

NEWSLETTER

CALIFORNIA STATE PARK RANGERS ASSOCIATION

October 1985

ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION

Taken from a seminar by Darryl Dokes

Each year claims against the State resulting from accidents amount to millions of dollars. Single settlements can often run upwards of three million, with the average claim being 3.6 million.

Out of the 260 plus units of the State Park System, approximately one half are water orientated (lakes, ocean or river frontage). From these, hundreds of water related accidents occur, primarily diving accidents, resulting in litigation against the state. Sadly, because field investigation sometimes lacks, the claimants have a successful track record in suits against the state.

Darryl Dokes spends his time defending the state. Most of the suits that he defends are diving accidents. His case is strengthened or weakened by the investigations that we do in the field. After over 12 years with the Attorney General's Office he has some suggestions on how we can better assist him.

Dokes suggests that we transfer the care of the victim over to the emergency medical team. Most counties are equipped with EMT II level or better rescue units. Even if the ambulance crew are EMT I's, as many Rangers are, the ambulance crew, by the very nature of their job generally have more experience and better equipment to provide emergency care than Rangers.

With the transfer of the patient's care so goes some of the responsibility and with it liability.

Secondary to the victim's stabilization is the gathering of statements and evidence to document the cause of the accident. Dokes stresses the importance of interviewing witnesses immediately after the accident. Many times witnesses' statements will be more accurate on the scene than hours or days after the accident. Often, Dokes says, after the victim or his party receive

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EDITOR'S NOTES

This issue of the NEWSLETTER will contain some changes. In future issues you'll see new features and additions as we develop a long term plan. I hope you like what you'll be reading.

Taking charge of the NEWSLETTER is exciting for me. I hope to be able to provide you with a professional, interesting and informative newsletter.

In upcoming issues look for a series on the CSPRA officers and committee chairs, a column on current events within our profession, a schedule of upcoming events or special programs, and more!

I plan to develop a Letter to the Editor column and invite you to send your thoughts, suggestions, gripes or ideas. What better way to make your concerns known to many within our profession?

The most important task I envisage is to keep CSPRA members informed on what is happening within the profession. The new programs that are being developed, and the opportunities for personal betterment.

CSPRA is an active and busy organization. The NEWSLETTER will keep you informed on the progress CSPRA is making in your behalf.

WANTED: OLD FRIENDS

Retired Ranger Art Richter's wife Helen is seriously ill. Her family has said she would enjoy hearing from her "old friends". Letters or phone calls would be appreciated.

Helen Richter
124 La Cienega Rd.
San Marcos CA 92069
(619) 744-1492

Art worked as a Ranger I at Anza Borrego, Millerton Lake SRA, Fort Tejon SHP as well as other parks. He retired a few years ago.

If you know Art and Helen drop them a line, or if you know friends of theirs, give them the Richter's address.

Your letter will brighten her day.

Dokes, continued from page-1

counsel they are reminded of the "deep pockets" of the state. Their statements days after the incident may be different than in the field.

Dokes presented the following as suggestions for investigation techniques.

Observations on the person's sobriety, or indications that the victim was taking drugs, will be helpful. It may suggest an altered state of mind that would affect the victim's judgment.

A search for objects that may have been instrumental in causing the accident is essential. Objects such as submerged tree stumps or rocks should be mapped and recorded, as should a bottom that is free from objects.

The State's success in defending itself against claims that involve submerged obstacles is low. However, those claims that result from the injured striking the lake's bottom directly without submerged obstacles, are more defensible.

Therefore, a careful survey of the water's bottom, is then essential to a successful defense. Some lake's water level vary dramatically allowing photos.

When interviewing the witnesses determine how the victim entered the water. Did they dive in, or belly flop? What was the angle of their dive? How far did they jump and what were their actions after they entered the water? Did they float, did the friends/witnesses think they were just playing or goofing around? Were they familiar with the lake or was this their first visit?

The method of the injured's removal is equally important. Were they removed with caution, in a proper and safe manner, or just hauled out and dumped on the shore? Who provided for their care and what care was given, were the providers certified in first aid or CPR?

As many statements, observations, pictures and recordings as possible should be included. All of which will help in the State's defense.

