

NEWSLETTER

california state park rangers association

Volume VI Number 62

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Getting Connected at the 1995 California Parks Conference

by Steve Oka, SPR I,
Big Basin Redwoods SP

I'm not a very social fellow. I'd rather work a shift alone than attend a meeting, and I'd rather spend a quiet evening with my wife and two dogs than whoop it up at a party. But some social part of me was awakened at the California Parks Conference in Santa Rosa in March. At the conference I got this warm fuzzy feeling that I was part of a larger whole. A larger whole that is working at all levels . . . national, state, county, city and private . . . to preserve and protect park lands.

I suppose it would have been difficult to remain aloof for long given the cohesive atmosphere of the conference. Even I enjoyed meeting people in person whom I previously only knew by name. And it was fun to reminisce with classmates from my ranger cadet class, one of whom I had not seen since we graduated in 1988. There were also some planned social activities including two receptions, a luncheon, a square dance, a fun run and, on the last night, a banquet. Miles Standish and I were proud to represent the District in the fun run by tying for first place.
(Continued on page 3)

Mr. Dave Nelson

Dear Dave:

I wish to extend my personal thanks to CSPRA for the donation of the Stetson to John Dewitt at his testimonial dinner in San Francisco on January 12.

That gift, along with the presence of so many of the rangers who have worked with John over the years, added immeasurably to the quality of that very successful event.

John was deeply moved by the show of love and appreciation given by our personnel and his other friends and colleagues. I deeply appreciate the key role played by CSPRA in making the dinner such a success.

Sincerely,
Donald W. Murphy, Director

Editors note: The Stetson was donated to CSPRA by Ken Jones.

Letter From Darrell Knoefler

I've been looking at a copy of your Newsletter that Bob Perkins brought me. It brought back a few memories. (A "few" memories?) Brother, it brought back a lot of them! Even back to when we were Custodians, Assistant Wardens, and Wardens. And Custodians worked six days a week and our salary was \$120 a month.

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President's Message

Well we had a really great conference in Santa Rosa, . . .

Well we had a really great conference in Santa Rosa, especially considering the rough weather that caused speakers, panel member and attendees (potential) from making it through the flood waters. I was proud of the adaptability that the tract leaders demonstrated in keeping the show going.

So now with two really successful conferences we need to start thinking and working to make next year's Ventura conference equally as good, or better.

When Dave Nelson and I went into the Leagues meeting to give them a welcome we got involved a little deeper. They spent a lot of their conference time in the continuing debate about the contract conflicts. I offered, and the CSPRA board agreed, to have our organization try to be the catalyst to bring both "sides" together and reach a compromise on the contract language so that both the Department and the associations can focus on working together to promote interpretation throughout the park system. Maybe we are biting off more than we can chew, but I feel it is time for us to make this effort. If anyone has any input I'd be pleased to hear about it from you.

I guess a lot of you know that Mike Lynch and I are going to represent the association at the 1st International Rangers Federation Congress in Zaczepa, Poland in May of this year. CSPRA is a member affiliate along with ranger groups from places like Costa Rica, Iceland, Malta and Tasmania to name a few. It's great to see on the membership lists groups such as: The Game Rangers of Africa and the Countryside Rangers of Scotland.

The five day conference will focus on both environmental and cultural programs in parks.

I hope that Mike and I can lay the ground work for participation in this group and that other CSPRA members can attend future international conferences.

We need letters and phone calls on the following legislative bills:

AB-925 (Rainey) — Would make grazing on public lands (read Mt. Diablo) as the primary method of fire prevention. Need to get the bill changed to just make grazing **one** of the methods of fire prevention.

AB-1234 (Cortese) — Spot bill for an approximately \$500 million bond act.

AB-117 (Knowles) — Would open up lion hunting and eliminate habitat land purchases from Proposition 117.

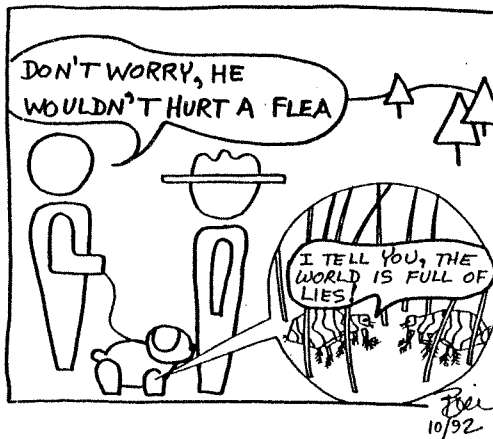
SB-383 (Haynes) — Needs amendment. See article by Scott Nakaji on page 6.

