

NEWSLETTER

california state park rangers association

VOLUME VI NUMBER 8

JUNE 1989

WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

by Linda Herr Rath

Did you know...

*It takes 95% more electricity to produce aluminum cans from ore than from recycled scrap?

*Existing landfills in southern California are expected to be completely full by 1991 and pressures for open space increase as more trash is generated?

*Americans discard enough aluminum to rebuild the entire U. S. commercial airline fleet every 3 months?

Last summer, after seeing thousands of aluminum cans tossed in the trash and elsewhere at El Capitan and Refugio State Beaches, Gaviota District Park Aid Kristin Singleton and Ranger I Linda Herr Rath decided to do something about it. The result is a simple, educational and fun recycling program at El Capitan and Refugio State Beaches.

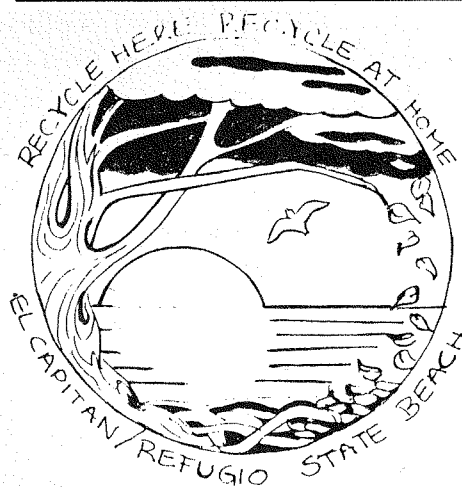
To encourage recycling, we provided recycling containers at the entrance of each park.

To make recycling fun, we developed a green and white "Recycle Here, Recycle at Home" sticker given out to anyone who contributes 25 cans or a 50 cent donation to our program.

Cans are taken to a local recycling center by park personnel and volunteers. Proceeds from the cans and stickers help support the recycling program and other interpretive programs in the district.

Our aluminum can recycling program, sponsored by the Gaviota Natural History Association in cooperation with DPR, officially began at El Capitan and Refugio State Beaches on May 8.

The El Capitan and Refugio State Beach Recycling Program was designed to show park visitors that recycling is easy, important, and fun. Visitors also learn they CAN make a difference in protecting our parks, our resources, and our environment. YYY



WALTER H. VANDER HAAR DIES

Walter H. Vander Haar, a retired member, died May 19, 1989. He had been living with his granddaughter in Texas since the death of his wife in February. They are both buried at Ivy Lawn cemetery in Ventura, California. YYY

ANOTHER LOOK AT THE GENERALIST RANGER

by Randy Hawley

It's been said that a person cannot serve two masters. What are the chances of mastering three professions?

With the assistance of a CSPRA scholarship, I recently attended the National Association of Interpreters National Workshop in San Diego. It provided an excellent opportunity to meet, learn from, and share ideas with professionals of all levels from various agencies from across the nation.

It is easy to be overwhelmed by the scope and potential of the "art and science" of interpretation. "Art" refers to the intrinsic traits a person must possess to be successful at sharing knowledge of the environment. An interpreter must have a love for not only the earth but also for the audience, and a true concern for both futures. Interpreters must be proud of the amazement that comes from discovery, so proud that they feel compelled to share that wonderment with others.

Interpretation is also a science. It is more than quoting facts and identifying species. It is research, verbal skills, marketing, personnel management, graphics, construction, education, artifact management, child development, and psychology, plus natural and cultural sciences.

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**THE CALIFORNIA
STATE PARK RANGERS
ASSOCIATION**

A professional association.

Office of the
Executive Manager
Doug Bryce
P. O. Box 28366
Sacramento, CA 95828
(916) 383-2530
* * * *

PRESIDENT
Don Murphy
(714) 780-6222
* * * *

VICE PRESIDENT
Bud Getty
(408) 335-9145
* * * *

TREASURER
Kevin Joe
(707) 877-3592
* * * *

DIRECTORS
Donna Pozzi
Jeff Price
* * * *

NEWSLETTER
Doug Bryce, Editor
Susan Ross, Ass't. Editor
* * * *

CAL RANGER
(Vacant)
* * * *

For additional information on the association,
write the
Executive Manager.

