

NEWSLETTER

california state park rangers association

Volume VI Number 50

October 1993

Honorary Membership Nominations

Who?

"An Honorary Member may be any person who, for distinguished service devoted to the objectives of the Association, is nominated by a member of any membership class and approved by a two thirds vote of the board." Section 6, Article 4 of the Constitution of CSPRA.

How?

By placing in nomination a person whose distinguished services meet the following criteria:

1. The individual shall have contributed in an outstanding or extraordinary manner, or to an unusual degree, to the advancement of the State Park concept, the profession of State Park Ranger, public service within State Parks, or in the field of ecology as it affects the park system or the public use of parks.

2. This service or action is to be beyond that in which the individual would normally have accomplished as part of his job or responsibility.

3. The service may not necessarily be of state or national importance, but it is to be judged on its own merit and degree of contribution.

4. Normally, the recommendation would be made during the person's lifetime.

(Continued on page 5)

"Environmental Disaster in Paradise"

Editor's note: The following editorial is reprinted from Pagosa Country magazine (Summer 1993). The author is Norm Vance who graciously agreed to let CSPRA share it with our members. Thank you, Kim Preston, for sending it (and for donating to Save Bodie!).

It must have been a curious sight as Madam and Pierre Curie rolled into the Telluride, Colorado area in the late 1800s. They had traveled by ship, railroad, and finally horse drawn wagon to reach the San Juan Mountains.

(Continued on page 6)

Dates To Remember

Mono Lake State Water Resources Control Board hearings on water level for Mono Lake. (Call the Mono Lake Committee for more information (619) 647-6595 and then attend the hearing and support a level of 6,390 feet for a minimum level.

October 4, 1993 Los Angeles
UCLA's Ackerman Student Union
1:00 - 5:00 and 7:00 - 9:00 pm.

October 5 Mammoth Lakes
USFS Auditorium
3:00 - 5:00 and 7:00 - 9:00 pm.

October 22, 1993 Sacramento
Resources Agency Auditorium
2:00 - 5:00 and 7:00 - 9:00 pm.

The Biswell Symposium: Fire Issues and Solutions in Urban Interface and Wildland Ecosystems. February 15-17, 1994, 9:00 - 5:00 daily at the Marriott — Walnut Creek. For more information call (800) 752-0881.

On The Inside

President's
Message page 2

Retirees' Ramblings
page 3 & 4

Skiing page 5

Positions available
page 6

President's Message

Election time is nearing, and with it the approach of the end of my term. It is too early to consider myself as a lame duck, but it is very nearly too late to consider major initiatives, substantive changes, and drastic actions. Very nearly, but **not quite!**

More than once, I've heard the criticism that CSPRA has become a management run organization. There is a perception that, while the membership is made up of all levels of park service employees, it is the supervisors and superintendents who run things. Of course, being neither, I debate that point, and also hasten to point out that our board has had as many Ranger 1 members as superintendents over the past few years. But the opinion has some merit in one sense — I no longer believe that it is possible for just anyone to become the president of CSPRA and do an effective job. Aside from individual talents and abilities, he or she must possess two other qualities that give an unfair advantage to a few members over the rest of us. The demands of the job require so much time in Sacramento that only someone who is located nearby can do this without hardship; and the short notice of many duties give an unfair advantage to those who are sufficiently autonomous to establish their own work schedule. In other words, most of us are not in position, either logistically or organizationally, to serve as president.

To me, the best solution is to redefine the role of the president, so that the position is not the sole, or even primary, representative of CSPRA to the public, to the department, to the legislature, or to other agencies and bodies. The president and the board should give direction to CSPRA, together they should establish policy and purpose, but neither, most especially the president, should be expected to conduct the day to day enactment of those actions.