Getting Connected (Continued from page 1)

Talk to Miles for a blow by blow account of that exciting photo finish. There were also opportunities to just sit and chat with fellow employees from our District, something we rarely seem to do when we are at home.

The main activities of the conference consisted of lectures, workshops and field trips. Each day one could choose from between thirteen and nineteen different activities. To illustrate the diversity of topics, here are just three of the many that I attended: a program featuring live bats, a session on trail building, and tips from a district attorney on court room demeanor. There were nearly 50 different break-out sessions offered at the conference. The topics were chosen to cover the general categories of resource management, interpretation, operations, and law enforcement.

RANGER LOGO



Most of the organizations that cosponsored the conference conducted business meetings. For me part of getting connected came from discussing issues and voting on issues at the California State Park Rangers Association (CSPRA) general meeting. A glimpse from the Department's perspective was revealed at a question and answer session conducted by Director Murphy. A broader picture was presented by the luncheon speaker from the Planning and Conservation League. He passionately encouraged our involvement in the legislative battles that lie ahead that will affect all park lands. I found myself feeling good about being connected to a larger picture, and about being part of the efforts that are taking place at all these different levels.

It reminds me of a photo book. The first

photo is a close up of a fly. The next photo reveals that the fly is sitting on a nose. The next photo reveals that the fly is on the nose of a woman who is sitting in a chair. This progression continues ultimately placing the woman on the earth and the earth in the universe. While I busily go about my day to day tasks, job satisfaction is often elusive. It is good to be reminded why I became a ranger in the first place. The reason, I imagine, why many of us in the District have chosen our jobs — because we care about parks and all the critters that live in them. Although I am not a very social fellow, it is comforting to be reminded that we are not alone in the fight, and that our day to day tasks in some small way contribute to the cause.

(Reprinted from the Santa Cruz District newsletter)

Darrell Knoefler (Continued from page 1)

There were eight people in Sacramento, two in the District Office, and the rest were out in the field. Paper work? Nah! Darn little of it. When we were doing some road work at Big Basin Everett Powell, District Superintendent, came down and drove a tractor for us. That left his steno in the office to do all the paper work. Can you picture that now?

And then there was the time we ran a power line up to the old CCC camp. Bill Weatherbee and I did the climbing. My "grunt" was Warden Roy Cushing. Another deal was the building of four houses up at Sky Meadow. We did the work ourselves. Started in the fall and had them finished by spring. We also put in the road, water line, powerline, septic tank and leach field.

How would you have liked to have been there in them thar days? I wonder if there are any of the old gang left. If so, I'd sure like to hear from them. I don't mean the Big Basin gang alone, I'm wondering about those that were park people before WWII.

Yep, them was the days. Campers use to stay all summer. Prices were 50 cents a night, \$10 a month per site - not per vehicle. Some came year after year and holed up in the same sites. We got to know them well and they us.

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CSPRA

**Darrell Knoefler
(Continued from page 3)**

Shucks, I could go rattling on and on now that I've started this! But enough is enough. I just had to write you - been

intending to for two months, but . . . I don't procrastinate, I just delay a little bit.

Good luck, have fun, and keep up the good work. Darrell Knoefler (an old has-been?)

(Darrell remembers a kinder, gentler park system — that few of us can remember)

**PCL Foundation Research
Land Conservation and
Preservation**

(Reprinted from PCL newsletter)

The Packard and True North Foundations have granted PCL Foundation funds to study two important land preservation concepts. The first is the idea of a state tax credit for those who would donate land to state or local agencies for preservation purposes. The second is the idea of slightly raising the cost of registering a car, and using the money for park preservation. Drivers of California registered vehicles would be allowed free entry into California State Parks as a result.

The tax credit study is already in high gear. Executive Director Jerry Meral met with landowner and environmental groups in San Diego and Orange Counties to discuss how the tax credit could be used to preserve lands needed for endangered species in those counties. He and Natural Resources Director Lynn Sadler also met with California Farm Bureau Federation staff to describe how this idea could be used to preserve agricultural lands.

Meral and Sadler also discussed the concept with Resources Undersecretary Mike Mantel who indicated possible Wilson Administration interest in the idea. If the concept is to become a legislative proposal, the governor's support will be crucial.

In addition to meeting with these and other decision makers, Meral and Sadler have contacted the hundreds of land,

conservation groups that supported the CALPAW (Prop. 180) initiative last year, and told them about the concept. The groups are being encouraged to take their assembly members and senators out for a field trip to see the land in their districts that needs to be conserved.

While these trips would not be for lobbying purposes, they could pay important dividends later when lawmakers have to vote on proposals to preserve lands in their districts. Meral and Sadler will be attending some of these trips to meet the legislators in their home districts.

