

*The CSPRA*

# *Wave*

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CALIFORNIA STATE PARK RANGERS ASSOCIATION

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## **SURFING THE CHANNEL COAST**



(see pages 3-11)



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Cover photo by **Tom Jaqua**: Sup. Ranger

**Linda Tornello** and kids at Carpinteria SB

## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**



VALERIE BRADSHAW  
*CSPRA President*

My last President's message – wow! It does not seem that long ago that I was “penning” my first message. It is amazing how fast the year has flown. My first message highlighted two goals: 1) Increase membership and member involvement and 2) Increase external promotion of the benefits of the California State Park System while striving to make decision makers better informed of the important role of not only parks, but of Park Professionals. In my view, I think we have had made significant strides in both areas – but especially in the area of external promotion.

This past year has provided several opportunities for the Association to participate in such things as Park

Advocacy Day as well as Meet and Greet meetings with Legislators and staff. All of us who had the chance to participate can attest to what a positive experience this was. To watch the faces of people who are not aware of all that our Park Professionals do for the state was quite fascinating. We have had the opportunity to describe all that we do as professionals and stress how integrated we are into California's diverse population and needs for education, natural and cultural resource protection, and the full gamut of recreational activities.

To everyone who has participated in promoting and supporting the Association, THANK YOU! To those who have yet to have opportunity to do more than be a member – which is exceptionally important – I encourage you to find the time to get involved, whether it be serving as a district representative, helping plan the next conference, participating in Advocacy Day or writing letters to legislators. The rewards are immeasurable and it does not need to be a huge time commitment.

I would like close by thanking this year's Board Members for their time and commitment as well as the Conference Committee for the '05 Parks Conference. Thanks for an incredible year and I look forward to continuing to work with all of you.

### **RON BREAN** *President-elect*



As I take over the presidency from Val Bradshaw's able hands, the membership might wonder what new initiatives may be in the offing. It's a reasonable question. So here's the answer: More more of the same. That's not a typo. I hope to do what CSPRA has always done right, but more of it.

It's hard to imagine why it always

seems to be the case, but parks in our state and across the country face budget reductions, threatened closures, potentials for less staffing, abandonment of resources, and increasingly insidious efforts to take park lands and resources away from the public for dedication to other uses. In some cases those uses amount to resource rape and pillage for non-public purposes, and in all cases it is theft of the public trust.

If those sound like fighting words, it is because they are. CSPRA has always been the proactive professional organization that gives voice to the

# SURFING CHANNEL COAST

by **Rich Rojas**  
*Superintendent Channel Coast Dst.*

The Channel Coast District consists of thirteen unique park units (Point Sal State Beach, La Purisima Mission State Historic Park, Gaviota State Park, Refugio State Beach, El Capitan State Beach, Chumash Painted Cave State Historic Park, El Presidio State Historic Park, Carpinteria State Beach, Emma Wood State Beach, San Buenaventura State Beach, McGrath State Beach, Santa Clara Estuary Natural Preserve, and Mandalay State Beach). For those lucky enough to have spent part of their career in any of these units, you will be pleased to know that while some things have remained the same, much has changed...for the better. This issue of the Wave highlights and updates some of these changes.

After more than ten years of dreaming and planning, the new La Purisima Mission Visitor Center is a reality. **Mike Curry**, recently retired Santa Barbara Sector Superintendent, along with Prelado de los Tesoros, the park's Cooperating Association, and every member of the park's staff, worked tirelessly to raise project funds and see the new Visitor Center through to its construction. See related story by **Joe McCummins**, Supervising State Park Ranger.

Last June approximately 1,500 acres of Gaviota State Park burned during the Gaviota Fire. Acting Superintendent **Danita Rodriguez**, Lifeguard Supervisor **Al Fimlaid** and their incredible staff and camp host volunteers did an amazing job in safely evacuating the near-full campgrounds at Gaviota State Park and Refugio and El Capitan State Beaches during the height of the blaze. Since the fire, Gaviota SP has experienced localized flooding, but is beginning to return to its pre-fire



landscape.

Just down-coast from Gaviota is Refugio State Beach. Noted for its idyllic palm-tree-lined beach and long-board surf break, Refugio offers ocean kayak enthusiasts and divers a new underwater park experience. See Danita's related story.

Carpinteria State Beach is heralded as the "world's safest beach" by local officials and the City's Chamber of Commerce. Ventura Sector Superintendent **Steffani Jarrett**, Supervising Ranger **Linda Tornello** and her staff



are working with community leaders, teachers and area kids to expand their views of the state beach. See Linda's related story.

Our district's Junior Lifeguard (JG) Programs have probably done more to enrich the lives of area youth than any other public safety outreach program. Lifeguard II **Rob Gibson** and State Park Interpreter (PI) **Carrie Johnson**, along with their sectors' talented team of seasonal lifeguards, do an amazing job. Last year, Carrie received our

Department's Fredrick Law Olmstead Award in recognition of her leadership and vision in communicating the importance of California State Parks to the people of California. See Carrie's and Rob's related story.

**Carly Gocal**, Assistant State Park Resource Ecologist (PI), is the newest addition to our Channel Coast District family. Carly has become incredibly knowledgeable about the plight of the western Snowy Plover and has learned first-hand what it takes to motivate local stakeholders and park staff into helping her out. See Carly's recipe for success in her article that follows.