I am proposing to the board that the upcoming ballot include a proposal to shift the organizational structure of CSPRA to one modeled after the Save-The-Redwoods League, in which administrative responsibility rests not with the policy making president and board, but with the executive secretary. The "ES" does not run the organization, but is primarily responsible for assuring that the business of the League is carried out. The president represents the League at various functions, meetings, and events, but the ES does also. The ES does not function independently, but acts with the authority of the board and president to carry out their directives.

Does this limit the authority and responsibility of the presidency? Yes, it does. But it also removes many of the problems associated with giving so much power to an elected, volunteer officer: the lack of continuity from president to president; the disenfranchisement of interested and capable members who are too far away from the "work-site;" and the favorable status given to members in a better position to regulate and budget their time. Yet being the president of CSPRA would still be, a challenging, rewarding, and ultimately fulfilling experience — all the more so because this new structure would give the president the satisfaction of knowing that the business of the organization is being conducted effectively and efficiently.

Fortunately, we are in a good position to make such a change, since we have the valuable service of Doug Bryce available to us. Doug fully understands the relationship that would need to be maintained between an executive secretary and the elected officers, and I am fully confident that with his assistance, CSPRA would be much better served.

At the same time, our development of local representatives at each district should strengthen the organization by providing new opportunities for participation, new sources of ideas, and more efficient communication of problems and issues.

CSPRA will be best served when all members feel they have the opportunity to participate at any and all levels. Up to now, such opportunities have been lacking, but I believe that these proposed changes, when initiated, will meet this need.

To me, the best solution is to redefine the role of the president, . . .

. . . development of local representatives at each district should strengthen the organization by providing new opportunities for participation, new sources of ideas, and more efficient communication of problems and issues.

Retirees' Ramblings'

Edward A. Earl

Many retired California State Park people enjoy living in Oregon. Many of us were invited to enjoy the fine company of Retired Park Employees and families at the North Coast group in California. We looked around to find many retired California Park people are here in Oregon. A few years ago we started our get-together luncheons.

Some of the regulars at our luncheons now living in the Rogue Valley area, Southern Oregon are Jim and Jane Hibel, Bill and Lois Williams, Jack and Ruth Sutton, Bob and Jean McKinnon, Darrell and Phyllis Knoeffler, Dee Weatherbee, Bob Perkins, and Bob and Eleanor Pugh. Also it is our pleasure to have Jack and Virginia Schlotter and Bob and Caroline Allen join us from Igo, CA (Redding country), Glen and Claire La Vine, Cottage Grove, Or., George and Betty Weldon, Rainier, Or., and Eric Leffinwell, Lakeview, Or. have joined us occasionally.

We hear rumors that Cliff Wade, Dick McKillop, Fred B. Meyers, Jim Hart and C. V. McMillian are here or will be moving to Oregon. We will be happy to have them and any other retired Cal. Park people join our group.

We have set dates for our luncheons making it fairly easy to remember the dates, they are; the 3rd Wednesday of May as well as the 3rd Wednesday of October. The luncheons are held most often in Grants Pass.

To all other California Park Retirees traveling into Oregon at our luncheon dates — you are welcome to join us. Stop by to say hello and enjoy a fine lunch with us.

Bob Perkins

I continue to live my life "on the edge!" Flew to Clear Lake for Float Plane certification and I now have four hours aerobatics. Am going to participate in Air Show (Cave Junction, OR.) Sept. 4th! I'm one of the "late bloomers." I have flown my Cardinal 177/A to Mexico twice, and last October to Kitty Hawk, N.C.

Sam Bitting

Moved to Oregon in January to be near our daughter Jan and family but her husband, who was laid off in September, will soon be employed in Mid-West or Tenn. He had an excellent chance of

going to L. A. but Yuk! So we may be moving to N. C. Mtns. or Indiana. Betty has had serious problems since a non-paralyzing stroke a few months prior to retirement.

