

NEWSLETTER

California State Park Rangers Association

Volume VI Number 73

June 1996

What Does CSPRA Do For Me?

by Scott Nakaji

In the last issue of the CSPRA Newsletter there was a short article about the California State Park Rangers Association, with some general statements about who we are and what we do as a professional organization. I know that there are people out there who are CSPRA members that have a basic knowledge of the organization but really don't know what CSPRA does for them. When the CSPRA Newsletter comes out they glance through it to see if anyone they know is in there, throw it away and think, "is that all I get for my \$6 a month?" Believe me, CSPRA as an organization is so much more than just a newsletter, and I think it's motto "Promoting Professionalism in California State Parks" says it all. Let me take you into the inner workings of a recent CSPRA Board Meeting to give you a better perspective of what CSPRA does for you.

- CSPRA Director Steve Hill has been actively following a proposed 350-400 million dollar bond act that would provide California State Parks with approximately 150 million dollars for infrastructure improvement and development of facilities.

CSPRA supports the proposed bond act and will be testifying at Senate hearings as the bill continues to develop and makes its way onto the November ballot.

- Director Dave Collins attended a Park Agency Administration meeting in Sacramento on June 14, 1996. Sacramento County and City Parks are proposing a large assembly and rally at the State Capitol with a march to Discovery Park in a show of support for the proposed bond.

- Dave has also been working on a program to increase visibility and public support for the State Park System through creation and distribution of bumper stickers that read "I support California State Parks." The CSPRA Board approved the funds for a pilot program of 5,000 stickers to be distributed throughout the state.

- Ranger Mike Lynch attended and requested that CSPRA continue to budget for membership dues for the International Ranger Federation. CSPRA has current membership in the International Ranger Federation through 1996.

- Junior Past President Bud Getty and Mike Lynch are currently working on an exchange program in which
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Presidents Message

As I was reviewing duty statements recently, I started pondering the concept of generalist rangers. This concept has been practiced by the Department my entire career, which makes it a big part of my mindset. After a brief critique I decided that I still support the concept, that it is an appropriate way to meet the demands of today, and may be essential to the survival of 'rangers' into the next century.

The dictionary defines a generalist as a person whose knowledge, aptitudes, and skills are applied to a variety of different fields as opposed to a specialist. Historically a ranger has been asked to preserve, protect, and interpret our parks bountiful resources and serve the visiting public. Depending on where one was assigned, these tasks are weighted from one extreme to the other. Even then, a ranger was trained and prepared to meet any challenge that may come up.

I agree with our Director when he states that we must reaffirm our commitment to hire rangers with the aptitude to do the total job.

The key word in the above definition is aptitude. The Department has succeeded in attracting people to the ranger ranks who have the aptitude to do all of these things. Training has been provided to give them the tools, the knowledge, and skills; to do the job.

The ranger series will face numerous challenges as we enter the century. These challenges can best be met by a generalist ranger, but the concept itself will face obstacles. Many of the tasks required of a ranger demand increased levels of training. Even our new Department organization has placed new demands on rangers, often weighting their responsibilities in one area or another. With specialists now appropriately placed in many field locations, it is easier to pass on many of the responsibilities to them. How often have I heard that rangers just don't have time for that anymore or that the demands of the job dictate that they spend a disproportionate amount of their time on one task at the expense of others. Although the above is true in some instances, I believe that this attitude also reflects the individual rangers' attitude or the attitude of their supervisor.

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I agree with our Director when he states that we must reaffirm our commitment to hire rangers with the aptitude to do the total job. Recent cadet classes have proven to me that this can be accomplished. If we don't meet the challenge, we may find our job filled by a specialist in another class, or contracted out. The value of a State Park Ranger is that he/she is a generalist, and nobody can fulfill that responsibility better than a ranger.

David A. Nelson

And The Bond Rolls On . . .

by Steve Hill

Momentum is building for a state and local parks improvement bond act to be placed on the November 1996 ballot by the legislature. CSPRA representatives have supported legislative efforts by meeting with and providing information to legislators and aids, writing support letters, and giving testimony at committee hearings. Our efforts, combined with those of other supportive organizations appears to be paying off.

On the Assembly side, Domenic Cortese (I-San Jose) introduced a bill which focused on state park issues while Louis Caldera (D-LA) introduced a bill for a bond promoting local park issues. In the Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee, these two bills were combined and passed forward to the Assembly Appropriations Committee. In Appropriations, the new bill was heard and approved without dissent, to be forwarded for leadership review. "Leadership" is now expected to compare this bill with the Senate version introduced by Thompson (D-Eureka), where language will be unified and a funding level assigned.

Legislators seem to be attracted to a bond proposal calling for facilities restoration and rehabilitation projects, but there is far less support to provide funding for significant acquisition and environmental enhancement programs. As an indicator of the mood, the California Chamber of Commerce, for the first time ever,

(Continued on page 7)

HUMOR IN UNICORN

by Jeff Price, Marin

How low can you go?

