

# NEWSLETTER

california state park rangers association

Volume VI Number 32

October 1991

## Foreign University Buys Into Santa Monica Mountains

by Jeff Price

And we thought taking on a million-dollar gold mining corporation at Bodie was our biggest challenge...guess again!

Threats to state, conservancy and national parks in the Santa Monica Mountains from Soka, a billion-dollar Japanese political and quasi-religious evangelical Buddhist sect, are among the newest concerns to park and recreation integrity.

Soka University Los Angeles, SULA, has announced plans to develop its current 80-student enrollment to a 5,000-student university on 580 acres immediately adjacent to Malibu Creek State Park. In the same area, Pepperdine has been granted clearances by L.A. County to double the enrollment of its Malibu college.

One of the "needs" for SULA will be widening Las Virgenes Road to six lanes, from the current narrow, two-lane mountain road. The potential impacts on adjacent parklands are enormous. An article by Stephen London appearing in "Gold Coast Lifestyles" in November 1990 says, "To 17 million Nichiren Shoshu Buddhists, Soka University Los Angeles is an idyllic place of learning dedicated to peace, love and international understanding. To Malibu Canyon dwellers and parks service officials, it is a major threat to one of the most beautiful undeveloped areas left in the Santa Monica Mountains. To its enemies, the university is an outpost for one of the richest, most powerful and potentially dangerous cult in the world today."

Throughout the years, park agencies have watched this unique land pass from owner to owner, while they struggled to find the money to buy it. Park officials say that because other open space lands have been gobbled up by development, acquisition of this site is urgent. A multi-agency land swap was proposed, but found unacceptable by SULA.

Soka has used its vast wealth to stave off any government options of acquisition through eminent domain. By bidding \$56 million (apparently double the current value) for the property, which was targeted for parkland acquisition, Soka may have made it impossible for park agencies to condemn the land. Current regulations do not allow eminent domain acquisitions to pay more than fair market value for lands.

SULA and its parent organization Nichiren Shoshu of America or NSA, have developed a broad following. Well-placed contributions woo U.S. politicians. (Continued on page 3)

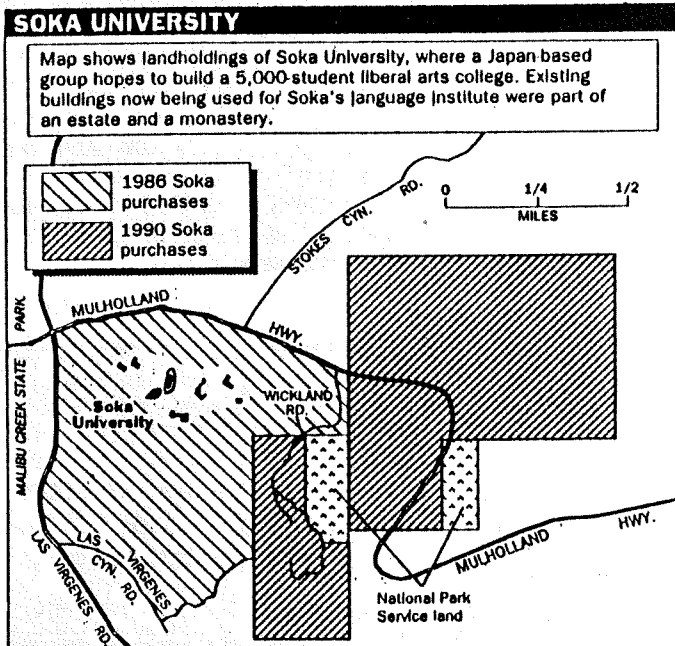


Diagram showing SULA property location and relation to state and national park lands.

## CSPRA Address Change November 1, 1991

The address for CSPRA, *CAL Ranger*, and the *Newsletter* will change on November 1 to **P O Box 292010, Sacramento, CA 95829-2010.**

**THE CALIFORNIA  
STATE PARK RANGERS  
ASSOCIATION**

A professional association.

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**SAVE BODIE!** and all other  
committees use CSPRA address.  
\*\*\*\*\*

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

### Closures, Cutbacks, Consolidation and Concessions

The new departmental administration will have to immediately give serious consideration to an assortment of programs to solve, or at least temporarily alleviate, our fiscal problems.

Closures, which we all talk about, have been a no-no in the recent Departmental hierarchy's thinking. But if the money problem isn't solved, maybe it should be used not only to save money but to finally notify the public that we really are in trouble. Nothing new in that idea, but we may need to really do it this time. And close some important units that would save money and cause a public outcry.