Jim Neal

This finally caught up with us at our daughter Kelley's home near Pittsburg, PA. Bev and I had a great trip through the states in the deep south. We have now pulled our 5th wheel travel trailer through all of the states except Hawaii. We plan to be home about September 1st, in plenty of time for the McConnell Rendezvous. Hope to see you there.

Jim Stewart

This letter caught up with us in Homer, Alaska, and we are now in Skagway. My grandfather was here in the gold rush of 1898 so we are visiting all the places he went, and I'm revisiting Fairbanks, Alaska, where I served in the Air Force in 1956-1957. The last couple of years we have been spending more time in our vacation trailer than at home. What a blessing retirement has been! We plan on seeing you at the Retirees' Rendezvous. It sounds like fun.

Bud Heacox

Howdy and Aloha-
Have been seeing many of the park retirees at our Sacramento gatherings of Pots (parks old timers) which meets about 3-4 times a year usually at the Carmichael Elks Clubhouse. However, on Tuesday, Sept. 21, we are having an afternoon picnic event at Marshall Gold Discovery SHP. For more information on this illustrious organization, call Inez Cook (916) 421-4606 or drop her a line at 1796 Armington Ave., Sacramento, CA 95832-1128. I'm still keeping busy at the Sacramento Blood Center and Sutter Memorial Hospital (surgery-workroom). Last spring, on a mobile blood drive to the El Dorado County Building in Placerville, I registered Wes Cater's oldest son Ken, a first-time donor. He is chief probation officer for El Dorado County. Small world! I hope this finds you and yours doing well.

Chuck Lyden

Recently I drove over Tioga Pass and onto Bishop for the semi annual retired rangers golf tournament hosted by Louie Wakefield. We had two beautiful days of golf. Interestingly, I happened upon Wes and Celeste Cater who were camped at Bishop Creek Campground. Wes guided (Continued on page 4)

CSPRA

Bob Perkins

I continue to live my life "on the edge!"

Jim Stewart

What a blessing retirement has been!

Retirees Ramblins (Continued from page 3)

me to North Lake and coached me in the art of trout fishing and limiting out within two hours! Attending were Louis Wakefield, Wes and Celeste Cater, Bob Isenor, Ron and Judy McCall, Jim and Jari Tucker, Steve Long and Greg Booth. Everyone had a great time. I'm looking forward to the up-coming rendezvous in October. I've enclosed a news article on Bodie from an area paper for your information. Best regards.

Herman Schlerf

Not much new up here in Oregon. Life is hard — between kokanee fishing at O'Dell Lake, shad fishing on the Umpqua, clam digging at Charleston and crab catching at Winchester Bay. I just don't know if we are going to have enough strength left for salmon fishing when the season reopens in about two weeks. And, if that isn't enough to poop you out, a friend wants to take me out striped bass fishing on the Smith River, at night yet! I know it's tough but I guess somebody's got to do it. Come see us and bring a fishing pole.

Kirby Morgan

Effective Aug. 1, 1993 we will have a new residence address: Kirby and Carol Morgan, 45323 Park Sierra Dr. #537, Coarsegold, CA 93614-9109, 209-658-8696, EXT 537. This is a park for RVs (fulltimers) and has mail forwarding when we are on the road. Don't know if I will get a letter off to you as this is our last day of rest, as we go to Grass Valley from Donnor Preserve (Cisco Grove, CA) tomorrow and start our move to Coarsegold. We currently plan to be at McConnell.

Bill Dillinger

I had an article in the July-Aug. issue of Audubon Magazine — also one in Hawaii Magazine — there's life after retirement. Working on vehicle registration initiative to raise \$ for park operations, through League of California SP Non-Profits. Hope it flies!

Carl A. Anderson

Lee and I spend our time traveling a bit (no more trips out of U.S. A.) golfing, fishing, fooling around and enjoying life. Things are going well for us and hopefully all other State Park Retirees.

Jack Stowe

We've been on vacation since June 10, Florida, Michigan, Iowa, Canada. Saw Jim Neal in Nevada. Will try to get to McConnell.

