

The CSPRA

Wave

VOLUME 4, NUMBER 6

CALIFORNIA STATE PARK RANGERS ASSOCIATION

NOV - DEC 2004

CASTLE and COAST

**SAN LUIS OBISPO
COAST DISTRICT
(see pp. 3-7)**

**Limekiln SP
WR Hearst Memorial SB
Hearst San Simeon SHM
San Simeon SP
Morro Strand SB
Morro Bay SP
Los Osos Oaks SR
Montaña de Oro SP
Pismo State Beach
Cayucos SB
Estero Bluffs
Sea West**



Also: CSPRA testimony on California Performance Review proposals, p. 2; Lobbyist's Report, p. 7



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



VALERIE BRADSHAW
CSPRA President

The California Performance Review (CPR) has generated numerous questions

in terms of what it means for the Department – and in particular for the future of the Peace Office classifications. While the CPR is in the wrap-up phase of the public testimony part, the entire process is far from over.

The CPR Commission is scheduled to hold one more public meeting in Irvine on October 20th. The plan for this meeting is only for “staff” to present information to the Commissioners with an end result of a report on recommendations being developed and sent to the Governor. All this means is it is still too early for us to know with any degree of certainty what the final report might recommend.

Miles Standish, representing CSPRA CALIFORNIA PERFORMANCE REPORT PRESENTATION, SEPT. 17, 2004, at CAL-STATE, FRESNO

Good morning ladies and gentlemen. My name is Miles Standish and I stand before you representing the California State Park Rangers Association and myself. I come with the credentials of having been a California State Park Ranger for over 35 years — plus more than a few years of education in the biological sciences and law.

To date CSPRA, has participated in the public process by partnering with the California State Parks Foundation, working with our Lobbyist (Governmental Advocates – Monica Miller), submitting a written response, and offering testimony at hearings (thanks Miles Standish for attending the Fresno hearing).

What the future holds in store is still very much up in the air. After the Governor presents his plan to the Little Hoover Commission, there will be a period of time for the Commission to prepare a comprehensive plan to present to the Legislature for final approval. It is uncertain if the proposal for the Legislature to consider will be in one package or broken into smaller pieces. The best “guess” I have heard is that it will probably go forward as small pots as opposed to one large plan.

What this means to the Association and to all Californians is that we must remain diligent in following the process and must be prepared to act on short notice to assure the Legislature’s are fully informed of the impacts of any of the proposals as they become known. It is not too late to contact our elected officials and it will continue to be ever important that we stay informed and in touch with our allies to work for the benefit of our profession. Please continue to help the Board stay informed and to help our voices be heard.

Recently the State of California published a proposed reorganization plan entitled the “California Performance Report.” Ostensibly, this is an effort to streamline the administration of the State of California, make state government more responsive to the public and reduce state spending. Unfortunately, I cannot comment with any authority on most of this voluminous effort, but I can, and do, wish to comment on two issues I consider major errors relating to California’s State Park System: 1. The first error is the proposed change in shifting the

See TESTIMONY, page 10

CASTLE AND COAST

by *Nick Franco*

District Superintendent
San Luis Obispo Coast District

We all think that our parks are the best and most unique parks in the system and we're all correct. Each park is unique and special and the parks in the San Luis Obispo Coast District are no exception.

From north to south, the parks in this district include: Limekiln State Park at the southern end of the Big Sur Coast, William Randolph Hearst Memorial State Beach, Hearst San Simeon State Historical Monument (otherwise known as Hearst Castle), San Simeon State Park, Morro Strand State Beach, Morro Bay State Park, Los Osos Oaks State Reserve, Montaña de Oro State Park and Pismo State Beach. In addition, we have Cayucos State Beach which is operated by San Luis Obispo County Parks and two recent acquisitions that have yet to be classified: Estero Bluffs and Sea West which lie between Cayucos and Cambria.

The diversity of these parks ranges from the spectacular cultural resources of Hearst Castle to the critical natural resource of Western Snowy Plover habitat. We have concessions that operate a large format theater to a golf course to a restaurant to kayak tours to gift shops. We have active partnerships with the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary and the Bureau of Land Management as well as with our two large cooperating associations: the Friends of Hearst Castle and the Central Coast Natural History Association.

These partnerships will become stronger as we move forward on what is soon to be the largest conservation easement in U.S. history: the Hearst Ranch Conservation Easement. While California State Parks is only a small



Photo by Greg Smith

part of the overall process, the impacts to the California Coast are huge. This easement will protect the viewshed and resources over the entire 82,000 acre Hearst Ranch – as far as the eye can see from Hearst Castle.