Editor's Note: Darryl Dokes is a deputy for the Attorney General's Office. He often represents the state on behalf of the Department of Parks and Recreation in accident related claims, most stemming from diving accidents. His presentation was given to Rangers from Folsom Lake, Four Rivers and San Joaquin Valley Districts at Millerton Lake on September 18th



CSPRA Board meeting highlights

The CSPRA Board of Directors met September 14 at the Sacramento Airport. The meeting was called to order by President Price at 0910 hours and those present were:

Jeff Price	President
Rick Parmer	Vice President
Ken Gray	Treasurer
Michael Whitehead	Director
Fred Jee	Director
Doug Bryce	Executive Manager
Joe McCall	Chairman Retired Committee

SUBJECT:

Last meeting minutes

Reports

ACTION TAKEN:

Approved

All present submitted reports and discussed their activities over the last period.

Bill Krumbein represented CSPRA at the Santa Rosa Park & Rec. Commission meeting and conveyed the Board's resolution on the Sonoma Barracks.

Jeff Price met with PRAC regarding GEC in Concord.

Mike Whitehead coordinated an investigation and wrote EIR comments on the expansion of a radio tower site in Palomar Mnts. S.P.

Trust for Public Land sent their appreciation for CSPRA's efforts in the Cascade Ranch acquisition.

Rick Parmer and Donna Pozzi attended the July SPPOAC Interpretive Committee meeting.

Parmer and Jerry Meral presented testimony for a July legislative hearing on AB 1427 which passed out of committee.

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Reports cont.	Mike Whitehead was active with the Legislative Monitor column and continued to research subjects for bill topics for CSPRA/PCL sponsorship.
	Whitehead also represented CSPRA at the Park and Recreation Commission meeting in San Diego.
1986 conference	The Board discussed subjects, activities and speakers for the Concord conference.
EIC committee	CSPRA sent \$100 to CAW encouraging them to use it and our name to assist with the problem of bottles and broken glass on our beaches.
Marketing	The Board decided to improve the NEWSLETTER and invite the editor or representative to all Board meetings.
	Whitehead will look into re-doing the belt buckle produced by Miles Standish.
Newsletter	Price will send a letter of direction and policy to Steve Horvitz appointing him editor. Horvitz will edit the NEWSLETTER until January when the Board will decide whether to combine NEWSLETTER & CAL RANGER. Bryce will print a CAL RANGER in December.
Next Board Meeting	January 11, 1986 at the Holiday Inn in Concord will be the next CSPRA Board meeting.

CSPRA membership September, 1985

Regular Members	429
Retired Members	82
Voting Members	511
Honorary Members	19
Supporting Members	13
Total Members	543



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

A number of interesting things have happened in California's State Parks over the past month. I'd like to share some thoughts with you on three of them; a legislative success, an ad campaign and an apparent deficit.

1.) Of the many phone calls for CSPRA I have received recently, one was especially good news. The Director's legislative office called late morning on September 11 to tell me that the Governor had just signed AB 1427 (Costa) into law. The bill, dubbed The Camper Tax Bill, closes a loophole in the State's Revenue and Taxation code. It used to allow cities to assess a 6 to 8 percent transient occupancy tax on State Park campgrounds, by a simple rewording of their city code. Rangers not only collected the money for the cities but had 100% of the complaints and associated administrative overhead.

CSPRA had a lot of help getting a sponsor for the bill, working it through both houses and getting the Governor's signature. Our membership in Planning and Conservation League was probably the single most important ingredient. PCL's staff guided us through the political maze and were invaluable. Of course, PCL asked for experts on Camper Tax problems and people like Tom Nixon at Carpinteria, Linda Fletcher at San Luis Obispo and John Bollinger at Half Moon Bay were willing to write and make calls. Tom Nixon

was willing to go to several hearings in Sacramento to rid the Park System of this tax. CSPRA's Ken Gray coordinated the year long push with PCL's Dr. Gerald Meral to keep the bill moving.

We thank the Attorney General's Office and especially Bill Briner and his legislative staff in our Department, for going on record as supporting AB 1427.

Of course all of this was possible because Assemblyman Jim Costa believed in us and agreed to sponsor AB 1427. Thanks to him and his industrious administrative assistants

2.) I am very much interested in how the "Pop Into Parks" cooperative with Post and PacBell is being perceived, who is using them and at what park units. Statistical data will be available through Reports of Collection on part of this, but member reactions would be interesting. If you have been involved with "Pop Into Parks", please send me reactions from the public, your supervisor, or your seasonal staff. In your opinion, who benefits most from such a cooperative?