"Humor In Unicorn"

by Jeff Price

The real cause of our budget woes. "What can you do with shrinking money?"

A high octane solution. "A sure proof system."

When the orator was rudely interrupted . . . "Excuse me, I believe I've got the table."

Not direct evidence so it must be hearsay. ". . . heard it out of the corner of my ear."

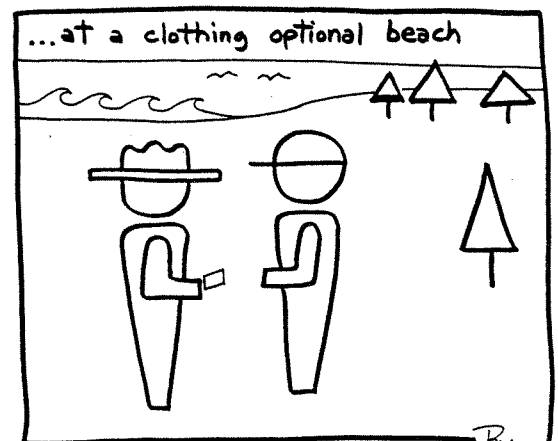
Now that is some eclipse. "It was so dark, you could cut it with a knife."

So, Perry Mason, what do you think your chances are in court? "I think we have him this time, it is an iron and closed case."

Carl A. Anderson

Things are going well for us and hopefully all other State Park Retirees.

RANGER LOGO



"NOPE, THIS PASS IS NOT GOOD FOR THIS BEACH... YOU NEED A GOLDEN BARE PASS HERE."

Honorary Membership (Continued from page 1)

What?

Compose a letter, including the name, address, and telephone number of the person, the date and place of birth, the educational and/or service background and listing the specific accomplishments which you believe qualifies him/her for the Honorary Membership.

When?

Now, complete and sign, along with other participating members, the letter, or letters, of nomination and mail to Mary Wright, Monterey District, 2211 Garden Road, Monterey, CA 93940. Nominations received later than 12/1/93 will not be considered for this year's award. Do it early!



Time To Prepare For Skiing by John Kolsrud

Now is the time for you to start preparing for the International Police Winter Games (March in Lake Tahoe) or just ski season in general.

Robert Leiterman and I both would be happy to do racing workshops for interested competitors.

John Kolsrud
433 Martinelli St
Watsonville, CA 95076



CSPRA

Photo Captions

Haul'n The Hardware — Big Sur Ranger I Robert Leiterman was 3 for 3 in the medals department last year. Leiterman has quickly become DPR's top Nordic racer!

Three Amigos — the past 4 years Ranger John Kolsrud (Santa Cruz) left, Roger Biggs (retired London, England Metro PD) center, and Jeff Bosch (San Francisco PD) right, have had a friendly competition in the International Police Winter Games. Kolsrud and Biggs have both been Alpine/Nordic combined champions.



Positions Available

Wanted: Motivated State Park Ranger or Lifeguard with interest in working as a State Park Ranger I in an outstanding natural resource unit. Applicant will have the opportunity to attend training programs to develop or increase efficiency in technical rock climbing and caving. This position will be assigned to Providence Mountains SRA and Mitchell Caverns Natural Preserve. The ranger will search for possible new caverns throughout the area, re-institute the big-horn sheep count, work closely with the resource ecologist in protecting natural resources, and work with service center specialists and others in the development and implementation of an extensive cave restoration project. This is a remote assignment. The ranger will report to the Superintendent, Mojave Desert Sector, and work closely with a Park Maintenance Worker II, Park Interpretive Specialist and Park Aid. This position will be advertised in the opportunity bulletin and filled on a seniority basis as specified in the Unit 7 contract. If you have any questions, please contact Vic Maris, Superintendent, or Craig Mattson, Supervising Ranger, Mojave Desert Sector, 1051 Avenue M, Suite 201, Lancaster, CA 93534. (805) 942-0662.

