



The CSPRA

Wave

Newsletter

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CALIFORNIA STATE PARK RANGERS ASSOCIATION

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Dispatch from



See pages 3-8

photo by Gary
Fregien

the Desert



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



KEVIN W. BUCHANAN
CSPRA President

As I write this message, I can only think of how busy everyone is out there during the month of July. This is the time of the year when everyone does what he or she does best to support the field operation. It is during the summer season that throngs of visitors are coming to our parks every week, to enjoy a campfire program, walk on a beach, or lay back under the Redwoods. Fall is rapidly approaching; within a few weeks another busy season for most of us will become a distant memory. A new season will begin, welcoming a different type of park visitor to go with it. For some of us the fall is the end of the busy season and for others it is the beginning.

It never ceases to amaze me, to see what hardworking and dedicated people we have working for the Department of Parks and Recreation. Many of the people I work with or that I am in contact with in other parks throughout the state, are doing whatever it takes to see that we are operating top-notch parks for the visiting public. At the end of a busy day, I sometimes see the trash cans overflow, trash on the ground and I am aware of repairs that need to be done to park facilities. I know in my mind that by tomorrow, the Maintenance Staff will have it looking as if we had just opened for the season. In

the middle of the week, maintenance teams throughout the state are scrambling to have facilities repaired and cleaned, in addition to getting vehicles and vessels running, before the next influx of visitors to our parks. I know that much the work is accomplished due to people working overtime, including working their days off.

Our public safety personnel every week are dealing with an incredible amount of different incidents. Some of the incidents I am aware of that our members have handled range from drownings, stabbings, rape and other instances of providing extraordinary protection to our visitors. Each week, they dig themselves out of the report-writing hole from the week before, so that they are once again prepared to aid park visitors. Some of the people that we work with are quite amazing in how they are able to go from dealing with a fatality in the park, to giving an interpretive program later on that week. There is definitely a great deal of diversity in many of the jobs we do, which may be why we have such great people working for DPR.

As I am writing this President's Message, we still do not have a State Budget and our lobbying firm says nothing will probably happen until after August 5th. Everyone will get paid at the end of July, but it is uncertain that state employees will be paid at the end of August. With all this uncertainty, I am glad to see that we are still doing what we doing best, inspiring those who visit California State Parks. In this issue of the Wave, I think that you will see some of the pride, hard work and dedication that the members of the Colorado Desert District give to their parks. This sense of pride and dedication can be seen everyday throughout California State Parks.



Colorado Desert District: State Parks' Southern Frontier

Colorado Desert District includes the largest park (by far) in the State Parks System—Anza Borrego at 600,000 acres. The rest of the District varies from the peaks and meadows of Palomar Mountain and Cuyamaca Rancho to the salty shores of the Salton Sea and the riparian riverfront of Picacho. A brief update on the parks in the District follows.

PICACHO SRA offers 7,000 acres of spectacular volcanic landscapes and great fishing along eight miles of Colorado River frontage. Maintenance Mechanic Bill Cardinal reports that the river has been flowing at about the normal level this summer, a surprise in this year of droughts. New composting toilets have been installed in the northern, remote end of the park. Fishing has been good—Bill caught a 35-pound Flathead in the river last week!

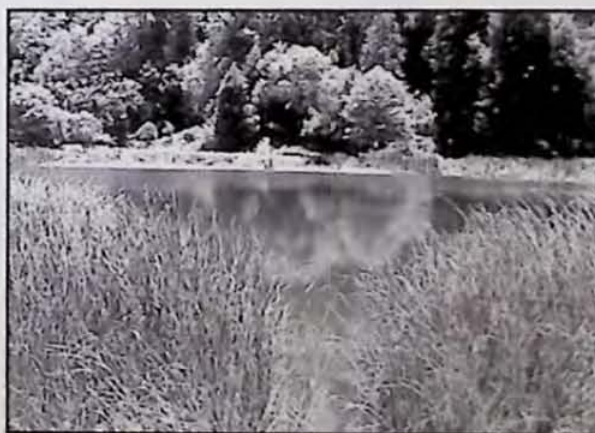
PALOMAR MOUNTAIN SP, along with Cuyamaca Rancho SP, banned campfires, charcoal fires and smoking (except inside vehicles) on July 11th after 4 years of below average rainfall. The park roads were recently repaved, and a campsite renovation project begins in October.

CUYAMACA RANCHO SP was within one mile of the recent Pines Fire, and had to evacuate the horse camps. Luckily, the fire was brought under control and did not burn into the park. Conditions have been extremely dry, with less than 10 inches of rainfall this year, instead of the usual 36 inches. The Southern California Ecosystem Health Project is underway at Cuyamaca. This is an inter-agency effort to study the relationships between deer, mountain lions, bighorn sheep and humans. Cuyamaca holds the dubious distinction of having the highest rate of



District Resource Ecologist Paul Jorgensen leading a backcountry seminar in "Wildlife Watching" at Anza-Borrego Desert State Park

Taylor Lake, off the Colorado River, at Picacho State Recreation Area



Doane Pond at Palomar Mountain State Park

Life as an Anza-Borrego Desert State Park Ranger

by Fred Jee, Supervising Ranger
Anza-Borrego Desert State Park

How does one sum up what the experience is like for a ranger working in Anza Borrego? One can look at the weather, the vast environment, the unique resources, the mountain of work that loads a patrol ranger down and yet the challenges that keep that same person here, and not transferring away to the first opening that comes along in the opportunity bulletin.

I cannot begin to relate the experience to someone who has never visited this place, the Colorado Desert. It would be arrogant to believe I could relate to the rigors of a winter at Bodie or the enclosed world of the redwood parks or the bustle of Lake Perris in the summer. No, what I can convey is my own 28 years of living and working as a ranger in the desert of Anza Borrego.