President's Message

Murphy Chooses CSPRA over Harvard.

President Murphy decided that his work with the Department and CSPRA were currently so challenging and interesting that he would not pursue his Master's Degree at Harvard at this time.

Anna-Paula Murphy Born 6/27/89.

Don and La Rena Murphy announced the birth of their second child Anna-Paula on Tuesday, June 27, 1989 at 3:20 p.m. Anna-Paula weighed in at 6 pounds, 10 ounces, and measured 20 inches.

(The President's message will return next month.)

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GENERALIST RANGER

(Continued from page 1)

To be truly versed in the skills of any profession takes commitment. To be the best you can be takes real dedication. Interpretation deserves commitment and dedication. So does being a peace officer or a resource manager. Both are also "arts and sciences" requiring a variety of skills and traits.

With the variety of tasks inherent in being a ranger, it is difficult to attain a quality level in any single area. We attempt to juggle resource management, interpretation, and law enforcement, plus develop management skills if promotion minded. It is tough to juggle items of equal size, and tougher when one item is larger than the rest. Most rangers tend to gravitate toward one field over the others. Only management skills count once an employee begins up the promotional ladder. It is only natural to avoid what you don't like or what doesn't benefit you.

At the workshop, I took an informal poll of various agencies and asked if their front line interpreters were responsible for primary law enforcement as well.

Some agencies did require their ranger/naturalists to also issue misdemeanor citations. Our DPR was the only agency in which program givers were also fully authorized peace officers.

To ask individuals to do both tasks well is not fair, especially if you expect individuals to be highly skilled at both. They may do both.

But are they good as they could be in either field? Usually one must suffer at the expense of the other.

The public and legislature of the State have mandated the Department of Parks and Recreation to

acquire, manage, protect, and interpret the lands of the State Park System. Though the DPR claims a commitment to interpretation, little seems to reach reality. Mandatory participation or training is rare. Dare anyone mention evaluation, standards, or verification of knowledge? Commitment is made to bureaucratic efficiency, fiscal frugality and ensuring liability avoidance. The time committed to maintaining peace officer standards, law enforcement activities, and facility operations make up the bulk if not the total time allotment in a ranger's day.



But is the system to be faulted? Systems and bureaucracies are made up of people, both management and field.

It was estimated that fewer than ten California DPR employees attended the NAI National Workshop in San Diego, which had seven hundred participants. The next national workshop is in Minnesota. At least half a dozen State Park districts are within a ninety-minute drive of Mission Valley. Not one member of the Southern Region's staff made more than a

token appearance even though the workshop was held two miles from their offices.

Some rangers don't like doing interpretation. Some rangers don't like doing law enforcement. If you don't like doing something, chances are you won't be very proficient at it. The public and their parklands deserve better.

It is probably easier to change systems than people. Maybe it's time we (organizations, union, and the Department) take a look at how to get the best out of the ranger series and the people we hire to fill positions. Maybe it's time to change our perspective.

Perhaps the basic State Park Ranger position should remain as is with the cadets receiving training in all aspects of the job, including basic peace officer training. The Ranger I could be a generalist the first few years. After that time, a Ranger I could lateral to a specific job area or remain a generalist - no increase in pay, just an increase in job satisfaction.

A ranger could still remain a full peace officer with reduced interpretive requirements, or an interpreter who still issues misdemeanor citations. Both options would allow an employee to develop to a fuller potential, while still meeting the commitments of being a total ranger. I don't feel any of us really want to completely eliminate any one area from our duties.

Many of the people I talked to at the workshop did not seek employment with our Department because of the emphasis on law enforcement. I'm sure there are qualified peace officer candidates who likewise avoid our agency because of the interpretive requirements.