Have you ever wondered why a talented and charismatic Park Ranger would stay in one location for over twenty years? Known as Ranger Scottie by dozens of his State Park friends and park visitors, **Scott Cramolini** takes pride in sharing his affinity for his lifelong home in the

Ventura area. Scottie's ability to see the Ventura area's profound beauty coupled with his ability to foster his many friendships with "park people" over the years give Ranger Scottie plenty of reason to stick around. See Scottie's story in this issue. Partnerships have become a way of life for

us in the Channel Coast District over the years. District Interpretive Specialist **Wes Chapin** brings readers up to date on three of our wonderful partners, the Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation, Friends of the Channel Coast State Parks and Prelado de los Tesoros.

As many of you may know, our district reorganized in 2003 from a traditional line organization (District

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# JUNIOR LIFEGUARDS

by *Carrie Johnson*, SP Interpreter  
and *Rob Gibson*, Lifeguard II

The Channel Coast District hosts two Junior Lifeguard (JG) programs. The goal of each program is to provide a foundation for both mental and physical growth for each program participant, at his or her unique speed and capability. Both programs emphasize skills development, curriculum, good sportsmanship, having fun and building self-esteem.

Instructors are a key to these programs' success. The ratio of students to instructors is approximately 25:1. JG Instructors' responsibilities include the safety of the participants in a constantly changing environment that at times can be very dangerous. Beyond their lifesaving skills and having a working knowledge of the beach environment, instructors must have the ability to interpret their surroundings in a way that both a 9-year-old and a 15-year-old can relate to and embrace. Each instructor is expected to 'get out there' and teach participants to surf, body board, body surf, kayak, snorkel, enter and exit the water in a safe and proficient manner, self rescue, rescue endangered swimmers, and ride a bus to a field trip without terminating our bus contract!

A typical JG day starts with a morning workout consisting of long runs and swims, in sometimes-frigid water. After we are certain we have chilled all participants to the bone, we give morning classes in water entry and rescue techniques, first aid and CPR skills, marine ecology and oceanography, and information about the Chumash Indians and the Channel Islands. Emphasis is placed on topics the participants will not hear in school. Then it's back in the water for



*Seasonal Lifeguard **Paul Barnes** with Junior Lifeguards*

more skills training like paddle boarding, competition skills and the ever-popular surfboard riding. The day ends with a good game of Nation Ball or some free time out in the surf.

When Jr. Guard participants turn 16 they are invited to join the Assistant Program as a State Park Volunteer. Each Assistant helps with the daily running of the program, but more importantly they are mentored by State Park Lifeguards on interview skills, professionalism, rescue and first aid techniques. Many of the finest Lifeguards on staff are past JG participants.

Both programs maximize community outreach by offering "Beach and Ocean Safety" presentations at local schools, free swim lessons for "at risk" and "underserved" children, free and reduced tuition scholarships for similarly qualifying children, and free uniform items for scholarship students. Both programs partner with community agencies such as local fire departments, the U.S. Coast Guard, the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary, and local schools.

Additionally, both programs operate websites, [www.RefugioJGs.com](http://www.RefugioJGs.com) and [www.VenturaJuniorLifeguards.org](http://www.VenturaJuniorLifeguards.org).

With all due respect given to the beautiful beach environment along the Channel Coast, the huge success of these JG programs comes from the caring and nurturing attitude of the instructors. Year after year when the surveys come in at the end of each session, it is the quality of the staff that pleases participants the most.

State Park Interpreter (P.I.) **Carrie Johnson** has coordinated the Ventura program for more than 12 years. In 2004, the program had 600 students in two 4-week sessions. Carrie plans to expand to three 3-week sessions this year to accommodate the growing demand.

Lifeguard II **Rob Gibson** has coordinated the Refugio program since 2001. Refugio holds two 4-week sessions each summer. Enrollment has doubled from about 120 per session to 250 per session over the past 2 summers.

# DIVING DOWN TO CLEAN UP AT REFUGIO SB

by **Danita Rodriguez**  
*Acting Sector Superintendent*

Not all State Park units can be seen from dry land. Several extend beyond the mean high tide line. One of the newest of these underwater gems is the Refugio Marine Recreation Area (MRA), adjacent to Refugio State Beach along the Gaviota Coast. This 700-acre piece of the continental shelf is one of the first choices of most scuba instructors in the Santa Barbara region for open-water training. Among the MRA's assets are easy access, consistently good water conditions, a good reef, interesting underwater sights, nice kelp beds, and convenient support facilities.

In 1999, shortly after we opened the MRA to public use, we held our first underwater clean-up as part of California's Earth Day observance. Since then, these clean-ups have become an annual event. Divers have recovered such underwater "treasures" as abandoned lobster cages, tires, engine batteries, and the ever-popular collection of golf balls. Last year, they recovered a large anchor (no sign of the vessel!).

Another important part of these events is the fish count conducted by U.C. Santa Barbara's Scientific Dive



*Danita Rodriguez (center) with volunteer divers*

Class. Students have been gathering this data twice a year to help us establish a baseline inventory of marine life found in the MRA.

For the first couple of years, park staff organized and hosted the event. But because local dive clubs were so familiar with Refugio SB and because we enjoy such a good relationship with them, they agreed to take over hosting and organizing the annual festivities. Now each year, a different local dive club provides dive masters for the event, supplies barbecue/potluck goodies, and handles other aspects of event planning in cooperation with our sector's State Dive Team members.

What started out with just a few divers has grown into a fun, purpose-

ful, and memorable event. Even non-divers get to participate by cleaning up the beach. As one regular attendee commented, "Refugio State Beach must have the cleanest underwater park I've ever seen. It's great to see the involvement and pride from the local communities for their local State Parks."