Another important part of the study will be to prepare the best possible draft of a tax credit bill. PCL Foundation has already contacted expert tax attorneys who are willing to donate their time, at least in part, to help prepare a bill.

While no bill has been introduced to implement the tax credit concept, Senator Bill Leonard (R, San Bernardino) has suggested that such a bill be part of the Senate Republican agenda for 1995. Meral and Sadler have also discussed the idea with other legislators and found great interest.

The study of the auto registration fee concept will include documenting the deterioration that is taking place in our State Park System as funds become more and more scarce. Although State Park Director (and PCL Director) Donald Murphy is doing a great job stretching his budget to cover more and more visitor demand, additional funds would make a big difference.

PCLF's Sadler hopes to work with the California State Park Rangers' Association in documenting the problems in our parks, and building the case for the auto registration fee increase.

PCL Foundation Urban Affairs Director Jim Knox and Executive Director Jerry Meral will be studying the possibility of raising the tolls on the seven state owned bridges across San Francisco Bay, and using the money to improve public transportation, thereby reducing congestion on the bridges. The study will consider reasonable increases in tolls, which have not been increased in many years. In fact, in constant dollars, it costs far less to use the Bay Bridge today than it did when the bridge opened nearly 60 years ago.

(continued on page 5)

PCLF Research (Continued from page 4)

The Golden Gate Bridge raised its toll from \$1 to \$3 several years ago, and travel across the bridge was not affected.

This shows that tolls alone may not significantly affect bridge use, but can generate funds to provide alternative means of travel. New bridge toll money could be used to improve BART, A/C Transit bus, CalTrain, San Francisco MUNI, and other light rail and bus service. It would be important to make sure that low income users are not hurt by the toll increase, but surveys show that there are relatively few such users, at least on the Bay Bridge.

Knox and Meral will be meeting with a wide variety of interest groups from around the Bay area, including RAFT (Regional Alliance for Transit), a conservationist sponsored organization devoted to providing transportation alternatives. Meral and Knox have already met with staff of the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) to learn about their own efforts regarding the bridge tolls.

A recent effort by MTC to sponsor a bill to experimentally increase Bay Bridge tolls for congestion management failed to find a legislative sponsor. The PCLF study will be much broader, and may appeal to a more diverse constituency.

California Parks Conference March 11-15, 1996 Holiday Inn — Ventura

Planning to begin in June for next years conference. At least five of the organizations that put this years conference on have expressed some interest in doing it again in 1996.

If you want to be involved call (800) 994-2530 and tell us how you want to help (committee member, worker at conference, speaker, etc.).

Do it today!

CSPRA Membership

The California State Park Rangers Association (CSPRA) has been dedicated to protecting and preserving features of the California State Park System for almost three decades.

Membership is open to all current and retired employees of the California Department of Parks and Recreation.

CSPRA was organized in 1964 by California park professionals as a non-profit, tax-exempt, professional society to encourage quality interpretation, resource management, public protection, maintenance and management of the State Park System.

CSPRA actively promotes advancement of the ideals and philosophy for which state parks were originally founded.

For membership information write: CSPRA, P O Box 292010, Sacramento, CA 95829-2010. (800) 558-3734.



C S P R A



Basic Visitor Services Training — Group 12 Graduation Ceremony — February 17, 1995

Standing (Left to Right) Robert Hillis, Salvador Goshorn, Sheryl Semenza, Charles Bockman, Richard Haydon, Gary Hild, Sue Neary, Steven Hawkins, Kevin Buchanan, Cameron Bowers, Jenny Donovan, Wade Womack, Joe Vialovos, Kevin Whalen, Doreen Ferguson, Allan Wiegman, Shelly Quaid, William Deitchman, Rodolfo Alvarez III, Eugene Cunningham, Mike Martino, Eduardo Guaracha, Lynn Holland, Douglas Bosch, Garratt Aitchison.

Kneeling (Left-Right) Dan Stefanisko, Lori Martin, Lisa Lay, Christina Craig, Kelly Mc Cague, Tameka Mc Cray, Stephen Hopkins, Thomas Smith, Shera Mc Donald, Kimberly Selleck.

Letter on SB 383

March 31, 1995

To: Senator Tom Hayden, Chairman
Senate Natural Resources Committee

From: CSPRA

The California State Park Rangers Association (CSPRA) opposes Senate Bill 383. Although the repeal of the Sunset Legislation of the Off Highway Vehicle Program is supported by CSPRA, there are several problems with the bill that would curtail the ability of the state Off Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation (OHMVR) Division to operate the existing State Vehicular Recreation Areas as well as acquire and develop new Off Highway Vehicle areas in order to meet demographic needs.