To better understand my world, let me provide a bit of background information. The park is 600,000 plus acres, by far the biggest state park in California. We have over half of the total acreage of the entire park system in this park alone! Thirteen wilderness areas make up nearly 1/4 of the park. Five hundred miles of primitive roads crisscross the park. Our resources abound in variety. We have a world class paleontological collection covering the last 3-5 million years. Archeological resources are so numerous as to quip that we only map the NON-archeological sites. The rare and endangered Peninsular Bighorn Sheep lives in the park. And this doesn't address the 56 species of reptiles and amphibians, 1000 plus species of plants and some of the best scenery this side of a David

Muench photo album.

Let us not forget that people played a part in making this place unique. Juan Bautista de Anza established an overland route into California from Mexico in 1775. This opened a path for future generations of immigrants into California. The native Americans, Cahuilla and Kumeyaay, were here to greet Anza. Their archeological records date back 2500 years. White settlers, the 49ers, the Army of the West, the Butterfield Stage, the Mormon Battalion and mountain men all traversed this desert and left their mark on the landscape.

From such a treasure trove of things to see and learn, how does a new ranger gain a foothold? I will reminisce about my time here beginning in 1975 when my training officer issued my first assignment as a nascent Ranger 1. Arriving in late summer was a major wake up call

from training on the beaches of San Diego Coast. The heat strikes you like a real club when you step out of your air-conditioned vehicle. The wide open spaces with very few people, trees, buildings or roads— well, civilization as I knew it wasn't here upon my arrival.

So, what was a city boy to do in this foreign land? You adjust. You learn from your fellow park people. You gain personal experience by just doing daily activities in your patrol area. You learn how not to get lost by getting lost. You learn how to drive a CJ5 Jeep when you have never driven one in your life. Does this sound challenging? You betcha! Scary and frustrating and maddening and overwhelming seemed to be the order of the day in the beginning.

As time wore on, I became more comfortable on patrol through repetition and more repetition. I adjusted to

See Jee, p. 5


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COLORADO DESERT DISTRICT



Supervising Ranger Fred Jee, on patrol

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my environment and the landscape and animal life and just the ambience that makes a desert both frightening and attractive. One can talk about the philosophy of deserts, the solitude and vastness. It is there! How you adjust is a very grand internal growth process that comes from continual exposure. The more time I spent in this desert landscape, the more I learned about it. The more I learned, the more I appreciated the subtle qualities that make it so attractive. The way the light changes in color and hue through the course of the day. The animals successfully making a living in such a minimal environment. The quiet. One can get very Thoreau or John Muir-like in contemplation of such surroundings.

Challenges to this learning process came from unthinking visitors who, for lack of education or foresight, treated the park as a vast playground

meant for nothing more than recreational exploitation and challenging machines against the landscape. Patrol rangers here share this frustration continually throughout their careers. We rake tracks off hillsides and washes, clean fire rings of trash and debris and track poachers and vandals who treat public lands as a place they have no connection to other than to meet their own needs. This is a repeated scenario in all parks in California. Anza Borrego is no different from the beaches, the redwoods, recreational areas and historic parks. Our goals are the same: protect, interpret, develop and educate.

Despite the challenges, the experience of being a Desert Ranger remains more positive than negative. The park in its vastness offers the ranger the one time perhaps in their career of literally "ranging" much

like our predecessors did when the Department was smaller and a bit less "organized". I took up the challenge of making my patrol sector into a prime part of the park. I did the protection, cleanup, education and what little development I could do to make my area a stellar locality for the visitors. Hopefully, their visits would be memorable and inspiring. If I got the chance to talk with them, I tried to share a bit of the appreciation that I had in abundance about this wonderful environment.

Over the years, caring for this place has become more organized for me. I promoted in place to become a Supervising Ranger. I became more involved in the promotion of the goals of the park. I became the Volunteer Coordinator, helping new volunteers to become good ambassadors for the park at the visitor center. I joined the local Chamber of Commerce as a liaison between the park and the community. I have worked closely with the San Diego Film Commission to bring in film projects and yet keep a handle on the activities so that no damage to the park would occur. I have been fortunate to represent the park in many venues and with other agencies promoting our values.

It is a unique opportunity to work and live in Anza Borrego Desert State Park. These few words are but a glimpse of what you can discover for yourself on a visit. Working here is like no other place. Rangers can wander for miles and still be in their "office" which may be 60,000 acres in size. We all strive to protect this park and promote its multitude of values. If you haven't been here before, make a note to visit us. You won't be disappointed.



Dilemma in the Desert ...

by *Steve Horvitz, Supt. of Salton Sea Sector, 1991 to 2001, now Supt. of Eel River Sector of North Coast Redwoods*

After years of suffering an unenviable reputation, the Salton Sea is coming into its own for its significant natural resource value and the role it plays hosting many millions of birds that travel the Pacific Flyway. The Sea has been called the most important avian resource in the world by scientists. There is no place else in California that can match its rich and diverse avian habitat.

Four hundred eight species of birds have been recorded at the Salton Sea; this is almost one half of the species known to exist in the nation. Moreover, 73% of the bird species in California and 34% of the state's breeding birdshave been seen at the Sea: cormorants, American avocets, endangered brown pelicans, egrets, great blue herons, black-necked stilts, long-billed curlews, the white-faced ibis, mountain plovers, black terns, burrowing owls, fulvous whistling ducks, least bitterns, wood storks, black rails, and snowy plovers are but a few of the species. These plus others are considered to be of concern at regional, continental, or global scales.