(Continued on page 7)

NEW BOARD MEMBER APPOINTED

Jennifer Rodriguez was appointed to a vacancy on the CSPRA Board of Directors at the May meeting. Rodriguez is a Ranger I at the Salton Sea District. She started her career at Anza-Borrego Desert State Park as a Visitor Services Park Aid for four seasons. She worked one summer at Doheny State Beach and one summer at Joshua Tree National Monument. She was hired by DPR in 1987 for BVST #6. Her older sister, Margaret Brown, and her husband, Paul Brown, are rangers at Eel River District. Her younger sister, Catherine Rodriguez, is a Dispatcher Clerk at Pendleton Coast District, and cousin, Raquel Rivera, is a Ranger I at Mojave River District. She says, "I'm looking forward to working with CSPRA and learning as much as I can about legislation and issues which affect California State Parks and State Park Rangers." YYY



GOSHAWK

CORRESPONDENCE

June 5, 1989

Don Murphy, President
CSPRA
P. O. Box 28366
Sacramento, CA 95828

Dear Don:

I'm writing as a brand-new member of CSPRA to tell you how much your President's Message in the April-May 1989 newsletter meant to me. I'm one of those headquarters people, not a ranger, but Donna Pozzi's presentation on Bodie to the Planning Division staff meeting in May made me realize that CSPRA's goals for the State Park System are identical to those I developed back in 1979, when I decided to make a career out of working for our department.

I agree totally with your comments about the department's "mission." While these things usually do look good on paper, what really matters is the follow-through -- especially when there's a political crunch, or a DPR superior who doesn't see things the same way you do.

I also agree totally that it does take real guts to stand up for what you know is right in the face of pressure from either inside or outside the department. In fact, many of us can cite examples of people who've been "burned" because they stood up for their beliefs, rather than knuckling under to the political climate of the time.

In my view, the best measure of "guts" is being able to look at yourself in the mirror every morning without feeling guilty. If you can do this, and like what you see, chances are you're conducting yourself with the professionalism

and dedication we're all striving for. If you can't, there's something wrong.

You also mentioned the word "protect." Well, my good ol' Webster's 7th New Collegiate defines it as: to cover or shield from injury or destruction; GUARD." Seems pretty clear to me. Perhaps the lawyers and politicians can come up with new definitions, but as far as my own ethics are concerned, I'll stick with Webster's.

Keep up this kind of work, Don; I'm really looking forward to my membership in CSPRA.

Cordially,

Larry Martz, Supervisor
Technical Reports Section

February 7, 1989

Dear Doug,

This is the end of the line for me with DPR. I've accepted a job with the City of San Diego as their initial "Senior Park Ranger." I'm responsible for position standards for future "City Park Rangers" and developing an operations plan for a 5,200-acre open space called Mission Trails Regional Park.

My wife, Kim, just delivered our first child, Lindsay Marie, on December 10th, so life is really picking up.

Please send me a CSPRA application so I can continue as a member.

Thank you for everything.

Randy Hawley

NATURAL HISTORY OF SEAWEED

by Kevin Joe

I attended the one-day Point Reyes Field Seminar, "Natural History of Seaweeds," given by Chris Kjeldsen at Point Reyes National Seashore in late October. Here are some interesting points I gleaned from the course and my own reading.

Seaweed (marine algae) plays an important role in our daily life. One extract, agar, is used in ice cream and in culture plates in which penicillin was discovered. Many of our fossil fuels come from ancient deposits of marine algae. The air we breathe comes not only from terrestrial plants, but also from marine algae.

Rain forests are known to be very productive plant communities, but some intertidal algae can outproduce them by 3 to 1 in terms of photosynthesis and biomass. Macrocytis, the giant kelp, is the fastest growing plant in the world, at up to a foot a day.

There are 660 species of marine algae found along California's coast. This diversity is the result of our varied coastline of bays, estuaries, and rocky points, and the upwelling that brings nutrients from deep in the ocean to these coastal areas.

Two methods of dividing alga should be mentioned, size and color. Microalgae refers to small microscopic phytoplankton which gives the ocean its greenish hue. Macroalgae, or seaweeds, are what most people are interested in and are all the large "plants" people see on the rocks and washed up on the beaches. The predominant colors are used to define 3 phyla of macroalgae: Green, Brown, and

Red. Large "kelps" are in the Brown phyla, and "Red" alga include purple, pink, yellow and some brown colors.