These underwater clean-ups and fish counts have become a community event run by volunteers who have developed a sense of ownership of their State Park. Not only has this helped with maintaining the park, but we are increasing our knowledge of the area as well, which will improve our ability to manage the MRA's resources into the future—and what a fun way to do it: by blowing bubbles!

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Superintendent, program Chiefs, supervisors and staff) to one of individualized sectors with self-directed work teams, in addition to creating a new partnership by forming the Angeles/Channel Coast Administrative Center. Our biggest challenge at Channel Coast has been to remain true to our Department's mission as the storms of change whirl around us. Hiring freezes, workload increases, declining seasonal dollars, changing community expectations, relocation of a district office and loss of corporate memory with employee retire-



*Groundskeeper Dan Martin at San Buenaventura State Beach*

ments have all tested the will, commitment and perseverance of our district staff.

I am proud to say that we not only survived, but we have also accomplished many projects and goals while creating a new vision and path for our future. Our district's remarkable employees and volunteers work long hours, eagerly serve the public, and give tremendously of themselves to make our park programs interesting and fun, protect our park's natural and cultural resources, keep our park

*See CHANNEL COAST p. 6*

## MULTI-TASKING WITH A SAND BERM

by Linda Tornello

Supervising State Park Ranger

Spring storms and high surf along the Southern California coast remind us that coastal developments may be damaged by the same ocean they were built near to enjoy. Carpinteria State Beach has received its share of ocean-related damage over the years, but we weathered the effects of Mother Nature well this year, partly as the result of a flood control project that evolved into an opportunity for habitat conservation, community outreach and interpretation.

In 1998, an El Niño event caused flooding of the park's day-use picnic and parking areas along the beach leaving them covered with a layer of sand. Continuing to clear the sand from the area after each storm event was not only labor intensive, it was time consuming. We needed a more permanent solution.

The City of Carpinteria has a similar flooding problem on its beach. Its solution is to build up a sand berm to protect the nearby residences. At the end of the storm season, City crews spread the berm back onto the beach. While the berm protects the homes and prevents expensive property damage, it takes many hours of staff time to obtain and comply with the plethora of environmental permits, not to mention playing havoc with the sandy beach habitat. After considering the City's solution, we decided to implement the same measures with a slight modification: leave the berm in place year-round. But that would mean stabilizing the sand. We decided this could be an opportunity to involve the community in a park project, especially since existing park programs and facilities tend to be geared for visitors from other areas.

We approached the local school



*Sixth graders learn about coastal dunes at Carpinteria State Beach*

district with the idea of involving students in the project. The sand berm project lent itself well as a focus for the sixth grade because their curriculum includes both geology and plants. Students worked with park employees to plant native seeds on the bare sand. The program went so well that the next year the school district selected it for their Service Learning Program. Now, each year, students in the sixth grade class, all 200 of them, come to the park and work in the restoration area. They plant seeds, germinate plants, weed, and maintain a protective fence that the original group of sixth graders installed.

This project has developed over the years to serve several purposes other than reducing annual damage from coastal flooding. The area has turned into a thriving dune habitat that now re-seeds itself each year and needs little upkeep. The native plants stabilize the sand that usually blows into the day use area and this has reduced the amount of time needed to maintain the area. We present interpretive programs to students and visitors to help them learn about the importance of conserving different habitats. As an added bonus, by involving local students in a park

project and giving them a sense of "ownership" in the park, the number of juvenile related crimes has dropped. Protecting and interpreting coastal resources through community-park cooperation is our version of multi-tasking at Carpinteria State Beach.

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### CHANNEL COAST from p. 5

facilities clean, and ensure that our visitors always enjoy a safe and memorable experience. In looking ahead to the future, I can say with pride and confidence that Channel Coast District staff truly understand the importance of their work. We remain deeply rooted in our commitment to the State Park mission and we know that the people we serve will be forever grateful for our contributions.





# VIEW FROM VENTURA

by **Scott Cramolini**  
State Park Ranger

One of the busiest sectors in DPR's Southern Division, the Ventura Sector of the Channel Coast District encompasses 12 miles of beaches, 7 separate park units including a natural preserve and the Channel Coast District Office. Some of the State's finest employees administer this natural and recreational resource for Californians.

Our sector begins with McGrath State Beach, located north of the City of Oxnard. Historically, McGrath State Beach was part of McGrath Ranch, 1,337 acres purchased by Irish settler Dominick McGrath in 1875. A lucrative "deal" in the late 1950's allowed the State to purchase this beachfront property. The campground was opened to the public in 1961. Each summer, Visitor Services interpreters (PIS, Rangers, Lifeguards, Park Aid and Guest Speakers) provide campfires, nature walks, Pre-Jr. Rangers, Junior Rangers, and spontaneous demonstrations by Rangers on patrol. Our PIS and "bat specialist" **Kris Mashburn** presents her bat program on a weekly basis. After 10 years it is still a big hit and, according to Kris, a reason why many folks return. This year marks the return of the Park Chaplain Program that will include Sunday morning services at the campfire center. McGrath is also known as a popular "airfield" and nesting area for western snowy plovers and California least terns. Thanks to receiving an incredible amount of attention and TLC from staff to ensure their survival and propagation, they are doing quite well, with their numbers increasing steadily.