Ninety-five percent of the Earth's population of eared grebes may use the Sea, as do 80 percent of the American white pelicans, 50 percent of ruddy ducks, and 40 percent of the American population of Yuma clapper rails. Nearly 40 percent of California's black skimmers breed at the Sea, and the nesting colony of gull-billed terns is the largest in the western U.S. Over twenty thousand birds have been banded at the Salton Sea with confirmed sightings as far northwest as the Russian side of the Bering Strait, and as far east as Chesapeake Bay. Nearly every river, lake, harbor, and bay in the state



Cormorants, herons, egrets and pelicans at Varner Harbor in the Salton Sea SRA.
Photo by Ranger Darrell Bennett

shares birds with the Salton Sea. An American avocet seen at Owens Lake may later be viewed at the Sea. Egrets from the Eel River, herons from Millerton Lake, gulls from Turlock Lake, stilts from coastal beaches, grebes from the Mexican Delta are linked to California's largest lake.

Yet the need for water, development, an increasing human population on the coast, and a bit of ugly politics, may cause the Salton Sea to fail. It's a simple scenario: there's not enough water to support the western states' populations. California overdraws its allotment of water from the Colorado River by almost 800,000 acre-feet annually (af/a). The state is allowed 4.4 million af/a from the river, but has been drawing almost 5.2 million af/a because upriver states have not needed their full share. Now as Nevada's, Arizona's, and Colorado's populations increase, these states will no longer grant California their excess water and the federal government has directed California to toe the line.

To work around this, and not hamper growth, the Imperial Irrigation District and San Diego County Water Authority, with the blessing of L.A.'s

Metropolitan Water District, the Coachella Valley Water District, and by the direction of the Federal and now State government, have agreed to transfer 300,000 af/a of water that flows into the Sea, 200,000 going to San Diego and 100,000 slated for the Coachella Valley.

Removing 300,000 af/a from the Sea will lower its water level by 14 feet and cause its natural systems to fail due to increased salt concentrations. The failure of the Salton Sea has become something that environmental groups are taking issue with. So there exists a battle involving water districts, the state and federal government, on one side; trying to move water to San Diego, and environmentalists, local residents and Coachella and Imperial Valley governments, on the other side trying to preserve the Salton Sea.

Complicating matters is a recent House Bill introduced by Duncan Hunter, which was marked up on July 25th. The bill has become the focus of the m  le as it waives compliance with the Endangered Species Act for the water transfer by *legislating* compliance. It causes inadequate

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...the Salton Sea

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mitigation to satisfy the ESA. Mitigation for impacts to imperiled species are unspecified habitat enhancement projects. This bill creates a legal end run around the ESA, and sets scary precedence while doing so: *don't like environmental requirements, write a law that exempts your project...*

An earlier bill introduced by Duncan Hunter that eliminated ESA compliance for the transfer in a similar manner, failed to clear the resources committee in great part due to a strong local letter writing campaign and political support from a Coachella Valley Indian tribe.

So now groups such as the Sierra Club, Audubon Society, the Center for Biological Diversity, Planning and Conservation League, Defenders, National Wildlife Federation, Pacific Institute, Conservation Solutions, United Angles, Western Outdoor News, California Waterfowl, Environmental Defense, and more have formed what they term the Salton Sea Coalition.

Joining the Coalition are mainstream D.C. environmental groups and they've begun a strong lobby to fight the Hunter bill. In addition a group of over 100 scientists and educators from San Diego have formed their own coalition to battle the transfer and the Hunter measure and to demonstrate that not all San Diego residents support an additional 200,000 af/a of growth-inducing water transferred to their city.

What's notable about the coalition is that it's a consortium of environmental and fishing/hunting groups – those that would often find themselves at odds with each other. They've allied, for the Sea represents natural resources and recreational pursuits at their best and losing the resource affects the fishers, hunters, and the

bird-watcher.

The Salton Sea has become ground-zero in the battle over water. If a resolution to the issue can't be found, the Salton Sea may be California's newest Dry Lake, as water that once fed this great lake now drips from San Diego's faucets.

Learn more about the Salton Sea at:

<http://www.sosr.com/Salton%20Sea%20101.htm>

www.saltonsea.ca.gov

<http://cem.ucor.edu/salton/>

<http://www.lc.usbr.gov/saltonsea/ssrest.html>

<http://www.scsd.edu/salton/SaltonSeaHomePage.html>

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encounters between mountain lions and humans in the continental United States. It is hoped that the study will shed light on why this occurs, and help to reduce mountain lion predation on the Peninsular Bighorn Sheep. DPR, DFG and the San Diego Zoo have provided support, and the project is being coordinated by the UC Davis Wildlife Health Center.

ANZA BORREGO DESERT SP has been dealing with the recent Pines Fire, which started near the town of Julian and burned 61,690 acres, including 17,000 acres within the western borders of the park. The fire began on July 29th and wasn't officially contained until August 13th. Thirty-seven residences and 116 outbuildings were lost in the fire (all outside the park).

A major project at Borrego is the

creation of the Anza Borrego Institute, a center dedicated to research, education and interpretation of the region. This umbrella facility would bring many current projects together, such as the extensive paleontological program, the Backcountry Seminars program, interagency studies, outdoor education, research facilities, labs and collections.



Ranger Bob Theriault leading an interpretive walk on a trail recently opened in the Sentenac Cienega area--a recent wetlands acquisition for Anza-Borrego.

SALTON SEA SRA has been drawing a lot of interest recently from European travelers who are intrigued by the supposed "healing" powers of the salt water. PAX TV recently featured a 5-part special on the Sea, ranging from an interview with retired Superintendent Tex Ritter about the old days to a town-hall meeting between local residents and public agencies regarding the proposed water transfer to San Diego.