We need to make certain that at least skeleton staffing stays at the park units to protect the irreplaceable resources and the infrastructure.

We shouldn't have to face cutbacks with all the vacancies that we've carried for a very long time. But the economy in California only worsens. The administration gets more upset, and lay-offs are a part of their agenda. Why doesn't the Department get, on an emergency basis, some of the Tobacco Tax Money (Proposition 99) to protect some of the interpretive and resource positions? That's what the money was voted for by the public.

There is a lot of talk about consolidating districts and even regions. There might be some monetary savings by doing this, but savings should not be the driving force behind this movement. Knee-jerk reaction to fiscal crisis should not force combinations of districts that result in an impossible management situation. Proposals like these should be looked at in a rational manner that allows for continual proper management that serves the public and protects park integrity.

Everyone needs to look at the system to see where new concessions or expanded services by existing concession operations fit into the overall park picture. If each district came up with an increase of only \$10,000 per year, that would put a considerable amount of money into our ROC's. But here too we must be cautious to ensure that we don't step outside our basic mission statement and demean our principles and jeopardize the resources.

The possibility of giving away the operation of park units may also be a serious issue with a new leadership. The age-old scheme to transfer control of Del Norte, Jedediah Smith and Prairie Creek Redwoods State Parks to the National Park Service is already being hinted at. And funding seems to be the driving force behind this thinking.

(Continued on back page)

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The NEWSLETTER'S Editor is Doug Bryce; contributing editors and authors are as noted. Articles are welcome, 1000 words or less. All submissions become the property of CSPRA and may be edited without notice. **The deadline for articles is the 15th of the month prior to publication.**

## Santa Monica Mountains (Continued from page 1)

and are commonly used to garner endorsements and enhance their respectability.

Public figures on record congratulating NSA include George Bush, Jimmy Carter and Ted Kennedy.

High-profile followers include Manuel Noriega, Wayne Shorter, Herbie Hancock, Tina Turner and Patrick Duffy. Los Angeles Mayor Tom Bradley received \$13,700 in cash from NSA, however had to return it due to state regulations prohibiting political contributions from a tax-exempt religious organization.

One of the issues for the National Park Service is that the SULA site is on the corner of Las Virgenes and Mulholland Roads, the gateway to Santa Monica Mountains, and the ideal location for a multi-agency visitor center and administrative complex. The map shows basic property relationships between Soka University, DPR's Malibu Creek and NPS.

Soka University has countered with a tempting "shared use" proposal, along with a hefty gift of a \$1 million maintenance endowment fund and 71 acres of land along the portion facing Malibu Creek State Park, valued by SULA at \$12 million. To top it off, it would pay for the construction of a 15,000-square-foot, \$2.5 million "landmark visitor center and headquarters" and donate it to park agency use.

Meetings between park officials and SULA continue. SULA seems resolute in its goal to place a major university campus in the key Santa Monica Mountains

for various park and law enforcement organizations around the country each year. We spent four hours in the classroom learning about transmission lockup speed, when to use 2WD, 4HI, N, and 4Low, the difference between open and limited-slip differentials, winch operations, and general driving tips and techniques.

Out in the field at Metcalf Motorcycle Park in San Jose, we practiced these techniques in our 4WD patrol trucks. During the course, I jotted down some good ideas, many of which reminded me of my EVOC (emergency vehicle operation course) days in BVST #3.

--Take your time, don't rush into anything, and when in doubt, stop and evaluate the situation.

--Use four-wheel drive once you're off the pavement; don't wait until you get stuck.

--Use 4Low when off road and going less than 35 mph; the low gear gives you higher rpms and thus more power and is easier on the transmission.

--Whenever possible, go straight up or straight down a hill avoid getting sideways.

--If you do get sideways, let off the brake and straighten out (locked up wheels in a skid cannot steer).

--If the angle of the hill is too steep to see over the hood, roll down the window, stick your head out and follow the berm or road edge.

--Spinning tires and locked up wheels are to be avoided.

### RANGER LOGO



The course will be POST certified in the future, and I recommend it to anyone who uses a four-wheel drive or owns one. This is a beginner's course, but Josh Hall offers advanced courses through his own company.

