integrity of California State Parks was abandoning the principle of statewide significance of resources as defined in the original survey of Landscape Provinces in California and performed by Frederick Law Olmstead, Jr. The rash of perhaps well-meaning land trusts that added more and more land to California State Parks, often above the objections of park professionals, watered down the system and increased costs. New parkland, seldom if ever, came with additional operating funds. In all of this, the abandonment by the legislature of their responsibility to fund and protect state parks will be judged harshly by history.”

Don is the only CSPRA President to also serve as Director of California State Parks.



BUD GETTY

1990 - 1992, 1994 - 1996

“During my reign of terror, many long-term integrity issues were the main focus of CSPRA. These issues were the same everyday issues we were dealing with at work. Sometimes it was difficult to remember which hat you were wearing, but it was important when testifying or talking to the media to separate the two, the professional job from the work of the professional organization.

“The Administration was not always in tune with the park environments and seemed all too ready to make an exception to any policy or regulation that we lived by. As much time was spent fighting internal battles as the outside influences.

“The most important issue we were facing was the fight to keep mining interests from brutalizing the ghost town

of Bodie and its environs. Donna Pozzi’s leadership took us to a successful conclusion of this fight. Other important issues were the problems relating to the differing views for Henry Coe State Park, whether there should be grazing or wilderness, and whether the air strip should remain. The battle to stop commercial grazing in Mt. Diablo State Park was a similar conflict. Our influences resulted in victories for the parks.

“Off-road transgressions in parks led to the solution of establishing the system of Off Road Vehicular areas. This system preserved park resources while allowing large numbers of off-road operators to be able to continue their form of recreation.

“CSPRA played a role in all of the above decisions, as well as many other issues that faced State Parks. This I believe is the reason for the existence for our organization. The combined work of individual members, along with the lobbying efforts we have maintained, have made the park system greater and better, and have served the people of California well. We need to keep up the fight.”

Presidents



WAYNE HARRISON

1992 - 1994

Vice-President in 1992, Wayne became President when Nina Gordon resigned after leaving State Parks.

DAVE NELSON

1996 - 1997

“Our major accomplishments during my term were hiring a lobbyist to represent CSPRA in Sacramento. We also expanded Parks Day in Sacramento to include local parks and the National Park Service.

“The major issue the Department was dealing with the aftermath of the Phoenix reorganization. We met with the Department of Finance over the Department’s budget and testified many times before the Legislature over budget issues. We opposed park giveaways to other agencies.

“We had issues with our long time advocate the Planning and Conservation League over bond issue language and bills they supported that might hurt State Parks. In the aftermath of Phoenix, many non-rangers joined CSPRA. CSPRA adjusted to meet the needs of all employees in the Department.”



SCOTT NAKAJI

1997 - 1998



“CSPRA hired a lobbying firm, Governmental Advocates, to represent us on issues of importance involving State Parks. Our Lobbyist was Cliff Berg, who seemed to have a genuine interest in Parks and was almost doing the work on a pro bono basis as what we could afford to pay him had to have been a very small fee in comparison to his other clients. It was also an era of inclusiveness as one of our major goals was to recruit more State Park employees in all classifications as members. The very successful Parks Conference in San Luis Obispo, featured beautiful weather, Hearst Castle behind the scenes tours, a classic Hearst era fashion show and the late, great Huell Howser as the featured banquet speaker. Our team of Nick Franco, Juvie Ortiz and Bill Hendricks (PRAC) among others, never thought we’d pull it off, but things came together and ended up being one of the most successful, well-attended conferences in CSPRA history.”



Presidents

JILL DAMPIER 1998 - 1999

Jill was the first woman to serve a complete term as CSPRA's President.

“Working on the legislative front was at the forefront of my term. Learning from and working with the legislative advocate/lobbyist was very productive. We worked closely with the California State Parks Foundation, requesting a \$30 million budget augmentation for infrastructure repairs. This ultimately led to the creation of the Park Bond on the 2000 ballot. We helped to insure that the department had the right to negotiate with the City of San Francisco and the SF 49's for the state park lands (Candlestick Park) they wanted to use in the development of a new stadium and retail center. We wanted to gain legislative protection that held parklands for public use “in perpetuity”, but

that didn't happen. We also worked with a multi-agency task force to secure funds for the purchase of the first of two parcels that would make up Coal Canyon Corridor. CSPRA also provided essential information on the impact a triple-layer border fence would have on sensitive species, cultural resources and habitat at Border Field State Park. And finally, CSPRA was asked to sponsor legislation to prohibit the construction of a major toll road through state parks in the San Onofre area. Senator Hayden had just agreed to carry this legislation. We also began work on a Strategic Plan for CSPRA.

“As CSPRA became involved on the legislative front, the department depended on us to advocate for them. So many of the issues in the department became issues for CSPRA. But, by far, the most predominant issue was the need to raise money for infrastructure repairs.

“The issue of changing the name of CSPRA to better reflect the many different classifications within the Department eligible to join the association, was addressed. The Board of Directors agreed to keep the name and to focus our energies in an educational campaign to explain the purpose of CSPRA, and to encourage membership and participation in the association across all classifications. Our web page was expanded.

“I retired from California State Parks (CSP) in 2005 to move to Jerusalem, Israel and during my 6 years there, I did not have much time or reason to reflect on my life as a Ranger. But since my move to a small village outside of London, UK, I have been asked by local groups to give presentations on California State Parks and the job of a ranger. Each time I begin a talk, I know that I lived my passion. Though I have seen and experienced many fine parks in my travels, I have yet to come across any parks department that even remotely embraces the breadth and depth of California State Parks. Joining CSPRA and getting involved definitely enhanced my time as a Park Ranger and gave me much satisfaction.

“There are no finer people in the world than CSPRA members and other park employees. I'm not quite sure why, but folks that work in and for parks tend to be well rounded, intelligent and forward thinking.”



Presidents



NICK FRANCO

1999 - 2000

“I was fortunate to be the CSPRA President during the change of the millennium (March 1999 to March 2000). This was a year of deferred maintenance money, the park bond and numerous rapid-fire things happening in parks.

“During this year, CSPRA successfully (after previous attempts in years past) got the State Parks Historic and Cultural Resources listed as one of the National Trust for Historic Preservation’s 11 Most Endangered Historic Places. We used the Angel Island Immigration Station as an example of the types of resources we have in State Parks and the lack of funding available to provide true stewardship. We joined with the Angel Island Immigration Station Foundation in submitting our application. The dubious “award” of being endangered helped lead to the

allocation of significant funding from the 2000 bond for cultural resource projects.

“Speaking of the bond, CSPRA played an active role in advocating for the passage of the 2000 park bond, the first bond to pass after 12 years of no park bonds. The active work of the California State Parks Foundation along with many CSPRA members and many, many others helped pass the bond.

“In addition, we continued work on the strategic plan for CSPRA to try to better focus our activities. We rallied opposition for a proposed Bodie Hills RV Park that would have diminished the visitor’s experience by being located on the entry road. We took an active role in trying to reinvigorate the department’s Junior Ranger Program. And, of course, we continued partnering with PRAC to sponsor the California Parks Conference. It is a proud pleasure to continue to be a member of CSPRA.”