Part of the project is the donation of 13 miles of coastal property to California State Parks. This coastal property is unparalleled in size for its resource condition. In addition to having acres of native threatened and endangered plants, it is also home to a colony of more than 11,000 Elephant Seals and adjacent to the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary and

the California Coastal National Monument. The work of the many people and agencies involved to make this deal happen has been tremendous and will soon be visible in this wonderful addition to the San Simeon coastline.

What I am most proud of in the San Luis Obispo Coast District are the diverse and skilled employees who complete highly technical restoration projects at the castle, interpret our resources to the public, protect critical habitat on the beaches, provide wonderful administrative support, guide people through special places to millions of visitors, protect the public and the parks and maintain the complicated and underfunded facilities throughout the district. Our employees are our most valuable resource and are true park professionals. Please come and see these parks for yourself and meet our wonderful staff.



BEACHES AND BLUFFS

by Greg Smith

Coastal Sector Superintendent

As the quiet fall season of the Central Coast brings the cool evenings and crisp mornings, residents and visitors alike are seemingly unaware of California State Parks' consolidation. With a relatively smooth transition, the Coastal Sector of the "new" San Luis Obispo Coast District was formed as a complete manifestation of the old SLOCD that existed prior to 2003. From Pismo State Beach in the south to the District's latest 750 acre acquisition north of Cayucos, these coastal units continue to provide beach-dependent recreation while protecting over 30 sensitive plant and animal species.

The Coastal Sector hosts the largest nesting population of the threatened Western Snowy Plover anywhere along the California coast. With a successful hatching rate of over 50%, the 400+ nesting attempts in this sector are a showcase for the Department on how to balance recreational needs while protecting a sensitive resource.

One of the bigger challenges to the Sector has been the rehabilitation of the Morro Bay Campground. The project is bringing this historic Civilian Conservation Corps-era campground into the 21st century, while retaining the character of the 1930's. When completed in spring of 2005, this ADA-compliant campground will provide 135 screened campsites, three new CCC style comfort stations and a relocated entrance road.

This project's challenge has been a small, but vocal group who do not want to see any of the changes proposed by the Department. Numerous challenges through the City's and the California Coastal Commission's permitting processes have, in the end, all been resolved to complete a



photo by Greg Smith

fantastic project.

On the horizon is a project to rehabilitate and dredge the State Park Marina in conjunction with the City of Morro Bay's Harbor Department, the design and construction of bike

lanes in Morro Bay State Park with partial funding from the San Luis Obispo Council of Governments and the development of new acquisitions along this outstanding section of the California coast.



Estero Bluffs, not yet classified

photos by Greg Smith

One of three new CCC style comfort stations at the Morro Bay SP campground



RESOURCE REVIEW

by **Brian Barandon**

Assistant Resource Ecologist

In the past year, we have continued to work on Coastal scrub restoration in San Simeon State Park, exotic species control throughout the sector, and Snowy Plover management. This work will continue in the next year, and we have a number of new projects planned for the fall and winter of 2004/2005.

We have received grant funding to extend a wonderful boardwalk along the coastal terrace of Moonstone Drive in Cambria. This boardwalk will be constructed by the California Conservation Corps, providing great vistas of the magnificent kelp forests and sea otters. It is currently still in the planning phase, though we hope to start construction later this fall. The boardwalk will extend from near Leffingwell Landing in San Simeon State Park to the Moonstone Beach day-use area, which is a distance of over a mile. Following construction of the boardwalk, old trails and eroded areas will be re-vegetated with native plants currently being grown in the

Moonstone Drive boardwalk



San Simeon State Park greenhouse. This boardwalk will greatly improve visitor access along the bluffs, while protecting sensitive resources.

In addition, we will initiate an exotic species control program at Limekiln State Park. We have done some work there in the past, and now we have secured funding to expand control efforts for Pampas Grass, fennel, and English Ivy. Control of Pampas grass will be the primary focus, as it is widespread in the park and highly invasive. This will help protect the natural vegetation on this southern portion of the Big Sur coastline.

photos by Greg Smith



Western snowy plover on nest

Conserving Hearst Lands

On Sept. 15, 2004, the California Coastal Conservancy unanimously approved spending \$34.5 million in park funds for parts of the Hearst Ranch, the final major hurdle for the state's planned acquisition. The final vote came after a 6 hour public hearing, with nearly 100 witnesses testifying.

Proponents, including the Coastal Conservancy's staff, said the deal is the last chance to protect the 13 miles of central coast beaches and ban development on 80,000 acres surrounding Hearst Castle.

