

NEWSLETTER

CALIFORNIA STATE PARK RANGERS ASSOCIATION



STAFFING WOES IN STATE PARKS

Rangers ask
hiring increases.

From the San Francisco
Chronical. Front page,
Monday, the 12th.

by Bill Saiffer

"Mount Tamalpais State
Park is so short-
staffed that Rangers
have stopped giving
nature walks and camp-
fire programs. On some
weekday mornings no Ra-
ngers are on duty.

At Henry Cowell State
Park in Santa Cruz Cou-
nty, the state loses up
to \$100 a day during
the winter months be-
cause no one is on duty
to collect the \$2 ent-
rance fee.

Last year state Senator
Walter Stiern, D-Baker-
sfield, visited San Gr-
egorio State Beach al-
ong the San Mateo coast
and found the odor in
the public bathrooms so
overpowering that he
declared the toilets a
health hazard. Today,
the pump that had
broken, causing the
stink, is still not
repaired.

The state's entire park
system...is in trouble.

STAFFING - PAGE 5

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

CSPRA President Rick Parmer addresses some of the
Associations activities over the past few months. As
well as those events that tend to touch us in our
profession.

turn to page 3

YOU CALL, YOU PAY:

Madera Police Department (remember the "Madera Lunch"
decision?) has developed a program to charge violators
of the law for personhours, and equipment used. DPR
lookie here.

turn to page 6

STAFFING:

Winding down a campaign to increase the Department's
staffing level CSPRA has made the media in San
Francisco, Los Angeles, San Diego, Santa Rosa, Fresno
and other communities. This issue of the NEWSLETTER
has devoted much space to our coverage.

turn to pages 2, 4 & 5

LETTERS:

CSPRA Director Gar Salzgeber writes to the Director,
sharing some of the association's concerns with a
recent decision on the Devil's Slide Bypass Road.
And: The Director writes back.

turn to page 7

LAST PAGE:

Page 8 holds several shorties. From a Ranger in the
news to Jim Whitehead's "Food for Thought". Check out
the "Quote for the Month" as well.

And, of course - MORE. Take a look.



FILMING - ONE MORE TIME.

by Michael
Allan

AB 3715, 3716 and 3717
passed unanimously in
the Assembly
Government Organiz-
ation Committee.

The message is clear.
The best that we can
hope for is to have the
Rangers monitor filming
in State Parks. Let's
accept this reality and
try to protect the park
resources.

Currently 13 motion

FILMING - PAGE 6



CALIFORNIA STATE PARK RANGERS ASSOCIATION

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not always reflect the opinion of individual CSPRA officers.



RISIS IN PARKS

From the San
Francisco
Chronicle Edi-
torials, 5/14.

"California's State Park
system, ... considered
the best in the
nation ... faces a
manpower shortage that
threatens its beauty and
usability.

... Because of dramatic
increases in park use
and serious lack of
adequate staff, Rangers
now devote about three-
fourths of their train-
ing time to law enforc-
ement. It has been nec-
essary to sacrifice such
traditional Ranger du-
ties as first class nat-
ure walks and campfire
programs that made park
visits more enjoyable
and meaningful.

Basic park maintenance
and the protection of
natural resources have
invariably suffered as
the current staff has
struggled to keep up
with more visitors and
larger parks.

... Acutely and person-
ally aware of the decli-
ning conditions in 290
parks, the Rangers asso-
ciation has asked the
state to add 255 posi-
tions to the 2800-person
park service. ... The
proposals are a modest
approach to a problem of
great public concern."

++



RESIDENT'S MESSAGE

From
Ponytails to
"Live at
Five"

There are times when life is more predictable, the peaks and valleys have rounded edges, we feel comfortable, perhaps even contented or slightly bored.

And then there are those other "hold on to your hats" times when elements of risk and loss and victory hold life shaking potential.