MT. SAN JACINTO SP has been moved over to the Inland Empire District! We'll talk about them in a future issue.

(Thanks to Jim Burke, Bill Cardinal, Dave Roberts and Tina Townsend for help with this article.)



RANGER ON PATROL: Anza-Borrego is the only State Park unit with its own patrol plane, used to monitor the park's 600,000 acres.

COUNTING SHEEP

by Bud Getty

*Retired, Former Superintendent
Anza-Borrego Desert State Park*

The first sheep of the day has just appeared on the sky line of the high ridge that we can see from our sheep blind. Even with a good pair of binoculars it is very small, but we can see it is a ewe. It would be unusual for a ewe to travel alone so we scan the ridgeline for more sheep. And soon three more ewes and a lamb are in sight. They stand a long time on the crest looking; certainly they see our blind but after 32 years of having us spy on them they seem to take it in stride. When we get a spotting scope on them we can see that one of the ewes is actually a yearling ram. We record the exact time and the location in the event that watchers from another count site will also see the same sheep. This takes one of the variables out of the count records to eliminate duplicate counts of the same sheep.

In watching the sheep we have almost forgotten that it is about 110 degrees in the blind. The sheep may take as long as two hours to come down to water, and the closer to water they get the more nervous they appear. And for good reason, the predators of sheep, the mountain lion and coyotes can easily hide in the willows and surprise the sheep while they are down at water.

We arrive at the blind at about 7:00 AM and keep watching until 5:00 PM for three days.

Sheep seem to need to drink about every three days during the hot summer. The sheep count is planned to catch the time of maximum heat before the summer thunderstorms begin.

The counts began about 35 years ago



when Fish and Game conducted counts every other year. Parks began counting the intervening years 32 years ago. In the early days we had a count in both the northern part of Anza Borrego and a count a week later in the south the next weekend. Then the Bureau of Land Management began doing a helicopter count of the south, so we just count the north now.

The long term data we've collected does give us some valuable information about the status of the Peninsular Bighorn which is a threatened species. We get lamb to

ewe ratios and lamb survival rates by counting the next year's yearlings. We also get general population trends and watch for signs of disease. Lambs that are coughing, for instance, may indicate the presence of pneumonia (which is prevalent in the herd). So there is some science as well as the social aspect of counting sheep.

Contacting Anza Borrego can give you a chance for a cheap vacation, a cheap sauna/health spa and a blind date.



"BUDMAN"

both photos on this page by Gary Fregien

NEW SEASON IN THE PARKS

by John Krist, *Ventura County Star*,
June 25, 2002. Used with permission.

Snowmobile has ended, and personal watercraft has begun.

That's one way of looking at the progression of the seasons in America's national parks, forests and other recreation areas. From a management perspective, particularly if the volume of litigation is used as a gauge, the periods traditionally known as fall, winter, spring and summer have ceased to be defined by biological and meteorological transitions. Now, the most salient seasonal distinction is a shift in the dominant mode of motorized recreation.

So, with the melting of snow and the rise in air temperature, some of the nation's most popular federal parks now are in the grip of PWCs. Or they would be, if the National Park Service had not moved forward this year with a long-discussed regulation prohibiting use of the machines.

The ban was adopted in March 2000 for all 385 units managed by the NPS (only 87 of which actually allow motorized boating), but the agency provided a two-year grace period for 21 of the most heavily used sites. Two months ago, the NPS extended the ban to 13 of those units. At five of these including Whiskeytown National Recreation Area in California — the closure is permanent. At eight, the ban took effect April 22 but could be reversed pending additional study.

At the eight remaining sites, the prohibition will take effect Sept. 15, also pending review. These sites include some of the most intensively used recreation areas in the West, such as Lake Mead and Lake Powell, which together draw more than 11 million visitors annually.

The ban has been opposed by the Personal Watercraft Industry

Association and the American Watercraft Association, which sued the NPS (and lost) in an effort to overturn the policy. The prohibition is just as energetically supported by environmental groups, a coalition of which (acting as the Bluewater Network) also sued the NPS over its failure two years ago to impose the ban throughout the park system.

Conflict between the preservation and use of nature in America's national parks is as old as the system itself. It is, in fact, guaranteed by the park service's legislative charter, which gave the agency paradoxical obligations: "to conserve the (parks') scenery and the natural and historic objects and wildlife ... and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such a manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations."

From its earliest days, managing the park system has required compromise and tradeoffs among conflicting demands and expectations. That truth, however, seems so far to have eluded the understanding of the mechanized recreation industry. As evidence, one need look no further than a memo mailed to reporters on May 31 by the PWIA.

"What is the role of America's public parks?" it asks. It then lists a series of other questions in the implied belief that the answers will bolster its battle against PWC bans. Instead, they merely reveal a shallow understanding of the history and purpose of the park system.

Question 1: "Were America's public parks set aside as outdoor museums, or so that all Americans could enjoy recreating in them?"

Well, both, actually (see above). That's the paradox driving so many of today's conflicts.

Question 2: "Should decisions on which activities are appropriate in



Jet-Ski, Folsom Lake SRA. Dept. of Water Resources photo.

taxpayers-funded public parks be based on the preferences and prejudices of small vocal minorities, or based on objective, scientific studies?"

As vocal minorities go, there are few more minor than PWC owners. About 1.1 million of the machines have been sold in the United States, according to the National Marine Manufacturers Association. Last year, nearly 22 million Americans took at least one trip away from home just to watch or photograph wildlife, according to the Census Bureau. And science really has nothing to say about the basic conflict, which is based on the opinion held by just about everyone except PWC users that the noisy machines are a damned nuisance.