Seaweeds are plants because they use photosynthesis to gather energy. Yes, they have no true roots, leaves, or flowers. Instead they have a holdfast (root-like), stipe (stem-like), and blades (leaf-like). Both annual and perennial seaweeds occur, and the perennials even have growth rings.

When people think of exotic plant species, they usually name eucalyptus or pampas grass. The ocean also has its share of introduced species. Sargassum was introduced to California from imported Japanese oysters.

For preserving seaweeds, pressing works well. Start with a layer of corrugated cardboard, then blotter paper, typing (cotton rag) or herbarium paper, the seaweed specimen, wax paper, then blotter paper. Be sure to change the blotter paper a few times. YYY



BODIE UPDATE

by Donna Pozzi

Your **SAVE BODIE!** Committee has had another very active month. Thank you to all CSPRA members who responded to last month's (and the earlier!) fundraising appeal. Your direct financial support of the committee's efforts means a great deal to us. A few more people have volunteered to get actively involved, and we'll be calling on them soon.

Highlights of our recent accomplishments include:

- National TV coverage** on ABC News "World News Tonight with Peter Jennings";
- Major articles** in the Los Angeles Times, San Francisco Chronicle, and Associated Press as well as smaller papers and newsletters;
- Supportive correspondence from **California's legislators**, both at the state level and in Washington, DC;
- Cooperation with producers of 3 **video documentaries**;
- Development of **fundraising** strategy for mass mailings, T-shirts, posters, and special events;
- Discussions with attorneys regarding potential **pro bono representation**.

The current gold rush is generating a lot of interest with recent articles in Audubon and The New Yorker, as well as television shows like 20/20. The public, media, and politicians are becoming increasingly knowledgeable of the environmental, economic, and social impacts of modern mining activities. Bodie is part of a much bigger issue which can help in our effort to -

SAVE BODIE!