KIM BAKER

2000 - 2001

“During my tenure, the organization was going through some change and growth in governance, an ongoing effort arising out of the strategic planning for several years prior to my term. It was during this period that we hired a new office manager and newsletter editor to replace Doug Bryce, who retired from serving as manager, newsletter editor, and conference organizer for more than 30 years. Many of the issues that we were challenged with during my presidency were reflective of the boom times—encroachment and development issues such as the San Onofre Toll Road (ongoing for many years), and Bodie Development. My fondest memories of my time on the CSPRA board, however, are of schlepping my 4 year old son, Carson (see photo), and 18 month old daughter, Kathryn, to various meetings, conferences and legislative events. I’d like to think this has helped instill in them the importance of not being complacent, and working to protect the things in life that are important to them.”

Presidents



GEARY HUND
2001 - 2002



KEVIN BUCHANAN
2002 - 2003

“Our major accomplishments of CSPRA during my tenure were through the CSPRA lobbyists. Crystal Cove cottage residents lost their fight to keep the cottages and the mobile home park appeared to be losing their bid to remain on the beach. The beach appeared to be going back to the public once again. The project involved many conference calls with Friends of Crystal Cove & its allies.

“Another issue was the fight against the toll road through San Onofre which would have destroyed the park and caused the loss of critical wildlife habitat. Again, the project involved working with CSPRA lobbyists and conference calls with concerned constituency groups. This was ongoing when I left.

“The Parks Conference was held at the Embassy Suites, Stateline CA/NV and was well attended. CSPRA continued to fight for additional funds for backlog of deferred maintenance on many of our parks through lobbying efforts and were successful getting additional funding FY 2000-2001; after which things went badly in the other direction.

“We fought to prevent park closures with Director Ruth Coleman after the dot com bubble burst. The possibility of park closures as a political ploy remained around even until present time; however prior to this I don’t recall this being on the table during budget negotiations.

“The challenges for CSPRA during my tenure was trying to increase membership, having better representation from all disciplines within DPR, and maintaining our finances. Park closures being a possible reality during budget negotiations were difficult.

“Even though I left State Parks in 2006 to work for DMV Investigations, I still belong to CSPRA and continue to follow the Department and the issues of today. I’m always recruiting kids to considering working for DPR as a summer job, when I hear they are looking while attending our daughter’s events. My job as a State Park Ranger will always be what I consider my main career and passion in my life, encompassing 21 years.”



DANA JONES
2003 - 2004

“CSPRA worked with Governmental Advocates as our lobby group to remain current on the direction of the political winds and to represent what is good for the future of parks. We supported the first Annual Parks Advocacy Day in 2003. Parks professionals and supporters from around the State converged on the State Capitol in Sacramento to talk with our representatives about the importance of parks in California.

“Things must happen in cycles. During my presidency, we were dealing with reorganization and budget shortfall. These times gave us the unique opportunity to look at what we do and how to do it better to protect the parks and serve the visitors that have visited the parks over the past 150 years. Many employees received surplus letters in the process.

“The challenges that I faced during my time as President were surviving budget shortfalls, administration changes, and devastating fires. We tried to help to preserve the future of parks and the ‘Parks Family.’”

Presidents



VALERIE BRADSHAW

2004 - 2005

Val was the first person from the Maintenance series to serve as CSPRA's President.

RON BREAN

2005 - 2006

“We showed up and made our collective opinions known, but at the present I can't remember a standout issue. The issues the department was dealing with during my Presidency were deferred maintenance and budget shortfalls. The challenges for CSPRA during my tenure were advancing lobbying and advocacy.”

Ron was CSPRA's first Retiree President.



ANGELA NOWICKI

2006 - 2007

“When I was President, we established an employee mentoring program hosting workshops on promotional oral boards and revamped the scholarship program with new guidelines and streamlined the process. We established several board and membership efficiencies. We began using the internet and email for communications with the membership and board members. We recruited from diverse disciplines and ranks for the Board of Directors. We focused on a number of issues, recruitment, diversity, attempting to recruit a cross section of disciplines on the board. We established a recruiting effort at the Training Center (and other in-house training classes) with Pam Armas and then later Tina Williams. They allowed us to go into classes and take a few minutes of the class time to

present CSPRA and recruit membership. We reinstated the District Representative Program. And, most importantly, we established a relationship with the Director, Ruth Coleman, and meet with her quarterly. We helped California State Park Foundation (CSPF) sponsor the State Park Advocacy Day. We also reinforced our advocacy relationship with State Park Foundation and Governmental Advocates (Monica Miller). We co-hosted the Annual Parks Conference in Santa Rosa and supported the annual Retiree's Rendezvous held in the Central Valley. We continued fiscal support for the Annual Director Awards.

“We also represented employees on park housing issues, as the department was in the middle of developing policy. The El Moro Trailer Park at Crystal Cove, the Toll Road through San Onofre SB, the proposed power lines through Anza-Borrego Desert SP, establishing a dairy next to Colonel Allensworth SHP, and proposed Big Lagoon Indian Casino near Humboldt Lagoons SP were all issues we worked on.

“Challenges during my tenure were that membership numbers were going down and discussions about maintaining the name California State Park Rangers Association. There was a constant push to change the name to recruit other disciplines. Because of our lowering funding due to a number of retirements we did some serious focus on recruiting those retirees.

22 “I appreciated that our board worked hard to keep CSPRA afloat in fiscally trying times.”

Presidents



GAIL SEVRENS

2007 - 2009

We contributed to the defeat of the San Onofre Toll Road (thanks Dick Troy and others), the Allensworth mega-dairies, the Sunrise Powerlink (thanks Wes Cater, Scot Martin, Dick Troy and others) through Anza-Borrego, powerlines through Chino Hills SP, and the (first) attempt to close parks. We brought the CSPRA budget into balance and secured a major donation from Bill Lane. We also testified to legislative committees involving budgeting and combating and preventing hate crimes in State Parks.

PAM ARMAS

2009 - 2011



“The major accomplishments during my tenure were working and campaigning with the California State Parks Foundation to successfully get the State Park and Wildlife Conservation Act of 2012 (Prop 21) on the ballot. We were also involved in campaigning against park closures.

“Our board put on two successful conferences with the Park Rangers Association of California (PRAC). The first conference was in South San Francisco and the second was in Yosemite.

“We dealt with park closures, budget cuts, staffing reductions, and low employee morale which made serving as President challenging. We also dealt with declining membership, perceived lack of departmental leadership as a new governor took office, and what was seen as an “end of an era” for Parks employees.”



FOUR PAST PRESIDENTS:

Dana Jones, Val Bradshaw, Ron Brean and Angy Nowicki in 2006.

Pam Armas passed the President's gavel to Nina Gordon in 2011.



Presidents



NINA GORDON
2011 - 2013

“During my tenure we established ongoing communication between Director (Ruth Coleman) and all staff. CSPRA was given credit for this process. We have continued this communication with the succeeding Director (Anthony Jackson).

