

NEWSLETTER

CALIFORNIA STATE PARK RANGERS ASSOCIATION



THE 1987
CONFERENCE
AND GEC IN
VENTURA

Co-Chairmen for the 1987 CSPRA/PRAC Conference, Jeff Price and Steve Treanor, report the site for next years's convention to be one of the best we have ever visited.

The Sheraton Ventura Hotel just opened its new property, adjacent to San Buenaventura State Beach, in July of this year. CSPRA/PRAC was one of their first convention customers. As a result, those attending will get a fantastic package of \$50.00 per night, single or double, in one of the most elegant new hotels on the West Coast. To compare, the 1987 cost in Ventura is about \$14.00 less than we paid in Concord to stay at the Holiday Inn.

Jeff and Peggy Price attended the grand opening celebration of the Ventura Sheraton, representing the 1987 Conference Committee, and found the entire facility to be unbelievably elegant. They encourage everyone to set aside March 13 to 15 and plan to stay at

MISTIX - FALSE FINANCIAL DATA?

A recent article in the Los Angeles Times brings to light some potential problems with the Mistix contract.

turn to page 4

CAMPGROUND CONCESSIONAIRES:

The U. S. Forest Service has concessioned a number of its campgrounds out to private interests. Is it working? What do campers think? How about State Parks?

turn to page 5

CSPRA - WE'RE LOOKING FOR A "FEW GOOD PEOPLE":

Two CSPRA Board positions are coming open. Treasurer and Director. Now is your chance to become involved with an exciting association. Send in your nominations.

turn to page 6

NEED \$\$ FOR EDUCATION/CLASSES ETC?

Included in this month's issue is the Education and Training Committee's application for scholarships. The money's there waiting for YOU!

turn to page 7

LAST PAGE:

The month's quote, and a WIA conference in Sausalito.



RESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Staffing
Campaign

by Rick Parmer

Two more major articles came out in July documenting staff

shortages in State Parks; one was a front page piece in the Sacramento BEE; the other, in the Riverside Press-Enterprise. This has served to keep the visibility of our campaign high. In fact, one employee reported that a store clerk



GEC - from page-1

this very plush and
ultramodern location.

CALIFORNIA STATE PARK RANGERS ASSOCIATION

Sacramento address, office of the Executive Manager: P.O. Box 28366, Sacramento
California, 95828

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PRESIDENT Rick Farmer
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EXECUTIVE MANAGER Doug Bryce
JR. PAST PRESIDENT Jeff Price

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.....	Ed Stuckrath
.....	Himi Binny

For the address and phone numbers of CSPRA officers and committees, for
membership information, sale items, educational grants, retired membership
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Sacramento address.

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ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUESCSPRA2
NEWSLETTERCSPRA
andCSPRA3

for general information contact the Executive Manager

The NEWSLETTER (ISSN 0897-9176) is published monthly by CSPRA, P.O. Box
28366, Sacramento CA 95828. The NEWSLETTER's address is P.O. Box 1701,
Coarsegold Ca 93614, 209-683-6855, (ECOMET: .CSPRA).

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Articles are solicited and welcome. Send (1000 words or less) to the NEWSLETTER
address. All submissions become the property of CSPRA and may be edited without
notice. Text accepted in writing (typed and double spaced please), or recorded
over the phone or electronic data transfer.

POSTMASTER: send address changes to the EXECUTIVE MANAGERS office.

The content of the NEWSLETTER is the sole responsibility of the editor, and may
not always reflect the opinion of individual CSPRA officers.

The 22nd annual confer-
ence will be a new ven-
ture itself to match the
new facility. In 1987
we will be holding a
joint-conference with
Park Rangers Association
of California as in the
past several years and
are inviting the Calif-
ornia League of Cooper-
ating Associations to
join us as well. As of
press time the Confer-
ence Committee is just
putting together a pre-
liminary agenda, but it
appears participants
will be treated to: A
Statewide interpretive
showcase; a "Beach
Party" or barbeque; slow
pitch softball invitational;
golf tourney at
the just-opened River
Ridge course; special
tours, group activities
and workshops; the Gen-
eral Executive Council
meeting; plus a superb
banquet and dance the
last evening.

