

NEWSLETTER

California State Park Rangers Association

Volume VI Number 74

July 1996

Flash – Short and Simple Interpretive Ideas!

by Ranger Susan Grove

When I received my last issue of *Legacy*, the Journal of the National Association for Interpretation, I was intrigued by one particular article. The article, "Reading the Rushed: the Fast Food Approach," by Rachelle Daigneault and Tracy Ammerman gives several ideas for mini interpretive programs that have been used successfully at Assageague Island National Seashore. The programs last 10-15 minutes, short and simple, and are low cost. They were designed for use in a nature center, to draw visitors in.

Palomar Mountain State Park, where I work, does not have a nature center, but several of the activities would be appropriate for Jr. Rangers and I intend to try them out. The article can be read in its entirety in the May/June 1996 issue of *Legacy*, but in case you don't receive this fine publication, here are a few of the ideas to try in your park's nature center or at a future Jr. Ranger Program:

– Clam/Crab Shell Painting: One type of shell is selected for the day and the materials are set up in assembly line fashion on a table. Colors are limited to three. The interpreter provides a shell and
(Continued on page 3)

Public Relations

by Dave Collins

Following are some of the ideas I am investigating as part of my plan for improved CSPRA/State Parks public relations:

1. Draft a letter to all State Park employees stressing the critical need to support State Parks and the continued operation of such, by State Park professionals. Let them know that one way to do this is to become actively involved in C.S.P.R.A.. I would like to work with the membership chairmen on this. I also want to ask for ideas regarding increasing recognition of state parks.

(Continued on page 3)

CSPRA Newsletter Needs Your Input

We all know that there are plenty of interesting things going on out there in the State Park System that nobody ever hears about. There are important issues to be addressed, humorous stories or anecdotes from the field, and information that, if shared, may help others to become better peace officers, interpreters or managers. If not for the *CSPRA Newsletter* few would ever hear about many of the important issues that have a direct impact on State Parks, issues that affect our jobs, and in turn affect our
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Presidents Message

It is already Mid-July, and as usual we don't have a state budget. Although the budget hasn't been signed, we do know that it will be about 9% larger than last year. The winners appear to be education and law enforcement. Parks have held their own this year, but if our Agonian revenue program is any indication, we must expect our General Fund to continue to decline.

July is also the month when the California Taxpayers Association publishes its comparison of public spending in California and the rest of the states. To the surprise of many, California is not a high-spending or high-tax state. It ranks 24th in the percentage of income it spends on state and local services. What is really interesting is how we spend this money. California is 44th in the nation in income spent on education, 32nd on what we spend on higher education, and last on what we spend on highways, 38 percent below the national median. Despite the rhetoric, California is just slightly above average on what it spends on health and welfare.

Calculated on a percentage of income, we are at the top of the list in what we spend on fire protection, third in what we spend on peace officers, and fifth on corrections. Prisons appear to be the main priority; we built 12 prisons in our first 130+ years of statehood, 20 in the 1980s alone, and have plans to build 24 more (at a cost of 7 billion dollars) within the next decade. By comparison, we haven't built a UC campus since the 1960s.

Since these priorities do not reflect my own, it is easy for me to bad-mouth them. The reality is, they are the result of elected officials who hear more from interest groups and employee unions, and get more campaign cash, than they do from their ill-served constituents.

Maybe it is time that they heard from us!

George Leetch Passes

George Leetch, Retired Ranger I, died June 29, 1996 in San Diego of complications of emphysema. George had celebrated his 77th birthday two weeks before.

Borrego Springs, CA 92004
or
San Diego Hospice
4311 3rd Avenue
San Diego, CA 92103

George began his career as a State Park Attendant on horseback patrol at Mount San Jacinto State Park. For years his patrol area was Split Mountain. He was awarded the Medal of Valor by Governor Pat Brown for his heroic actions in entering Split Mountain during a series of earthquakes in the spring of 1968 to rescue campers. He calmly risked his life while leading visitors to safety. Other career stops included Torrey Pines, Mitchell's Caverns, Salton Sea, and Silverwood Lake.