Opponents urged the Conservancy to add more conditions to a \$95 million sale, claiming the agreement failed to guarantee public access to

parts of the ranch and set a poor precedent for future conservation agreements.

The Hearst Corporation agreed to increase the number of public tours on restricted areas of the property and ease restrictions on day use.

The Board of Public Works must approve the State's acceptance of 1,500 acres west of the coastal highway, but this public hearing was considered the last major debate on the agreement.

In addition to tax breaks, Hearst Corp. would get \$80 million, and be able to farm 3,600 acres, build a 100 room hotel, 27 homes and 15 employee housing units, subject to Coastal Commission approval.



photo by Greg Smith

SHAKING SAN SIMEON

by Hoyt Fields

Museum Director, Hearst Castle®

Monday, December 22, 2003 began as any other normal business day for the San Luis Obispo Coast District. Tour reservations for the Christmas holiday season were selling out as expected, and it was a beautiful sunny day for the visitors to Hearst Castle® to enjoy a memorable experience viewing the vast collection of artifacts and the magnificent buildings constructed by Ms. Julia Morgan beginning in 1919, for William Randolph Hearst at San Simeon.

At approximately 11:15, the ground began to undulate, shake, and bounce as later reports indicated that the hilltop and surrounding regions experienced a 6.5 magnitude earthquake centered six miles east of the Castle on the little-known San Simeon Fault.

Hearst Castle® is not immune to the existence of seismic activity due to its proximity to several active fault areas. Over the years, many tremblors from the Piedra Blanca and San Andreas faults that extend past the Castle to its East and West have made their presence known, but nothing to compare with the force that the San Simeon Fault exhibited that day.

Due to the engineering and architectural genius of Ms. Julia Morgan, Hearst Castle® remains today as structurally sound as it has from the beginning without any adverse effects from this extremely strong magnitude earthquake.

Ms. Morgan was well aware of the devastation caused by earthquakes, experiencing for herself the damaging effects of the 1906 quake in San Francisco.

Built on bedrock, the concrete, reinforced structure, was designed to not only withstand the effects of nature and protect its occupants, but also the unsurpassed collection of



Artifacts damaged range in age from a 1st century B.C. marble Roman vase to 19th century carved Roman columns.

artifacts it houses.

Over four hundred visitors, evacuated from the interiors of the buildings, suffered no injuries from the quake.

No rhyme or reason can explain why there were not more artifacts damaged than the twelve, as evidenced by the unexplained non-destruction of similar artifacts in the same room as those damaged.

The artifacts damaged range in age from a 1st century B.C. marble Roman vase to 19th century carved Roman columns. The cost of repairing these twelve artifacts is approximately \$565,000.

Presently, with the assistance of FEMA, conservation contracts are in process for seven of the twelve damaged artifacts with plans to advertise for the conservation of the remaining five due to their cost for conservation, which exceeds the Castle's dollar threshold for this type of work.

Once again, accolades to Julia Morgan are due for her vision and architectural knowledge, as only twelve of the more than 25,000 artifacts housed in the buildings and on the grounds of the Castle sustained any damage.

Correspondence from William Randolph Hearst to Julia Morgan in 1927 states, "...from here forward, I would like to dispose of the less desirable items in the collection and collect the best that I possibly can for future generations to enjoy...". Thanks to Hearst's vision and Ms. Morgan's unprecedented abilities, Hearst Castle® stands today, without structural damage and artifacts that are repairable, to carry out WRH's vision.



The Castle itself had no adverse effects from the earthquake.

Photo by Greg Smith

Everyone Has Ownership in Security

by **Terese A. Zilke**
Security Superintendent

As we approach the year 2005, we are no closer to reading the crystal ball for what the future may bring. As it is with our security role in the San Luis Obispo Coast District, we put time into planning for those things that have a greater potential for occurring. Security is not a State Parks Section that can act all on its own. It is very dependant on the communication between all sections and responding to all reports, however slight it may appear at first.

Hearst San Simeon SHM is on the FBI's list of potential terrorist targets, and with over 800,000 visitors annually, we are very conscious of providing for public safety. In addition, the Monument was bombed once before in the 1970s.

Much like Community Policing programs, we depend on our employees and partners to bring us information that will give us a better 'safety net' for keeping all from harms way. We have been tested on several occasions and in each debriefing, we come out ahead. Every occurrence gives us the opportunity to improve our procedures.