### West Valley College Four-wheel Drive And Winch Operation Class

by Kevin Joe, SPR I, Mendocino District

On 6/24-25/91 I participated in a four-wheel drive and winch operation class which was taught through West Valley College's Park Management program in San Jose. There was no specialized training in my district covering this topic and no training funds available, so with the help of a CSPRA scholarship, I paid the \$95.00 course fee and joined rangers from DPR, Mid-Peninsula Open Space, USFS, NPS, and Santa Clara County for this two-day class.

The course was taught by well known off-road racer Josh Hall. Josh conducts about 15 of these classes

## The Art Of Making A Wooden Bow

by Jon Muench

After a couple of years of trial and error and scores of failed attempts at making traditional Indian bows, I decided that it was time to take a class from some experts. It is not that I couldn't copy the design and style of a bow from pictures in a book. That was relatively easy. But I kept making bows that would either break in the middle of an interpretive program, or that wouldn't shoot well, leaving me unable to give the impression that Native American bows were as well crafted as any modern bow, and just as deadly.

So I went to Texas last summer and took a week-long class from two of the best bowers in the country, Jim Hamm and Ron Hardcastle. Jim wrote the book, "Bows and Arrows of the Native Americans," and produced an excellent video on the subject. Ron made all the bows and arrows for the movie, "Lonesome Dove." Both of them have made hundreds of bows professionally for years.

The course was outstanding. You can read all the books in the world and still not come to understand all the subtle mechanics involved in bow construction. Much of this learning process comes from the physical endeavor itself.

For example, one of the problems of bending a piece of wood is that it will break if bent too far. To maximize the wood's ability to bend, you learn to stay within one growth ring on the outside or "back" of the bow when you build it. Cutting through the growth ring would give the bow a weak place to start breaking, and it would snap if pulled too far. I learned that you have to "listen" to the wood as you scrape it, and you have to watch for subtle color changes as you go. You need to develop a "feeling" as you tiller your bow, for each piece of wood is irregular and cannot be identical to another. Thus, each has its own particular character that governs much of its construction.

The Native American Indian understood this well, and the art of bow making was handed down from father to son, and it was based on thousands of years of experience. In modern times the art was all but lost, except for a few people like Jim Hamm and others who have collected every bit of available information on the subject and tried to pass it on through their own books and classes. Thus, I was able to gain information through this course that would have taken me a lifetime to learn on my own.

Tim Baker of Oakland, California, is another good resource. He has taken a more scientific approach to the old art in that he is recording every piece of information that he observes as he makes a bow (and he's made over 400 bows). He studies their shooting characteristics and charts them on graphs. He uses a chronograph to determine the speed of the arrow in flight, a gauge to analyze the moisture content of the wood, and scales and other instruments to record the bow's shooting strength.

If you are interested in learning how to make your own bow for interpretive programs, or just for fun, Tim Baker, Joe DaBill, and I have begun teaching classes at the "Old Ways" seminars at Henry Cowell State Park in the fall and spring. The course lasts three days and costs about \$100.00, which includes all the materials you need. Contact Myra Angel at the Santa Cruz Mountains Natural History Association for details at 408/335-3174.

## Humor In Unicorn

by Jeff Price

With a sharp-tongued retort, and a hi-oh Silver we enter the seventeenth column of Mixed Metaphors and Malaprops: "She really blew my bubble with that comment."

Maintain the precarious balance in world events, but with a twig?: "Yes, that did happen, but let me tell you my end of the stick..."

What do you call ten thousand attorneys at the bottom of a frozen lake? For most of us, "A good start," but in this case: "...and I think you are on thin legal ice." Staying with the cold, reaction to the Director's order in April: "A freeze? But we have so many people vacant!"

The supervisor's response to a half-baked idea: "...and you can just flush that down in a hand basket."

Speaking of half-baked, how about just-picked?: "...we have already discussed that option, so let me put some fresh fruit for thought on the table."

When he felt it really was none of the other guy's business: "Well, it's no skin off your tooth."

Alas, we close, but remember what she said after the bad news of yet another Department budget cut and a projection of an even larger State deficit: "That really hits us by the throat in the seat of our pants."