“The Pat Scully Memorial Highway sign established recognizing one of the first women rangers and is the only such sign commemorating a ranger.

“I served as an official participant on the Little Hoover Commission and testified strongly in favor of the Generalist Park Ranger and served as a subject matter expert on state park employee issues. I also testified regarding caution in having outside organizations operate state parks as a “solution” to the funding crisis. In addition, I testified in the Legislature in favor of the supporting the Generalist Park Ranger and California State Parks and testified in the Legislature opposing closing state parks.

“We obtained official Department support and economic assistance for employees to attend the CSPRA annual training. We supported board members Sara Skinner and Steve Ptomey in setting up and managing “Face book” site for CSPRA for the first time. We also initiated and headed effort for major review of the CSPRA Constitution and By-laws and recommended needed updates and revisions to reflect current operations and needs. Changes were approved by Board vote and ballot as required. We researched and made official the status of “contractor” vs. “employee” for Executive Manager, Newsletter Editor and Webmaster. There were many issues that the department was dealing with during my Presidency: closing state parks, a major funding crisis, and the new management series proposal. We re-established CSPRA’s role as a credible entity that should be at the table with upper management on policy discussions. Because of numerous retirements affecting membership numbers we also focused on recruiting new members.

“CSPRA continues to serve a very critical role as the only employee organization representing a broad spectrum of classifications. CSPRA should continue to aggressively pursue their role in advising in management decisions, meet with upper management and testifying in the Legislature. CSPRA’s role in researching and taking a stance on critical issues that help shape the Department must continue.”



Presidents



MATT BELLAH 2013 to present

“As this book is being written, I am still proudly serving as the President of CSPRA. CSPRA is currently working on some exciting things, including presenting “The Heritage of Parks in California” Training in Yosemite along with the Park Rangers Association of California, which has generated a lot of interest.

“California State Parks is still dealing with the fallout of media “scandals” regarding hidden funds and vacation buy outs. Currently the Parks Forward Initiative has an independent commission conducting an assessment of the State Park System in an effort to address financial, operational, and cultural challenges affecting State Parks.

“State Parks are still facing significant long term budget issues. Despite these issues park professionals have continued to protect our valuable resources and provide high quality services to the public.

“I think CSPRA is a wonderful and meaningful organization. One of the current challenges is making sure that CSPRA remains relevant to park professionals. Park employees have been demoralized by budget cuts and lack of staffing. We need to try and make sure that we engage park professionals and get them involved in CSPRA and in advocating for State Parks and park professionals.”



Matt receives the President’s gavel from Nina at the 2013 CSPRA training conference in Monterey.



2013/14 OFFICERS and STAFF:

Back row: Jeff Price, Webmaster.

Middle row, L to R: President Matt Bellah, Board Members Mike Lynch, Steve Ptomey, Joanne Danielson and Victor Bjelajac.

Front row: VP Mark Hada, Past President Nina Gordon and Board Member Mike McMenemy.



ANNUAL MEETINGS

CSPRA has been holding an annual meeting since 1965 in various locations around California.

This meeting was originally called the General Executive Council, or GEC. After affiliation with the Park Rangers of California in 1981, this gathering became the California Parks Conference. In recent years, the name has changed again to California Parks Training Conference, to emphasize the training component.

- 1965 Pacific Grove, Asilomar
- 1966 Santa Barbara, Miramar Hotel
- 1967 Santa Rosa, Flamingo Hotel
- 1968 Fresno, Fresno Hacienda
- 1969 No GEC held this year
- 1970 Sacramento, Senator Hotel
- 1971 Santa Barbara, Miramar Hotel
- 1972 Oakland, Airport Hilton Inn
- 1973 Morro Bay
- 1974 Santa Cruz, Holiday Inn
- 1975 San Diego,
- 1976 Sacramento
- 1977 Santa Barbara, Miramar
- 1978 Santa Rosa, Sheraton
- 1979 Fresno, Sheraton Inn
- 1980 Santa Cruz, Holiday Inn
- 1981 Ventura, Holiday Inn
- 1982 Sacramento, Woodlake Inn
- 1983 Reno, El Dorado Hotel
- 1984 Santa Cruz, Holiday Inn
- 1985 Palmdale, Holiday Inn
- 1986 Concord
- 1987 Ventura, DoubleTree Inn
- 1988 Sacramento
- 1989 Palm Springs



- 1990 Chico
- 1991 Yosemite Valley
- 1992 Anaheim
- 1993 Santa Clara
- 1994 Riverside
- 1995 Santa Rosa
- 1996 Ventura
- 1997 Concord
- 1998 San Luis Obispo
- 1999 San Rafael
- 2000 Van Nuys
- 2001 Sacramento
- 2002 San Diego
- 2003 South Lake Tahoe
- 2004 Anaheim
- 2005 Rohnert Park, DoubleTree Inn
- 2006 Laughlin, Nevada, Harrah's Casino
- 2007 Fish Camp/Yosemite, Tenaya Lodge
- 2008 Lake Tahoe, So. Shore Embassy Suites
- 2009 Cambria, Cambria Pines Lodge
- 2010 South San Francisco, Embassy Suites
- 2011 Fish Camp/Yosemite, Tenaya Lodge
- 2012 Agoura Hills Sheraton
- 2013 Seaside/Monterey Embassy Suites
- 2014 Yosemite Lodge, Yosemite Valley





^^Above: Wes Cater, GEC 1972 in Oakland

<<First GEC at Asilomar 1965



^^GEC 1966, Santa Barbara

Kevin Buchanan in 2003, South Lake Tahoe (below)



GEC 1986
Concord >



KEYNOTE SPEAKERS 2013, Monterey
Frank Dean, Golden Gate Nat. Rec. Area and
General Anthony Jackson, CA State Parks Director

<<Director Ruth Coleman in 2009, Cambria



^^GEC 1980, Wendy Lieber & P.J. Ryan

<<Bike Vendors in Agoura Hills, 2012



2006, Dave Carle, Gary Fregien, Dick Troy, Joe Mette

<2011, Dave Updike, Jeff Ohlfs, Mike Lynch patch trading



S. Lake Tahoe, 2003 L to R: Pat Clark-Gray, Debbie Wyatt, Paula Peterson, Janet Carle, Kim Baker



GEC 1966, Santa Barbara
Dancing the night away at the Miramar Hotel



GEC 1983, Reno, Nevada



2009, Cambria Conference
Sunset tour at Hearst Castle



Above: *Night time visit to the Hollywood Bowl*
2012 Agoura Hills Conference



2012 Field trip to the filming site of the MASH television show in Malibu Creek State Park

This photo by Susan Grove was taken at a picnic in Coloma in 1991 celebrating 125 years of the ranger profession.



Group Picnic - Coloma - Oct. 2, 1991 - 125th Ranger Anniversary



Park Rangers Association of California Affiliation



by Denzil Verardo

In late 1980 Tom Smith, President of PRAC, and Denzil Verardo, President of CSPRA discussed affiliating the two organizations. Tom was in charge of the West Valley College Park Management Program which had done projects and supplied seasonal staff to Big Basin Redwoods State Park when Denzil was a ranger there in the early 1970's. They kept in touch and when both became Presidents of their respective associations realized that PRAC and CSPRA had similar goals and issues. PRAC's members include city, county and regional rangers. A closer formal relationship could benefit both organizations and support their common missions.