One of the best tools we have is our Morning Status Report which was



Juventino Ortiz, Superintendent of District Services by the Neptune Pool at Hearst Castle
photo by **Greg Smith**

developed after 9/11/2001. The report begins with identifying the Duty Chief of the day. That person must be available for contact in any event that would need to act on the Standardized Emergency Management System [SEMS]. The report then identifies which supervisor is available for each section and the contact numbers where they can be reached. This 'at-a-glance' tool is e-mailed or faxed out to each section daily.

The ready access works from all angles: for the managers, supervisors

and staff that place their trust in those that may have to activate SEMS. Our relationships with mutual agencies like FBI, OES, DOJ and local jurisdictions have brought us together to share information that was so confidential in the past that reliable information was not shared and, therefore, not useful. These strides bring us together as a better team to act upon the unknown of the future where everyone has ownership in security.

Update from Sacramento

by **Monica Miller**, CSPRA Lobbyist

The Governor had until September 30 to sign or veto legislation or it would become law. We are happy to report that one bill that was of particular concern to CSPRA was vetoed by the governor. AB 2064 by Assembly Member Goldberg would have changed the mission of urban state parks. Current law establishes that the Department of Parks and Recreation has control of the state park system. This "Active Recreation

Act" bill would have authorized the department to facilitate defined "active recreation activities" in "park poor areas" if specified circumstances apply. The bill would have authorized the department, for acquisitions of property after January 1, 2005, to enter into a lease of up to 25 years with cities or counties, to provide suitable sites for active recreation. This bill would have been a bad precedent for our state parks system, so we are pleased that the governor vetoed the measure.

The election will be November 2,

2004 and we expect to see many new faces in the legislature with this election. The 2005-06 legislative class will be sworn in the first week in December and the session will officially begin the first week of January. We will keep you posted on the election results and what it means for state parks, along with information as new bills are introduced and their impacts on the state park system, and of course information on the Governor's January budget and what it means for our parks.

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A CENTRAL VALLEY STRATEGY

by **Laura Westrup**
Park & Recreation Specialist
Planning Division

Director **Ruth Coleman** initiated a study to respond to the unprecedented growth in the Central Valley. This region is comprised of 18 counties and is projected to grow 130% by 2050 according to new numbers released

this spring by demographers at the California Department of Finance.

By the year 2020, the Valley will be home to more people than the Bay Area, making it the second most populated area after the greater Los Angeles region. And projections indicate that by 2050, almost one in four Californians will live in the Valley. The Department's study provides a blueprint for the State Park System's future role by guiding upcoming State Park System acquisition and development projects and can assist the Legislature in crafting funding programs that will benefit California's heartland.

Specifically, the study recommends:

a. Significantly expanding recreational facilities for camping, day use, fishing, boating, and trails to accommodate larger families and groups in existing parks along river corridors, reservoirs and in the Delta.

b. Expanding land holdings at existing units and acquiring new parklands along selected major river corridors such as the Sacramento, Tuolumne, Stanislaus, San Joaquin and Merced Rivers, particularly where an opportunity exists to link state parks and other lands in public ownership.

c. Acquire lands that protect significant natural resources once



*Great Valley
Grasslands SP*

*Photos by
Jane
McGinnis*

abundant in the Central Valley, such as blue oak and sycamore woodlands and native grasslands.

d. Acquiring lands and working in partnership to preserve, protect and interpret the rich history associated with the Valley's past, including the agricultural industry story, Native American past and continuing life ways, Highway 99, the Valley's oil industry, the stories of immigrant workers from around the world, of Depression-era dust bowl refugees, and of California's country and western music artists.

The Central Valley Strategy can be used as a starting point for discussions with legislative leaders, editorial boards and local decision makers. It can also open doors through encouraging partnerships while developing a unified vision for the protection and enhancement of natural, cultural, and recreational resources in "California's Heartland."

The Department's Central Valley Brochure can be easily viewed through <http://www.parks.ca.gov/pages/21491/files/cvreport.pdf>.



A school group at Great Valley Grasslands State Park

JACKIE BALL'S RETIREMENT PARTY



^^ **Jackie Ball**, Superintendent of the Gold Fields District, celebrated her retirement in September at Coloma State Historic Park



(L to R) **Milona Meyer, Janelle Miller, Shana Avalos, Jackie, Gay Kaestner, and Jill Dampier**



Is this the biggest gathering of “first-generation” (and a few recent) women rangers ever?