Wanted: Motivated interpreter with an interest in working as Interpretive Coordinator for the Mojave Desert Sector. This position will work primarily in the fall, winter and spring for approximately 1500 hours per year. The position will be filled on a seasonal basis as a Park Interpretive Specialist Seasonal (\$9.16 Hr). This position will provide interpretive programs, develop a sector-wide newspaper, coordinate volunteer efforts, make public service announcements, develop audio-visual programs, work on special events, conduct research, and assist in planning major visitor centers and education centers. The position will be assigned to the Mojave Desert Sector Office. Interviews will be held October 8, 1993. Trailer pads are available for housing, or very affordable housing is available in the local community. If you are interested, please contact Vic Maris, Superintendent, Mojave Desert Sector, 1051 Avenue M, Suite 201, Lancaster, CA 93534. (805) 942-0662.

Paradise (Continued from page 1)

They had travelled from Paris, France, the Mecca of art, culture and science of that day. The San Juan at that time was in the classic period of the Colorado Gold Rush. It was the wild west and dandies from Paris were out of place.

Miners were constantly dirty as they spent long days digging and hauling dirt out of mines. The dirt was thrown downhill or piled into huge mounds just outside of the mine shaft. There are dozens of old tin type photographs showing miners lounging or having meals sitting on these piles of earth.

In reality the miners mined dirt far more than they mined gold. It took weeks and months of moving waste dirt to get to small deposits of gold.

Madam and Pierre Curie shocked the mining community when they offered to purchase several piles of this waste earth. Furthermore, they actually paid to have the dirt wagoned, trained, and shipped back to Paris.

Marie and Pierre were brilliant people who came together in marriage and careers as scientists. They entered a study on the beginning edge of a totally new science. Mysterious effects had been noticed coming from new elements. These mysterious effects were to be a life study of the Curies.

To look for new elements, the Curies needed to look deep within the earth. A place where earth was being hauled up from deep below the surface was the San Juan Mountains. The Curies hauled the raw earth to Paris, refined it, and discovered radium. The mysterious effect was given the name "radioactivity" by Marie Curie.

This discovery led to an entirely new and fundamentally different way of looking at ourselves and the universe. Medical x-ray was an early use of radioactivity and everything that we know about atomic structure, nuclear energy and all related fields came from this discovery.

Unfortunately, there were effects of radium and other radioactive elements
(Continued on page 7)

"Paradise" (Continued from page 6)

that were more mysterious than others. It took decades to define that radiation damages the human body by causing cancer and disease.

There is an obelisk monument in Europe with the engraved names of Madam and Pierre Curie and many other early radiation scientist. They died early and painful deaths from the effects of exposure to radioactive elements. It is certain that many miners also suffered such a fate. We can look back, with sympathy, and agree that they just didn't know the dangers until it was too late.

It is now a century later. We have enormously expanded our knowledge and wisdom. One would think that we would know better than to handle extremely dangerous chemistry in irresponsible ways. Yet, as news of an ecological disaster at Summitville gold mine trickled out during the last few months, we pause and ask just how much smarter and full of wisdom are we.

Summitville is a few miles south of Wolf Creek Pass, east of Pagosa Springs. It was the second gold strike and settled town in Southwest Colorado. The mine has been closed and reopened several times in the last century. In 1984 a company, Galactic Resources, was given a permit to use "cyanide heap-leach technology" to extract both gold and silver from ore. The mine was reopened. It closed December, 1991 after 294,465 ounces of gold and 319,814 ounces of silver were extracted.

In 1986 it was discovered that cyanide (this is the stuff used to execute death penalty criminals) was leaking from the heap-leach field. Did the state stop the process at this dangerous point? No, the state allowed the process to continue until Galactic went bankrupt and its operators left the country. This year the Environmental Protection Agency took over the site. As of April 1993, it has cost four million dollars, and is costing at the rate of \$33,000 a day, and may cost sixty million to finish the job of clean up. Who is it costing? Us.