As of October 1, only one unit I know of has had any boxtops turned in for admission. At Los Lagos, Carl Maier has four locked up in his office for safekeeping, I hear. Anyone else amassing boxtops?

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3.) Estimates are that it takes about one million dollars annually to operate the Department's training program and the William Penn Mott, Jr. Training Center. Funding currently falls short by about 25%. My question was how does the Training Center operate? Do we have a deficit spending program like the National Debt?

It seems the Training Center's shortfall is actually being made up from faked operations in the form of donated instructor and staff support. Each District Superintendent who grants one of his/her employees time off to travel to Pacific Grove and instruct or assist with a class actually underwrites part of the DPR Training Deficit.

The program is voluntary. Training Coordinators at the Training Center depend entirely on the good graces of District Superintendents.

This Department's training program, reputed to be one of the best in the nation, makes it on the ability of a Training Coordinator to beg for help! I've seen it. I've gotten those calls asking for personnel and equipment to fill a gap in

instructor rosters.

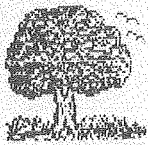
Superintendent's aren't rewarded or even recognized when they support training programs. What's in it for them, when the rewards are non-existent and they see people-poor programs developing in their districts? It seems a precarious method, to balance DPR's training program on the ever shrinking resources available to field managers.

I'm proud to be a product of the DPR training system. I'm proud of the professional attitude which supports training. I'm worried about the future of this program and its long-term health. What are the solutions that would get us out of this predicament? Are we really in jeopardy and operating in a deficit with our Training Center? Districts shouldn't feel taxed when they provide instructors but how can they be reimbursed? Is a "bootleg" training program that depends on donations going to survive?

CSPRA would appreciate your thoughts in the form of letters or articles to the NEWSLETTER on these and any other issues.

by Jeff Price CSPRA President

Send your comments or thoughts to the CSPRA NEWSLETTER, P.O. Box 1701, Coarsegold CA 93614 209-683-6855



CSPRA

DECLINE OF STATE PARKS?

A San Diego Newspaper recently ran an article highlighting problems within the State Park System.

Referring to a lack of personnel they sight figures of a work force that has fallen by 12% while visitation increased by 37% from 1975.

With problems ranging from "...garbage from visitors at the parks..." to "...vandalism, rape, muggings and murder...". They feel the chief cause is a lack of staffing, as a result of the failure to approve an increase of funding to support a larger staff.

In a response to the article, and in an attempt to prod the State Legislature to address the staffing problem, CSPRA will consider a letter requesting legislative action to halt this decline.

While CSPRA understands the need for the State's work force to stay within a manageable level, it is concerned that the quality of service to visitors of State Parks will erode without additional staffing.

The draft of this letter is presently under consideration.

STATE PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETINGS

The next Park and Recreation Commission Meetings will be held on the following dates and places:

<u>DATE:</u>	<u>LOCATION:</u>	<u>TOPICS:</u>
10/11/85	Los Angeles	Baldwin Hills State Recreation Area General Plan amendment Castaic Lake State Recreation Area General Plan amendment New proposals for 1984 bond act projects
11/8/85	Monterey	See page 9
12/13/85	Open	Not scheduled as of 6/12

These are public meetings and all members are welcome.

MAINTENANCE WORKER'S ASSOCIATION

A number of maintenance workers have joined to develop their own association. The California Park Maintenance Workers Association.

Several park units were represented at a meeting held in Castroville in July. At this July meeting a schedual of future meetings was planned as a way to inform others in maintenance of the association.

CSPRA Vice President Rick Parmer sent the new Maintenance Worker's Association a letter of support.

The association has developed a newsletter. To contact the editor write to PMWA, at 625 W. Cornell, Fresno CA 93705.

For more information contact Larry Tierney, 2973 Graham Hill Rd., Santa Cruz CA 95060.

IN THE NEAR FUTURE...

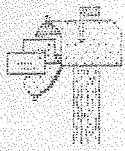
Over the next 30 days the State Park and Recreation Commission will meet twice:

First: At the Borrego Springs Youth Center, Circle J Road, Borrego Springs, at 7 P.M., October 15, 1985. The Commission will be receiving testimony on the proposed wilderness boundary adjustments for the Santa Rosa Mountains State Wilderness in Anza-Borrego Desert State Park. The Committee will report its findings to the full Commission for a decision at a future meeting. Copies of this proposal are available at Regional offices.

