

The CSPRA

Wave

Volume 4, number 1

California State Park Rangers Association

JAN - FEB 2004

FALL FIRE STORM

Pages 3,4, 7-8



Also, INLAND EMPIRE DISTRICT: California Citrus SHP, Chino Hills SP, Lake Perris SRA, Mt. San Jacinto SP and Wilderness Area, Silverwood Lake SRA, San Timoteo Canyon, Wildwood Canyon, plus the old Mojave Sector/Angeles District Units, pages 3-6

Retirees Rendezvous 2003, pages 10 and 11

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The CSPRA Wave
(ISSN0087-9176)

is published by CSPRA, P.O. Box 247,
Carpinteria, CA 93014-0247

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*COVER PHOTO: the Dyar House after the
Cedar Fire at Cuyamaca Rancho SP*

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



DANA JONES
CSPRA President

With the holidays all around us there is no better time to reflect on the meaning of family. In this case the family I would be referring to is the so often forgotten "Park Family". Recent events have really brought into clear focus the meaning of the phrase "Park Family". From the annual gathering of retired folks at the Retiree's Rendezvous to the mass support generated by the recent Southern California fires we can see that our family of park professionals is alive and well.

An e-mail from **Mat Fuzie**, Acting District Superintendent of the Colorado Desert District, sent shortly after the Southern California fires, exemplifies this:

"The last few weeks have been incredible and challenging. The Colorado Desert District would like to say Thank You to all of the department's employees who helped out with this amazing event. From here we will try to rebuild and recover. During the last three weeks the strength of our organization was tested in many ways and from many

directions. I am here to tell you that we performed above and beyond what could have been predicted. Incredible acts of heroism, bravery, sympathy, empathy and caring were witnessed at all levels of this great organization. I have witnessed our strength first hand and feel confident that we will continue to be strong no matter what the future throws at us. Thank you to all of you who supported, participated and sacrificed for these efforts and the efforts to come."

State Parks Director **Ruth Coleman** said, in an October 31 memo:

"State Parks will regenerate both its people and its parks. The more we stick together and help each other, the faster we will heal."

This issue of the *WAVE* is dedicated to the park professionals that banded together to raise our parks, the resources and our staff out of the ashes. The past year has been full of tests of our strength and tenacity. From budget shortfalls to administration changes to devastating fires, we have weathered each and everything that has come our way. As employees of the best State Parks Department in the nation, we will continue to go the extra mile for the future of parks and the "Parks Family".

I am proud to be a member of such a dedicated and hard-working group of people. Once again, thanks to each and every one of you for the continuing positive efforts that you put forth everyday for the future of CSPRA and the State Parks System.

An Empire on Fire

by Gary Watts
District Superintendent

“It is great to be in the Inland Empire (District).” Those were the first words of President George W. Bush as he met with newly elected Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger in a nationally televised press conference held in San Bernardino days after the historic recall election of October 7. Well, OK, he didn’t really say “District,” but it was close.

This press conference is an example of the growing importance of the inland Southern California area known as the Inland Empire. The area is growing faster than any other large metropolitan area in the State and, along with Las Vegas and Phoenix, in the country. Politics, the economy, housing, endangered species and transportation are all hot button issues and dominate the daily headlines of the local print media.

The area also received significant media coverage during the recent plague of wildfires consuming Southern California. One of those fires, the Old Fire, swept through Silverwood Lake State Recreation Area on October 29th.

Silverwood Lake and the Old Fire

The park staff worked tirelessly during the days preceding the 29th as Silverwood initially became an evacuation center for the community of Crestline. Later as the fire burned towards the park, those people remaining were evacuated again. Some of our employees were evacuated from their homes in Crestline, Lytle Creek, Wrightwood, and other mountain communities. Many continued to report to work however and started moving vehicles, computers, files, and as many other important

Director **Ruth Coleman** and District Superintendent **Gary Watts** survey burned portions of Silverwood Lake SRA



The “Old Fire” in Devils Canyon

items as they could gather to a safe location as the fire approached.

The park was abandoned at 0130 hours by park personnel and fire fighters who covered park headquarters with fire retardant foam before they left. The phone call I received from Dispatch in the middle of the night relayed the message that it looked unlikely anything would survive the fire.



Fire glows at the crest of the hill, ashes fill the air on October 29, 2003. L to R: **Kelly Elliott, Brad Cheshire, Steve Hopkins, Steve Schory**

Several days later I toured the park assessing the fire damage. Gone were the group camp restroom and a series of small restrooms along the bicycle trail in Miller Canyon. Gone were some sheds in the residence area. Gone were Park Maintenance Worker **Rick Beck**’s mobile home and trucks. Gone were the main offices of our Visitor Services staff along with some

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EMPIRE, from page 3
surrounding outbuildings at the historic Nella complex. Some of the day use areas were burned completely, leaving only a few metal parts where visitors once sat at picnic tables. Gone were oak trees, sycamores, pines, and hillsides of chaparral.