The other cost is the actual environmen-

tal damage. Where will it end? So far river life has been decimated for seventeen miles and downstream farm irrigation systems are contaminated. Ultimately this small mountain stream enters the Rio Grande, crosses New Mexico and exits into the Gulf of Mexico.

It does not take a "rocket scientist" to grasp the fundamentals involved here. How much intelligence does it take to recognize that putting a pond filled with cyanide at the absolute head waters of a water way that will flow for a thousand miles across this country, is not a clever idea! It was stunningly stupid to have a Colorado Mined Land Reclamation Board and Staff who Gov. Romer has said was not "technically qualified to review the mining operation". It is even more mind numbing to consider that a cyanide heap-leach operation can be an acceptable idea under any circumstances!

For one hundred years we have put very potent poisons on the land in the San Juan Mountains allowing wind and water erosion to spread it. The long term point here is that neither Marie and Pierre Curie or the miners did not could not have known of the dangers of radioactivity. The governor, the state legislature, the various government agencies, and the people at Galactic all knew of the potential dangers involved in cyanide leaching.

On a higher level I would call for a total revamping of our thinking about the use of our earth and, in particular, this beautiful area. Vice-President Gore has taken ridicule for being a "radical environmentalist." Perhaps it is good to have such a person in power if we still have incompetence and non-caring in government and the private sector.

On a responsible level I call for the resignation, electoral defeat or firing of every governmental official on whose watch this disaster occurred.

On a pure "grunt" level I would like to take them all, along with Galactic officials, down the beautiful Alamosa River Valley and force feed them a glass of river water. I would like to watch beads of perspiration grow on worried brows as they realize in a real personal way what they have allowed.

CSPRA

On a pure "grunt" level I would like to take them all, along with Galactic officials, down the beautiful Alamosa River Valley and force feed them a glass of river water.

**The California State Park
Rangers Association
A professional association.**

Office Manager - Newsletter Editor

Doug Bryce
P.O. Box 292010
Sacramento, CA 95829-2010
Local and outside California
(916) 558-3734
Long distance (800) 994-2530
FAX (916) 387-1179

President

Wayne Harrison
Associate State Park Resource Ecologist
Calaveras Big Trees
(209) 795-2334

Vice President

Rick Sermon
District Superintendent
Asilomar State Beach
(408) 372-4087

Secretary/Treasurer

Adrian Itaya
Four Rivers District
State Park Ranger 1
(209) 826-1196

Calendar

**Fall Workshop
Monterey Bay
Wilder Ranch
10/15-17/93**

**Nominations
committee meet-
ing —Asilomar
10/18/93**

**Board Meeting —
Asilomar
10/25/93**

**Honorary mem-
bership nomina-
tions due
12/1/93**

**1994 Workshop
Riverside
3/7 - 10/94**

Directors

David A. Nelson
State Park Superintendent
Plumas Eureka SP
(916) 836-2380

Kevin Joe
Ranger I
Russian River-Mendocino District
(707) 877-35920.

Kathryn Yee
State Park Ranger I
Candlestick Point SRA
(415) 557-4069

Save Bodie! and all other
committees use CSPRA address.

**For additional information on the
association, write the
Office Manager.**

The NEWSLETTER (ISSN 0887-9176) is published by CSPRA, P.O. Box 292010, Sacramento, CA 95829. 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.**

October

**See
you
at
the
Fall
Workshop!**

**October 15 — 17
Wilder Ranch**

1993

**California State Park Rangers Association
P. O. Box 292010
Sacramento, CA 95829-2010**

**Bulk Rate
U.S. Postage
Paid
Permit Number
43
Elk Grove, CA**

To: _____



Recycled & Recyclable