If you would like to
make suggestions or
help in any way with the
1987 Conference, just
call or write Jeff Price
and Steve Treanor at
Channel Coast District.

We urge you to set aside
the time as soon as
possible and plan to
attend a great confer-
ence in Ventura. More
details will be appear-
ing here in the coming
months. Get involved! ++



by Jeff Price

commented to her on the need for more staff when she displayed an official park ID while cashing a check. That graphically demonstrates the real impact we are having on public awareness.

We are still working behind-the-scenes to translate this influence into action from the Governor. With this an election year, we are convinced this is our best opportunity to gain real commitments through the Governor and legislature.

I spoke with Robert Shine, Director of Marketing for Mistix about the dramatic rise in use compared to last year. With no advertising, campsite reservations for the month of July rose by nearly 14,000 or 25%. There are now 66 phone lines and 180 operators working for Mistix. According to Shine "90% of all reservations are handled by phone as opposed to, maybe, 50% last year".

If your park unit or section experienced summer staff shortages that directly affected public service, please let CSPRA know right away.

You should get the first issue soon. I urge you to support Editor Ed Stuckrath, with your constructive comments and ideas for future issues. Our publications thrive on frequent input from members. The rewards for their tireless efforts come from you, the members who take the time to write or phone. Let Steve and Ed know what you think.

GEC-1987

Get that vacation request in now for the March 13-15 GEC in Ventura at the brand new Sheraton! It promises to have something for everyone with topics ranging from volunteerism to resource management and interpretation. And don't forget the opportunity to interact with representatives from the League of State Park Non-profit Cooperating Associations. ++

To echo Rick's suggestion: Write CSPRA's editors: I'm always interested in learning how you feel about the NEWSLETTER. After all - we put it out for you. If it's not meeting your needs or wants, let me know!

-Ed.

For those who didn't see the memo from Operations Headquarters, a uniform supplier in San Jose is selling a really weird uniform patch for DPR.

If any of you collect oddities related to DPR this is one for your trophy case. Someone coined the term "three-toed sloth" to describe the animal featured on the patch. (My guess it was Carl Maier, since he has considerable experience with odd creatures). The animal, whatever it is, has long, gangly legs, no shoulders, ears or tail and appears to have serious neck problems.

While you can't wear the outlawed sloth patch on your uniform, I have ordered a bunch as "conservation pieces". If you are interested, the sloth patch is available in pairs for \$5.35 from Summit Uniform, 1371 Bascom Ave, San Jose CA 95128. Attention: Kathy. They only accept checks. Ask for the "weird bear patch". I've talked to Kathy at Summit and told her she may turn what they thought was a disaster into a profit.

See the last page. -Ed.



CSFRA



ALSO
FINANCIAL
DATA USED IN
BID FOR
PARKS
CONTRACT

from the Los Angeles
Times (copyright L.A.
Times, 1986)

by Ted Rohrllich

"Mistix,...submitted a false financial statement to parks officials last year as part of its campaign to win the job, its president has acknowledged.

The false statement was submitted under penalty of perjury to officials deciding which firm should get the five year reservations contract, worth an estimated \$15 million

The statement portrayed Mistix, a fledgling firm, as financially successful when it was not. It showed Mistix, in its first 16 months, with sales of more than half a million dollars and a handsome profit, when actually it had no sales and no profit.