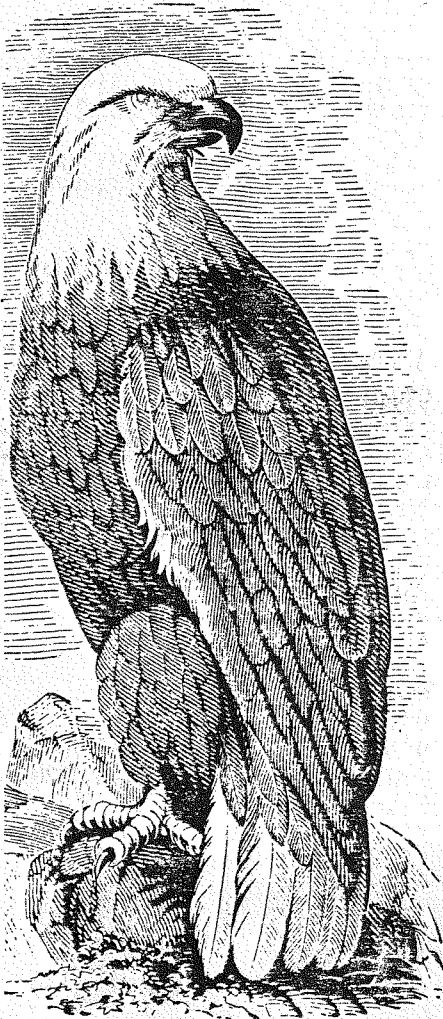
CHARTER MEMBERS

Anderson, Carl	2401 Mitchell Road	Eureka, CA	95501	
Brock, Dick	Route Box 3704	Wofford Heights, CA	93285	
Bryce, Doug	P. O. Box 28366	Sacramento, CA	95828	916 383-2530
Caldwell, Keith	P. O. Box 465	Lotus, CA	95651	
Cater, Wesley E.	2870 Ironwood	Morro Bay, CA	93442	805 772-2832
Cline, Charles G.	595 El Camino Real	Salinas, CA	93907	408 449-2339
Crawford, Bob	345 Camino Verde	Boulder Creek, CA	95006	408 338-9829
Davis, James G.	18536 Symeron Road	Apple Valley, CA	92307	
Fairchild, Frank	P. O. Box 776	Goldfield, NV	89013	
Felty, Richard E.	2211 Garden Road	Monterey, CA	93940	
Fiahlo, Gerald	140 Hazel Lane	Nipomo, CA	93444	
Forsyth, Lorin	20651 6th Street	Nuevo, CA	92367	619 657-9494
Frincke, M. M.	6290 Brookdale Drive	Carmel, CA	93923	408 624-0537
Geary, James R.	P. O. Box 4677	Lancaster, CA	93539	
Griffith, L. P.	Box 131	Graeagle, CA	96103	
Hanna, Harold W.	1490 Princeton Road	Woodburn, OR	97071	503 981-6294
Hartwell, Kent	P. O. Box 889	Magalia, CA	95954	
Haussler, Wm. J.	7120 Westmoreland	Sacramento, CA	95831	916 391-0235
Heacox, Bud	227 San Miguel Way	Sacramento, CA	95819	916 457-8845
Huston, Guy M.	502 East "6" Street	Ontario, CA	91764	714 984-6084
Johnston, Walter R.	11240 Fair Oaks Blvd	Fair Oaks, CA	95628	916 962-2235
Junette, Eugene R.	21504 Ottawa Road	Apple Valley, CA	92308	
Keith, Lyle B.	P. O. Box 153	Avery, CA	95224	209 795-4946
Kishbaugh, Gordon T.	110 Coronado Circle	Santa Rosa, CA	95409	707 538-3631
Knight, John H.	111 Wild River Lane	Folsom, CA	95630	
Lemley, Floyd A.	40 Andrew Avenue	Leucadia, CA	92024	
Lyden, Charles P.	142 Glenn Drive	Folsom, CA	95630	916 985-7380
Long, Dana B.	P. O. Box 1269	Tubac, AZ	85646	
Lonnecker, Carl G.	P. O. Box 143	Portola, CA	96122	
Martin, Kenneth W.	1441 Seventh Street	Ripon, CA	95306	
Mason, Jack	RFD Box 99-1	Lompoc, CA	93436	
McCall, Ron	2211 Garden Road	Monterey, CA	93940	
McCullough, Ron C.	7936 Lake Cayuga Drive	San Diego, CA	92119	
McCall, Joe	9028 Talisman	Sacramento, CA	95826	
McKillop, Richard C.	2060 Lassen Street	Seaside, CA	93955	
McMullen, Charles	4300 Kenneth Avenue	Fair Oaks, CA	95628	
Mehlert, Charles	25 Via Ventura	Monterey, CA	93940	408 375-0316
Menefee, Richard C.	19282 Robinson Street	Sonoma, CA	95476	
Michael, John C.	726 Clipper Way	Scrimento, CA	95831	
Mitchell, Curtis B.	13683 Quaker Hill Cross	Nevada City, CA	95959	
Morgan, Kirby R.	10175 Joerschke Dr., #103	Grass Valley, CA	95945	
Myer, Lew	895 Sierra Vista, #126	Las Vegas, NV	89109	
Neal, James E.	16209 Spangler Peak Road	Ramona, CA	92065	
Neider, James E.	542 Hart Lane	Sebastopol, CA	95472	
Newlin, Clyde	4863 East Live Oak Road	Lodi, CA	95240	209 368-7082
Oller, Morrie	3835 Gardiner Ferry Rd, #18	Corning, CA	96021	916 824-2820
O'Rourke, M.E.	500 N Street, #708	Sacramento, CA	95814	
Pearson, L. O.	3515 East Home Avenue	Fresno, CA	93703	209 485-7533
Perkins, Bob	P. O. Box 902	Crescent City, CA	95531	707 464-1761
Reese, Robert W.	126 Spray Avenue	Monterey, CA	93940	
Reinhardt, William J.	5090 North College Avenue	Fresno, CA	93703	209 224-0309
Salzgeber, Al	5511 Calle Arena	Carpenteria, CA	93013	805 684-4700
Schlotter, Jack W.	HCR-1, Box 7160	Igo, CA	96047	
Short, Orville	202 Pelayo, Apt B	San Clemente, CA	92672	714 492-1559
Spencer, T. D.	475 Sims Road	Santa Cruz, CA	95060	
Stahlberg, Wm. A.	11643 Defiance Way	Sunnymead, CA	92388	714 242-7825
Stowe, Jack	4852 Olive Ranch Road	Roseville, CA	95661	916 791-0061
Stratton, David L.	P. O. Box 2446	Oakhurst, CA	93644	
Tardiff, Robert	P. O. Box 254	Avery, CA	95224	209 795-4913
Ulm, Al	1333 Camino Del Rio So-200	San Diego, CA	92108	
Van Deusen, Phillip	135 Calle de Andelucia	Redondo Beach, CA	90277	213 375-7572
Wakefield, Louis C.	P. O. Box 67	Tehachapi, CA	93561	805 622-3496
Walstrom, John	9652 Lakeview Road	Lakeside, CA	92040	
Welch, Jack	2050 Allesandro Trail	Vista, CA	92083	619 724-8996
Welts, Allen	5660 Sun Valley Way	Sacramento, CA	95823	916 422-6794
Wilson, T. A.	5081 Wilderness Way, 23M	Paradise, CA	95969	916 877-6916