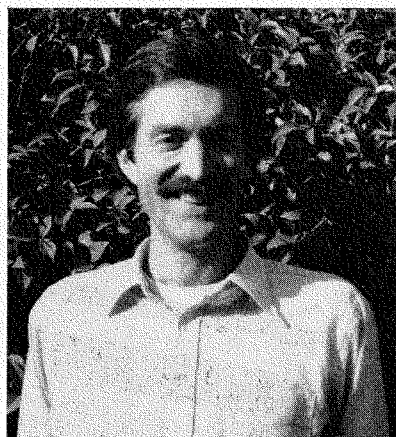
In a professional sense I think we are entering a period of profound change. A new spirit of cooperation and activism is blowing in the wind.

Ranger Steve Finch was fired recently for refusing to cut his ponytail to conform with the new grooming standards for men. Whether you agree with his stand or not, most of us have to admire his courage to stand up for what he believes is the principle of fairness and equality. A woman who wears her hair in exactly the same way meets departmental standard. Steve was a Ranger with an excellent service record. He has decided to

ap-
peal
the dec-
ision.

I also had the pleasure to attend a dinner of the annual meeting of the Assn of Administrative Officers. This dynamic group is working to improve the professionalism of administrative staff from Office techs to RAO's. There are many common goals between AAO and CSPRA and I look forward to developing a closer working relationship in the future. Any volunteers to serve as CSPRA Liaison?

Our staffing campaign has yielded tremendous results. On the media end we received front page newspaper and prime time television coverage in the San Francisco Bay Area. The combined efforts of CSPRA, SPPOAC, the CA Assn. of Professional Scientists, AAO, SP Maint. Workers Assn., SP Supv. Assn. the Sierra Club, and many park support groups and individuals has heightened public and political awareness state-wide. Member Alex Wiess calls it "revolutionary in the history of the State



CSPRA President
Rick Farmer

System".

I think we can stop short of that--Alex is prone to flowery language and loud ties. But it has expanded our good reputation and influence with the press beyond our wildest expectations. Even more importantly, we have developed a state-wide network of organizations that can bring their cooperative influence to bear on major issues affecting the State Park System.

My special thanks go to McElroy Communications, our media consultant, and Jerry Meral, Executive Director of the Planning and Conservation League, without whom this campaign could not have been waged. ++

Ed.'s notes:

Along with the Bay Area, media. Other local T.V. and radio stations carried editorials, or stories about CSPRA's restaffing effort. Including, L.A. S.D. Fresno Santa Rosa and more.

ADDRESSING STAFF SHORTAGES IN STATE PARKS

PROTECTING THE PARKS

Working closely with our Board Member the California State Parks Ranger Association (CSPRA) and many other conservation organizations throughout California, PCL is seeking to increase staffing in our State Parks. The rangers have documented major environmental and public safety problems which have resulted in

the Parks from a lack of qualified staff. CSPRA and other groups have developed a list of jobs which must be filled so that the Park environment can be protected, and that the public can be properly served. PCL has prepared a proposed revised budget which would allow these positions to be filled.

Appearing before the Senate and Assembly Budget Committees,

PCL Executive Director Jerry Meral asked the Legislature to provide the additional necessary positions. So far the Department has refused to accept the additional staff, even though their own recent analysis indicated they are needed. PCL is now negotiating with the Governor's office regarding the need for this important additional staffing. ♦



text and graphics from PCL

STAFFING - from page 1

according to the California State Park Rangers Association. The main source of the problem is a critical manpower shortage that has developed as the size of the system has grown, the Rangers said.

"The Ranger is quickly changing from nature guide to policeman because of a manpower shortage and increased park use," said Rangers Association President Rick Parmer. "Their roles in environmental education and resource protection have diminished dramatically."

...Garth Tanner, deputy parks director for operations, said he believes "the number of staff is adequate." He called the Rangers' call for more staff "a surprise."

... Bay Area Rangers and District Superintendents, many of whom did not want their names used, also say the problems at state parks are mounting. They noted:

Mount Diablo State Park in Contra Costa County had doubled in size to 16,000 acres, and annual attendance has risen 160 percent to 500,000 since 1977.