After several meetings an affiliation agreement was drafted by a working group within both organizations. The agreement called for both associations to share conferences and training events, support legislation consistent with each organization's goals and objectives, mutually promote the role of the park ranger in the parks of California, and share in joint ventures in areas where common goals are consistent within both organizations. PRAC and CSPRA would retain their individual identity, organizational structure and control.

In early 1981, the Affiliation Agreement was approved by the executive boards of both associations, and Tom and Denzil signed the formal agreement. Annual conferences have been co-sponsored by PRAC and CSPRA ever since. The year 2014 marks 33 years of affiliation.



*Conference
Co-chairs
<< 2011
PRAC's Dave
Updike &
CSPRA's
Mark Hada*



*^Co-chairs 2013
PRAC's Pat Boyle
and CSPRA's Joanne
Danielson*

*PRAC FOUNDERS>
Tom Smith (center)
with Bill Lawrence
(left) and Raleigh
Young.
PRAC was founded in
1976*



Honorary Rangers

CSPRA began a tradition in 1965 of the “Honorary Ranger”, choosing citizens who exhibit outstanding dedication and service while helping to protect parks throughout California. Honorees are presented with a traditional State Park Ranger Stetson hat, a symbol of pride for park employees. The number of honorees per year has varied, as listed on these pages.

1965 Harry Blaisdell, Sr.

1965 Walt Disney

1965 Newton B. Drury

1965 Verna Dunshee

1965 Percy French

1965 Joe Knowland

1965 Everett Powell

1966 Joseph C. Houghteling

1966 Laurance S. Rockefeller

1968 Phil Geiger

1968 William Goodall

Walt Disney, 1965
*Animator, Movie Maker and
Entertainment Entrepreneur
with CSPRA's first President,
Paul Griffith*



Verna Dunshee, 1965
*San Francisco Bay Area
Conservation Activist*



Percy French, 1965
Conservationist



William Goodall, 1968
*Donner Pass Audubon Society Camp
Director*

Honorary Rangers

1971 Harriett Weaver

1972 Pearl Chase

1972 Earl P. Hanson

1973 Edward F. Dolder

1973 Claude A. "Tony"
Look

1974 Josephine Read

1978 Helen "Harriet" Allen

1978 Bertram "Bert"
Dunshee

1979 William Penn Mott, Jr.

1980 Howard King

1981 Vern Whitaker

1981 James Whitehead

1984 Ansel Adams

1984 Catherine Stone
and Joe Stone



Claude "Tony" Look, 1973
*Founding Director, Sempervirens
Fund*



Harriet "Petey" Weaver, 1971
Pioneer Woman Ranger



James Whitehead, 1981
State Park Superintendent, Southern Dist.



Bill Mott, 1979
*Director, California State Parks
and National Park Service*



Ansel Adams, 1984
Photographer



Catherine & Joe Stone
1984
*Anza-Borrego
Volunteers*



Honorary Rangers

1985 Harold Biswell

1985 John B. DeWitt

1986 Roscoe Poland

1986 Wilma Poland

1987 Sally Altick

1988 Victoria Araujo

1988 Harry M. Daniel

1990 Phil Frank

1991 David Brower

1993 William Alsup

Harold
Biswell
1985
*Prescribed
burning
expert*



Victoria Araujo, 1988 >>
*California State Parks
Commission*

<<Caryl Hart,
2007
*Sonoma County
Parks Activist*



Phil Frank, 1990
*Cartoonist, creator
of Farley comic strip
and Asphalt State
Park*

David Brower,
1991 >>
*Sierra Club &
Friends of the
Earth Director*



^^L.W. "Bill" Lane, 1997
*Publisher, Sunset Magazine, with
Gail Sevrens*



Les Strnad, 1998>>

Honorary Rangers

1996 Roma Philbrook
Rentz

1997 L.W. "Bill" Lane

1998 Margaret Owings

1998 Les Strnad

1999 Andrea Lawrence

2000 Verl Clausen

2001 Doug McConnell



*Andrea Lawrence, 1999
Olympic skier and Sierra
Nevada Conservationist*

2002 Claire Schlotterbeck

2003 Susan Smartt



*Susan Smartt
2003
CA State Park
Foundation*



*George Cardinet Jr., 2005
Mt. Diablo Trail Builder
with son George & grandson
Ranger Matt Cardinet*

2004 Huell Howser

2005 George Cardinet, Jr.

2007 Caryl Hart

2008 Henry F. Trione

2009. Helen Henry Smith

2010 Fred Keeley

2011 Diane Porter Cooley
Don Cooley



*Dr. Helen Henry Smith, 2009
Guide & Historian, Vikingsholm*



*Fred Keeley, 2010
State Assemblyman with Ranger Rich Rocha*

2012 Bobby Shriver

2013 Clint Eastwood

*Diane Porter Cooley
and Don Cooley, 2011
Philanthropists and
Preservationists*



*Bobby Shriver, 2012
State Parks & Rec. Comm. **35***

Huell Howser, a True California Ranger

by David Carle

“Oh boy. Golly. LOOK at this!”

Overhearing those words, spoken in a familiar Tennessee accent and with incredible enthusiasm, nearby people turned and came toward the speaker, realizing that Huell Howser was with them in the park that day.

The PBS series, “California’s Gold,” has built a vast audience across the state since it debuted in 1991, and many of us who worked as field employees in park units had the special pleasure of hosting a visit and being interviewed by Huell. He filmed in so many of our parks that, in 2002, a special series called “California’s Golden Parks” began (including national, county, and regional parks). In 2004, when Huell was chosen as CSPRA’s Honorary Ranger, WAVE editor Janet Carle wrote that he, “through the power of television, has perhaps introduced more Californians to their parks than any other person in the state.”

Huell Howser died of cancer on January 6, 2013. That news came as a shock to his loyal audience and especially to those of us who had experienced, personally, his genuine enthusiasm for the places he visited. Beyond the “California’s Gold” series, Huell had broadened his productions to other series, including “California’s Communities,” “California’s Golden Fairs,” “Downtown,” “California’s Water,” “California’s Green,” “California’s Golden Coast,” “Road Trip,” “Visiting,” and “California’s Missions.”

Huell Howser’s videos, digital archives, artifacts, memorabilia, and book collection has been donated to archives at Chapman University, in Orange. Episodes can be viewed online, for free, at <http://blogs.chapman.edu/huell-howser-archives>.

Huell’s California’s Gold website is at www.calgold.com



Huell, with Ranger Dave Carle, did two shows on Mono Lake, in 1992 and 2008.



Huell receiving his Stetson in 2004 in Sacramento.



On the Big Sur coast with Monterey District Supt. Lynn Rhodes and Rick Hanks of the Bureau of Land Management

What's in a Name?