Question 3: "Americans are a diverse people — including diverse taste in our recreational choices — shouldn't America's parks and waterways offer a range of recreational activities for everyone?"

Yes. And they already do. Motorized boats, including PWCs, are allowed on nearly every river and lake in the United States, including thousands of square miles of coastal waters; the NPS ban affects but a tiny fraction of the nation's waterways. Suggesting that everyone should be allowed to do everything everywhere is not a matter of accommodating diversity but of indulging infantile selfishness.

That is not in the NPS charter.

Bud Getty's Official Retirement

By Gary Fregien, Senior State Park Resource Ecologist, Nat. Heritage Sct

Nothing about Bud's retirement was timely; certainly not this belated article. As some of you may know, Bud officially retired December 31, 2000. Both before and after that event, there were a number of parties around the state to commemorate Bud's career. First there was a going away party at Bud's last District assignment - Silverado. This, I guess, was a pre-retirement rehearsal. Then a sort of "roast" took place in Cuyamaca Rancho State Park, hosted by some of Bud's associates from his many years at Anza-Borrego Desert State Park. Just what you would expect from those folks! To complicate matters, Bud decided to return as a retired annuitant (some refer to those people as "retarded annoyances"; not me, of course). Anyway, Bud's official retirement party happened on January 5, 2002 at the State Railroad Museum, sanctioned by those who inhabit Officialdom. Mark Jorgensen served as a well-prepared MC, keeping the tone and flow of the evening lively and entertaining. One of the highlights of the evening was a special presentation to Bud from five other former CSPRA presidents - that makes six Xs. I've attached a few pictures to help you understand and appreciate the entire celebration.

Even after all of these trials and tribulations, Bud remains loyal and actively involved with State Parks, international parks, and certainly with CSPRA. So please join me in wishing Bud a *Happy Retirement*. Better late than never, huh?



FORMER CSPRA PRESIDENTS at the official Getty retirement party. L to R: Denzil Verardo, Nina Gordon, Bud Getty, Ron McCall, Rick Parmer, and John Mott

STATE ACQUIRES 25,000 ACRES OF NORTH COAST REDWOODS

On June 5, 2002, Governor Gray Davis announced the acquisition of 25,000 acres in Del Norte County, known as Mill Creek. Bordered on three sides by protected public land, Mill Creek's strategic location will link the pristine ancient redwood groves of the Jedediah Smith and Del Norte Coast Redwood State Parks and provide an unbroken connection between inland and coastal habitats. The land also supports 23 listed animal species, including coho salmon, the marbled murrelet and the northern spotted owl.

Gov. Davis said, "With Mill Creek, we now link and protect coastal and inland forest areas on a vast scale; from the Siskiyou National Forest in Oregon to the Mendocino National Forest in Northern California."

The Save-the-Redwoods League, a

private non-profit organization, negotiated the deal over the past 18 months and, on closing, directed the title to the State Department of Parks and Recreation. The League is developing an interim management plan to be delivered to State Parks.

The \$60 million purchase of Stimson Lumber Company land included \$42.5 million from Proposition 12, Proposition 13, Salmon Habitat Funding (SB271), and the Governor's Land Conservation Matching Grants. The Save the Redwoods League provided \$15 million in funding; the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service provided an additional \$2.5 million. This was the largest private-to-public land acquisition in the history of Del Norte County.

Lost tax revenue to Del Norte County from the removal of the land from the County's property tax rolls and the loss of taxes paid on harvested timber will be replaced. Save-the-Redwoods League and Stimson Lumber will purchase an annuity for \$5 million to provide income to the County for the next twenty years.

California Parks Conference 2002

by Patricia Clark-Gray, District Interpretive Specialist, Monterey Dist.

I have been attending CSPRA conferences for years. This year the program was exceptional. The Keynote Speaker, Dr. Exequiel Ezcurra, president of the National Institute of Ecology in Mexico, was a descriptive and poetic speaker. He spoke about the importance of the border deserts to biology and conservation.

My focus at the conference was mainly the Interpretive track. The session "New from Acorn Naturalist" was great for me as an Interpretive Specialist and a Scout leader, because Jennifer Rigby shared the latest publications such as *Biodiversity Basics*, *Wildlife For Sale*, and *Wild Spaces*, *Wild Species*. She had many of the products available in the catalog for us to examine.

My next session was "Don't Know Much About History" presented by Dr. Abraham Shragge, director of UCSD's Civic Collaborative Program. The program's purpose was to build regional knowledge and consciousness through research activities, public events, publications, and the San Diego Regional Studies Network.

DPR interpretive staff taught the other sessions that I attended. Joanie Cahill and Cara O'Brien enthusiastically presented "The ABC's of Preschool Interpretation". The participants practiced with Joanie and Cara the various songs, fingerplays and nature-related activities. Joanie and her husband Brian Cahill presented a PowerPoint presentation "Put A Spark in Your Interpretive Design" where we learned five simple tips to make our flyers, newsletters, and exhibits better. I loved the "Interpretive Graphics Olympics" where the participants voted on the quality and appeal of various publication and

exhibit designs.

The two Cultural track sessions that I attended were equally outstanding. Dave Carle, former Ranger and author of *Drowning the Dream: California's Water Choices at the Millennium*, presented a fascinating slideshow illustrating the history of water management policy and its links to development in Southern California. One of the quotes from William Mulholland, Los Angeles' water engineer, was revealing: "Whoever brings the water brings the people".