**1992 CSPRA/PRAC Workshop Conference**  
**March 16 - 19, 1992**  
**Inn at The Park**  
**Anaheim**

*Parks in the 90s*

*The Future Is Here*

**An ideal blend of educational sessions, tours and fun!**

**3 Tracks:**

Resource Management  
Interpretation  
Park Operations

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**Debate: Park Boundaries  
& Beyond — Discussion  
of pressures from  
population explosion.**

**Two Key Speakers**

**Banquet**

**Golf Tournament**

**Dancing**

**Receptions**

**Post Conference Tours:**

Disneyland  
Queen Mary & Spruce  
Goose  
Nixon Library  
... and much more

5¢  
HOW SOME VIEW  
CHANGE

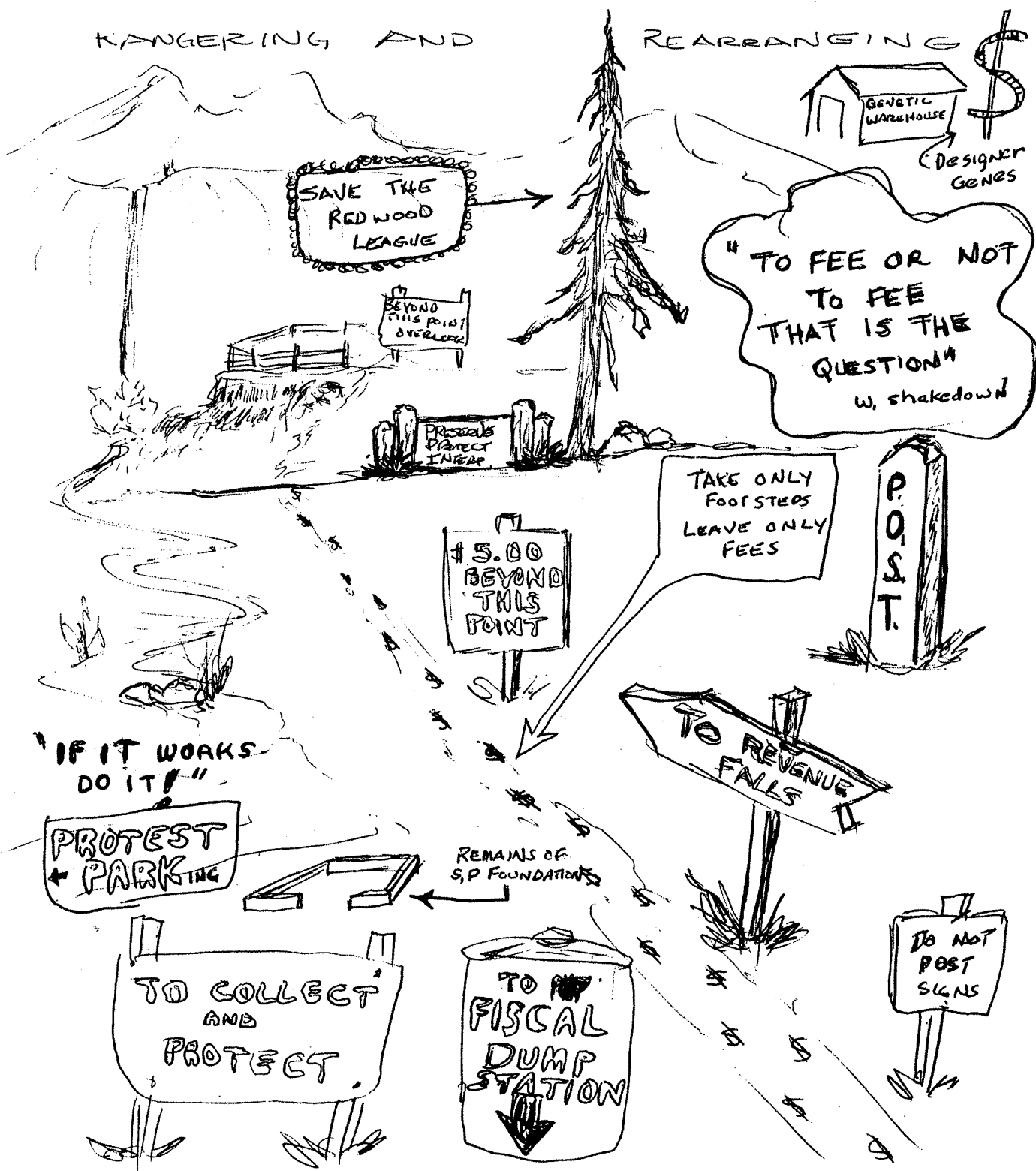
# CALIFORNIA STATE PARKS



## 125 YEARS OF

### KANGERING AND

### REARRANGING



One persons response to the 125th celebration.