The California State Park Rangers Association was founded in 1964 by a group that all worked as Rangers or Managers in State Parks. Fifteen years later, in 1979, the Association was opened to members in all State Park classifications. As the Presidents mentioned in their section, there has been much debate ever since over changing the name of CSPRA to California State Park Professionals Association or something similar. Time after time, this change has not happened. Why? The name “ranger”, to many people, evokes the iconic image of a caretaker and protector of the park and its visitors. Lobbyists have told CSPRA that having “ranger” in our title helps in recognition and effectiveness at the State Capitol. As far as most visitors are concerned, anyone that works in a park is a ranger, and that’s what they will continue to call us.

For now, CSPRA will continue to include all State Park Professionals in a wide range of classifications.





Two Decades of Retirees' Rendezvous



In 1991, the first Retiree Rendezvous was held. The department wanted to recognize the many employees who were retiring, so a picnic was held at McConnell SRA, planned by Kirk Wallace, Kathy Engel, and Clyde Strickler. Since the park closed the end of September, the first full weekend of October was chosen as the date. Lots of people helped out, including Wes Cater and Carl Lonnecker. There was a pancake breakfast and a dinner with tri tip and chicken. This began the tradition that has continued through the 2013 Retiree Rendezvous at Millerton Lake. Other locations for Rendezvous have been Cuyamaca (2008), Turlock Lake (2005), and Pfeiffer Big Sur (2012).



The Wallaces enjoy the potluck in 2005.



A decorated cake has been a Rendezvous tradition.

*The group
in 2012
at Pfeiffer
Big Sur
State Park.*



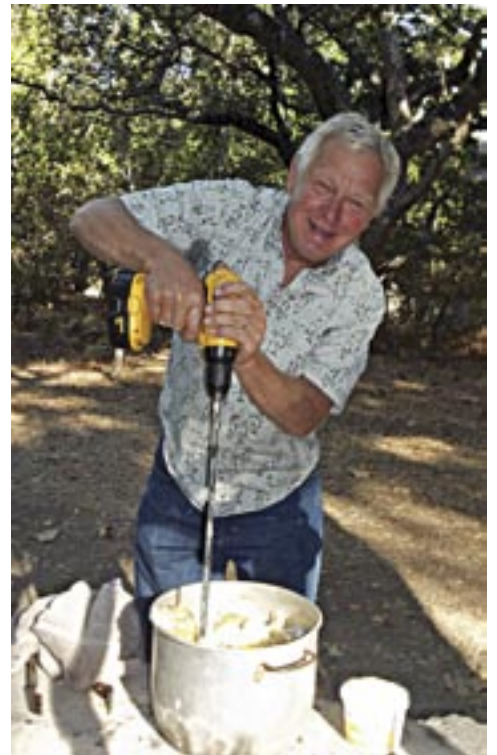
Retirees' Rendezvous



Ray Westberg and his daughter Sue Barrow at Millerton Lake 2013



Bob Allen and Jim Peat tend the grill, 2005



Glen McGowan whips the potatoes, 2012



*Bev Neal and Kathy Peat staff the raffle, 2012
Note the classic 1989 CSPRA t-shirt!*



Business got done too: Lauralee Svensgaard, President Ron Brean, Kirk Wallace, Wes Cater, 2005

The International Ranger Federation

by Bud Getty

One of the great experiences of my life has been attending all of the meetings of the International Rangers Federation.

Poland hosted the very first International Rangers Federation Congress in 1995. It was an impressive conference with park professionals from about 50 countries. It was awesome sitting at a table with rangers from Kenya, Iceland, and Great Britain. Our Polish hosts held a campfire in the evening and provided all the food. It turned out to be a two-course meal –smoked cheese and vodka!

Costa Rica was the site of the next congress in 1997. The tropical rainforest was stunning to those of us who hadn't been in that part of the world before. It was especially inspiring to be in a nation that eliminated its military and spent money instead on Health, Education, and National Parks.

The 2000 congress at Kruger National Park in South Africa was for many of us our first experience on this vast continent. During one coffee break, we were standing on a balcony overlooking a small lake when suddenly a crocodile exploded out of the water and swallowed a bushbuck. Welcome to Africa!

Several Australian ranger groups put on sessions at the next congress at Wilsons Promontory National Park in the state of Victoria. Those sessions were interesting, but unfortunately, they didn't provide translators--many of us could not understand the Australian version of English.

In Stirling, Scotland in 2006, the Scottish rangers put on a dinner party that exceeded everyone's expectations. We marched into a castle's great room behind Scottish bagpipers and drummers. There we were gingerly partook of their national dish – haggis.

In Bolivia in 2009, we stayed at a lovely resort within the city of Santa Cruz. One evening, seven of us hired taxis and went in search of fine dining, but ended up



The California delegation in Tanzania , 2012

at a restaurant close to our hotel. When we finished, we started to walk the four blocks to our hotel, but the restaurant manager stopped us. He said we should not walk even that short distance, we should take taxis, because it wasn't safe to walk the streets, even with seven of us. The U.S. State Department advised that we should not go on the advertised prison tours because the prisons had guards on the outside only.

The November, 2012, congress in Tanzania was exciting for us in several ways. On one field trip, we were standing on the rim of the Ngorongoro Crater when Dorene picked up news reports that President Obama had just been reelected. That brought a lot of cheering from attendees, especially from the African delegates. Our tour of the crater was climaxed by watching two lionesses stalk, kill, and rather bloodily consume an old female Cape buffalo.

I'm looking forward to the 2016 Congress in Colorado's Rocky Mountain National Park!

CSPRA is the only Ranger Association from a US State that is a member of the International Ranger Federation.





Women rangers from around the world, Tanzania, 2012.



Jeff Ohlfs (NPS) and Mike Whitehead (CSPRA), with rangers from Spain & Argentina in 1997, Costa Rica



A Tanzanian ranger displays a giraffe skull.

Below: The World Congress in Bolivia, 2009.



Paula Peterson, the Pioneer

by Janet Carle with Paula Peterson

“No one told us a girl was in the group!”

These were words that greeted Paula Peterson at the Mott Training Center when she reported for Ranger Trainee Group E in March 1972. After three hiring interviews, the first permanent, full-time, soon-to-be-badged female ranger was finally hired.

Though women had worked in State Parks for years as seasonals, most notably Petey Weaver in the 1930s and 40s, since WWII the job description for State Park Ranger had read “male only”. Governor Ronald Reagan and DPR Director Bill Mott, in an era of change with affirmative action in the air, changed the language and omitted the male only clause. Coincidentally, another Paula, Paula Pennington, got things started for women when she was hired as an unbadged PI Ranger at Prairie Creek in 1968. Several other women were PI Rangers between 1968 and 1971. The professional training program for rangers at Asilomar was begun, and dogs were allowed into parks.

“I always thought it was interesting that dogs and women were allowed in at the same time,” said Paula with a laugh. The media had a field day when Paula was hired. Her hiring began a deluge, not just a trickle, with 11 women hired as ranger trainees over the next few years.



Ranger Trainee Group E, Santa Cruz Mountains
Paula, Glen McGowan, Don Hoyle, Lloyd Limprecht

She grew up in Sonoma and attended Chico State, majoring in Park & Recreation Administration. Paula’s seasonal work with municipalities included stints as a Playground Director/Lifeguard at South Lake Tahoe, and an Aqua Maid at the Wildwood Boardwalk in New Jersey, where she performed as a synchronized swimmer.