Rangers **Brian Robertson**, Auburn SRA, and **Alexandra Ott**, Coloma SHP



Roger Chatterton, longtime instructor at Asilomar, and **Mary Wright**, former Mott Training Center Director



Former CSPRA presidents, **Scott Nakaji, Jill Dampier, Nina Gordon, and John Mott.**

CPR TESTIMONY

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responsibility of the State Park System from the Department of Parks and Recreation to the two new departments of Natural Resources and Public Safety and Homeland Security. 2. The second error is the consolidation of state park peace officers from the State Park System into the new Department of Public Safety and Homeland Security.

I. The first issue has to do with section 5008 of the Public Resources Code. The proposed change states "The department [meaning the new Department of Natural Resources] shall manage the state park system and the state vehicular recreation area and trail system... The Department of Public Safety and Homeland Security shall protect the state park system and the state vehicular recreation area and trail system from damage and preserve the peace therein." This idea is patently unworkable. Protection and management go hand in hand. They are inexorably tied together. Protection of the resources is the purpose of a protected area - be it a preserve, a park, a wilderness, a forest, a watershed or any other resource area. Preservation includes much more than just protection from people by law enforcement. Any biologist will tell you that the natural environment is a living, changing resource. Protection includes the use of prescription fire, control of exotic plants/animals, controlling human use patterns, wildfire control, erosion control and a multitude of other issues. I find it extremely unlikely that the Department of Public Safety and Homeland Security will ever be in a position to fully protect our State's crown jewels because they are only concerned with law enforcement and wildfire control. How can this new department ever fully "protect" our state parks without having a holistic approach?

Another concern on this same issue is that by dividing the responsibility for managing and protecting the State

Park System you create inefficiency. If the new Department of Natural Resources is supposed to manage the state park system how can it do that without protecting the parks? If the Department of Public Safety and Homeland Security is supposed to protect the parks how can they do that without managing the people? All the problems people have at home they bring to the parks when they visit. Where two different Departments share essentially the same responsibility I can foresee that there will be a lot of cross policies, backbiting and bad feeling. Either the two Departments will be constantly bickering or they will declare a truce and nothing at all will be accomplished. Instead of creating efficiencies I foresee major economic inefficiencies due to cross-purposes and duplication of effort.

II. My second issue has to do with the consolidation of state park peace officers into the new Department of Public Safety and Homeland Security. Although on the surface it appears that there will be a savings, no savings can possibly occur. As the proposal now stands all state park peace officers (rangers and lifeguards) would be transferred into the new Department of Public Safety and Homeland Security and become strictly law enforcement officers. The savings, presumably, would come about through consolidation of training, equipment purchasing and organization. Most likely the new Department of Natural Resources would have to contract with the Department of Public Safety and Homeland Security for the law enforcement services of state park peace officers. The trouble comes about when you look at all the other services that state park peace officers are now providing (over and above law enforcement) and then try and determine how the new park service will be able to provide these same services with fewer personnel. Chances are that at least one new personnel classification will have to be created to fill in for all of

the other duties that state park peace officers now provide over and above law enforcement. That won't decrease the number of state workers, but most likely will add more state workers to the payroll. Should the new park service be told that there would be no new positions forthcoming I can guarantee the closure of parks, the deterioration of facilities, degradation of resources and a marked decrease in employee morale. The California State Parks are already tottering on the brink of collapse due to the loss of personnel over the last 25 years. This would be more than the final straw. More likely it would be the coup de grace.

Another concern I have is how the new proposal would change the role of the state park ranger under the new Department of Public Safety and Homeland Security. I find that the California Performance Report has made a very serious mistake in its assumption that a peace officer is a peace officer is a peace officer. It's very apparent in statements in sections titled "Fragmented command structure and lack of interoperability" and "Lack of consistent training and standardized equipment" that whoever wrote this report seems to think that all peace officers are alike and have the same mission. In point of fact, nothing could be further from the truth. Law enforcement can be divided into two major areas: social law enforcement (rape, murder, traffic control, theft, etc.) and resource law enforcement (poaching, arson, pollution, etc.). This is not a new concept. The term "ranger" was first coined in England in 1455 as a forest officer or game keeper, but the profession goes back much further into history - at least into the Greek and Roman times - and includes other titles such as "warden," "guardian," and "forester." The public is generally little aware of this disparate group of state environmental protectors but they do exist: Fish and Game Wardens, State Park Rangers, CDF law enforcement personnel and possibly others in air pollution, water pollution

See TESTIMONY, page 11

BARRY/FREGIEN RETIREMENT PARTY



^^Wayne Harrison (L) and Geary Hund (R), former CSPRA presidents, at the Tahoe party
<<Longtime Resource Ecologists Gary Fregien (L) and Jim Barry (R) at their joint retirement party, Sept. 2004