Remarkably though the park's headquarters and shop complex did not burn. Neither did two other mobile homes in the residence area. The fire seemed to turn up its nose at the campground and skirted around leaving some damage but sparing most of the area. The day use areas near the lake fared very well also. But fully 60% to 70% of the park's land area was burned, about 1000 acres.

We wait anxiously now for winter and the storms that will follow. The watershed for the park has been stripped of vegetation and resembles a moonscape. The likelihood of flooding, mudflows and debris flows are of immediate concern to our headquarters area. Our main entrance to the park is also threatened by flooding and therefore public access concerns are of primary importance as we consider plans to reopen the park.

When will we reopen? Hard to say. As at Cuyamaca, our use areas have been altered in a way few have had to

deal with before. It will take months to clean up the debris (over 200 trees had to be dropped due to immediate hazards, and hundreds more will follow over the next few years). The potential flood damage to the park is immense and what happens during the next few months is unpredictable. And what will we do with those day use areas and campsites that have been burned? Close them? Let nature take its course? Accelerate the recovery period? Use them for interpretive purposes? There still is a lot of work to do and a lot of uncharted territory we need to navigate before we get to the point of reopening.

We have learned a lot from the fire and intend to share that with others over the next few months. I personally want to thank all of the personnel who showed enormous dedication and bravery during this fire. I could not be prouder of the outstanding people who work in my District. I also want to thank all of those other employees in the Department who helped get us through this disaster including those that traveled across the state to help out on site and those that worked in headquarters to assist with our needs. Thank you all!
[see *Cuyamaca fire story*, p. 7, 8]

District Identity

The Inland Empire District has grown significantly over the last few years. The old Los Lagos District used to be comprised of four units including Lake Perris SRA, Silverwood Lake SRA, California Citrus SHP, and Chino Hills SP. A District name change to Inland Empire was adopted in August of 2000 to better reflect the geographic area.

The District added Mount San Jacinto SP in July of 2002 and in July of 2003 combined with the Mojave Sector of the old Angeles District (Red Rock Canyon SP, Tomo Kahni SHP, Antelope Valley Indian Museum, Providence Mountains SRA, Ripley Desert Woodland SP, Saddleback Butte SP, Antelope Valley California Poppy Reserve) to become one of the largest Districts in the State Park System.

And to top things off we added two new State Park Units to the District in 2003. San Timoteo Canyon is a new acquisition located about 10 miles southeast of Redlands and is an important habitat acquisition within Riverside County. Wildwood Canyon is a phased project and is located between Yucaipa and Oak Glen in San Bernardino County and is expected to



The "Nella" house, former rangers' office at Silverwood Lake SRA, as it appeared on October 20, and after the "Old Fire" swept through



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be a full service state park in the future with multiple recreational opportunities. The Department's urban strategy recognized the tremendous growth of the Inland Empire and stimulated acquisition of property to meet future demands and to have more of a State Park presence in the area.

Major capitol outlay projects also are moving forward throughout the District. The following summary reflects current projects that are underway: Lake Perris SRA-Lifeguard headquarters replacement; Chino Hills SP - New Visitor Center, New Entrance Road, New Campground and Public Use Facilities, Coal Canyon Wildlife Corridor Restoration; Silverwood Lake SRA-Cleghorn Campground and Day Use Area; California Citrus SHP-New Visitor Center Exhibits

Partnerships and Programs

Silverwood Lake and Lake Perris provide storage for nearly 200,000 acre feet of drinking water for this arid region. Water quality issues are extremely important at these reservoirs. The District has been actively involved in a Task Force comprised of DPR, Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, Department of Water Resources, DFG, and Boating and Waterways to develop short and long term solutions to water quality and recreation issues at these two lakes. While drinking water interests remain at odds with recreation interests, communication and understanding among all major players has improved dramatically as a result of this task force. We have also had success at reducing MTBE levels in the water and agreed to adopt a set of Lake operation guidelines.

Mt. San Jacinto shares partnerships with two major entities. The Winter Park Authority, operator of the Palm Springs Aerial Tramway, has an operating agreement with DPR and provides significant revenue to the



Ranger **Kelly Elliott** on the Silverwood patrol boat

state through its ticket sales.

Our second partnership is with the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument. About 60% of the park is included within the monument boundaries. Although the federal legislation that created the monument allows for us to continue managing the park as we deem necessary, we are sensitive to our role in this national treasure. Among our partners in the monument are BLM, Forest Service, DFG, Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians, and many cities located in the Coachella Valley.

The Department is a member of a joint powers authority called the Wildlife Corridor Conservation Authority (WCCA). This entity is comprised of 4 cities, Los Angeles County and the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy. WCCA exists to protect the Puente-Chino Hills Wildlife Corridor, a 31 mile stretch of open space and parkland extending from Chino Hills State Park to Whittier. (You may remember from previous CSPRA newsletters, Coal Canyon is the link that connects this 40,000 acre area/corridor to the Santa Ana Mountains and Cleveland National Forest and was acquired as state park land in fall of 2000.)

Some of our other partnerships include a relationship between Providence Mountains SRA and the National Park Service at Mojave



Maint. Mechanic **Lloyd Johnston** and Rangers **Kelly Elliott** and **Steve Schory**. The Silverwood HQ did NOT burn.