James Newland, Historian III, presentation "Historic Preservation: It's Not Just Buildings Anymore" provided a quick survey of the history, theory, and practice of

historic preservation as seen in California and in particular California State Parks. I especially enjoyed his discussion of the reconstruction of the La Purisima Mission, one of my favorite parks.

The highlight for me was the overnight camp-out to Anza-Borrego State Park. Watching the spectacular sunset at Font's Point was a spiritual experience. The BBQ dinner with the local park staff was delicious and a great social experience. Then to wake up from camping in the desert and have the Sector Superintendent, Mark Jorgensen, hand you a freshly brewed coffee, that is a once in a lifetime experience. Thanks to all the marvelous staff of Anza Borrego for such a memorable time.

"Then to wake up...and have the Sector Superintendent, Mark Jorgensen, hand you a freshly brewed coffee, that is a once in a lifetime experience."



Want a CSPRA scholarship? Contact Fred Jee at (760) 767-3674.



BOARD MEETING NOTES

CSPRA BOARD MEETING June 2002

Present: Kevin Buchannan, President; Dana Jones, Director; Angie Nowicki, Director; Val Bradshaw, Director; Geary Hund, Past President; Bud Getty, Director; Gar Salzberger Office Manager

Absent: Hailee Zaldivar, Secretary/Treasurer; Adam Stanke, Director

Past Meeting Minutes:

Hailee absent, defer to next meeting.

Approval of GEC Minutes: Kevin noted changes in wording about funding of new budget. GEC minutes approved by all.

Financial Report: Gar sent out by e-mail to all Board members information on financial report and investments.

OLD BUSINESS

- **Logo Mugs:** Motion as proposed at last meeting made to purchase 144 stainless steel mugs for sales and recruitment and 144 plastic mugs for new members at a cost of approx. \$1,200. Funding will come from Sales materials and Recruitment. Use logo and "For all Park Professionals" and "www.cspra.com". Purchase approved by board.
- **Logo Shirts:** Dana will check on this and report at next meeting.
- **Recruitment:** Kim and Steve will be hosting an event at Asilomar this week for BVST and Museum Collections Management.
- **Maintenance Supervisor's Association:** Gar tried to call Chuck this morning but had the incorrect number. Val gave him the correct # and he will follow-up.
- **Whitehead Award:** Angie will follow up with Mike Whitehead to see if the family wanted to

continue donating to this fund.

Parks Conference 2003:

Dana updated the Board on conference planning. Discussion on possible sponsors for the event.

Honorary Ranger: Kevin is working on lining up volunteers for this committee. Possibilities include Jill Dampier, Linda MacDonald, John Mott, Joe Rodgers, Mark Jorgensen and Nick Franco. We will vote on members at next meeting. He will also check with Greg Hayes and Dave VanCleve who were standing members of the old committee to see if they are still interested. Group discussed the possibility of an article in the newsletter listing the criteria for nomination.

Member Services Committee: Dana Jones, Kim Baker and Steve Wagy were nominated and approved by the Board.

Crystal Cove - AB 2190: This is not a dead issue. Kevin will be participating in a conference call today, and has been in contact with staff in that District. The bill itself was removed by the author.

Executive Director Grant: Rich Roselle is willing to assist with this. Kevin will write an article about the need for an organizational grant for this position, which should include hiring an Executive Director, office space, secretary etc. Geary recommended that we hire someone to write the grant.

Bay Area Wetland Restoration: 16,600 acres for restoration and protection. Geary discussed the concern that special interest groups are

involved in this and want to create urban recreation areas on this land. As a group we need to follow this land issue, Geary will contact local District on this issue.

San Elijo SB transfer: Our Department is fighting this. We will ask Adam to draft a letter for Kevin's signature. We need to speak with Ronnie Clark to get her take on this issue. Kevin will look into this.

Riverside Co. General Plan Hearing: Inland Empire District is following the process as their proposed Multiple Species Conservation Plan includes areas of parks in the District. Geary will draft a letter when needed addressing the issue. Adam volunteered to attend hearings to follow-up on this. Geary will contact Adam and work on this.

Organization Membership Drive: Kevin talked to Kim and John Mott. John is working with Kevin to see if the Association's would be interested in joining CSPRA.

Whitehead Award: The funding was seed money and there will be no more incoming funds for this award.

Boating & Waterway Funds: Kevin is working with Ruth on this. The key is to make sure that if the funding is removed the hole is filled.

Dues Increase: Over the course of the next year we will be working to show our progress to the members and will reevaluate this for next year.



PARKS IN THE NEWS

On July 12, 2002, the *San Francisco Chronicle* ran a story headlined:

"PLOVER PATROL --

State increases protections for threatened bird."

"For centuries, small flocks of sandy-backed, white-breasted western snowy plovers have laid eggs in shallow indentations along California's beaches.

But now, dog walkers, joggers, surfers, campers and kite flyers inadvertently chase away the 5- to 7-inch-long birds from their homes, stamp on eggs and ultimately contribute to the collapse of the species, park officials say.

Fewer than 2,000 remain on the coasts of California, Oregon and Washington.

Five years ago, the snowy plover was listed as a "threatened" species under the U.S. Endangered Species Act."

The article described enforcement measures in coastal State Park units that took effect on July 15 the length of the state, including strict enforcement of leash laws, illegal fireworks and camping regulations. In some areas dogs and humans will be prohibited from entry.

At Sonoma Coast State Beach, dogs and fires are prohibited on 3.5 miles of beach from Mussel Point to Coleman Beach, including at the mouth of Salmon Creek.

Protections applied to Half Moon Bay, San Gregorio, Pomponio and Pescadero State Beaches and the Ano Nuevo State Reserve.