Those who wish to express their condolences may write Jean Leetch at her summer home at 44421 El Camino Real, Park Encinitas, Space 61, Encinitas, CA 92024.

Donations may be made in George's memory to: Anza-Borrego Foundation
P.O. Box 2001

Bumper Stickers

CSPRA is on the campaign trail, there is the potential for a park bond act this election year. This is a great opportunity for the State Park professional to promote California State Parks. Lets not miss this opportunity.

CSPRA has purchased 5,000 bumper stickers. Please be certain that the stickers are displayed on vehicles where they get maximum exposure and not on someone's dresser or desk. Please join with all State Park Professionals to promote your California State Parks.

The Newsletter (ISSN 0887-9176) is published by CSPRA, P.O. Box 292010, Sacramento, CA 95829. Articles are welcome, 1000 words or less. All submissions become the property of CSPRA and may be edited without notice.

Interpretive Ideas (Continued from page 1)

relates an interesting bit of information about it. The children proceed down the line to create a work of art.

— Visitor Center Explorer Worksheets: The activity sheets, on standard letter sized paper, can be used year round. The activities are oriented to the exhibits in or immediately surrounding the center. The children turn in the completed sheet to the information desk. The desk attendants discuss the worksheets with the children and award them with a Visitor Center Explorer Decal. The completed worksheet could count as one Junior Ranger program, and the child would be awarded with a stamp on the self guided activity page of his/her logbook.

— Origami: With careful instruction from the interpreter, origami is very easy. Participation should be limited to approximately 10, and participants arriving after the program has begun must wait for the next time slot. While the children work on their creations, they learn how the critter fits into the food web at your park. This activity is perfect for Junior Rangers.

— Face Painting: Visitors must first select from four or five possible animals, all found at your park. They are then given a sheet of questions about their chosen animal to complete by exploring the nature center. The visitors faces or shoulders are painted when they deliver the completed worksheets to the face painter.

Each of the four above activities could be implemented with a minimum of research and cost. For further information, the article's authors can be reached at 7206 National Seashore Lane, Berlin MD, 21811.

If you've enjoyed these ideas, you might enjoy receiving *Legacy* and being a member of the National Association for Interpretation (NAI). You can contact them at: NAI, P.O. Box 1892, Fort Collins CO, 80522. Phone: (970) 484-8283, FAX: (970) 484-8179.

Happy Interpreting!

Public Relations (Continued from page 1)

2. Explore ways to advertise State Parks with maximum exposure.

* Enlist a C.S.P.R.A. member from each district to coordinate—contacting local media regarding their park, the plight of State Parks, their financial benefit to local economics (news articles, local radio talk shows, chamber of commerce, etc.)

* Have each district commit to Cal Trans Adopt a Highway or Tree Planting Program (low cost advertising).

*State Park bumper stickers ("Support Your State Parks")

*Bill stuffers (Pac Bell, PGE, etc.)

*Billboard ads

*Full Page Ads (during critical times)

Newsletter Input (Continued from page 1)

lives, and our families. The *CSPRA Newsletter* is one of the better tools that we possess to communicate throughout the State Park System, and through the *Newsletter* we can stay informed on park issues, share ideas, relate stories from the field, and catch up with retired friends.

Here's the catch. In order to provide members with this information we need input from you. You don't have to be a Hemingway in order to submit an article, nor do articles have to be more than a few paragraphs. If you've just returned from great training, have information on an issue related to your district, or if you have a story or information related to State Parks that you would like to share with others throughout the state, please write an article and send or FAX it to CSPRA. Deadline for each *CSPRA Newsletter* is the 10th of each month.

Clayton Howser Passes

Clayton Howser, an equipment operator at Calaveras during the 60s & 70s died May 25 in Columbia. He was 87.