National Preserve. We are also a standing member of the Santa Ana River Trail committee, a group dedicated to creating a trail from the crest of the San Bernardino Mountains to the Pacific Ocean. An agreement with the California Citrus Non Profit Management Corporation helps operate and raise funds to develop the park.

Tomorrow

This is a dynamic, quick paced, changing District. As in most of urban Southern California, many of our units are faced with growth that comes right up to the edge of a park boundary and all of the problems that accompany it. Noise, lights, exotic species, pets, trespass, crime, and fire.

And yet many of our units are the

See *EMPIRE*, page 6

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EMPIRE, from page 5

exact opposite of what is next to them. They are solitude, wilderness, wildlife, recreation, birds, rock art, flowers, mountains, desert, lakes, stargazing, caves, even the smell of orange blossoms. The diversity of park units in the Inland Empire District may be unmatched elsewhere in the State Park System. OK, maybe I am biased in that respect. But it is still a great part of our park system, full of dedicated and caring employees and volunteers. And as the area doubles in population in the next 15 years, there will be state parks for all to enjoy, appreciate and support.

Mt. San Jacinto

by Ellen Absher

State Park Interpreter I

Wilderness is a place where the earth and its community of life are untrammled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain. It is a place where wildlife rules and plants dominate the landscape; water and air are pure and fresh, and stars in the heavens help us acknowledge our tiny place in the scheme of the universe. Wilderness is a place to renew the spirit and refresh the weary soul.

Mount San Jacinto State Park and Wilderness, in the San Jacinto Mountain range is a unique part of southern California, encompassing 4,000 acres of State Park and 10,000 acres of State Wilderness. It is home to numerous animals from “biggies” such as cougars, coyotes and bobcats to “mid-size” ringtails and skunks, and smaller still, toads, hummingbirds and a wide variety of spiders, insects and other such fauna. Some are year-round residents, while others are only seasonal visitors.



^Ranger Steve Hopkins and the “Old Fire” at Silverwood Lake SRA



^^The Palm Springs Aerial Tramway brings park visitors up to 8,516 feet and the edge of the Mt. San Jacinto Wilderness



<Sup. Ranger Jerry Freitas

From early spring through late fall, the park is awash in a rainbow of color. Wildflowers bloom in waves through the meadows, dotting the rocky hillsides or bowing their heads along the streams and cienegas. Round yellow heads of wallflower and the flat tops of white yarrow are usually the first flowers to appear in spring. Bright red heads of snow plants push up through pine needles at the edge of melting snowbanks. Later, stalks of purple lupine stand tall in the dappled shadows of firs and pines, and red columbine bows over creeks. Tall spikes of golden rod last long into September.

Though the wildlife is often sought and the flowers often photographed, it is San Jacinto Peak that hikers most often try to “surmount.” The 2,400 foot climb, followed by the same descent, is an enjoyable day hike.

The trails wander through creek side habitat, open mixed-conifer forests, across rocky hillsides and past mountain meadows. Along the way are two historic, CCC-built structures—the Round Valley ranger cabin and “the peak hut,” a small shelter just below the summit of San Jacinto Peak (10,834' or 3244 m).

Hiking in the wilderness is a wonderful experience. One can find relaxation, inspiration, or adventure, but the opportunity to experience solitude is the single element that stands out from the rest.

The variety of plants, animals and habitats of Mount San Jacinto State Park and Wilderness makes this area unique. Combined with its geologic and geographic features, Mount San Jacinto is an island of wilderness surrounded by desert landscape and urban development.

Cuyamaca Rancho State Park Burns

by *Brian Cahill, Reg. Interp. Spec.*

State Park rangers, maintenance workers, resource specialists and volunteers are surveying the remains of Cuyamaca Rancho State Park after the Cedar Fire burned through on October 28, 2003. A total of 280,057 acres of San Diego County, including 24,414 acres of Cuyamaca Rancho State Park were scorched.

Cuyamaca Rancho State Park received minimal firefighting resources because most were busy defending the nearby towns of Julian and Descanso. Crews fought to save park buildings, but all of the historic structures at Camp Hual-cu-Cuish were lost in the blaze. The loss of these historic structures and sites is significant. Camp Hual-cu-Cuish was first developed by the CCC in the 1930s and was actively used by local scouts until recently. These cultural resources represented some of the best examples of CCC era Park Rustic architecture in California State Parks.

Also lost in the blaze was the historic Dyar House, built in 1923, which housed the park headquarters and visitor center (photos next page). It was built by Ralph and Helen Dyar as a mountain "cabin." Ralph was a successful Beverly Hills businessman who envisioned a large mountain resort complete with swimming pool, polo fields and a golf course. While Dyar did own 50 cattle, the ranch was primarily a place to play, relax and entertain. The many notable guests included Will Rogers. According to Rogers' guest book entry dated November 7, 1930 "This looks like the best Ranch that's been bought by an amateur." The Great Depression changed Dyar's plans and he eventually sold the property to State Parks.

All of these special buildings were landmarks for the Cuyamacas and for all those who visited or worked in this popular park for its over 70-year existence. Park people everywhere are devastated by the loss.