Bordering McGrath State Beach is the Santa Clara Estuary Natural Preserve. For years Ventura Visitor Services staff attempted to gain preserve status for the ecologically sensitive confluence of the Santa



*Supervising Ranger **Jill Bazemore** and Lifeguard Supervisor **Brian Ketterer** handing out trash bags to students at Emma Wood SB*

Clara River and the Pacific Ocean. Finally in 1977, "**Ranger Rick**" **Sermon** created a "Preserve" proposal that was accepted. The preserve now provides a safe and peaceful haven for endangered species including migratory/ resident waterfowl, invertebrates, estuary fishes/ amphibians and native plant life. The area is a "must see" for birders throughout the world.

Two miles north of the Preserve lies San Buenaventura State Beach, within the city limits of Ventura. Stretching along 2 miles of beach, the park is bordered on the west by the longest wooden pier in California (originally built in 1872) and on the east by the Ventura Harbor Marina. Aside from the obvious draw of the ocean and related sports, the park has a grassy picnic area, widely used for special events and a retreat for "stressed out" locals and Los Angelinos alike during the summer months.

North of Ventura lies the Ventura River Group Camp, part of Emma Wood State Beach. The Union Pacific Railroad, the 101 Freeway and the Ventura River border the park. A highlight of the park is two remnant

WW II 155-mm cannon foundations, half buried in the sand at the tide line, and built to fend off potential attacking Japanese forces after the attack on "Pearl". Youth, church and large family groups use the Group Camp to gather in one place for retreat camping trips. Extensive native revegetation has been a focus along this riparian campground.

Recognized in the classic surf film *Big Wednesday* as "Overhead", Emma Wood State Beach has been a favorite of surfers, campers, beachcombers and fisherman since 1957. Until that time, the park was actually part of the old Pacific Coast Highway. That year the property was deeded to the State as a public park and campground. Most visitors to Emma Wood are locals, folks from L.A. /San Fernando Valley, and desert areas looking to "cool off" and enjoy epic sunsets.

The Ventura Sector of the Channel Coast District is a challenging assignment for a Ranger. It offers an ever-changing parade of humanity at its best and worst in a setting of unexpected natural beauty.

# PARTNERS IN INTERPRETATION

by *Wes Chapin*  
*District Interpretive Specialist*

Quick! What's a seven-letter word that means "relationship, especially one of mutual trust or emotional affinity"? Here's a hint. The word is also the primary organizing element that guides our department's entire interpretive program. Got it? Yep, it's "rapport." Nowhere is that rapport demonstrated more clearly than in the relationship between the Channel Coast District and our three interpretive partners—the Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation, Prelado de los Tesoros, and the Friends of Channel Coast State Parks.

At El Presidio de Santa Barbara State Historic Park, the District and the Department enjoy a unique partnership with the Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation. **Pearl Chase**, founder of the Trust, recognized early on that harnessing the power of State Parks would speed the reconstruction of El Presidio by providing the resources the fledgling Trust needed in its efforts to restore and rebuild the birthplace of Santa Barbara. In 1966, El Presidio became a State Historic Park, and a series of multi-year agreements between the two parties led to the passage in 1988 by the California State Legislature of formal enabling legislation authorizing the Department to enter into an operating agreement with the Trust. Since then, in addition to staffing and maintaining the park, the Trust has



*A soldado, establishing rapport, shows his musket to young visitors*

raised funds for and carried out numerous projects, including major archaeological excavations, historical reconstructions, museum installations and ongoing interpretive and educational programs for the benefit of the citizens of California and visitors to the park from throughout the world.

La Purisima Mission State Historic Park was dedicated on December 7, 1941. Today, it is the most completely reconstructed of the 21 California Missions. The advisory committee that oversaw the mission's reconstruction issued the challenge that it could become the Williamsburg of the West. In 1973, a major step was taken to achieve this goal when a group of five volunteers joined with the Department to create a volunteer organization known as 'Prelado de los Tesoros de la Purisima' (loosely translated, 'The Keepers of the Treasures of La Purisima'). Since then, Prelado's docents, joined by State Park interpreters, have enabled hundreds of thousands of visitors, including tens

of thousands of school children, to experience firsthand what mission life in 1820 was like by conversing with mission characters, practicing crafts such as weaving and candle making, enjoying an evening candlelit tour with 80 mission inhabitants, or celebrating the mission's founding at the annual evening of the "luminarias". Without the help and dedication of Prelado's members, the park staff would be unable to provide the quality and quantity of interpretive programs it offers to park visitors.

Since 1984, the Friends of Channel Coast State Parks has provided the bulk of funding for the interpretive programs the District offers in eight of its fourteen units. By funding traditional programs like Junior Rangers, campfires, and nature walks as well as kayak tours and exhibit development, the Friends has been a consistent and reliable partner for more than twenty years. In recent years, the District's temporary-help account has dwindled. The Friends has responded by shifting some of its support to pay for Park Interpretive Specialists. It has also proven increasingly effective in handling a growing number of grants.

Rapport, a relationship of mutual trust and affinity, is beautifully exemplified between the Channel Coast District and our three partners in interpretation, the Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation, Prelado de los Tesoros, and the Friends of Channel Coast State Parks!



*La Purisima Mission State Historic Park*





# ON A MISSION

by **Joe McCummins**  
Supervising Ranger

As park professionals, we all have dreams for our parks. Sometimes they never happen. Other times, through the efforts of many, we get to see the fruits of our dreams. The latter was the case for the park staff and members of Prelado de los Tesoros, the docent/cooperating organization at La Purisima Mission State Historic Park.

On December 8, 2004, a grand opening was held for the new Visitor Center at La Purisima. This celebration culminated over twenty-four years of dreaming, fund-raising,



phone calls, meetings, workshops, and planning.