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and other resource protection areas. What is really important to note, however, is that (with the exception of State Park Rangers) resource peace officers do not enforce social law to any significant degree. It was a major point in the CPR report that when the 9/11 crisis occurred Fish and Game Wardens were sent home. Maybe that's because their training and purpose is not terrorism suppression (social law enforcement) but the protection of wildlife. How could they have responded? They may have had useful resources, but social law enforcement is not their mission nor in their training. Peace officers that are trained in resource law enforcement carry a different set of skills than social law enforcement officers and if they are brought into a new agency that assumes that social law enforcement and resource law enforcement is the same, their critical skill levels in resource protection will most likely deteriorate. Learning how to track, trap, identify forest diseases, identify water pollution sources, survey boundaries, catch wood poachers and arsonists are not skills that are common to the CHP. The point is made in the CPR report that by combining peace officers into one Department they can better utilize equipment common to the CHP and thereby save money in purchasing and maintenance. Is the CHP going to effectively purchase

and maintain resource specialized equipment? What kind of hiking boots is the CHP going to buy? Does the CHP know what kind of forestry compass to buy for surveying? How about backpacks, range finders, water pollution kits and GPS units? Will the firearms needs be the same? The same argument holds true for training. Will the CHP offer training in tracking? How about game identification, forest diseases, off-road vehicles or GIS? Obviously, skills and equipment are not all the same.

The unfortunate part in this resource law enforcement discussion, of course, is that state park rangers do both jobs. They enforce social law AND resource law. In some parks they are truly a "jack-of-all-trades" while in others they mainly enforce social law. That's because the State Parks are so diverse. State Parks has always embraced the "generalist" concept for the ranger position and as a result the state park ranger actually fulfills many functions, is more highly educated but still gets paid less than a CHP Officer. (Rangers are often told that they get "paid in sunsets.") I could go on about other skills and functions that state park peace officers possess in the areas of resource management, search and rescue, maintenance (yes, in maintenance), administration, first aid, education (often referred to as interpretation) and a multitude of other functions that are not necessarily law

enforcement related. If the consolidation takes place, who will take over these responsibilities? Who will the public turn to in parks for every emergency other than law enforcement? That sounds like a lot of new positions to me. I will concede that the report does make some valid points regarding radio communications and lines of authority that do apply to the present Department of Parks and Recreation. Those issues, however, are easily correctable with some policy changes and an infusion of money to upgrade communications. I take umbrage, however, with any charges about lack of training, professionalism or quality of service. Any California State Park Ranger could easily change professions from park ranger to police officer and get a nearly 100% increase in pay. Policemen and rangers have exactly the same basic (NOT advanced) POST training. Think about that.

Why do they stay? Let me give you a hint: its not the high pay. The proposed changes discussed would be expensive, inefficient and a morale destroyer to state park employees. California's crown jewels need professional, trained park rangers and a single, unified management. I urge you not to adopt the discussed proposed changes.

Miles is a ranger at Castle Rock SP
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12th Annual Rendezvous

by **Jeff Price**, Retired Member

Since 1992, CSPRA has sponsored the Annual Retiree's Rendezvous for retired and active park people at McConnell State Recreation Area. The event is a traditional campout and social time where park people can catch up on significant events. **Kirk Wallace** has been our planner, and enjoys the support of many others to make it all work, as you can see in the photos. All DPR employees and CSPRA members, retired or not, are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Typically, Friday is "Park Project Day" where the retirees build or repair a park facility as a thank you for hosting the group. Then comes the "Friday Night Roadkill Grill," where attendees may sample unusual culinary delights in a braggart's potluck, such as wild boar, trout, rabbit, salmon and venison.

Saturday started off early with a complete breakfast, featuring the food cooperative's traditional buttermilk pancakes. Mid-morning, the CSPRA Board lead by President **Val Bradshaw** held its quarterly meeting – on a picnic table beside the Merced River, no less. After noon, organizers arranged teams for a Pitch & Putt golf tournament. Everyone returned for an early evening BBQ dinner and fundraiser raffle. This year we saw some amazing raffle items; handmade jewelry, exquisite home made and knitted accessories, confections, wines, an original **Bernie Donahue** painting and other specialty items.

Almost 80 park people chatted about everything from the election to the governor's plans for consolidation of agencies. Over 130 additional photos from the Rendezvous, taken by **Jim Peat**, **Dave Donahue** and **Jeff Price**, are available online at <http://www.cspra.com/rendezvous.html>



<<L to R: **Jim Peat**, CSPRA President **Val Bradshaw**, **Carl Chavez**, CSPRA webmaster **Jeff Price**, and CSPRA President-elect **Ron Brean**



^^L to R: **Jim Peat**, past CSPRA president **Herman Schlerf**, and charter CSPRA member **Bob Allen**

<<Rendezvous organizer **Kirk Wallace** and the beautiful cake.