Unfortunately, damage to natural resources has also been overwhelming. Ancient stands of stately sugar pines on Middle Peak and Cuyamaca Peaks were reduced to ash. These old-growth trees were as large as six feet in diameter and perhaps 500 years old. Very few survived the blaze.

Cuyamaca is also home to a variety of rare plants, notably the Cuyamaca Cypress. Biologists estimate that nearly 80 to 90% of the Cuyamaca Cypress burned in the fire. However 40 to 50 of these rare trees were able to escape the blaze in a rugged canyon south of Cuyamaca Peak. Biologists were also gratified to see Cuyamaca Cypress cones, opened by the heat of the fire, spreading their seed on the ash covered soil.

Wildlife fared only slightly better. In one little hollow, biologists discovered over 70 critters that had been trapped by the fire including deer, bobcats, foxes and birds. Fortunately much of the wildlife was able to escape, including 10 out of 11 deer and 4 out of 5 mountain lions that had been fitted with radio collars for a biological study.

The fire also demonstrated the value of prescribed burns. In June, 600 acres in the park's east mesa

were burned, along with 600 adjoining acres of Forest Service land in a cooperative project. The wildfire burned right up to the margin of this plot and stopped. Trees there are still intact and the grass returned after summer rains. While deer grass is growing high and biologists are optimistic, more study will be required to understand the full effects of the park's prescribed burn history.

Cuyamaca Rancho State Park will look very different when campers are allowed to return. Teams are hard at work to mitigate the losses and park managers hope to reopen the park this spring. The park that was loved by so many is gone, but we all look forward to watching the park's rebirth. State Park personnel from throughout the state came down to provide invaluable assistance during the fire and in its aftermath. Our thanks to each of them and to the many other park employees who wanted to come lend a hand.



STORIES FROM THE FIRES

by **Brian Cahill**

Regional Interpretive Specialist

It may just be remembered as the Halloween that everyone wanted to be a fireman.

Recognizing the significance of this event, we contracted with a Hollywood production company to begin filming even before the fire was out. They drove across LA to the last place that had any fire equipment in stock and arrived fully outfitted in spiffy new Nomex fire gear. They filmed the smoke and devastation in Cuyamaca until well after dark and drove back down to Borrego Springs, arriving late. Late, and hungry too, so they pulled into a little place just off the circle.

Now this is a bar with a slightly seedy past. But that's all gone now, hidden under clean new naugahyde and contact paper. And the place was hoppin' that night, one of the few places still serving at all and there were a lot of hungry fire refugees in town.

So four weary, dirty filmmakers stumbled into Carlee's Place. Greeted at the door with a round of thunderous applause, they suddenly realized they probably should have taken their Nomex off. Just how do you explain, when you have been mistaken for heroes? They've been feeling bad about it ever since.

• • •

One small scene out of so many. Wednesday evening, 1800 hours, though it felt much later because it got dark so early and our day had also started quite early. Smoke filled the air and ash crusted our eyes and swirled around our feet.

A State Park fire crew from northern California rolled into District HQ. Now you or I might be a bit road-weary or cranky after a long, detour-riddled drive in a cramped fire

engine. But not this group. Filling-in as needed, it was my job to set them up with box lunches.

The energy was absolutely amazing as I approached the group. The air all but reeked of adrenaline (tinged with testosterone). They could smell smoke and were itching to get to

The historic Dyar House, after the fire and as it appeared before October 28. Built in 1923, it was the site of the Cuyamaca Rancho State Park headquarters and visitor center



work.

Two of the young crew members immediately volunteered to help me carry lunches. Along the way they spoke quietly (and almost reverently) about their past fire work with Anza-Borrego Superintendent **Mark Jorgensen**. They were absolutely stoked to be in his District and eager to fight for our parks.

The crew was immediately sent up the hill. I was honored just to provide their lunches and went home humbled.

• • •

I'd heard the expression about how something "really lit up the switchboard" but I'd never before seen it happen.

As the fire was winding down, SDG&E crews went to work to replace burned poles and get the power back on. Their bulldozers rolled into the park and they were met by concerned resource specialists. "You're going to do what?" "Where?" No one knew for sure where the easements were or what the

plan was, but the dirt began to fly anyway. Hasty calls were put in to the command center and in no time the bulldozers were stopped.

However, political power can be just as powerful as a bulldozer, and soon the phones began to ring. The radio crackled to life and cell phones chirped. "Director's Office on line one!" "Governor's Office on Line two!" "We need to free up a line for the Resources Agency!" The Incident Commander had a phone in each ear and people passing him urgent notes as I headed back into the office.

I found District Office abuzz too. Senators and Congressmen and all of their aides were dialing every number in their Rolodexes. Even offices as far away as Salton Sea were getting calls — Who has the Superintendent's confidential cell phone number?

All-in-all it was quite impressive to see how quickly tremendous political heat can build. I wish I could say that State Parks stood up for the resources and did the right thing, but that is not always possible. At least the power is back on.