The dream began with Ranger **Ron Dupuy** and members of Prelado. The existing visitor center is housed in the small, reconstructed mission infirmary building. When **Russ Guiney** became Park Superintendent in 1986, members and Ranger Dupuy impressed upon him the need for a "real" visitor center. Guiney realized the first step was to identify the need for a visitor center in a General Plan. He succeeded in getting the Mission's GP pushed to the top of the completion list. As the GP process proceeded, Prelado established a visitor center committee to work with the park to plan and raise funds for the project. In 1991, the State Park & Recreation Commission approved the GP. It identified the need for a new

visitor center as top priority.

Park Superintendents **Rich Rojas** and **Mike Curry** followed Guiney and each worked to keep the project at the top of the Department's projects lists. Prelado's Visitor Center committee met with the Southern Service Center project team, lead by **Bob Patterson**, to develop the Visitor Center Program Statement, which identified the operational and interpretive needs of the facility and that it should be a community resource with a multi-purpose component.

It all paid off in 2002, when the Department allocated \$3,000,000 from Proposition 12 to fund the design and construction of the new visitor center. The Department hired the architectural design firm BSA to design the facility. Prelado contracted exhibit designer **Daniel Quan** to work with the design team to ensure the interpretive designs would be compatible with the building and the landscaping. The final design called for a complex of four buildings giving the illusion of one large Civilian Conservation Corps's barracks building, and relocation of the parking lot. The four buildings include an exhibit building, a conference/multi-media and gift shop building, a multi-purpose building, and a library/archives building.



*Artist's drawing of visitor center*



*Superintendent **Mike Curry** officially opened the new visitor center at La Purisima*

When the construction contract was awarded, funding only allowed for the construction of the exhibit building. With the building's completion, Prelado has continued to work with Quan to finalize the exhibit designs and continues to raise the \$600,000 needed for the exhibits. The group has funded the installation of the exhibit platforms. Maino Construction, the general contractor for the project, constructed an adobe wall mock-up as part of the construction/reconstruction exhibit.

There are still three more buildings to complete, a parking lot to relocate, and outside interpretive projects to fund. Prelado is staffing the exhibit building so visitors can view the interior and learn more about the proposed exhibits and the funding needs. It has formed a speaker's bureau to address organizations about the visitor center. The building is made available to community organizations for functions. This allows the staff and docents to share the vision of the whole project.

Much work remains, but dedication to our dreams has rewarded Prelado and park staff at La Purisima Mission SHP with a new facility that will help visitors understand the pivotal role California missions played in shaping California.

# PROTECTING PLOVERS

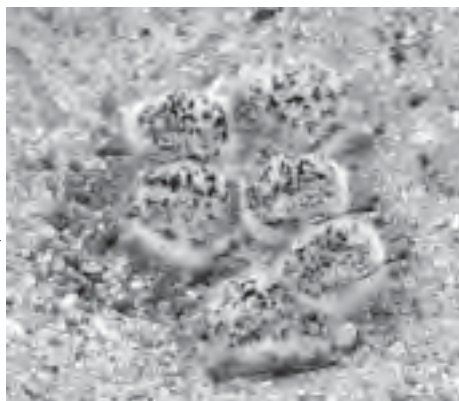
by *Carly Gocal*  
Assistant Resource Ecologist

The Channel Coast District has a wide variety of natural resource restoration and management projects underway. A key to the success of these projects is the collaborative way in which the Natural Resource staff, Rangers, Lifeguards and Interpreters work together.

One example of this collaboration involves our efforts to protect the federally threatened western snowy plover. The 2004 breeding season marked the Channel Coast District's third year of active plover protection activities. Prior to each season, protective fencing must be installed. The Natural Resource staff, with help from a local youth group, installs the fencing and removes it at the end of the season. This is a labor-intensive task, and having the right equipment and expertise for driving on the sand is an incredible bonus. Without the help of the Lifeguards donating their time and a 4-wheel drive truck, this task would be very challenging.

We work to educate all beach users, especially dog owners, about appropriate activities when they visit the beach near plover foraging and nesting areas. Interpretive staff helped develop a brochure identifying alternative places visitors can take their dogs. These brochures can be found in Ranger and Lifeguard patrol vehicles as well as in the backpacks of Resource staff and volunteers.

The majority of dog violations near plover areas involved "repeat offenders". When Resource staff asked dog owners to leave these areas, we heard such unkind words as "I've been coming to this beach since 1968, and I'm going to keep on coming." When warned that a ticket could be issued, one replied, "Well, I'm a gambling



man, so I'll take my chances." It was time to call for backup. The Lifeguard staff responded by agreeing to add remote plover habitat to their patrols. Their presence on the beach was what it took. The level of dog disturbance quickly abated as tickets were issued, including one to the "Gambling Man."

Last year, nesting plovers had to make room for some migrating guests. Federally and state-endangered California least terns chose to nest at McGrath State Beach after being absent for several years. One tern colony nested between the campground and the mouth of the Santa Clara River. As the adult terns searched for food in the nearby estuary, the chicks were left in the path of campers making their way out to the beach. The nesting season was in jeopardy. Then the Ranger staff came to the rescue. They posted signs in the area that warned visitors to "Stay Back" from the nests, and they let visitors know that the chicks were not "abandoned". Thanks in no small part to this collaborative working relationship, eighty-three tern nests were identified during the season, the highest number since 1997.

2005 opened with devastating storms pounding Ventura County. Thousands of birds (mostly western grebes), covered with oil from a mystery spill, began washing ashore

from Ventura to Los Angeles County. District staff, working with the Department of Fish and Game, rescued many of these birds. Our Lifeguards collected the oiled birds, and Fish and Game transported them to a rehabilitation center in San Pedro. The cleaned birds will be released into the wild once they are strong enough to survive on their own.