There are two provisions in S.B. 383 which CSPRA opposes:

1. Senate Bill 383 proposes that the OHV Commission be given the power to approve all expenditures (capital outlay,

grants, and OHV Division support) proposed for inclusion in the budget of expenditures from the OHV Fund.

Currently, the OHV Commission approves only capital outlay and grant expenditures from the OHV Fund. The OHMVR Division approves support expenditures. The California Department of Parks and Recreation and the OHMVR Division have a contract with the Governor's office and the Legislature and a commitment to operate under a program of Total Quality Management, and Performance Based Budgeting. Customer and legal based direction already provide adequate checks and balances and assure efficient expenditures from the OHV Fund relative to Division support budgets.

Removing the authority of the OHMVR Division and placing it all in the hands of the OHV Commission is not recommended. The current balance of authority that exists between the OHMVR Division and the OHV Commission is healthy for the interests of all OHV enthusiasts. Under this proposal, the OHV Commission (Continued on page 7)

SB 383
(Continued from page 6)

would become a totally controlling body, not the limited power advisory committee that it was intended to be.

2. Senate Bill 383 proposes limiting OHV Fund expenditures for OHMVR Division support to no more than 50% of the OHV Fund, allowing grant expenditures to exceed 50%.

Currently the reverse is true. Grant expenditures are limited to no more than 50% of the OHV Fund expenditures, and support expenditures may exceed 50%.

The proposed changes in Senate Bill 383 are particularly short sighted for the following reasons:

A.. Grant areas are closing or being reduced in size all the time.

B. There is no long term commitment for continued OHV use on grant area lands.

Support funding is vital for the acquisition and development of new State Vehicular Recreation Area as well as the operation of the existing SVRA's. Important points to keep in mind are:

A.. State Vehicular Recreation Areas are the only sure thing for OHV recreation.

B. The priority for the OHMVR Division is acquisition of property and the development of more SVRA's to meet demographic needs and to assure long term OHV opportunities.

Senate Bill 383, in limiting the spending for OHMVR Division support to no more than 50% would severely restrict the division's ability to acquire and operate new OHV areas in the future. If there is no new acquisition and development by the OHMVR Division, as grant areas are closed or reduced in size, riding opportunities for OHV enthusiasts will disappear.

Current expenditures of the OHV Fund are approximately 55% for support, and 45% for grants.

The California State Park Rangers Association believes that Senate Bill 383, with the problems outlined above, should not be supported.

Sincerely,

Scott S. Nakaji, Director, CSPRA

CSPRA - DPR Booth
at BAEER Fair
by Scott Nakaji

C S P R A

On Saturday January 14, 1995, the 18th annual Bay Area Environmental Education Resource Fair was held in San Rafael. The BAEER (Bear) Fair, billed as "the premier environmental education event," offered workshops, teaching materials, and hundreds of exhibitors to educationalists throughout the bay area. Among the exhibits offering environmental education opportunities was a booth featuring State Parks of The Bay Area, developed by CSPRA and Marin District.

In November 1994, Marin District Interpretive Specialist Tom Lindberg responded to an article that appeared in the CSPRA Newsletter concerning the CSPRA State Parks Image program. The article mentioned CSPRA's involvement in the upcoming BAEER Fair in San Rafael, which happens to be home of Marin District, so Lindberg offered to develop a joint CSPRA-Marin District booth. Orange Coast Ranger I Jim Serpa provided several photos that were enlarged for the display. Lindberg then made the staffing arrangements, gathered all hand-out materials and developed a brochure containing information on how to contact nearby State Parks for educational opportunities.

Lindberg and Marin District Ranger I Dan Winkelman staffed the booth, beginning their day at 10:00 A.M., and by 4:30 P.M. they had contacted approximately two thousand educationalists, handing out the State Park Environmental Education Opportunity Guides developed by Lindberg, as well as State Park maps and California Escapes brochures. Lindberg reported that the State Park booth and hand-out material was well received, and that he and Winkelman were "tired by the end of the day," but he felt that the opportunity to reach so many people was well worth the effort.

CSPRA would like to thank Lindberg, Winkelman, and all of those who were involved in this successful effort. We would also like to be involved with similar projects throughout the state, in order to promote California State Parks and the experiences and resources that we have to offer. If you have something near your district similar to the BAEER Fair, or just something that sounds interesting let us know about it!

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April

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**CSPRA
Calendar**

**California
Parks
Conference
Ventura
3/11-15/96**

(Directors Continued)

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Jill Dampier
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