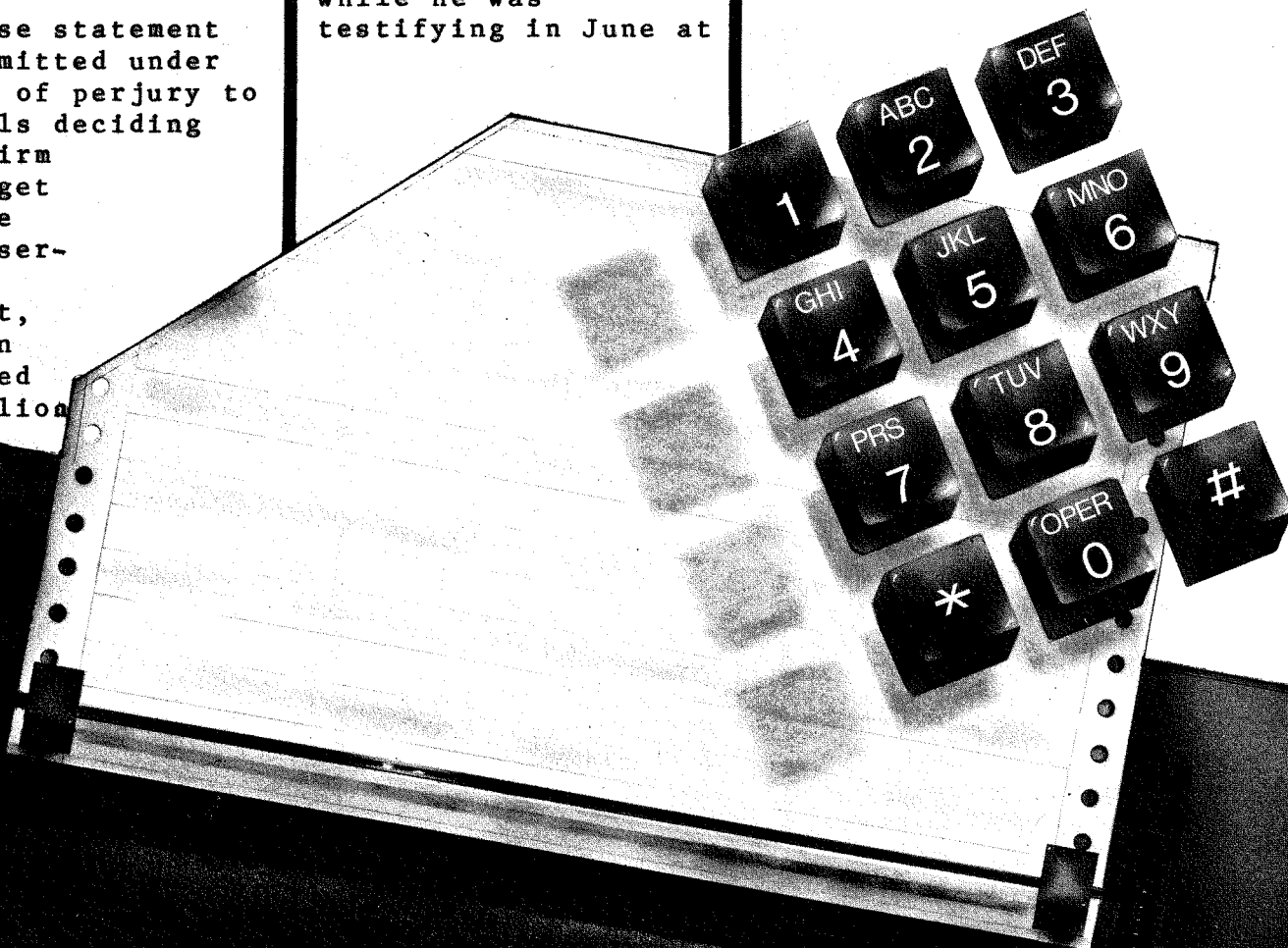
...Mistix president, Armiger, who signed the financial statement on behalf of the firm, acknowledged that it contained false information while he was testifying in June at

an administrative hearing in Sacramento

...The hearing...is the result of a formal protest lodged by Ticketron...

...Parks officials dumped Ticketron in part because they were disappointed with the quality of its service.

...Mistix' performance has also been questionable. ...Parks officials have said that the problem was a lack telephone capacity. ##





AMPGROUND
SAVINGS COST
TAXPAYER

from the
FRESNO BEE

by Gene Rose

copyright Fresno Bee
1986

Thousands of dollars of camping fees that used to go into the federal treasury are now flowing into the pockets of campground concessionaires under a new Forest Service approach to reducing operating costs.