Photos by **Jeff & Peggy Price**

CSPRA Board meeting at the Rendezvous, L to R: **Ron Brean**, **Angy Nowicki**, **Kirk Wallace**, **Jim Neal**, **Jeff Price**, **Karen Barrett**, and **Val Bradshaw** >>
Photo by **Jim Peat**

Email **Kirk Wallace** at rendezvous@cspra.com about next year's event.



OFFICE MANAGER'S REPORT TO THE CSPRA BOARD

From May 1 to August 31, 2004

New Active Members are: **Daniel Kenney** a ranger from Twin Cities/ Carnegie and **Yvonne Heuston** a ranger from Pfeiffer Big Sur.

New Retired Members (who weren't transferred from Active status) are: **Glen Jones, Paul Muspratt, Jordan Fisher Smith, Art Morley, Francis (Casey) Buchter, Geary Hund, and Ruth Warren.** (I believe I picked up some of these members with information included in the Retiree Rendezvous mailing).

Retirement plaques were presented to: **Dan Dungey, Gary Fregien, Doug Seekatz, John Magee, Craig Burke, David Milam, Fred Matsuura, Vic Maris and Bob Culbertson.**

We currently have 786 members: 503 Active, 177 Retired, 9 Supporting, 11 Organizational, 2 Benefactors, 47 Legislative/Committee, 17 Honorary Members and 20 Complimentary Members.

Honorary Ranger Mrs. **Roma Philbrook Rentz** sent us another contribution of \$100.

My summer project was to connect us with a monthly \$3 PERS Retirement Deduction for retired members who wish to participate. This proved to be much more complex than expected, but is finally working out. We currently have exactly 25 members using the PERS Deduction.

We also currently have around 65 people registered for the Retirees Rendezvous, which indicates that there will be a good turnout for the Rendezvous.

9/27/04 Gar Salzgeber



CALIFORNIA PARKS CONFERENCE

March 6-10, 2005

Growing for the Future Celebrating the Fruits of our Labor



The 2005 Conference planning team is organizing a host of great activities. Field trips include kayaking, horseback riding and an Environmental Living Program at Angel Island SP.

A murder mystery dinner and star gazing at Sugarloaf SP's observatory will also be offered, along with many interesting daytime sessions. There will be a special GrayBears track this year with topics of interest to retired members. See www.cspira.com for updates.

Nominate an Honorary Ranger

by *John Mott*, CSPRA Honorary Member Chair

The Honorary Member committee is accepting applications for CSPRA's highest award, the Honorary Ranger Award. Traditionally this award is given to people who have had a statewide impact in their efforts to defend, promote and champion the mission of the California State Parks and/or the profession of being a California State Parks employee. Only written nominations will be accepted. The committee will review the nominations and forward suitable nominations to the CSPRA Board of Directors for final approval. The award will be presented at the 2005 CSPRA Convention in Rohnert Park (Sonoma County).

Past recipients of the Honorary Ranger award are posted on the CSPRA website and include Susan Smartt, Huell Howser, William "Bill" Lane, Clare Schlotterbeck, Phil Frank, William Penn Mott, Jr. and Walt Disney.

The nomination process is not complicated:

1) Prepare a brief (1 page or less) nomination describing why or how you feel this person has had a statewide or major impact on the mission of California State Parks and/or the park profession. Sign the nomination or attach a cover note of support. Other members may sign the nomination as well, but this is not required.

2) As soon as possible, submit your nomination to CSPRA Honorary Member Committee, c/o John Mott, 95 Breckenwood Way, Sacramento, CA 95864, or via email mottfour@surewest.net, or fax (916) 654-9048.

3) Nominations will be responded to and people who submit applications will be notified as to whether or not their application has been forwarded to the Board.

OFFICE MANAGER'S MAILBAG



Gar Salzgeber, Office Manager

Ann Merritt, who works at Old Town San Diego, has been ordering our green and gold Retired DPR Baseball Caps to give out to new retirees in the parks and I think other people may also wish to do the same. It would make a great presentation to new retired employees and they don't have to be CSPRA members. Just send your address and request to the CSPRA Office Manager with a check for \$12.



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.