In order to provide members with this information we need input from you.

OHV + PALS = Community Outreach Success

by Scott Nakaji

Imagine that you're 12 years old again. As you pedal your bike in front of the local Honda dealer you see that cool dirt bike that mom and dad can't (or won't) buy for you. You'd do just about anything, get good grades, wash the dishes, mow the lawn, or just plain stay out of trouble to be able to ride one of those. Ah, the dreams . . .

For the past 18 months I was privileged to be a member of an Off Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation (OHMVR) Division committee geared toward making that dream come true for some kids, introducing at-risk youth to the fun and excitement of off-highway vehicle (OHV) recreation. Jerry Johnson, OHMVR Division Chief, was originally looking for a way that the Division could participate in an outreach program involving OHV recreation that would have a positive impact on communities throughout the state. What has resulted is an innovative program involving numerous public agencies, private industry and volunteers, in which the big winners are the kids.

Throughout all of 1995 the committee, composed of Park Superintendent Kate Foley, Hollister Hills SVRA Chief Ranger Dan Dungy and Ranger I's Bob Williamson (Carnegie SVRA), Ray Smith (Oceano Dunes SVRA), Sherman Poole (Ocotillo Wells SVRA), and I met on a bi-monthly basis, building the program from scratch. American Honda had donated several motorcycles and quads for such a program, so vehicle procurement was not a problem. Developing a comprehensive program prospectus however, was a long and arduous task involving many meetings. During these meetings ideas were presented, discussions were sometimes quite animated, and revisions of the prospectus were numerous as we addressed such needs as instructor training, participants, insurance and equipment. All of these issues were tackled one by one, with one of the key events being the joining of forces with the California Police Activities League (CAL PAL). By early 1996, the program was ready to go, and with support from Division Chief Johnson and Ron Exley, Program Coordinator of CAL PAL, as well as the efforts of the committee members,

In the programs that I was involved with there wasn't a kid who didn't have a good time.

the program has taken off and is expanding by the day.

The OHV PALS program involves at risk youth ages 10-14 from CAL PAL programs, and is a two day program in which boys and girls are taught how to ride by Specialty Vehicle Institute of America (SVIA) certified instructors using SVIA curriculum. Individual programs are held at each of the SVRA's on a rotational basis, with police officers from the respective PAL programs and State Park volunteers acting as instructors (after they complete a 36 hour SVIA Instructor Training Course). The young participants are fully equipped and fitted with helmets, riding boots, gloves, and chest protectors provided by the OHMVR Division. The first day is pure instruction, beginning with rider safety, how to mount a vehicle, progressing to the actual operation of the vehicle and trail etiquette. After an overnight camp out at the park, the newly christened riders are taken on a trail ride by the instructors on the second day. Upon their return from the trail ride, it is each rider's responsibility to clean and care for his or her equipment before they go home. Individual PAL chapters may return to the park at a later date for instructor led trail rides provided participants have received their SVIA certification.

The OHV PALS program has been an unqualified success, and it continues to grow. It has been received enthusiastically by the participants, American Honda is looking to expand its role in the program, and at last count there were requests from various PAL programs to certify 50 SVIA instructors in addition to the 35 current program instructors. There was also an OHV PALS demonstration at the 1996 Police Olympics with coverage from ESPN (perhaps you saw Hungry Valley Ranger Kevin Buchanan promoting the program on ESPN's Motoworld). PALS instructors across the board have told me that it was one of the best programs they had ever been involved with.

Although I am no longer part of the committee I can only look back to the OHV PALS program with pride. What was once just a concept has blossomed into a full fledged community outreach program. It's amazing how the kids would transform from scared beginners to novice riders in a period of eight hours. In the programs that I was involved with there wasn't a kid who didn't have a good time. And in the end, that's what we in State Parks are all about anyway, isn't it?