## **Resource Conservation Agenda**

**by Rick LeFlore**

CSPRA has developed and adopted a far-reaching resource conservation agenda that will be pursued within the association, as well as in our dealings with the Department of Parks And Recreation. CSPRA feels DPR, as a highly visible resource management department, is woefully deficient in practicing and promoting resource conservation strategies. If McDonalds and Burger King can cut back their landfill contributions, then why not good ol' DPR? As a new state parks administration emerges, we will be pursuing these goals as critical steps DPR needs to take as environmental issues continue impacting park resources.

### **CSPRA Resource Conservation Agenda**

**Goal: to formulate and promote resource conservation strategies within the association as well as in the Department of Parks and Recreation.**

#### **CSPRA**

1. Spearhead DPR leadership to adopt and promote departmentwide recycling program and other resource conservation strategies.

2. Use recycled paper products whenever feasible for association paper flow.

3. Allow CSPRA Newsletter to run ongoing section on recycling efforts throughout DPR.

4. Serve as conduit of information regarding environmentally sound products and procedures. Likewise, serve as whistleblower for questionable products and procedures seeing use in the department.

5. Seek legislative support, if necessary, to encourage the participation of DPR in recycling programs.

6. Conduct forum at next CSPRA conference of recycling experts, park staff running successful programs, and DPR leadership, in an effort to formulate recycling strategies and awareness.

#### **DPR**

1. Tie "Take Pride in California" programming into a departmental leadership program for recycling and resource conservation.

2. Pursue appropriate levels of support to establish visitor-serving recycle programs at all districts.

3. Establish waste paper recycling programs at departmental offices, maintenance areas, and workplaces.

4. Work with Department of General Services to establish "environmentally correct" purchase items, such as recycled paper products and goods; purchase such items on a priority basis.

5. Work with Department of Conservation staff to develop an "environmental audit" of DPR practices and procedures. Develop timetable to initiate recommendations.

6. Promote the use of electronic mail to replace large amounts of paper flow within DPR.

7. Eliminate or reduce the use of petroleum-based inks, paints and stains in signs, building maintenance, and graphic materials throughout the department.

8. Install vapor recovery systems on all departmental gas pumps.

9. Concessions Office should work with Department of Conservation to develop list of environmentally inappropriate items for sale by concessionaires; develop timetable for phase out and language in contracts to forbid their sale.

10. Ensure that biodegradable plastic bags are used for lining trash cans and clean-up use.

11. Convene multi-level departmental task force to develop policies and recommendations for reducing waste products and for the substitution of more ecologically sound products when alternatives are available for regularly purchased items.

12. Require special event permits to include language that requires the use of recyclable and environmentally sound products and materials, as well as the banning of unsound practices, such as the release of helium balloons.

13. Incorporate the need for resource conservation/recycling strategies throughout departmental interpretive programming (tie to Take Pride in California).

14. Actively pursue biological diversity principles throughout departmental resource management planning.

15. Plan future park acquisitions, developments, and facilities to minimize the use of internal combustion engine based access and/or recreation.

16. Actively participate in, and promote, bio-regional approaches to land management with public and private sectors.

17. Promote and practice water conservation efforts at all park units.



## Issue Memo Available

Members have asked about the 17-page memo which the CSPRA Board of Directors sent to Secretary for Resources Douglas Wheeler early last February. The content of this memo was then discussed with Wheeler in a one-hour meeting. This memo discussed a wide range of problems and opportunities with which the Department must deal, and made many suggestions for desirable actions by the Secretary and the new departmental director, whenever this person is finally appointed.

Members who would like a copy of this memo may have a copy by making their request to CSPRA, P O Box 28366, Sacramento, 95828-0366. (916) 383-2530

## New Members

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

William N. Lindemann, Curator, Sierra District

### President's Message Continued

Morale is already low enough. Giving up these magnificent parks cannot be a serious consideration at this time.

We all need to get involved in these processes —

individually and collectively. The decisions that will be made in the next few months are ones that we'll have to live with for many years. And some may be absolutely irreversible.

## October 1991

### Calendar

Nominating Committee Meeting  
101 J St, Old Sacramento  
12 noon - 1 pm, 10/10/91

Deadline for Honorary Member  
nominations 11/1/91

Elections 11/91

\*Board Meeting 12/7/91  
Sacramento Host Inn 9:00 -

New officers take office 3/92

**1992 Annual Workshop, Inn  
at The Park — Anaheim  
3/16 - 19, 1992**

\* Call to verify time and  
place of board meeting.

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