Paula was a pioneer in many ways. She and her ex-husband, Harry Morse, were the first married ranger couple and worked together when they operated the Park Experience Exhibit Trailer for 10 months in 1974. Paula worked in a wide range of parks: Santa Cruz Mountains, Mt. Diablo, Pajaro Coast, Lake Oroville, and the Napa Valley. Twenty years of her 32-year career were devoted to parks on the Monterey Peninsula. From 1978 to 1983 she was at the Mott Training Center where she was instrumental in initiating and establishing the DPR Defensive Tactics Training Program and expanding the DPR Firearms Training program. Then she served as a Supervising Ranger, became Chief Ranger in 1985, and held successively higher ranks until her retirement in May 2003 as Park Superintendent.

About the challenges associated with becoming the first full-time peace officer ranger, Paula says, “Follow your heart; do not be discouraged by others’ lesser expectations of you.”

Women Rangers - The First 10 Years

Group E, (3-2-72): Paula Peterson

Group F, (9-18-72): Mike Bartoo Fike, Patricia Wiese Reed

Group G, (12-4-72): Linda Engel Leyva, Anita Kirkpatrick, Doranne Vonende

Group GG, (1-8-73): Kathryn Verner Foley, Kay Schimdt Robinson, Ruth Reffkin

Group H, (1-31-73): Sherrin Grout

Group J, (9-4-73): Mary Doody Stokes

Group K, (9-4-73): Paula Pennington, Valerie Campbell

Group L, (6-1-73): Pat Scully, Jo-San Davis

Group M, (6-1-73): Joanne Giusti Ciccone, Shirley Mraz, Nora Sterling Cheek

Group N, (2-10-75): Dee Spanevello Orchard Warenycia

Group O, (10-1-75): Catherine Gardner Burke, Joanne Kozuma Nash

Group P, (10-75): Kismet Larue, Carol Nelson

Tech 1, (2-2-76): Joyce Whiten, Donna Rea Wells, Edith Miller, Marla Hastings Ryburn, Mary Ann Skinner

Group Q, (4-76): Jacqueline Ball, Janelle Ravetz Miller

Group R, (3-77): Victoria Long, Janet Broughton Carle

Tech 2, (6-5-77): Laura Block Itogawa, Bobbie Garcia, Miriam Guthartz Guiney, Suellen Wright

Tech 3, (6-5-77): Elizabeth Agpaoa, Linda O'Kelley, Lisa Beutler, Nikki Villa

Tech 4, (11-77): Kim Preston, Diane Jones-Walsh, Carolyn Strause Cochran, Ann Meneguzzi.

Tech 5, (11-77): Kathleen Franklin, Steffani Graham Jarrett, Vivian Padilla, Sandra Dorken Frizzell

Group S, (77 - 79): Viviana Kee, Nan Haynes, Kathy Dolinar, Sharon Paltin, Beth Atwood

Group T, (1-11-80): Holly White, Nedra Martinez, Patricia Brown

Group U, 1980: Piper Lindsay Hunter, Nancy Fuller, Susan Weckerly, Yvette Devieu Stavro, Wendy Lieber, Julie Wilson

Group V, 1980: Nancy Reid Sandler, Laura Van Etten, Valerie Nixon, Shandra Grunkemeyer, Janet Ahlman, Heidi Doyle

Group W, 1981: Linda Gresham, Susan Ross, Patricia Clark-Gray Kathleen Kinzie, Jill Dampier, Rosanne McHenry, Sheryl Lawton

Unknown Group or Other Academies: Joan Bennett (1971), Noralee Young (1973), Deborah Coles (1981), Shana Avalos, Sharon Morse, Julie Spear (1981), Gail Shoop-Lamy (1981)



PAULA'S RETIREMENT PARTY: L to R back : C. Thompson, K. Sorenson, L. Harter, J. Miller, N. Reid, N. Fuller; S. Jarrett, J. Karlton, J. Carle. Kneeling: P. Clark-Gray, R. Clark, S. Price, T. Williams, K. Foley, K. Robinson, S. Avalos, J. Ball, L. Rhodes, M. Wright. Front: Paula Peterson, 2003 Photo by Ken Gray



Petey Weaver & Paula Peterson in 1991. Photo by Linda Rath



Mike Bartoo Fike



Ann Meneguzzi

Patricia M. Scully Memorial Highway



HONORING PATRICIA SCULLY: *A gathering of women rangers in June 2013, at the unveiling of the Patricia Scully Memorial Highway sign. L to R: Tina Williams, unknown, Pat Clark-Gray, Mimi Guiney, Danita Rodriquez, Joanne Danielson, Shirley Mraz and Natalie Lohi.*

In early June, 2013, the Patricia M. Scully Memorial Highway sign at San Gregorio State Beach was unveiled. Pat Scully was a California State Park Ranger who enjoyed sharing her love of nature with children. She was killed while on duty and driving on Highway One by a drunk driver on May 6, 1976. Pat was working in the San Mateo Coast Area and started her career at Big Basin State Park. She was one of two women among the 38 State Park Ranger Trainees in 1974, and one of the first full-time women rangers.

The event was attended by over 50 people and included her 95 year old mother, her brother and four sisters. In addition, California State Parks provided a Color Guard. Natalie Lohi, a female Ranger, sang "Star Spangled Banner", and many California State Parks staff from all over the state were in attendance. Deputy Director for Operations Mat Fuzie unveiled the sign along with Ms. Scully's brother Tom and one of her sisters.



Patricia Scully, one of the first women rangers of the modern era (Trainee Group L in 1973). CSPRA gave a generous donation towards the expense of the highway designation.

Member Memories and Musings

Bud Getty, Retired, Chief, Resource Protection Division

As I read what I wrote in the President's section some years ago, I'm disturbed that many of the same threats still hang over our parks. Recent events all seem to point toward an over-emphasis on revenue production, without even mentioning preserving the integrity of our parks' unique and irreplaceable natural and cultural resources. And now they are talking about downsizing our park system. What would be the criteria for eliminating parks? Would they be based on attendance or strictly financial, based on operating costs or the potential for revenue generation? Where do we see any concern for resource values in all this?

Even commercial grazing has reared its ugly head again. Every new director seems to have to hear how "beneficial" grazing would be to the parks. There are indeed valid scientific reasons for short-term focused grazing in some circumstances. But long-term, year-round commercial grazing is not science. It enriches private ranchers but does not benefit the parks or the visitors. State Parks have meadows, not pastures.



John Mott, Retired, Ranger, Cooperating Association Manager

I joined to support efforts that CSPRA was involved in –distinguishing itself as a professional organization focusing on park integrity and not a union focusing on wages, hours, and working conditions. At the time I joined, the Department was grappling with what collective bargaining was and the Park Family seemed to be balkanizing into various subgroups. I liked the idea that CSPRA membership was open to all.

CSPRA has stood up for science-based integrity in managing park resources, opposing commercialism, advertising in parks, and development that is an attraction in itself –water slides, zip lines, golf courses, etc.