The article quoted an exasperated dog owner who was upset by "overzealous plover lovers" who felt that dogs shouldn't be kept out of public parks. "They're part of the environment as well. Large dogs need to be exercised, and that includes off leash, too. They're living creatures with feelings."

It also described the importance of

the beach nesting habitat to the species and the requirements that come with listing under the Endangered Species Act. Snowy plovers once bred at 53 coastal locations in California. They have been forced out of Los Angeles County, most of Orange County, and parts of San Diego, Ventura and Santa Barbara counties.

WESTERN SNOWY PLOVER

Description: Sand-colored with white breasts, large black eyes, slender back bills, 5-7 inches long. Camouflaged small shorebirds blend into surroundings.

Habitat: Flat sandy beaches, salt flats and sandy areas with little vegetation. Feeds on insects and other small invertebrates.

Nesting: 2 or 3 buff eggs, spotted with black, in a sandy depression, March to September.

Range: Coastal population from Washington to Baja California.

Source: Point Reyes Bird Observatory

PARKS WITH NEW

RESTRICTIONS: MacKericher State Park, Sonoma Coast State Beach, Half Moon Bay State Beach, San Gregorio State Beach, Pomponio State Beach, Pescadero State Beach, Ano Nuevo State Reserve, Big Basin Redwoods State Park, Wilder Ranch State Park, Twin Lakes State Beach, Manresa State Beach, Sunset State Beach

CALIFORNIA PARKS CONFERENCE

MAR. 31 - APR. 2, 2003

SOUTH LAKE TAHOE

PROMOTING PROFESSIONALISM IN CALIFORNIA STATE PARKS

Membership

To join CSPRA, mail this application to: P.O. Box 247, Carpinteria, CA 93014-0247

For all except "Active" member payroll deduction, please include check for 1 year's dues.

Name

Address

City State Zip

Job Classification

Social Security #

Phone: Work

Phone: Home

District, Section, or Park:

Membership type (Circle one):

Active \$8/month

Active Retired \$18/year

Supporting \$36/year

Organization \$50/year

Benefactor \$1,000/life

I hereby authorize the State Controller to deduct from my salary and transmit as designated an amount for membership dues in the California State Park Rangers Association. This authorization will remain in effect until cancelled by myself or by the organization. I certify I am a member of the above organization and understand that termination of my membership will cancel all deductions made under this organization. Send to: CSPRA, P.O. Box 247, Carpinteria, CA 93014-0247

247

Signature

Date



THE OFFICE MANAGER'S MAILBAG



Gar Salzgeber, Office Manager

We have the following **new members**, mostly thanks to Kim Baker, Steve Waggy, Angy Nowicki and Geary Hund. On June 6th, CSPRA invited participants in the Mott Training Center classes to a membership recruitment BBQ at the Dining Hall. Approximately 60 participants from *Basic Visitor Services*, *Museums Collections Management*, and *Introduction to State Parks* attended. After an informal BBQ, and a short, informative discussion of the merits of membership, a campfire program was presented by Seasonal Interpreter Kira Steinberg of Portola Redwoods State Park.

New CSPRA members: **Nancy Reid**, retired State Park Ranger from Pacific Grove; **Even Walter**, Ranger Cadet from Rescue; **Barry Robertson**, Ranger Cadet from San Andreas; **Todd Friedman**, Lifeguard Cadet from Lakewood; **Warren Wulzen**, Associate State Archaeologist from Gustine; **Suzanne Matin**, Ranger Cadet from Granite Bay; **Guy Chrisos**, Ranger Cadet from Roseville; **William Jorae**, Museum Curator I from West Sacramento; **Karen Kassebohm**, Ranger Cadet from Sebastopol; **Jeff Grenzke**, Ranger Cadet from Santa Cruz; **Robert Latson**, Guide I from San Luis Obispo; **Johathan Irwin**, Ranger Cadet from Santa Rosa; **Sheryl Lawton**, State Park Ranger

from Santa Rosa; **Bryan Reynolds**, Ranger Cadet from Sacramento; **Christine Brazzil**, Guide I from San Simeon; **Kira Sorensen**, Ranger Cadet from Pacific Grove; **Ken Gordon**, Ranger Cadet from Ventura; **Daniel Weller**, Supervisor Communications from Pacific Grove; **Mark Jorgensen**, Superintendent II from Borrego Springs.

"News Flash" Statewide search for missing members Melvin Kutsch, Douglas Meyers and Curtis Kraft. Have you seen them? If so, please send their addresses to CSPRA, P.O. Box 247, Carpinteria CA. 93014-0247. Or call 800-749-8749 or even email: OfficeManager@CSPRA.com

Be sure to check new parks, districts or even behind obsolete files or archives.

CORRESPONDENCE

Getting personnel notes from our retired members about what they're doing with their lives warms the cockles of my heart and sends chills of joy up my spine. I hope everybody else enjoys them as much.

Bob Perkins writes a letter with a U.F.O. flying saucer diagram on it. It's titled "United Flying Octogenarians" News. Bob says: Regarding above! You impressed!? I've been inducted into the United Flying Octos! An International Group 80 years of age & up legally flying airplanes! (I am member # 315). To be eligible, one must have a current Medical and an updated Biannual Flight Review, & solo on (or after) the 80th birthday!

There was quite a function for me at the local Illinois River Valley ARPT. to see me parachute solo from 4000'!! (I hope it wasn't from the plane he was flying...) My Float Plane rating next goal! Carry on!