Books About Park Rangers

by Robert Pavlik

Shirley Sargent, *Protecting Paradise: Yosemite Rangers 1898-1960* (Yosemite: Ponderosa Press, 1998); Charles R. "Butch" Farabee Jr., *National Park Ranger: An American Icon* (Lanham, MD: Roberts Rinehart, 2003); Melody Webb, *A Woman in the Great Outdoors: Adventures in the National Park Service* (Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 2003)

Several years ago a public opinion poll was conducted, asking people who in government they most trusted. Park Rangers were at the top of the list, and its no surprise. They have always been highly regarded as public servants, protecting our nation's most valuable natural and cultural resources while fostering our knowledge and understanding of these irreplaceable places.

There are three recent books that chronicle the history and accomplishments of National Park Rangers. Yosemite's own Shirley Sargent has authored *Protecting Paradise: Yosemite Rangers 1898-1960*. It's a gracefully written, amply illustrated, and informative work that updates and expands on John Bingaman's 1960 *Guardians of the Yosemite*. The book contains several profiles of famous rangers who ably served the public and the resource, often at great peril and personal sacrifice. Park Historian Jim Snyder writes the gracious introduction. Shirley's book should be in the collection of every Yosemite aficionado.

Longtime NPS Ranger Charles R. "Butch" Farabee has added his own appreciative monograph to the collection. *National Park Ranger: An American Icon* is a sweeping treatment of the topic, going back in time several thousand years (to trace the origin of the word "ranger") and coming down to the present. Farabee was a Ranger for over thirty years and is a recipient of



the Harry Yount Lifetime Achievement Award (Yount holds the distinction of being the first National Park Ranger, serving in Yellowstone from 1879-1881). The book is a fascinating compendium of information, including the "Symbols of protection" (badges, buttons, the Stetson hat and NPS arrowhead); the evolution of interpretation; resource management; law enforcement and visitor services. Farabee pays particular attention to the life of a ranger, including their living conditions (never glamorous!) and pay scale. Of particular interest to readers of *The WAVE* is Farabee's recounting of the infamous Stoneman Meadow riot of 1970, during the height of the hippie era, an event that heralded a change in ranger law enforcement training.

The third volume is more memoir than history, and the author offers a unique perspective on her 22-year career in the Service. Melody Webb tracks her trajectory from Yukon-Charley in Alaska to the Southwest Regional Office, Lyndon Johnson NHS and finally to Grand Teton National Park, from which she retired as an assistant superintendent. Throughout her honest and open examination she details some the Park Service's most important recent battles over the creation of new national parks in Alaska, snowmo-

biles in Yellowstone, and the increased politicization of the service. She brings an insider's perspective on day-to-day operations inside a large and complex national park. Her assessment of some of her colleagues, as well as former National Park Service directors Mott and Ridenour, are blunt and direct (a self described character trait that did not always serve the author well in her career). Webb left the NPS in 1996, in part to be able to work for change from outside the system. *A Woman in the Great Outdoors: Adventures in the National Park Service* is a valuable contribution to that important effort.

There has been a movement afoot lately to privatize the National Park Service. One needs only to consult any of these fine volumes to see what a tragedy and a travesty that would prove to be for our national parks. These fine, dedicated employees are certainly not in government service for the money; low-bid, no-interest workers cannot replace them. National Park employees are not to blame for 9/11, the nation's budget shortfalls, or the war in Iraq. Whatever savings might be realized by contracting out these positions would be negligible. The cost, however, to our parks and their great storehouses of natural and human history and resources would be incalculable.

Robert Pavlik is an environmental planner and historian with the California Department of Transportation. From 1979 to 1993 he worked for the California Department of Parks and Recreation, the Yosemite Institute, and the National Park Service. Pavlik earned his M.A. degree in History from the Public Historical Studies program, University of California Santa Barbara.

RENDEZVOUS

by *Kirk Wallace, retired*

The 11th Annual California State Park Retirees Rendezvous, sponsored by CSPRA, is now history.

Like so much of California's history, people came from far away to enjoy the Rendezvous. Would you believe that, for some, the trek started in Missouri, Colorado, Arizona, or Oregon, besides from all corners of California? Many stayed at the local lodges, while others brought their modern wagons to the site of the Rendezvous, McConnell State Recreation Area.

Some arrived early in the week to plan and set up the camp for those that would enjoy the event. Food was gathered, cooking equipment put into place, and the cow pasture was prepared for the "pitch-and-putt" competition.

As the retirees arrived and set up their camps, "hellos" and "how are you?" rang out across the park. New retirees and seasoned veteran retirees all came to enjoy the company of others that had served the public of California in a very special way, as stewards of the California State Parks.

Friday evening, October 3, saw 38 people enjoy a typical "Park Type Pot



L to R: **Jim Neal** behind **Bud Getty**, CSPRA Office Mgr. **Gar Salzgeber** and **Doreen Clement** in the foreground; **Ranger Ann Meneguzzi** at the back table

Luck," including a Bar-B-Q of whatever the participants bought, caught, shot, or ran over. Saturday got off to a great start with a pancake breakfast for 58. Early afternoon brought a round of the cow pasture "pitch-and-putt" competition. All day was spent reminiscing about old times and park experiences. I'm sure that none of the stories got embellished. As additional retirees arrived, administration, personnel, maintenance, budgets, public safety, and how things were done in the past were all discussed and compared to how the future for Parks might fare.