The staff has increased only from 12 to 14 in the past seven years. The park's 21 miles of roads are tire swallows beset by potholes and erosion; 35 percent of the campground furniture ... is damaged. Almost all of the 100 miles of trails need repair.

At the nine parks along San Mateo Coast, the 14 dirt parking lots have potholes and are muddy 75 percent of the time. The bathrooms are pit toilets, and the most frequent complaint is "the quality of housekeeping."

Ninety percent of the visitors to seven parks in Santa Cruz County are frustrated in the off-season because they cannot find a Ranger to answer their questions, and 90 percent of the phone calls get answered by machine. Hikers encounter moderate to severe erosion problems on more than a third of the trails.

... A 1984 State of the State Parks report, in which the department asked park managers to list their major problems, revealed serious threats to natural resources.

Fifty-one percent of the managers reported unsafe buildings or natural features, and 60 percent said the parks suffered from severe erosion problems. More than two-thirds listed litter and garbage dumping as major concerns, and they feared threats from intrusive development.

To alleviate the manpower problem the Rangers association wants \$1 million from the general fund and to reallocate \$5.1 million within this year's proposed budget for the 255 new positions.

... reallocated funds would come primarily from deferred maintenance and commercial projects, volunteer projects by the California Conservation Corps and part of \$700,000 for outside consultants to write general plans.

Deputy Director Tanner describes the Rangers' campaign, which has included hiring a Sacramento lobbyist, as a "wish list" ...

"To reallocate money would not be responsible, because those accounts have undergone critical analysis and respond to high priority needs," he said. "++



Filming - from page 1

picture bills are before the Legislature. Many of which are designed for the sole benefit of the film industry and at the expense of the taxpayer.

Support for this legislation has been unanimous in the Legislative committee hearings from the beginning. To expect defeat of this legislation would require a miracle. We need to concentrate on getting all the amendments written into this bill as it is certain to become law.

The amendments are not quite what I understood them to be at the Assembly Government Organization Committee Hearing on April 8. There is language stating that at least one Ranger shall be assigned to a film crew. What's new here is that the Ranger may be either on or off-duty. The anticipated language that (in the case of a Ranger monitor being unavailable) "Filming shall not occur" is conspicuously missing. This will clearly place state park resources in serious jeopardy by permitting unsupervised film crews to operate in state parks. The other amendment is

language which enables DPR to prepare a report detailing the cost of filming services to the department. While this amendment states that DPR shall document any degradation in resource protection or visitor services, it does not say what shall happen if DPR is able to document such degradation. ++

Ed.'s note:

Mike asks for your letters to Legislators in opposition to these bills. For more information you may contact Mike at: 12733 Sir Francis Drake Blvd. Inverness, CA 94937.

++



ADERA POLICE
CALLS: C.O.D.

From the
Fresno Bee,

by Darrel Maddox

"...If you pick a fight in a Madera tavern and the owner calls the cops, you're going to pay by the mile for the police car that answers the call and by the minute for the officer's time.

And if the officer uses Mace or other materials to subdue you, you'll be billed for that, too.

...(Chief) Skeels said the program will get a

one-year test in Madera and that proceeds will be used to replace aging equipment for which no money is available from the hard pressed city treasury.

Each person who gets a bill has 30 days to pay. If the city doesn't get its money, Skeels said ... a small claims court judgment will be sought.

He said the program does not penalize victims. The person calling the department is not the one who will be billed, Skeels said.

...The billing program is possible because of an elaborate computer system, which figures the time cost on each officer's salary and fringe benefits and time spent on a call.

A computer printout of costs accompanies each bill, and copies of everything go to the D. A.'s Office, Probation Dpt. and Court.

... The program isn't unique to Madera, ... the Riverside Police tried it.