Retirees' Ramblins

Kirby & Carol Morgan

We continue to live in our 34' Alpenlite 5th wheel. Our home base is still Coarsegold, California and our mail is forwarded each Thursday when we are on the road, which has been 98% so far for this year. We just completed vending at the Ocean Park, Washington Garlic Festival. A good show for us this year. We currently have Carol's son & family with us for the 4th of July. Then on to several other shows, McCleary Second Growth and Bear Festival, Oregon Trail Good Sam National Jamboree in Salem, and then the Oregon Blueberry Festival at Cornelius, Oregon. So we will have something to talk about at the McConnell get together.

Bill Krumbein

I'm just a rookie retired ranger; but what I've experienced so far, it's goooooood!

Frederick A. Meyer

Hi to all! Else and I are still living in Sacramento (same house for 52 years!) and enjoying 15-plus years of retirement. We keep in close touch with our 4 kids and 8 grandkids, only a few of whom live nearby. We see some of the Resource Management people occasionally, and attend local DPR retirees gatherings. Not much traveling lately, except to Solvang every couple of months to see Else's mother, who is 103 years old and still totally alert. Best wishes.

David Donahue

Bernie and I are enjoying San Clemente, daughters, grand kids and friends. We went to Russia the end of March and had a great time. Going fishing in Idaho first of July. Retirement is great, everyone should try it. Say hi to Doug for me.

Jack Stowe

Not much going on this summer, taking care of grandkids and raising tomatoes. May take a trip after the middle of July to Arkansas—need to sweat more—go to gym 5 days per week. Feel great!

Jim Stewart

We sold our home in Lake Almanor and bought

a mobile home in Willits in order to escape the snow and pursue our RV lifestyle. We are also enjoying being closer to our children and grandchildren.

Clyde & Rosemary Strickler

We will miss Doug's input, but so very nice to have his son take over for him. Hoping someday we will meet again

Kirk Wallace

Our Life, right now, is centered around our parents. Not much to tell or any trips to relate. We are looking forward to the Retiree's Rendezvous.

Dana Long

Bonnie and I are looking forward to making the campout at McConnell Park this year. We have closed her shop so have a little more time to think about travel again. I'm not as active with the local Fire Department, but still manage to do safety inspections, help with training, and "gopher" work. About eleven years worth of volunteer help and can't believe the growth of this fire district. Our second fire station is under construction and should be active by this winter. If it gets to crowded here there's always Escalante, Utah!!!

Ken Smith

Hello, I am still teaching Biology at Cerritos High School. Right now I am waiting to see if our recently purchased cabin in the Idyllwild area, (San Jacinto) will survive the current brush fire. Wish us luck. All is fine with Eve and Brooks. Time to take the boat out and case some barracuda. Keep in touch!

Joe McCall

Hi, As you can see by the check we moved back into the house. Mainly we moved back because the house did not sell. We had a humongous garage sale—sold about \$4500 dollars worth of (as Gini's agent said 25 years of impedimenta). We have bought quite a few things, tools, a bed, refrigerator and some dishes. We will never build up as much as we had, not exactly camping out, but the next thing to it. Two moves in 5 1/2 months is too much. We liked it at "Rivers Edge" by Campus Commons Golf course.

(Continued on page 7)

I'm just a rookie retired ranger; but what I've experienced so far, it's goooooood!