By a little after 3 in the afternoon, the call for dinner was made. A Bar-B-Q of tri-tip beef and chicken, with

around, the participants began to leave, but with anticipation of the year to come and seeing old friends next October at the 12th Annual Retirees Rendezvous.

While we will plan to rendezvous again on the first weekend of October 2004, the success of the Retirees Rendezvous 2003 was due to all of those that registered the participants, brought the equipment for cooking, brought or sent items for the raffle, contributed by preparing and cooking the meals, prepared and officiated at the golf(?) competition, and prepared the grounds and facilities for our use. Thanks to all for your help and dedication in keeping this event alive and fun. See you all next year!!



THE COOKS **Herman Schlerf, Jim Peat, and Jack Schlotter**, preparing tri-tip beef and chicken

all the trimmings, became the topic of interest and was enjoyed by some 81 people. After dessert, a raffle of donated items began. Crafts, goodies and other items, made or contributed by the participants included: a painting, bags of shelled walnuts, an afghan, wall hangings, jewelry, belt buckles and bolo ties, ceramic decorations, and more.

As Sunday rolled



Jim Neal stirs the beans.

See *Rendezvous*, page 11

RETIREES RENDEZVOUS

RENDEZVOUS, from page 10



^^Master of Ceremonies Wes Cater with Chuck Lyden

Bill Beat with Paula Peterson

>>



Clyde Strickler models a GrayBears t-shirt >>



^^Jeff Price, the CSPRA web guru, enjoying the good life of a retiree



<<The "Golf" Pros: Chuck Lyden, Ben Hale, Sam Bitting's son, Bonnie Long, Sheila Miller, Ron Barrow



**Do you know someone
who is retiring?**

CSPRA provides a plaque for each member when they retire. Contact CSPRA at (800) 749-8749, or make a request at www.cspra.com, or write to CSPRA, P.O. Box 247, Carpinteria, CA 93004-0247, or email: Officemanager@CSPRA.com

*Want a CSPRA scholarship?
Contact Fred Jee at (760) 767-3674*

November 18th, 2003

Retreat meeting, Sacramento CA Big 4 building. In attendance: Dana, Val, Kevin, Bud, Darren, Ron, Joe and Angy

1. Minutes of the June 10th, 2003 meeting approved as reviewed by E-mail.

2. Review Budget from Gar. Fred Jee requested that we reconsider the amount of money we allocate towards scholarship fund for next years budget. We have depleted the amount of money we had set aside. Due to budget cuts, DPR is not paying for training usually covered by the department. We reduced the scholarship fund from \$2500 to \$1500 in 2003 budget. We have approved an additional \$1000 in light of the current State fiscal situation.

3. Pam Armas is the new Training Manager taking Broc's place at the Mott Training Center
Old Business:

4. El Morro updates: Law suits looks like it may be favorable for the Department. When the lease expires in 2004 we should be able to proceed with the removal of the trailer park.

5. A member has voiced concern regarding potential legislation grandfathering concession with more than 25 years to avoid bidding for contract on that concession. Board agrees to support fighting this legislation. Dana was not able to locate the text on this legislation but will E-mail us if she hears anything else. No one should get exclusive rights to a concession.

6. Parks Conference. a. Gar needs to know who to send conference funds and tote bags to. Dana will send him that information; b. Frank Padilla will be the liaison for the 2004 Conference in Anaheim; c. The conference committee is looking for a speaker for the conference Clint Eastwood was suggested but not recommended by the board. Names of other speakers were mentioned.

7. Maintenance funds were trans-

ferred to CSPRA. These funds have been earmarked towards training for Maintenance. For example track at the Convention or Scholarship.

8. IRF International Rangers Federation Contribution: a. Mike Lynch has sent \$100.00 to be placed in the IRF contributions; b. Bud moved that we send the IRF the \$100 from Mike and \$200.00 from CSPRA; c. Joe second, all agreed.

9. Park Advocacy Day: a. Next Park Advocacy Day will be 3-22-04; b. The training for the event will be done in February and March. And the night before the main event; c. SPF is looking for contributions to support Park Advocacy Day; d. Susan Smart has resigned from SPF. She is moving to the League of Conservation Voters; e. Val motioned that we pony up \$250.00 towards the event, Kevin second. All approved; f. Bud suggests that the President write a letter to Susan

10. Web Domain: is getting ready to expire: a. We have decided to pay \$135.00 for 9 years instead of paying a yearly fee; b. Ron moved, Darren second, all approved.

Retreat meeting concluded. Next meeting on December 17th, 2003 at Prairie City 10:00.