..."From a taxpayer's point of view, I see nothing but benefits from the project," Skeels said." ++

In March CSPRA Director
Gar Salzgeber wrote the DPR Director:

STATE OF CALIFORNIA—THE RESOURCES AGENCY

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

P.O. BOX 2390
SACRAMENTO 95811
(916) 324-9067

April 8, 1986

Gar Salzgeber, Director
CA State Park Rangers Association
861 Merced
Pismo Beach, CA 93449


Dear Mr. Salzgeber:

I appreciate your forwarding your views on the Devil's Slide Bypass Road. I think you should know that in any issue like this that has a great deal of controversy, there will be two, sometimes very polarized, positions so that it is difficult to rationally discuss the issues. Prior to the decision being made, I had many meetings with staff of this Department as well as staff of Caltrans and the Resources Agency. It was not a decision made without "bundles" of quality information, and it was not a decision made lightly.

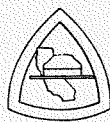
I plan to meet with your organization as often as possible, hopefully at least every two months. I have discussed this with Rick Parmer and I also mentioned it at the Conference in Concord in March. Hopefully, these meetings will allow open discussions on all subjects of interest to both of us.

I look forward to future meetings as I believe we have the same goals and objectives.

Sincerely,


William S. Briner
Director

cc: Rick Parmer, President



california state park rangers association

March 20, 1986

Mr. William Briner, Director
Department of Parks and Recreation
Box 942896
Sacramento, CA 94296-0001

Dear Mr. Briner:

The California State Park Rangers Association was dismayed to learn that you went against our own department's staff advice and agreed to not block the Devil's slide Bypass between Pacifica and Montara.

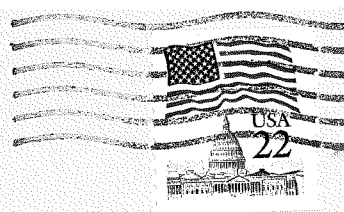
This was particularly unfortunate when Cal Trans has said that they can dig deeper into Montara Mountain, next to Devil's Slide, and build a road that is less prone to sliding. This type of project is best illustrated by Cal Trans mammoth Big Sur slide correction project along the Highway 1 Big Sur Coastline, a project 10 times larger than the Devil's Slide correction project would be.

CSPRA feels that the Devil's Slide Bypass decision should have gone through an Environmental Impact Review and hopes that in making future decisions you consult staff and outside professional agencies, such as CSPRA, before making the same type of agreements.

Sincerely,

Gar Salzgeber, Director
for: Rick Parmer, President
California State Park Rangers Association

And soon after,
Director Briner responded



CALIFORNIA STATE PARK RANGERS ASSOCIATION

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SCOTTS VALLEY
CA 95066



EMBERS IN THE
NEWS

Santa Monica Mountains Ranger E. Simon Cavazos was recently interviewed by the Thousand Oaks NEWS CHRONICLE on his second (first?) job:

"... Simon Cavazos, P.I., is one of the new breed of shamus with a fast sports car and cellular car phone.

... Cavazos belongs to the new breed of detectives - sleuths who graduated from more than the school of hard knocks.

... Cavazos, a wiry Texas native, says he likes his work because it is different every day and he's his own boss. But it's not all Ferraris and Hawaiian shirts.

"Ten percent of the work is glamorous. The rest can be pretty boring like watching a warehouse for seven nights and not even

seeing a mouse," says the soft-spoken private eye.

... Cavazos points out his investigations often put the kibosh on employee theft... but the shamuses say they won't take every job that comes in over the transom. "I get a lot of calls from people who need psychiatric help," says Cavazos. "They believe that a neighbor or someone is after them with laser beams or bugging their phone." ++



OOD FOR
THOUGHT

by Jim
Whitehead
9/3/69

"In these days of great change and turmoil, all of you are subjected to situations which calls for good judgment and discretion if we are to retain the image and reputation for which we have all striven over the years



The following advice from a speech I recently heard, seemed to have a special message for those of us in public service. It goes like this...

"Between impulse and action interpose

EVIDENCE
REASON
JUDGMENT
COMPASSION"

It deserves something more than a quick perusal and discard. Think about it and it may make a great deal of difference in one of those touch and go situation. ++



UOTE FOR THE
MONTH

"Without paved roads you get only the people who want to visit an area for obscure private reasons, probably of an immoral nature."

Edward Abby,
from Slickrock