GENERALIST RANGER

(Continued from page 3)

I hope the Department does not go the way of contracting out environmental education, resource projects, or law enforcement. I hope that limited career or promotional opportunities don't result in the loss of employees. It is still the ranger's job to interpret and protect the parks. It is tough to do either job at all, much less do them both well. YYY



Fun Evening at Sutter's Fort

Fundraiser for Bodie

Saturday August 19, 6:30 - 10:00 p.m.

Come join with us for an exciting evening under the stars at Sutter's Fort! You will be helping to raise money to increase awareness of the need to save Bodie State Historic Park. **Bud Getty** will 'emcee' this fun-filled evening. Activities will include:

- A trip around the world through beer tasting! **Ira Bletz** is a master at giving an entertaining show on how beer has helped shape history. Treat yourself to a wide variety of international beers.
- Music by **Carl Burger**, including a performance of his special song about Bodie.
- Special exhibit on the "**Breweries of Bodie.**"
- Hors d'oeuvres and non-alcoholic drinks will be available.

(All beer tasters must be at least 21 years old.)

All this excitement for only \$30! Hurry! Space is limited and advance reservations are required. For more information, and a reservation form, call:

Patty Posner (916) 454-5343

or

Nina Gordon (916) 455-3450

HELP WANTED!

Help is needed for the production of the NEWSLETTER. Assistant editor Susan Ross is moving on to other committee work, including the 1990 conference planning and the 1991 Ranger anniversary planning. Thank you, Susan, for a lot of excellent articles and hard work. The following volunteer work is needed.

Assistant Editor: Activities include the solicitation of feature articles for the NEWSLETTER. Developing an ongoing list of needed articles for future NEWSLETTERS.

Feature Writers: Persons are needed to write on various facets of the Department's activities and on threats to the State Park System.

NEWS: Reports on interesting happenings regarding the Department or its employees. Share with your organization the interesting occurrences in your part of the Department. ¥¥¥

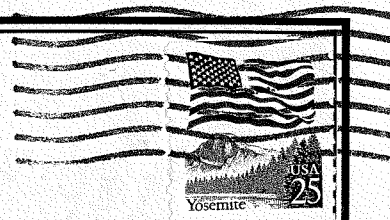
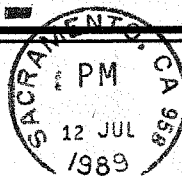
CAL RANGER Also needed is an editor for the CAL RANGER. Availability of a Macintosh computer is desirable. It is much easier than you think. Call Doug Bryce today. ¥¥¥

WELCOME TO CSPRA

We are glad to introduce these new members to our organization. CSPRA offers a forum for sharing ideas and concerns and a means of making an impact in the professional field of the ranger. There is a place for each of you here, and your commitment to CSPRA requires a commitment to you from this organization. Each of us by getting involved can help the other. Again, welcome to CSPRA. 🍏

Larry Martz, Headquarters

California State Park Rangers Association
P. O. Box 28366
Sacramento, CA 95828-0366



Mail to:

JOHN D. MOTT
116 TREETOP DRIVE
SANTA CRUZ CA 95060