Come with Candidate Statements
A.D. Nowicki



Joe and Catherine Stone

State Parks lost another old friend in late November when **Joe Stone** passed away at age 90. Joe and **Catherine Stone** were honored as CSPRA Honorary State Park Rangers back in 1984. They were part of Anza-Borrego's first volunteer class in 1979 and gave thousands of hours to support the park as campground hosts, curators, office staff, and researchers. Joe Stone wrote numerous articles that promoted the State Park System. Joe was a writer and reporter most of his life, but he was also a police detective. He served in the Coast Guard and worked in show business too. He will be dearly missed.



Sean Malis, State Park Interpreter I at Fort Tejon SHP, is presently a Transportation Company Commander in Iraq. Sean writes that this photo was taken north of Baghdad on "one of our countless convoys north. Our job here is to keep the whole Iraqi Theater of Operations supplied with everything from MREs to paperclips to spare parts." Mail can be sent to: Captain Sean T. Malis, 923 TC Det 143 TransCom/ 32 TC Group 346 TC Bn/923 TC Det APO-AE 09366

PARKS CONFERENCE 2004, March 8-11



Mark your calendars for a magical time in Anaheim, March 8-11, for the 2004 Parks Conference. This year's conference, held at the Anaheim Crowne Plaza, will feature a variety of sessions designed to enhance your professional skills, social gatherings, great interpretive programs, and plenty of time to network.

On Monday there are field trips to the Long Beach Aquarium, a Whale Watching cruise, a bus ride to a sampling of Orange County Parks, including Mission San Juan Capistrano and, back by popular demand, the pistol shoot competition and golf game.

On Monday afternoon the State Parks Foundation is hosting a wonderful pasta dinner reception with State Parks Director **Ruth Coleman**. Retired ranger **Jim Long's** 6-project or slide and music program, "The Range of Light" transports its viewers on a journey into the heart of the Sierra Nevada Mountains and is not to be missed!

The conference will open on Tuesday with a keynote and welcome from Orange County Sheriff Mike Cororna, who in addition to leading the 5th largest sheriff's department in the nation, is a member of the White House Commission on Homeland

Security.

CSPRA and PRAC members will join their respective agency boards for a lunch meeting before going back to sessions.

On Tuesday night we will head over to the House of Blues for an interpretive program on the History of the Blues, followed by a scrumptious dinner. The House of Blues restaurant also functions as a multimedia classroom/museum. Programs introduce you to the music, art, literature, history and the international impact of the blues.

Wednesday there is special lunch-time entertainment, more sessions, and the awards program, banquet and dance.

The sessions offered at the conference reflect the breadth and depth of our profession. From Crime Scene Investigation to a remote feed Underwater Nature Hike, from Wilderness First Aid to Terrorist Early Warning, from How to Write a Grant to How to Build a Trail, sessions will educate, inspire and in many cases, leave you with certification to add to your professional resume.

New this year is a "Ranger/Parks Show and Tell" area where parks can display projects they have worked on, set out pictures of programs or events - material to share that doesn't need a whole session. We are interested in printed materials, props for programs, neat special events folks want to brag about and information, photos, etc., from the recent fires.

On Thursday there will be several 8-hour certification trainings.

The Conference Committee is busy nailing down arrangements so that you can get your registration package soon. If you have a specific question, please call 310-858-7272 xt 133 and leave your name, phone number and your question or contact co-chairs **Amy Lethbridge** lethbrid@smmc.ca.gov and **Frank Padilla** fpadilla@parks.ca.gov and they will get back to you.

See you in March!



PROMOTING PROFESSIONALISM IN CALIFORNIA STATE PARKS

Membership

To join CSPRA, mail this application to: P.O. Box 247, Carpinteria, CA 93014-0247

For all except "Active" member payroll deduction, please include check for 1 year's dues.

Name

Address

City State Zip

Job Classification

Social Security #

Phone: Work

Phone: Home

District, Section, or Park:

Membership type (Circle one):

Active \$8/month

Active Retired \$18/year

Supporting \$36/year

Organization \$50/year

Benefactor \$1,000/life

I hereby authorize the State Controller to deduct from my salary and transmit as designated an amount for membership dues in the California State Park Rangers Association. This authorization will remain in effect until cancelled by myself or by the organization. I certify I am a member of the above organization and understand that termination of my membership will cancel all deductions made under this organization. Send to: CSPRA, P.O. Box 247, Carpinteria, CA 93014-0247

Signature

Date



THE OFFICE MANAGER'S MAILBAG



Gar Salzgeber, Office Manager

Dear Disaster Relief Contributors; Part of the reason CSPRA ran the disaster relief contributions through the California State Parks Foundation is because donations to them are 100% tax deductible by the donor. For your records their tax status is 501(c)(3). Since CSPRA has a lobbyist and we are politically active, donations to us are not tax deductible.

Correspondence

Getting personnel notes from our retired members about what they're doing with their lives warms the cockles of my heart and sends chills of joy up my spine. I hope everybody else enjoys them as much.

Ross Henry writes: Kay and I were at John Knott's Retirement Party at Lake Tahoe on Sunday. There was a great turnout and a lot of retirees. It was a very nice tribute for John. Jim Peat filled me in on the Retiree Rendezvous. He said there was a very good turnout.