CSPRA should continue fighting for public funding to manage State Park resources. Striving for self sufficient funding through fee increases and revenue schemes dilutes, if not warps, our departmental judgment about what is "appropriate". Higher fees are making state parks more exclusive enclaves of those who have the financial means and disposable income. We are beginning to serve only some of CA's publics. Our visitors do not look like the rest of CA. If this continues, state parks will become self-supporting and the promise of parks for the people will be only an historic battle cry.

Michael Green, Manager, Monterey State Historic Park

I joined CSPRA to support political efforts that promote Park's mission. At the time I joined, the Department was (yet again) facing significant budget reduction. CSPRA was actively representing State Park causes to the state legislature. I am encouraged as CSPRA continues this effort. I also joined as a gesture of solidarity with other park personnel who wish to extend their influence to Sacramento.

If the "proof is in the pudding," it's tough to make a case that CSPRA advocacy has made a big difference – though, to be fair it's not for lack of trying. I am not encouraged by the legislature's focus on revenue generation, which places greater pressure on cooperating associations and partnerships with private enterprise. In my view, CSPRA should continue fighting for public funding to manage state park resources.



Member Memories and Musings



James G. Davis, Retired, Chief Ranger, Mojave River District

I joined the Division of Beaches and Parks as a SPR 1 in August 1954, about the time the State Personnel Board (SPB) responded to the Department's request for higher salaries for the Ranger series with "Rangers are overpaid janitors in funny hats." The request was denied. I joined CSPRA as a Charter member in 1964 in the hopes the organization could improve and enhance the Ranger image.



Carl Chavez , Retired, Northern Region Director

<< Jim Hart and Carl clamming

I started my career with DPR in October 1966 at Bodie SHP. In those days, you could not become a member of CSPRA until you had been a full time Park Ranger for one year. My main reason for joining was to have the opportunity to meet other Park Rangers. Being isolated in Bodie with few training opportunities I met very few peers. The first CSPRA event I attended was the GEC Conference in Fresno in 1967.

Attending GECs over the years was a way of staying connected in pre-computer e-mail days. Now Graybears serves that function well for me. I along with Cliff Wade and Roger Kellogg made the arrangements for the 1973 conference in Morro Bay. Margaret and I held a Clam Feed at our park residence. We had invited about a dozen friends over before the start of GEC serving clam chowder from the clams we had been saving up from the bay for this occasion. Well to make a long story short, once our party was going, word got out and there was a knock on the door. When I answered there was a bear of a man standing there. It was Tiny Philbrook (who I had never met) who said, "I heard there is a party going on". Of course I said sure and then he turned around and said to a large group of folks out by our gate "He says it's fine, come on in." At that point about 20 others joined him and our house was filled to overflowing with others moving to the front yard. Margaret just kept adding water and potatoes to the chowder!

Jim Baird, Retired, Supervising Ranger

I joined CSPRA to participate in a professional organization with goals of improving professional standards for employees, as well as the standing up for the integrity of the State Park System. It was the public voice of employees advocating for professionalism and integrity. I enjoyed attending CSPRA conferences and the curriculum and networking that were available there. I also appreciated the dedication shown by members to speak before various commissions and government agencies advocating for state park integrity.



Member Memories and Musings

Jeff Price, Retired, Chief Ranger

I was in that first experimental group hired in September 1971, into the newly designated classification “State Park Ranger Trainee.” With Jack Welch serving on the CSPRA Board and the next year as CSPRA President -- and being my new Area Manager, I quickly saw CSPRA as a responsive, active and high-quality fraternal organization and a way to get answers to questions, share ideas and improve the profession.

Looking back over the past 50 years, I have been proud and most impressed with the following:

Making the decision in winter of 1964 to organize and provide a forum for field Rangers to address operational and professional matters to management, funding training scholarships in the organization budget every year since 1967, supporting a successful ban on offshore drilling after the 1969 Unocal rig blowout, which spilled 3 million US gallons of petroleum into the Santa Barbara Channel, assisting in the creation of a State Park Junior Ranger Program by the Department in 1970, support and implementation of a Ranger’s environmental proposal through CSPRA in 1973 that changed timing of public beach kelp and debris removal to protect millions of grunion eggs immediately after peak tides, helping to establish the Park Rangers Association of California in 1976, working to pass the 1987 California Bottle Bill recycling initiative, the efforts of CSPRA’s Save Bodie! Committee in 1988, and 20 years of support for the Retirees’ Rendezvous.

CSPRA should focus a continuous effort to remind the less informed why retaining a generalist job description is essential in retaining the positive Ranger image. It also makes the position essential to voters and provides added public value to the job description. An effort to return the revered and respected name Ranger to the job title would do a lot to further a professional and public image. Currently there is only one designation in the entire Department that still uses that name in the title – Jr. Ranger!



Rick Ray, Retired, Maintenance Supervisor

I started full-time with the Dept. in 1971. I was in Maintenance Services working at Mt. Diablo State Park. Over the next few years I promoted through a variety of positions in maintenance and was working in the Santa Cruz Mountains as a Maintenance Supervisor when CSPRA came to my rescue.

During the winter of 81/82 there were horrible storms in the area. The San Lorenzo River flooded its banks and landslides destroyed many homes and roads. Lives were lost. My family and I were living in our personal mobile home located in the employee residence area of Henry Cowell Redwoods State Park when the river overflowed its banks. We were fortunate to have a little time to vacate the house and grab a few of our belongings as the water rose around us.

When the waters receded, we discovered that our home had suffered serious damage and most of our personal belongings were destroyed. It would be about three months before repairs could be completed to our home, so we moved into the Henry Cowell Visitor Center and camped out there in the interim.

CSPRA sent out a request for monetary donations from its members to help the “park families” that were victims of this natural disaster. This really opened my eyes to the fact that this was not a ranger only organization but an organization that really did represent all the employees of state parks. My family and I will be forever grateful for the assistance we received and the generosity of the members of CSPRA.

Member Memories and Musings

Steve Moore, Ranger, retired in 2002, RA until 2012

Having achieved my lifelong dream of becoming a Ranger. I was eager to be part of the conversation among Rangers by joining CSPRA. I tend to be a joiner anyway.

As I envisioned, it was a conversation and sharing that simply cannot be found within the channels of DPR. What I liked equally was that the people of the organization could mix at the conventions with little regard to rank, position, and hierarchy. In the CSPRA setting, we became, for the most part, friends with a shared vision. I especially liked the gradual broadening of membership opportunity and sharing our involvement with people outside of State Parks.



Ray Westburg, Retired, Regional Director, Inland Region

I joined CSPRA for the type of work being performed, the family atmosphere, and being part of the natural environment. CSPRA has been the core of the park system bringing park people together for the common cause of protecting and providing improved quality of service.

James R. Geary, Retired, Superintendent II, High Desert District

I appreciated the opportunity to support and advance development of California State Parks as a Charter member. CSPRA has been an asset to DPR and supported good management policy during difficult times.