The reason: Because the Forest Service must collect the money, but doesn't get to keep it, it's cheaper to lease the campgrounds to private interests and let them collect the fee - and a profit, besides.

The result: Money that once was deposited in the U.S. general fund now goes to private interests, while the Forest is spared the expense of both running the camps and collecting the fees.

Bev and Don Steinhauer recent campers at Rancheria Campground at Huntington Lake, complain that a recent \$2 increase in camping fees by the camp-

ground's private concessionaire was unjustified because there was no corresponding improvement in services or the actual campsite.

"For \$8 a day you should get something more than a small camping spot; you get nothing for it," the Steinhauers complained.

Despite such complaints, more and more of the better Forest Service campgrounds are being turned over to concessionaires, who pay as little as 2 percent of their receipts to the federal government - and who often recoup that by raising the price of campgrounds.

Forest Service officials acknowledged the firm can gross thousands of dollars a day from the campground, depending upon occupancy rates.

Throughout the 17 national forests in California, approximately 70 campgrounds have gone under concessionaire management - 22 of which are available under the Ticketron advanced reservation system.

..."If a private individual can make money running the

campgrounds, why can't the Forest Service?" asked Bert Hall, a long time camper from Clovis.

The reason the Forest Service can't make money is that they don't get to keep the funds they used to collect from the campers. Instead, the campground fees went into a federal general fund while the Forest Service operated with money from an annual federal appropriation.

...Don Waugh, a recreation officer for the Sierra National Forest, acknowledged that camping fees have gone up under the concessionaire

However, he claims the services provided to the camper have improved.

..."A lot of people are happy with concessionaire operations of the campgrounds. There are more people around, and campers generally feel more attended and more secure with concessionaries," Waugh said.

Dudley Robertson, a Forest Service recreation officer at Shaver Lake said the Forest Service could make money at operating campgrounds, but not when the receipts go back to the general fund. ++

There are/have been a few State campgrounds contracted out. -Ed.



OFFICER
POSITIONS
OPEN

By John Mott

CSPRA is seeking
Nominees for Treasurer
and two Directors.

Nominations for the
offices of Treasurer
and Director are now
open. You have the
opportunity to be on
the cutting edge of
our Association's pri-
mary decision making
body! To nominate
yourself (or any other
active member/retired
member) simply contact
Nominations Committee
Chairman (John Mott)
or attend the Nomina-
tions Committee
meeting on 10/17/86,
at Henry Cowell Red-
woods SP Nature Center
at 7:30, P.M.

As Treasurer you not
only would be a vot-
ing member of the
Board of Directors,
but also would act
as our Associations
chief financial of-
ficer, writing checks
and preparing monthly
financial reports.


As Director you would
discuss, act on and
help implement many
Association activities
and attend the quart-
erly meetings of the
Board of Directors.
Board members rep-
resent the membership

at large and frequent-
ly focus in on spe-
cific issues of par-
ticular interest or in
which they have val-
uable expertise.

Both positions offer
the opportunity for
exciting and chal-
lenging involvement in
timeley issues facing
DPR and our profes-
sion. Although your
time, energy and
professional commit-
ment are donated,
your travel and
administrative ex-
penses are fully
reimbursed.

Remember, "He or she
who hesitates is
lost." Do not delay!
Your nominations must
be received by the
October 7th meeting.

Nominations may be
phoned in (408)
438-6763 or sent to:
John Mott, Chairman,
Nominations Committee,
120 A Christal Oaks
Drive, Scotts Valley,
CA 95066. ++

 SANTA CRUZ
MOUNTAINS
NATURAL
HISTORY
ASSOCIATION
PRESENTS:

Old Ways: The world
of the California
Indian

a Seminar series

This fall the Santa

Cruz Mountains Natural
History Association will
sponsor a five part
series of two day
seminars.

Seminars scheduled
include:

Learning from
the Old Ways

by Ane Rovetta an
ethnobotanist of Point
Reyes Station. Sept. 20
and 21.