"Things are changing too fast and I feel like I'm under a limbo rock."

See ya' later.

"When you talk to him, things seem to just go in one eye and out the other."

The sound of daylight?

"I can hear it now, as plain as day."

Go play on the freeway

"I'm not sure which way is best. Either way you are walking a white line."

Utensil utility

"I came to a fork in the road and took it."

Peek-a-boo, in the eye of the beholder!

"That would be like looking through a needle for a haystack."

Overheard at parks budget meeting.

"Look, lets move on. We can jump off that bridge when we come to it."

Got both points?

"Without pointing names, here's the problem. . . and . . . so you can't point the blame on me."

A broad influence.

"The pressure was so thick you could slice it with a knife."

Nazi survey data comes in handy.

"Don't use those gestapo statistics on me!"

Legislators seem to be attracted to a bond proposal calling for facilities restoration and rehabilitation projects, but there is far less support to provide funding for significant acquisition and environmental enhancement programs.

Book Review

by Bud Getty

Rangers of California's State Parks by Michael G. Lynch

Everyone associated with the California State Park System will want a copy of this book for their coffee table. This pictorial history of rangers in the California State Parks makes available to all of us some of the photographs that author Mike Lynch ferreted out at the time of the 125th celebration. I know personally of some of the out-of-the-way, seldom-visited nooks and crannies that Mike penetrated during his search. This book is only one of two important contributions, the other being the archiving of the large volume of artifacts and photographs related to this project.

The selection of the photographs was outstanding. Perhaps one photo is a bit controversial but it does graphically illustrate the sort of problem that rangers face (or turn away from) in their day-to-day assignments. It along with the other illustrations and text accurately portrays the changes and the continuity within the profession.

We are fortunate that Mike persevered so that we can add this volume to our park shelves.

(See order information on page 5)

What Does CSPRA Do For Me?

(Continued from page 1)

Rangers from other countries would visit and experience life in California's State Park System and vice versa. Australia is interested in participating in the program with us. Bud is hoping to organize and promote a group trip to the International Ranger Federation Conference. Details to follow.

- President David Nelson and Director Jill Dampier have been following the Auburn Dam project. David has written several letters of opposition on behalf of CSPRA concerning the project.

- David Nelson wrote a letter on behalf of CSPRA supporting a law enforcement training area at the East Garrison section of Fort Ord.

- President-Elect Scott Nakaji has been writing follow up letters thanking and commending those professionals who were presenters at the highly successful 1996 California Parks Conference.

- Work continues on the 1997 California Parks Conference to be held at the Concord Sheraton March 12-17, 1997. The Committee is still forming and is working on the development of a conference theme and possible keynote speakers.

- Director Susan Grove has been researching possible locations for the 1998 Parks Conference.

- Secretary/Treasurer Adrian Itaya is

(Continued on page 7)

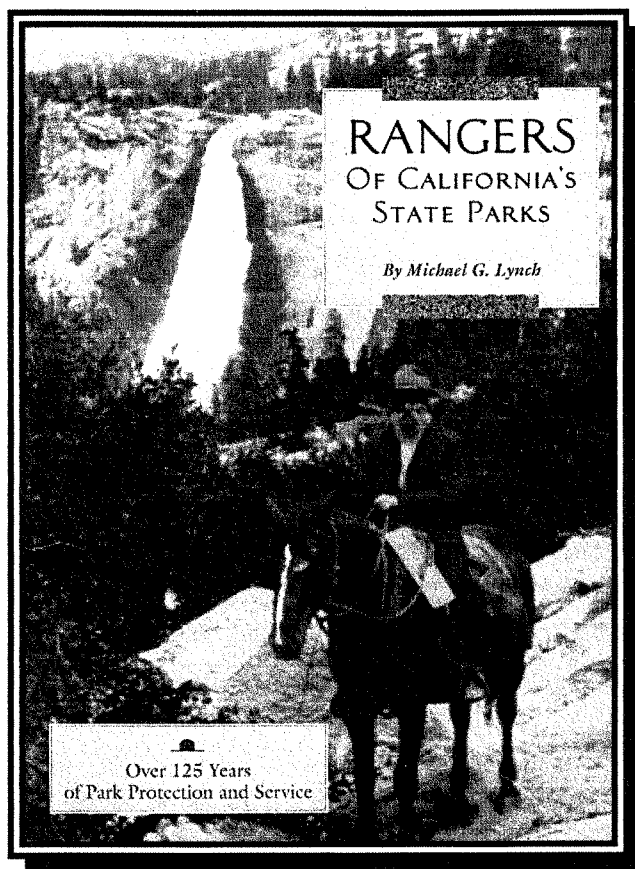
This pictorial history of rangers in the California State Parks makes available to all of us some of the photographs that author Mike Lynch ferreted out at the time of the 125th celebration.