From oiled seabirds to nesting shorebirds, the Channel Coast District is committed to continuing this collaborative working relationship. Our visitors are better informed and our parks and resources are better protected because of this effort!



*photo by Andi Picard*



## 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](http://www.cspra.com), or write to CSPRA, P.O. Box 247, Carpinteria, CA 93004-0247, or email: [Officemanager@CSPRA.com](mailto:Officemanager@CSPRA.com)





## Channel Coast Recollections - Back in "The Day"

The entire District got behind the idea of using significant landmarks to increase awareness of coastal state parks. One of the ideas that bore fruit was a costumed, living history celebration on the San Buenaventura Pier. Photos shown are from the 1987 event where we were able to work in the railroad centennial arrival in Ventura.

Pictured clockwise from lower left, costumed players at railing, Kathy Dolinar, Dennis Dolinar, Steve Treanor, Mike French, Charlene French, Tony Villarreal, seated Scott Cramolini and Theresa Rymer; Sanger Hendrick, Jennifer Price and Steve Treanor are photographed by Ventura photographer "J.M. Brewster;" the "wharfinger" played by Wes Chapin with Todd Beguelin; dry goods salesman, played by Ron Munson, talking to Theresa Rymer and Jeanne Beguelin; event logo; players on TV's "Good Morning America" doing event promo from historic ship, Wes Chapin in uniform; Jeff Price with recreated camera box concealing a modern 35mm Minolta camera.





# A CALL TO ARMS

by *Denzil Verardo*, retired

*Editor's note: The recent release of Veronza Bowers from prison, after serving over 30 years for the 1973 murder of NPS Ranger Kenneth Patrick, precipitated this article. I asked Denzil to write up a short history on the decision to arm California State Park Rangers.*

In 1971 Director **William Penn Mott, Jr.**, reluctantly authorized the arming of rangers in 12 high crime areas. He knew that decision would forever change the complexion of the staffing needs, and the cost of services, for California State Parks. However, the data supporting that decision were incontrovertible: Crime had increased during the 1960's to the point where penal code violations outnumbered park violations. In 1968 a Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) study, "Crime Control in the California State Parks," by **Edward Toothman** and **Harry Reynolds, Jr.**, stated that State Parks were "ill-equipped and unprepared, both in terms of trained personnel and essential equipment, to cope with the problems of crime and disorder in the Parks." The Toothman Report, as the POST study was commonly called, made numerous recommendations including the highly controversial one to arm rangers.

While the issue of arming rangers was debated by State Parks' management during the next couple of years, Director Mott had little choice but to do something to further ensure public safety in the face of escalating crime. His choices narrowed between arming state park personnel or contracting that service to "outside" law enforcement agencies. He chose the former; a decision that he knew would have far reaching implications and ramifications. In the early 1980's, Bill Mott

had dinner at our home. We discussed this decision at length. He did not want to arm rangers, a decision he felt would lead to a focus on law enforcement to the detriment of other critical functions. At the same time, he felt that contracting to a sheriff's department or other law enforcement agency would put a different "face" before the State Parks visiting public.

While originally authorized in only 12 high crime areas, events occurred which supported the arming of rangers universally throughout the park system. One is worth recounting in some detail due to the notoriety of the event, and the reason for this article. August 5, 1973 would be an important date for all park agencies. At 5:00 a.m. Sunday morning on that date, Ranger **Ken Patrick's** alarm clock went off waking both he and his wife. It was time to go out on a poaching patrol at Pt. Reyes National Seashore. He was to be done by 7:00 a.m. and when he did not appear as anticipated, another Pt. Reyes Ranger, **Dan Whittaker**, went on patrol after him. A thick fog covered the summit of Mt. Vision as Ranger Whittaker looked for Patrick. Suddenly, Whittaker saw Patrick's vehicle parked, with lights blinking and engine running. When Whittaker looked into Patrick's vehicle, it was empty. Whittaker felt uneasy. He returned to his vehicle and made a radio transmission to try to contact Ranger Patrick. There was no response. He then began walking the roadway downhill in front of Patrick's jeep. After covering about fifty feet, he noticed a dark object in a large bush just a couple of feet off the road and directly in front of him. At first he thought it was a blanket, but after covering another step or two, he saw this dark object take shape – it was the body of Ranger Patrick (from the

F.B.I. Report on the death of Ken Patrick). Ranger Patrick had been shot and killed with stolen handguns. The killers had previous records and were involved in numerous other crimes. The times, for parks, had changed.

In 1980 State Park Rangers became POST certified and the William Penn Mott, Jr. Training Center became a POST certified law enforcement academy. Since that date California State Parks have met all requirements set forth by POST and developed a reputation for the quality of its law enforcement personnel (note: the quality of its personnel extends to all the DPR's core programs, whether maintenance, resource management, or interpretation, but that discussion is beyond the narrow scope of this article). One postscript is important within the scope of this short retrospective. State Park Peace Officer equipment did not keep up with counterparts in the law enforcement community until the administration of Governor **George Deukmejian**. State Parks Deputy Director for Operations **Garth Tanner** modernized the ranger's equipment, and ensured that modern police standards on equipment would match the mainstream law enforcement community. Those standards exist today.

*Author's note: This article omits the role of CSPRA, SPPOAC, and others who were critical in the historic role of the ranger and presents only a snapshot history of the decision to arm rangers.*



The first armed rangers wore this badge. Photo from *Insignia of the California Resources Agency* (reviewed next issue).