District Reps

Name	District	Work Phone	Home Phone
Muetz, M	American River	916 988-0205	916 622-9133
Padilla, F	Angeles-Coast	805 986-8484	818 880-4510
Crossman, J	Angeles Inland	805 945-1323	
Edgemon, C	Bay Area-Coast	415 726-8800	415 879-2025
Nielson, C.	Bay Area-Inland	510 673-2891	
Harrison, W	Calaveras	209 795-3488	209 795-5342
Vacant	Channel Coast		
Zemon, J	Colorado	619 767-5311	
Stokes, M	Four Rivers	209 826-1196	209 632-1627
Simmons, K.	Gold Rush Dist	916 445-7387	
Redoble, J	Los Lagos	909 657-0676	909 943-5119
Whitehead, M	Marin	415 435-5390	415 435-3082
Rath, L	Monterey	408 623-4526	408 623-4398
Vacant	Northern Buttes		
Jones, R	North Coast	707 946-2409	707 725-4920
Vacant	OHV		
Serpa, J	Orange Coast	714 496-6172	714 493-0773
Franco, N	Pismo Dunes	805 473-7230	
Joe, K	Russ-Mendocino	707 937-5804	707 877-3592
Broderick, K.	Russ-Mendocino	707 847-3286	707 785-3432
Kerbavaz, J	S.D. Coast		619 575-3613
Vacant	San Joaquin		
Knapp, E	San Luis Obispo	805 772-7434	805 927-3516
Van Schmus, J	San Simeon	805 927-2020	805 772-9648
Oka, S	Santa Cruz	408 338-8860	408 336-0822
Lindsey, T	Sierra	916 525-7232	
Vacant	Silverado		

If your District doesn't have a Rep, why don't you volunteer or volunteer one of your friends.

The District Reps are your best connection with the board. Give them your ideas, suggestions, questions and complaints.

CSPRA Finances

California State Park Rangers Association

Who we are ...

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

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

What we do ...

*Provide professional exchange of thought

*Defend State Park System integrity

*Support quality Department efforts

*Comment on proposed park uses

The Professional organization that cares about protecting and preserving the values of the State Park System.

For more information about CSPRA and how you can become a member write:

CSPRA
P.O. Box 292010
Sacramento, CA 95829-2010
(800) 994-2530
(916) 558-3734

Checking
Balance
\$597.15

General
Savings
Balance
\$12,524.33

SAVE
BODIE!
Savings
\$3,268.20

Total Assets
\$16,389.68

6 July 1996

Retirees Ramblin's (Continued from page 5)

One problem with the place was, too many old folks. A word to the wise to anyone contemplating this type move—sell your house first. Do not just have it in escrow. Have the check in your bank account. Sorry to have missed the last conference/ We had just returned from Portland and Seattle. We plan on being at the next one.

Canoeing on The Mendocino Coast

by Kevin Joe, SPR I

In early June of this year I attended the American Red Cross (ARC) "Basic River Canoeing" class with the financial assistance of a CSPRA scholarship. Just before the week I was at the Mott Training Center for Museums Collection Management and was admiring the newly published book "Rangers of California's State Parks" (by SPR I, Mike Lynch). Randy Sederquist and I were admiring all the great photos of rafting, horseback riding, etc. . . . and Randy (who's been at the training center for a few years now) deadpanned "you mean people get paid to do this?" At that point I told him about the Interpretive Canoeing program at Navarro River Redwoods State Park that I started last summer.

Last year I thought about what type of new interpretive program I could do and passed up on the usual nature walks and campfire programs in favor of canoeing—to put the "Recreation" aspect of DPR back into my interpretive programs. We didn't have the \$3,500 in the district's budget needed to purchase the canoes, trailer, paddles and lifejackets, so during the Spring of 1995 and early summer I talked local businesses (and one big one in San Francisco) and community groups into donating the money.

Once I had all the equipment, I attended the ARC "Fundamentals of Canoeing" class and started talking visitors canoeing for an hour and a half twice a week for the rest of the summer of 1995. It was great fun for all, and only two out of over a hundred visitors fell in the water. Most of the program focused on getting people comfortable in the canoes and steering. We usually saw osprey, cormorants, turkey vultures and other easy to identify birds. Depending on the tide I even found fresh samples of seaweed to incor-

porate into the program. The lower Navarro River was a lumber mill site at the turn of the century and by bringing along some laminated historical photographs (using a color copier-set on black and white setting-produced duplicates that were cheap and almost as sharp as real photographs) visitors were able to see the scope of the early redwood logging industry.