Bud Heacox writes: Aloha Gar- Long time no see. Congrats to you for hanging in there. Our oldest grandchild, Dwayne Bartlet (a chef) lives in Port Hueueme (sp) near the old CB

Base. He was 33 last Dec. We stayed at the Casa Via Mar near the main gate to the base when visiting Dwayne last fall. Took our usual pilgrimage to paradise at the Pikake Apt's, west Maui Jan and Feb. While there celebrated our 52nd Anniversary. Our oldest, Sue, was 51 in Dec. Our oldest son, Stan, was 49 last Nov. and our youngest, Tom, (born in Needles in 1956 when stationed at Mitchell Caverns) was 46 on June 7.

I'm still working as a volunteer in surgery at Sutter Memorial Hospital (over 17 yrs. now) and recently been appointed to the Board of Directors of the Sutter Medical Center Auxiliary. No pay but lots of satisfaction. I am still active in the Sacramento Chapter of the Sub Vets of WWII and the Sacramento Corral of Westerners, Inc. - folks interested in western U.S. History. Also, am a member of the American River Natural History Association and other assorted organizations.

Barbara still keeps me out-of-trouble (most of the time) and is my mentor (art critic - yes, I am still involved in sketching, painting, palm frond weaving, sand carving, etc.) and my chief bookkeeper, financial advisor, property manager, check book balancer, etc. which relieves me of a lot of headaches.

Wake up! Wake up!

I still enjoy swimming, snorkeling, body surfing (too old for the board anymore) conch shell blowing and of course, bikini watching. On Maui we enjoy watching the Humpback Whales and sea turtles cavorting. I observe the turtles every morning and send reports to the Federal Marine Fisheries Lab in Honolulu.

Bye the bye, Barb and I are members of the Pomona College Alumni Assoc. and I belong to the Venice High School Alumni Assoc.

Enough said - it's getting late. Best wishes. Bud

P.S. Be good. If not, be careful! and always keep the wind at your back. See **CORRESPONDENCE**, p. 15



CORRESPONDENCE from p. 14

Jeff Jones writes: Hello Gar- Thanks for keeping in touch and for all the work you do on behalf of CSPRA. My check is enclosed. Hillary and I live at 4300' nine miles from the Manzanita Lake entrance to Lassen Volcanic National Park. I have worked 3 summers there as a patrol and protection ranger. I also teach high school and middle school instrumental music as well as play professionally in the Redding area. Hillary works at a small K-8 school teaching advanced English to bright 8th graders and tutoring math.

Our house is on 3 acres with pines, oaks and plenty of peace and quiet. I hope all is well with you. Best regards. Jeff (Jeff also sends a business card that says he plays saxophone, clarinet, flute and does all styles of playing and teaching.)

Rich Irwin writes: Hi Gar! I'm keeping more than busy - not enough time to use my lifetime fishing license at all yet this year! My wife and I have been helping several elderly neighbors with their concerns. We keep busy with church and school activities. We do plan a trip to Europe this summer - as tag a longs with the American Musical Ambassadors National Honor Band. One of our 4 children is playing trombone in this high-school-age band. They plan eleven concerts while touring 8 European countries.

DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVES

<u>District</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Phone /email</u>
Angeles, Coast	Padilla, Frank	310 457-4358 trailpro@aol.com
Bay Area, Coast	Edgemon, Chuck	650 879-2025 chuckedgemon@earthlink.net
Bay Area, Diablo Calaveras	Nielson, Carl Harrison, Wayne	925 837-6129 209 795-3488 rxfire@goldrush.com
Channel Coast	Robinson, Rondalyn	805 654-5301
Colorado Desert	Zemon, Jeri	760 767-4399
Four Rivers	Martin, Greg	209 827-1525 gmartin@thegrid.net
Gold Fields	Van Etten-Collins, Laura	916 988-0206
Gold Rush	Simmons, Ken	916 445-7387 colomaken@ips.net
Park Services	Maris, Vic	916 653-9315 maris@parks.ca.gov
Marin	Whitehead, Mike	415 435-5390 tamangel@earthlink.net
Monterey	Gray, Pat Clark	831 649-2855 pgray@parks.ca.gov
Northern Buttes	Grove, Susan	530 235-0956 susangrove@snowcrest.net
North Coast	Sermon, Rick	707 464-6101 x5100 richard-sermon@nps.gov/richard
Orange Coast	Serpa, Jim	949 496-5290 serpa@fea.net
Oceano Dunes	Monge, Rey	805 473-7225 rmonge@parks.ca.gov
Mendocino	Joe, Kevin	707 937-5804 kjoe@mcn.org
Russian River	Broderick, Karen	707 847-3286 karen@mcn.org
San Joaquin	Faull, Mark	mfaull@starband.net
San Simeon	Van Schmus, James	805 927-2020 ivans@parks.ca.gov
Santa Cruz	Hitchcock, Linda	831 429-2851 lindi3@juno.com
Sierra	Lindsey, Tom	530 525-7232 tomlindsey@ips.net
Silverado	Nixon, Valerie	707 279-4293
So. Service Center	Webb, Paul	619 220-5311

Retirees Rendezvous

These retirees have paid for the Rendezvous, October 5/6 at McConnell SRA: Al Oliver, David Stratton, Doug Bryce, Ray Jenkins, Carl Lonnecker, Mike Merkel, Jack Schlotter, Dave Donahue, Bob Freeman, Ben Hale, Wes Cater, Ray Westberg, Gar Salzgeber. How about you?

Do you know someone who is retiring?

CSPRA provides a plaque for each member when they retire. Contact CSPRA at (800) 749-8749 or make a request at www.cspira.com



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CALIFORNIA STATE PARK RANGERS ASSOCIATION

Mission Statement



The California State Park Rangers Association is an organization of park professionals dedicated to advancement of the highest principles of public service, and established to support, protect, and defend the integrity of State Parks for present and future generations.



Founded 1964