## BOARD MINUTES

### Board Minutes, Dec. 7, 2004

Jill, Pam, Ron, Karen, Angy, Val.

Minutes 10-04 Approved ANGY will send minutes to Committee.

Check with Dana re meeting in June

Val: Letter and other Communications are few, no letter written recently.

MMWD requested assistance regarding their fight to maintain their peace officer status. Does CSPRA approve lending support? Jill, yes, Ron, yes. She will send notice of support.

Gar: Executive manager report Reviewed (e-mailed) financial report. We are losing members and not gaining! We still have enough to cover expense but not for long. Concerns with retirees moving on and no new membership. Plaques are currently being made to send to retiree members.

Gar is converting from a PC to Mac, having some difficulties with the translation.

Val: When should we have the Board meeting at the Conference? Will Saturday Work? How about meeting at Angel Island? No decision was made but Val is leaning towards Sunday at Angel Island.

Questions? Will the Department approve the usual 50 % of the conference? Ron suggests that Val write a letter to Michael for a letter of conference support. Department's non-profits can support employees at the conference.

Question? Do we have suggestions for location? Laughlin. Palm Springs. Santa Barbara, SLO. Ventura. Riverside. Ontario

Do we have someone available to assist on the Committee? Names that were suggested: Michelle Debeor, Clay Phillip, Sal Goshorn, Lynn Earls, Joannie Cahill

Karen highly recommends that CSPRA funds the Experienceology 101 session with Stephanie. Course is \$500 but well worth it!

There is a real serious need to revamp the District Reps program

Val will be working on the foundation of the program

Dues Structure: Retirees want us to justify why we upped their dues. Gar will send the analysis to Val. Suggest that a notice be placed in the newsletter.

Office Manager Position- Gar would like to resign. Candidates who have applications in are: Carl Baker, Ray Munson, Laura Svendsgaard. Jill and Pam led the group in a brainstorm exercise of what exactly we were looking

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for in an office manager. We decided that we needed several people. A person who could keep the association afloat (office manager). To bring the position from another level (business Manager) The current duty statement was incomplete. The position needs a person who is creative and can multi task. What does the Board want? Current Duties: Maintain Accounting; State Controller; PERS; pay bills; File secretary of state paperwork tax; financial reports and activity report; deal with contractors, web master, newsletter; maintain membership info; manage Correspondences; maintain Files and Historic data; prepares a column for the WAVE; attend Board meetings; election material; conduct election; have retirees plaques engraved and shipped out; merchandise inventory; ordering and storage.

What do we want the Office Manager to do? Become a Recruiter; Research other non profit groups gather allies; Grants and funding; advocacy Bills and legislation coordination; Assignment follows up. Tickler; Coordinate District Reps; Assist Co Chair on task of Conference Committee

Desirable qualities: Communication skills; Verbal and written; Computer skills; Accounting skills; Conscious of deadline; organized; Experience with other profession association, i.e. non-profit board structures; Visionary; Willingness to attend meeting

Diplomacy; Average time is 100-140 hours/month. Put together package for

new board members.

Pam suggests that we send out letter with this list. Contact the three candidates.

Send in Resume and letter of qualification by January 15<sup>th</sup>. To be reviewed the Board on February 1<sup>st</sup>.

Election: Candidate Statement to Gar by December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2004.

President - Angy; Sec/Treasurer - Pam Armas; Directors - Joe Rodgers, Joe Mette, Becky Shenone, Gail Severns

Kim Baker asked for \$100 to fund a file cabinet to store historical info for CSPRA.. Jill first, Karen Second motion passed. FYI GAR

Book review to Steve Beeler refer to CAUSE or SPPOAC

Parks Advocacy Day March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2005. No noon rally. Evening event Reception. Training So Cal and one at the Conference on March 10<sup>th</sup> 9:30-11:30

Contract Renewal for webmaster: Need to add a minimum 30 day bail out clause for both sides. Val will work on it. Jeff: Can you set up a blind location for items to get off the internet.

Pam is willing to do the recruitment at Asilomar.. She will look at the January-Classes. Will personnel allow us to place a letter in the new recruitment package?

Question was raised regarding Insurance for the Board. Omissions coverage. Val will check with John Mott.

Dana will take on the Park Advocacy day prep work 03-14<sup>th</sup>, 2005  
02-01-2004 next meeting

## OFFICE MANAGER'S MAILBAG



*Gar Salzgeber, Office Manager*

### **Election results:**

President: Angy Nowicki 128

Sec/Treas.: Pam Armas 127

Directors: Rebecca Schenone Chase 30; Joe Mette 90; Joe Rodgers 66; Gail Sevrens 68

A total of 131 ballots were returned

### **Report to Board of Directors Dec. 1, 2004 to January 28, 2005**

New Members are: **Mark Michalski** of Gold Mines District and **Elaine Price** (Jeff Price's mother) who is our new Benefactor Member.

Retirement plaques were presented to: **Al Blum, Joanne Helmrich, Barry Jones, Lois Harter, Charles Willard, Nancy Fuller, John Buchanan, Ron Brean, Midge Bevilaqua, and John Harbison.**

In December I sent \$500 to Domini Funds and January this year \$1000. I prefer to make a little interest on our money and am dollar cost averaging any extra funds into our Domini Social Equity Fund.

In January I sent our Membership List on labels to the State Parks Foundation to be used for their Park Awareness Day mailings. Since many of our members are State Peace Officers, I won't part with our data base.