We were in Tennessee the latter part of September and the first of October. We took the Delta Queen from Chattanooga to Nashville on the Tennessee, Ohio and Cumberland Rivers. We stopped at several Civil War sites – an interest of mine. While in Nashville, we went to the Grand Ole Opry. We are not big country/western fans but enjoyed the show a great deal. The auditorium was packed and there was a tremendous amount of energy throughout the show. It was

two and a half hours long. Among those that we saw: Merle Haggard, Patty Loveless and The Mavericks.

From Nashville, we drove to the Great Smoky Mountains. Thanks to a tip from **Dick Troy** we stayed in the Townsend area on the northwestern side of the Smokies and conveniently located near the Cades Cove area. We avoided the tourist abomination that is Gatlinburg. Kay and I had never been to Tennessee and were very impressed with the extent of forested area and open space throughout. Its population is only 5 million. We had a great trip and I would highly recommend a visit to Tennessee.

Chuck Mehlert writes: I am still a volunteer at the Monterey District and continue to work on the Oil Spill Contingency Plan. My boss on the project was Paula Peterson. Surely do miss her! With all the cuts in the District, I am doing what I can to keep things going on this project. I thought I would be able to go the Rendezvous this year. Personal obligations prevented that. There is always next year!

Carol & Keith Caldwell write: It's nice to hear from you even if I do owe money. Good cause! Carol and I are still active with the Retired Public Employees Association and CAL/PERS. Things are changing and not always for the best. Health care and long term care seem to be the current issues. Inflation, cost of living and purchasing power are subjects legislators don't talk about. And so it goes. Our garden thawed out good this year and the apples are fine. Time will tell. It will be late October before we finish with them. Trips have been good and we just had a family reunion. We can't complain about retirement. It's great!

Paula Peterson writes: I have the Retiree Rendezvous on my calendar and will send in the registration. Meanwhile, enclosed is for the CSPRA Scholarship established by Denzil at his retirement. (I think I forgot to acknowledge this gift in my Board Report).

Joanna Mitchell writes: Curt passed

away very suddenly in March. I want to continue membership and am looking forward to seeing our ranger family at the rendezvous.

Florence Jones writes for her sister **Lee Lewis**: Thank you so much for still including Lee in these activities. I wish she was able to attend. She had a stroke in 2002. She has lived with me for a year then things got worse, so she is in College Oak Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, 4635 College Oak Dr., Sacramento, CA 95841. She has really enjoyed all the gatherings with people she worked with. I am her older sister, Forence Jones, and I attended some of the gatherings with her. I enjoyed them also. She won't be able to attend any more. Thank you again. P.S. Any cards can be sent to her at my address and I will take them to her. I visit her every other day. Lee Lewis, 2055 "Q" St., Rio Linda, CA 95673.

Ron McCall writes: Thanks for the reminder about my dues. I know they are always due in July, but, somehow, without the reminder, I don't get it mailed in. Nothing much new this year from the McCall's. We stayed close to home and tended our garden. The most important and happy thing that happened is that we became grandparents for the third time. This time a boy with a good Scotch-Irish name of Ian Michael. He was a preemie and only weighed 3 lbs., 9 ounces. But he's doing fine and now is up to normal weight. We are looking forward to the Rendezvous this time without some kind of disaster cutting it short.

Bob Perkins (who used to bounce me on his knee) writes: Subject: Spare Time Activity. So...I made a reservation for eight (8) on Casino Express to Elko, NV, to celebrate my 82nd birthday (June 8). Next day the phone rang – Reservation Lady. She said, "Did I inform you on the flight to Elko that everybody except the pilot had to fly naked?" I was the only one with no wrinkles!!!

humor in unicorn



Mixed Metaphors and Malaprops

by Jeff Price, retired

And a smelly stint it would be . . .

I think people at Headquarters need another stench in a field position to remember just what it is like out here on the front line.

Always use the right tool for the right job.

On the other hand, revenue can be a double mixed sword.

Meticulous and self-conscious as well as conspicuous?

I usually don't get embarrassed easily, but wearing this uniform makes me feel so conscientious on the street.

Maybe not first, but again?

He is a second born Christian.

Sounds very painful. Maybe he got the baton?

The gauntlet has now been passed to Schwarzenegger.

GET CONNECTED

CSPRA ONLINE

Catch up on CSPRA activities contact your District Reps, Board or Officers, get latest information.
www.cspra.com

GRAYBEARS

Attention Retired Members!
Want to keep in touch after you leave DPR? Join the *GrayBears* list server. It is FREE and EASY to use. Just send your name and e-mail address to:
graybears@cspra.com

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Orange Coast	Serpa, Jim	949 496-5290 serpa@fea.net
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Santa Cruz	Hitchcock, Linda	831 429-2851 lindi3@juno.com
Sierra	open	
Silverado So. Service Center	Nixon, Valerie Webb, Paul	707 279-4293 619 220-5311



THIS CUP COULD BE YOURS!

All contributors to the WAVE receive a stainless steel CSPRA travel mug in appreciation. Send articles to wave@cspra.com. Next issue: N.Coast Redwoods



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CALIFORNIA STATE PARK RANGERS ASSOCIATION

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.



Founded 1964