Carolyn Schimandle, Interpreter III, Interpretation and Education Division

I've enjoyed meeting older state park employees at the Retiree Rendezvous one year, even though I'm not a retiree. I appreciated the activism for state park employees during some of the tough times we've had recently. I have enjoyed and learned from the two CSPRA trainings I have attended. CSPRA has a good history section on its website. I appreciate how CSPRA has kept state parks history alive.

Member Memories and Musings

Cindi Whitehead, Seasonal Park Aide

I like meeting employees from all classifications and different parks and learn what they do for their parks and to make their environment better for all. I like the activism although it isn't a union or a lobby group, I believe CSPRA has something for all employees and can assist members in having a voice for parks.



Michelle Gardner, Retired, Sector Superintendent

I like the fact that they are politically involved and keep up with the issues. I do not follow all the issues like I should. If CSPRA recommends a vote one way or another I usually go with that recommendation.

David Carle, Retired, Ranger

My strongest impressions of CSPRA are tied up with the annual conferences and those opportunities to come down out of the boondocks to meet old and new friends and feel part of something greater than the routine at my own park. The annual Honorary Ranger awards were a great idea that connects us to the community. And the reaction, when the honoree is presented with a Ranger hat, is always fun to watch. Will they actually put it on this year? And look comfortable and pleased at the gift?

With no unions, in those early days, the General Executive Council (GEC) meetings often became rambunctiously entertaining venting sessions. A professional organization like this has a vital role to help the Department stay true to its mission, to provide a voice that can resist outside and internal pressures that endanger parks and the profession, to be the proponent of professionalism and, yes, idealism (with varying degrees of success, over the years). It was good to see this organization welcome all "rangers" who serve the parks into the CSPRA fold, everyone who plays a role in preserving and maintaining an incredible heritage. The visiting public bestows that title to anyone in uniform, so I applaud CSPRA's embrace of that reality and continued use of the Ranger Stetson hat as its symbol. In recent years, I've wished to see CSPRA encourage the Department to also accept that reality, with personnel categories such as Interpreter (Ranger), Maintenance Worker (Ranger), and even (oh, the shock!) Peace Officer (Ranger). We lost the battle for the generalist ranger, it seems, but as specialists, why not embrace the public image that still persists out there that rangers have the enviable duty of caring for very special places.

It's been enjoyable to stay in touch during retirement by helping construct each issue of the *WAVE*, CSPRA's newsletter, and also to help build this book.



Member Memories and Musings

David Donahue, Retired, Maintenance Chief

CSPRA in my opinion has helped the ranger series become more professional. This has had a positive effect on technical services and lifeguard. CSPRA has evolved as the ranger series has evolved and improved.



Scott Liske, Ranger

It is good to know we have an organization like CSPRA. With that said, for me they have been almost irrelevant. As a SPPO they really have not done much to help me personally or the classification of SPPO. I think that should change in light of the fact the SPPO's have not had an employee organization since 2006.

Miriam (Mimi) Guiney, Retired, Ranger

I became a PI Ranger in Dec. 1976, and was hired into Tech. Group 2/3 in June '77. While working in Marin as a Technician, I joined CSPRA. It felt terribly exciting to have the opportunity to join a real, professional organization. I felt so grown-up &... well... professional! I was all of 22 at the time, so that actually makes total sense, doesn't it?

That year's conference was held in Santa Rosa. I walked up to the registration/check-in table, which was staffed by a few rangers' wives. One of them looked up at me & immediately asked, "Who's your husband?" I gathered myself up and told her (probably as huffily as an insulted 22-year-old can be), "I don't have a husband. I'm a Ranger from Marin Area!"

I always appreciated the lobbying and political work CSPRA has done. I also loved its balance of valuing interpretation and resource management.

At this point, 13 years post-rangering, I love keeping track of people via GrayBears. It was reading a post from Lynne Rhodes about her travels that inspired me to meet her for breakfast several years ago. It grew into a monthly Breakfast Club. This week 10 of us will be getting together, all retired and all, at some point, Santa Cruz Area/District Rangers.



Member Memories and Musings

Ron Brean, Retired, Northern Regional Director

Throughout my 34 years with State Parks, there have been two constants: a dedicated and incredibly creative staff in all disciplines, and CSPRA.



Janet Carle, Retired, Ranger, CSPRA *WAVE* Editor

I was on the CSPRA Board as a young ranger and have served as the *WAVE* newsletter editor as a retiree. Working in a remote park at Mono Lake, CSPRA provided opportunities to feel part of the big picture, and to stay connected with rangers from around the state. I have appreciated CSPRA's willingness to take on some tricky and controversial issues and to put the integrity of the parks, and the visitors' experience in them, at the forefront. Here's to another 50 years of promoting professionalism in California State Parks!

Greg Picard, Retired, Ranger

CSPRA has kept me informed on issues ongoing within the state and provided a collective response to addressing environmental problems as well as DPR business practices.



The Future of CSPRA

CSPRA continues a strong commitment to protecting and preserving the mission and values of the state parks system. In an era of declining budgets and public support, CSPRA recognizes that **it is more crucial than ever to stay vigilant and active.**

CSPRA will focus on the following areas and actions:

Advocacy

- Track and inform CSPRA members of current legislation
- Submit position papers and work with legislative staff to craft bill amendments
- Identify and advocate on issues regarding protection of natural and cultural resources.
- Advocate for continuing and expanding high quality education programs

Sustainable funding that supports the State Park mission

- Support potential funding that is consistent with our mission
- Voice concern with potential funding that is inconsistent with our mission.

State Park Staffing and Training

- Advocate for needed exams
- Focus attention on critical staff shortages in the Department
- Advocate for sufficient training to allow all employees to meet minimum training requirements
- Solicit ideas from members for improvements to existing training and additional training needs

CSPRA will continue to meet regularly with the Director and E...
continue to maintain a dynamic social media site and will incre...
with members.



The CSPRA 50th Book Team



CO-EDITORS:
<< Janet Carle (right)
and Patricia Clark-
Gray



**HISTORIAN
SUPPORT, 150th
Anniversary
Co-chair:**
Michael Lynch >>



PHOTO ARCHIVIST
John Mott

**MEMBER
MEMORIES**
Cindi
Whitehead>>



CSPRA 50th COMMITTEE,
Chair, Nina Gordon

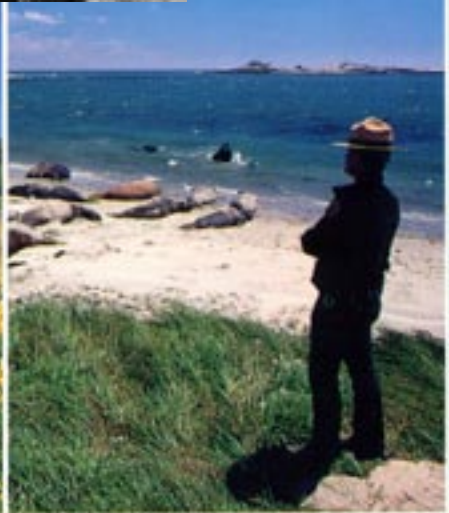


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DIVISION OF BEACHES & PARKS



CSPRA



Promoting California
State Park
Professionalism for
50 years

1964 - 2014