We currently have 763 members. 468 Active Members. 184 Retired Members, 50 Legislative Members, 20 Nonmembers, 17 Honorary Members, 12 Organizational Members, 9

Supporting Members and 3 Benefactor Members.

### **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.

This time of year our mailbag is nearly empty, but I have one letter from **Ken Pierce** who writes: ...I enjoy reading the newsletter, especially the part dealing with retirees. I enjoyed reading about Jim Davis and his trip to China. I worked with Jim for several months at Hendy Woods before moving to Sacramento.

I am very late in this, but offer my sympathy for your losses this past year. I never met your wife, but I know that it must have been a terrible loss and she was much too young. Also the loss of your father must have been a sad occasion. I was lucky enough to meet him when I was a park aide at Pfeiffer Big Sur around 1957. Your brother was life guarding there then. He was very friendly and was one of the really good early rangers. I believe **Harry Batlin** had some nice words about your dad a few months ago.

### ***Want a CSPRA scholarship?***

Contact **Fred Jee** at  
(760) 767-4651  
jeeology@yahoo.com

### **NEW PRESIDENT**, from page 2

concerns, fears, anger, and determination of park professionals in California. It has been the organization that fights for the right thing to be done in and around parks. We need more of that.

We need more park professionals that see the need for the alarm to be sounded and use CSPRA to blow the whistle. We need more activism. We need more growth in professionalism. We need more enthusiasm for doing



**Our newest Benefactor**, who donated \$1000 to CSPRA, is **Elaine Price**. She has had a long, personal association with California Parks. A native Californian, Mrs. Price's family visited Big Basin, the Santa Cruz coast, Yosemite, Russian River, Lake Tahoe and Mt. Diablo. Her parents had spent their honeymoon at the Inn on Mt. Tamalpais in 1920.

These family traditions are one reason her son chose a Ranger career after college. Mrs. Price was an active member of the Morro Bay NHA and, as a docent, led mudflat walks for children and performed in the puppet theater.

As her son's guest at several CSPRA conferences, she met Peggy Whitehead, where they talked about similar experiences of having sons working in parks. She heard about Benefactor membership and has been so impressed with the organization's professionalism, she wanted to join CSPRA.

the right thing for parks. We need more cache in the legislature. We need to be more of a force with which to be reckoned. We also need to directly represent more park professionals more professionally.

I ask your help, participation, ideas, and enthusiasm. With the help of the Board of Directors and the membership I look forward to a year of doing what CSPRA has always done. With your help we'll do more of the same.



## humor in unicorn



### Mixed Metaphors and Malaprops

by Jeff Price, retired

Bio-feedback?

*He may have a tumor, so they are having  
an autopsy done next week.*

No wonder they are so skinny, cellophane  
has no carbs!

*She used enough Scotch Tape to feed a  
third world country.*

No twists to this plot.

*To make a make a long story straight . . .*

A little flap over a stub?

*They are giving us tabs on what is  
happening.*

It's all in the palm.

*I know there is money behind this;  
someone is getting their hand greased.*

The Cent of Damacles?

*This thing is hanging over my head like a  
bad penny.*

More dictionary fun!

*Is it the 'N', or the 'Zero' — what part of  
N-O don't you understand?*

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the WAVE receive  
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mug in appreciation.  
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[wave@cspra.com](mailto:wave@cspra.com)



### Update from Sacramento

by Monica Miller, CSPRA Lobbyist

Well, the Legislature is up and running. We are now two months into the 2005-2006 legislative session and they have introduced over 400 bills and resolutions; we expect another thousand bills by the February 18 deadline. To get the year started, the Board of Directors spent an afternoon in the State Capitol getting to know the new committee consultants and the various staff that we will be working with over the next two years.

In our many conversations we had an opportunity to discuss issues ranging from the California Performance Review (CPR) to El Morro Canyon State Park. As of the writing of this article, the CPR is currently in the Little Hoover Commission where they are meeting and taking testimony on various components. **Liz Figueroa**, who is the Senator from the Lake Del Valle SRA, has been charged with the Legislative side of the CPR. As such she is the gatekeeper of all materials and testimony from the legislative perspective. After the Little Hoover Commission has completed its work, the CPR then returns to the Governor's office. At that point, the Governor is the only one who has any authority to make changes. Once the Governor has completed

his work, the CPR is then given to the Legislature for consideration. This is an all or nothing deal on the actual CPR. The Legislature has no authority to amend any piece of the CPR and they have 60 days to accept or reject the proposal. CSPRA will keep you posted on the situation as it progresses.

The Board also had an opportunity to discuss the El Morro Canyon issue at all of our meetings. While the lease has expired, many of you are aware that the residents are unwilling to vacate the premises and are continuing their legal battle. Additionally, Assembly Member **Chuck Devore** (R-70) from the Laguna/Newport Beach area is introducing two pieces of legislation regarding the fiscal aspect of keeping the residents. Needless to say, this is a moot point as the lease expired as of December 31, 2004. However, the residents continue to push forward, so far to no avail. As this issue continues to percolate we will keep you posted on the situation.

Don't forget to sign up for Parks Advocacy Day on March 14, 2005; your voice needs to be heard. As always, if you have an upcoming event, remember to invite a legislator from your area. CSPRA will continue to update you on these and other issues as they progress.

### GET CONNECTED

**CSPRA Online:** Catch up on CSPRA activities, contact your District Reps, Board or Officers, get latest information [www.cspra.com](http://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 email address to:  
[graybears@cspra.com](mailto:graybears@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*