Acorn Preparation and
Baskets of Northern
Sierra Mewuk

by Dorothy Stanley of
Tuolumne. Oct. 11 and 12.

Arrow and Stone Tool
Making

by Dr. Elizabeth Skinner
and Peter Ainsworth.
Oct. 25 and 26.

Musical Instruments,
Basketry and Tule Crafts
of the Chumash.

by Juanita Centeno of
Lompoc. Nov. 8 and 9.

Utilitarian Skills of
Native Peoples.

by Craig Bates, Curator
of Ethnography at the
Indian Cultural Center
in Yosemite. Nov. 22
and 23.

For information write
SCMNHA, 101 N. Big Trees
Park Rd., Felton, CA
95018. Or call 408-335-
3174, 335-7077. ++

CSPRA SCHOLARSHIP FUND

One of the goals of the California State Park Rangers Association is to encourage continued training and education in topics that will further the aim of the State Park System. To accomplish this goal, a scholarship has been set up through the Education and Training Committee so that tuition, books and or partial travel costs can be given to qualified CSPRA members.

If the candidate meets the criteria, funds may be approved up to \$200 by the Chair. This money can be used to cover tuition, books, registration fees, materials, and or travel expenses. The limit on funding is \$200 per person per year.

Any questions about the program may be sent to Fred Jee, P.O. Box 483, Borrego Springs, 619-767-3674.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING COMMITTEE SCHOLARSHIP REQUEST FORM

Instructions: Please return completed sheet in sufficient time to receive your grant prior to your training.

Name _____ Address _____

CSPRA Member? _____ When did you send your DPR 392 in? _____

Description of training _____

How will it be of value to you? _____

To the Profession? _____

Tuition \$ _____ Materials \$ _____ Travel \$ _____

Miscellaneous \$ _____ Total requested \$ _____

How much will the Department pay? \$ _____

Please attach a copy of your returned DPR 392 and a course announcement. Return this to Frederick Jee, Chairperson, Education and Training Committee, P.O. Box 483, Borrego Springs, CA 92004.



CALIFORNIA STATE PARK RANGERS ASSOCIATION

P.O. BOX 28366, SACRAMENTO CA 95828

mail to:

JOHN D. MOTT
120-A CHRISTAL OAKS DR
SCOTTS VALLEY CA 95066



California Grizzly or:
Three toed Slouth?



HIS MONTH'S
QUOTE

by Harry
Brown

from the
Fresno BEE

"Take a piece of paper
and list every reason
why you can't do it

...then tear up that
piece of paper and do
it anyway." ++



IA CONFER-
ENCE
SACRAMENTO'S
CHAPTER

A Conference by the
Western Interpreters
Association's Sacra-

mento Valley Chapter
on "The Professional's
Guide to Interpretive
Management" will be
offered October 23 -
26 at Camp Gualala.

This training session
will strengthen your
skills as a manager of
people and resources.
Design a 30-day Per-
sonal Action Plan.

FEATURED SESSIONS:

Addressing Community
Needs Cooperatively

New Services for New
Visitors

Effective Project Man-
agement

Interactive Teamwork

Fostering Professional
Performance in Your
Staff

Personal Philosophy
vs. Public Policy

Balancing Visitor
Needs and Resource
Conservation

Keeping Your Customers
Satisfied

Camp Gualala is located
amid the beauty of the
coastal forest, 120
miles north of San
Francisco. (Close to
Russian River's north
sector - Salt Point,
Fort Ross etc).

Coalman and Berger
lodges provide ac-
comodations with a few
private rooms. Hike the
meadow trails or come
down to the playing
field for volleyball.
The camp manager attests
that the food is "fit
for a King."

The combination of the
river, forest and ocean
environment plus suppor-
tive professionals will
provide the best class-
room for learning.

Registration is through
"WIA Fall Training c/o
Jack Surmani 6219 Wild-
domar Way Carmichael, CA
95608.

Price for WIA members is
\$95.00. Non-members pay
\$110.

Remember, CSPRA can help
with the cost, through
the Education and
Training Committee. ++