Rangers

Of California's State Parks

By Michael G. Lynch

Rangers of California's State Parks is a 72 page large format coffee table style book, with color throughout. Containing over 125 photographs, it depicts the history of California state park rangers from the little known State Guardians/Rangers of Yosemite in 1866 to the modern rangers of today. Available in softcover and a Special Limited Edition Hardcover (numbered and signed by the author).



*The cover of **Rangers**, pictures Galen Clark, California's (and the nation's) first park ranger, on patrol near Nevada Falls Yosemite, in the 1870's.*

Rangers Book Order Form

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Crossman, J	Angeles Inland	805 945-1323	
Edgemon, C	Bay Area-Coast	415 726-8800	415 879-2025
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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.

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
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What Does CSPRA Do For Me? (Continued from page 4)

looking into the purchase of membership cards for all CSPRA members. It was proposed that the card should include CSPRA's address, phone number and Internet address for increased communication between members and CSPRA.

These are just a few of the items discussed at the last CSPRA Board meeting, so as you can tell, all of those on the board are hard at work for you. Combine that with Doug Bryce, who continues to produce the CSPRA Newsletter, John Bryce CSPRA Executive Manager, all of the different committee chairpersons and members, and the CSPRA Scholarship Fund and I think you can see that you get quite a return on your monthly \$6 investment. We represent you, the CSPRA members, and these are the things that we are doing in our effort to continuously **Promote Professionalism in California State Parks.**

And The Bond Rolls On . . . (Continued from page 3)

is endorsing the concept of a park bond, but does not want it to exceed \$350 million dollars, and does not want to see an acquisition component.

So, indeed, proposals are moving forward to let the people decide on a measure for state and local parks. However, nothing can be taken for granted, so CSPRA will continue to be in front, providing legislators with information and testimony about the

needs and benefits of a park bond. You can personally help assure the support remains strong by writing or calling your local legislator. Ask **what they are doing on behalf of state parks.**

International Ranger Federation Code of Ethics

The purpose of these canons is to govern the professional conduct of rangers in their relations with the public, their employers and clients, and each other. . . .

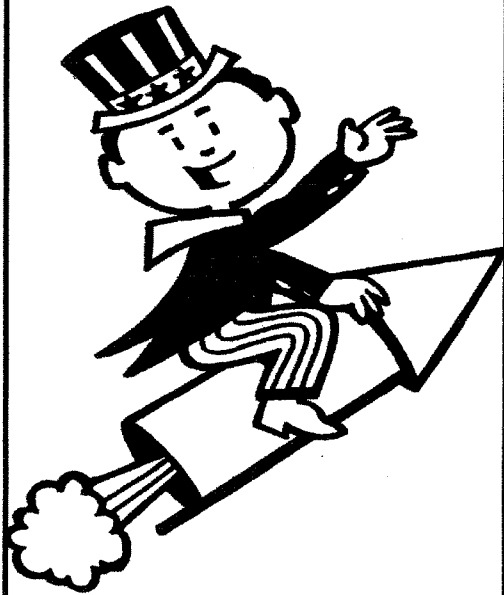
All member ranger organizations upon joining the Federation agree that their respective membership shall abide by this code as a condition of . . . membership

Canons

1. A ranger will not misrepresent his/her qualifications nor abilities,
 2. A ranger will take personal responsibility to assure that he/she is qualified to perform those tasks for which he/she has been contracted and will decline to independently perform those tasks for which he/she is not qualified
 3. A ranger will strive for accurate, current, and increasing knowledge of cultural and natural resource management
 4. A ranger will apply his/her duties consistent with the highest standards of professional quality and scientific integrity.
 5. A ranger will apply his/her unique knowledge and skills to the public good
 6. A ranger will not by false statement, innuendo, or dishonest action injure the reputation or professional status of another ranger.
 7. A ranger will follow existing laws, regulations, and accepted practices relating to the protection of cultural and natural resources
 8. A ranger will give priority to the protection of the cultural and natural resources in his/her care excepting that the preservation of human life shall always take a higher priority.
 9. A ranger will not disclose information concerning affairs of his/her employer or client without express permission to do so,
 10. A ranger will not accept compensation or expenses from more than one employer for the same service except with the full knowledge and consent of all concerned parties. . . .
 11. A ranger will advertise services only in a dignified and truthful manner;
- (The complete Canons will be printed in the future.)

A ranger will give priority to the protection of the cultural and natural resources in his/her care excepting that the preservation of human life shall always take a higher priority.

June



1996

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State Park Ranger I
Four Rivers District
(209) 826-1196

Directors
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

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Assoc Pk & Rec Spec
Four Rivers District
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Jill Dampier
State Park Ranger II
American River — Auburn
(916) 885-4527

Dave Collins
State Park Ranger I
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All committees use CSPRA address.

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association, write to

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