In gearing up for the 1996 summer season, I realized that I'd spent most of last year canoeing with people who had never been canoeing until coming to the park program and that I could use some refresher training. That's how I ended up on the lower American River with the ARC's "Basic River Canoeing" class. In this second of four different ARC canoeing classes we did a quick review of paddling strokes, then went out on the river all day Saturday and Sunday to practice them in moving water (Class I and II for you boater types).

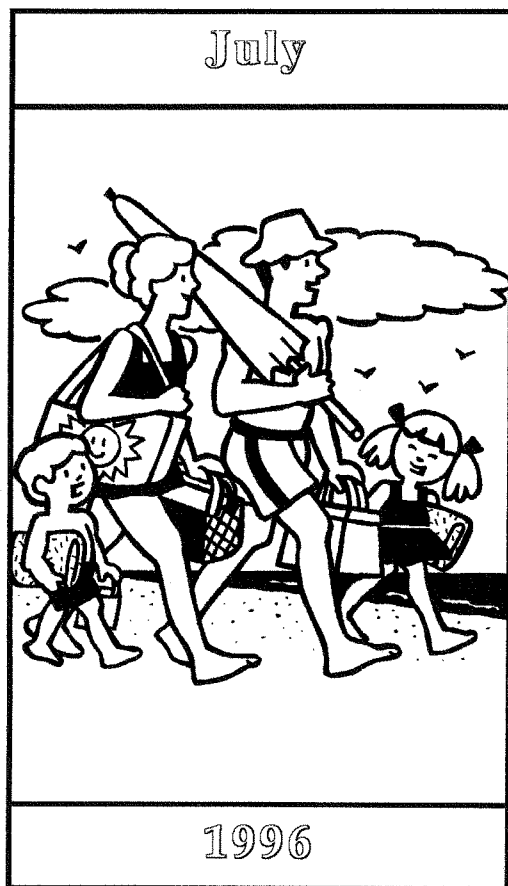
The instructor to student ratio was excellent—1:2 and the weather was HOT! Both of the ARC canoeing classes I have taken were well instructed with an emphasis on safe boating. As rangers, we regularly practice our first aid, firearms and defensive tactics in order to better serve the public, now I will add canoeing to my yearly training. Being a well trained and prepared interpreter gives me confidence and results in quality programs for the public.

If you are interested in canoeing classes, call (916) 368-3130 or write to the ARC Sacramento Chapter at PO Box 160167, Sacramento, CA 95816. This may be the only ARC chapter in the state that offers canoeing instruction. For information about the Navarro River Redwoods Canoeing Program, call me at (707) 937-3118x226, or write to PO Box 55, Elk, CA, 95432.

Gordon Kishbaugh Passes

Gordon Kishbaugh passed away on July 6th at a rest home in Santa Rosa. In addition to being a field ranger, Gordon was Superintendent of District II and retired as Manager of the Planning and Development Branch. He was on the founding board of CSPRA and wrote the first Constitution and Bylaws. Graveside services were held in Glendora California. Donations may be sent to the Sempervirens Fund, Drawer BE, Los Altos, CA 94023-4034. He was 83.

Being a well trained and prepared interpreter gives me confidence and results in quality programs for the public.



California State Park Rangers Assoc
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Susan Grove
State Park Ranger II
Colorado Desert — Palomar
(619) 742-3462

CSPRA Calendar

Retirees
Rendezvous
10/3 - 8/96

California
Parks
Conference
Concord
3/12 - 16/97

Directors (Continued)

Steve Hill
Assoc Pk & Rec Spec
Four Rivers District
(209) 826-1196

Jill Dampier
State Park Ranger II
American River — Auburn
(916) 885-4527

Dave Collins
State Park Ranger I
American River District — Auburn
(916) 885-5821

All committees use CSPRA address.

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association, write to

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