This is a special hearing - a committee meeting of the Park and Recreation Commission.

Second: Will be at the City Council Chambers, Pacific and Madison Streets, Monterey, at 9 A.M., November 8, 1985. The hearing will be to approve or disapprove the Garrapata Project classification and the proposed Carmel River Natural Preserve classification; the on-premises sale of beer and wine with meals on a dinner boat, and the off-premises sale of beer and wine at a campstore concession at the Lake Natoma area of Folsom Lake State Recreation Area; and to accept new proposals for 1984 Bond Act projects.

For more information call 916-324-6976: Lorraine Heneretty.



LETTERS

Dear Jeff:

Thanks ever so much for the copy of "State Parks of California." I particularly liked the cover photograph of Emerald Bay at Lake Tahoe, one of the most beautiful sights in the 7th Assembly District.

Because so many of the park facilities are located in the 7th District, you can bet that it will be put to good use and kept close at hand for ready reference.

I really appreciate the thoughtfulness of you and your colleagues for sending it to me. I also appreciate the assistance and support that the association has rendered over the years.

Norm

(Norman S. Waters, member of the assembly 7th District-Chair agriculture committee)

Dear Friend Doug,

Hope this is not my last one, but my coming birthday Dec. 5 (90 years) one helluva long time for an old renegade like me. My cane and crawler are my constant companions. My legs hold me up like wet spaghetti and my head spins like a top when I stand up.

Best wishes to all my old friends. If any of them are down this way stop in, I am home 90% of the time. My wish is for a long & happy life for you & yours.

Gene Velzy

(Gene is a retired CSPRA member)

Dear Mr. Price,

Thank you for sending me the book, "State Parks of California". It will be most helpful in providing background informatin and I will read it with interest. I also appreciate your offer to visit various park units. I plan to visit many local parks this fall and hope to able to talk with the rangers at the time.

I feel the park system is a credit to the State and that the rangrs are a most important part of providing and maintaining a quality environment and agree that keeping California's State Park System efficient, upgraded and adequately cared for is of major importance. I am looking forward to working with the California State Park Rangers Association over the next four years in accomplishing mutual goals.

Marcia Wilson Hobbs

(Marcia Wilson Hobbs is a Park Commission member)

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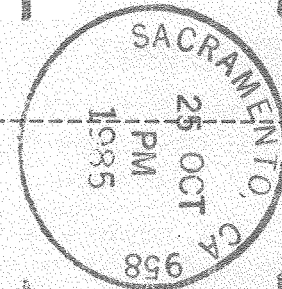
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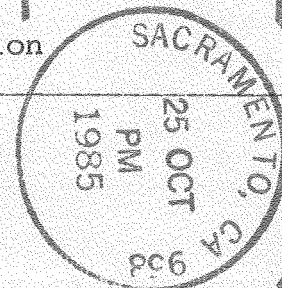
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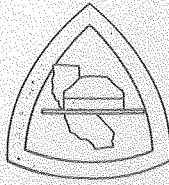


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CHANGE OF ADDRESS Contact Doug Bryce.

CSPRA is a tax exempt corporation





california state park rangers association

RETIRED MEMBER INFORMATION

INSTRUCTIONS: Please return completed sheet to Joe McCall at least four (4) weeks prior to retirement date to ensure prompt arrival of CSPRA Retirement Plaque.

MAIL TO: Joe McCall, Chairperson
Retired Members committee
9028 Talisman Drive
Sacramento, CA 95826
(916) 363-7566

RETIREE'S BACKGROUND

Name to appear on plaque:_____

Location, title, date when hired by DPR as a permanent employee:_____

Date first hired as a DPR seasonal (if applicable):_____

Total years with DPR:_____

Ending date, location, and position with DPR:_____

Notable accomplishments during career:_____

The retiree is best remembered by co-workers for being:_____

Name of spouse:_____

Plaque inscription should refer to retiree as a: *Ranger*;
Manager; *Employee*; or _____

RETIREMENT PARTY INFORMATION

Time, date, location:_____

CSPRA member who could present plaque:_____

Coordinator's name and phone number:_____

COMMENTS:_____