Jim Davis writes: As RV Ramblings are not possible on these tiny rocks (Jim lives in Hawaii) a trip to China was the way Nan and I celebrated our 56th Wedding anniversary (mid July) and the 50th Anniversary of joining the then Division of Beaches and Parks (8/1/54). A Trans Pacific flight

on Japan Airlines took us first to Tokyo and on to Beijing. The Asian air carriers offer today the grace and service the American carriers offered 50 years ago and no longer do. Makes flying a pleasure.

Numbers of people are almost beyond comprehension, fourteen million plus three million visitors a day in Beijing. Even little Hong Kong now is home to seven million. With the people, rapid industrialization and electrification (coal fired plants) uncounted trucks, buses, cars, planes and boats air pollution is beyond belief if one has not seen it. There are days when seeing across a street is not possible. That aside the Forbidden City and the Great Wall defy description. The Terra Cotta soldiers of Xian are similar. To those of us old enough to remember, Chung King on the Yangtze survives even though Claire Chennault and his "Flying Tigers" have long since passed from the scene.

Seven days and nights on a river cruise ship on the timeless Yangtze surrounded by majestic and towering mountains that make one feel small. The Three Gorges Dam, engineering marvel that it may be, is evicting more than a million Chinese from their homes and lands they have owned and farmed for uncounted generations. Progress, is it worth it? I wonder.

Shanghai yet bigger than Beijing. And finally Hong Kong slowly creating land in the harbor until one day there will be no harbor. After several weeks, back on the "Great Bird in the Sky" for a voyage home to be met with dogs, guns and seeming security paranoia. That aside, an experience we will remember and treasure the rest of our days. What next? Who knows? Aloha.

Sam Bitting writes: Sorry that I can't be there (Retirees Rendezvous) as I especially wanted to see all again, particularly Carl & Margaret. You can still stay connected with park and family and I wish you well. Also, if in

Missouri stop by! Ironically, I'll be leaving San Diego 10/2 and may have to go to the SE states as I'm on a disaster relief team, some of whom left today. My son Mark is rebuilding new homes in and around N. Peak in Cuyamaca.

Kirby Morgan writes: Thanks for sending the reminder on McConnell. We will be commuting from TT/ NACO Turtle Beach Fishing Resort at Manteca where our "House" is currently parked.

I am doing volunteer work (Glorified Park Aid) at Turtle Beach for some perks, one of which is so Carol can be close to her Father who is now in an assisted living complex. Instead of a 200 mile drive for Carol she now has a 44 mile trip and can go nearly every day.

The unit has been closed for seven years do to flooding. A farmer cut the level and it swept away many of the facilities and put 3-4 feet of sand over a good portion of the 34 acre unit. We have been digging up the septic tanks and used a trash pump to pump out the sand, etc. They are building a Kiosk and a crew is putting new pedestals, laying wire and setting up water and sewer. Other than the four completed sites for workers that we moved into this last week this place looks like Paul Bunyon Moles have been at work. I am currently cleaning up the lodge/ office area, and surrounding grounds.

Thelma Kishbaugh writes a little nostalgia: Gar do you remember a summer ranger at Carpinteria State Beach when you were very young (6?) named Art? He lives in this retirement complex and we get to talking often and he always mentions what a great time he had there. He remembers you and your brother going with him on restroom detail and such. Have a wonderful gathering this year. (I do remember Art Sill, one of those great people you meet in the park family).

humor in unicorn



Mixed Metaphors and Malaprops

by Jeff Price, retired

Dust buster.

I bet Bush just polishes off an old speech.

Sounds messy.

My mom always said, when you sneeze, you should cover your hand.

Uh, draw that one for me.

The only option is to get out, we must withdraw from Iraq.

Words of a feather.

In other words, can they make me do it?

Want a CSPRA Scholarship?
Contact **Fred Jee** at
(760) 767-4651, jeeology@yahoo.com

Do you know someone who is retiring?

CSPRA provides a plaque for each member when they retire. Contact us at (800) 749-8749, or make a request at www.cspra.com, or write to CSPRA, P.O. Box 247, Carpinteria, CA 93004-0247, or email: Officemanager@CSPRA.com



GET CONNECTED

CSPRA ONLINE

Catch up on CSPRA activities contact your District Reps, Board or Officers, get latest information.
www.cspra.com

GRAYBEARS

Attention Retired Members!
Want to keep in touch after you leave DPR? Join the *GrayBears* list server. It is FREE and EASY to use. Just send your name and e-mail address to:
graybears@cspra.com

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THIS CUP COULD BE YOURS!

All contributors to the **WAVE** receive a stainless steel CSPRA travel mug in appreciation. Send articles to wave@cspra.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