



*The CSPRA*

# *Wave*

*Newsletter*

VOLUME 6, NUMBER 3

CALIFORNIA STATE PARK RANGERS ASSOCIATION

MAY-JUNE 2006

## PAUSING IN PROVIDENCE



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### COVER PHOTO:

Providence Mountains SRA by Janet Carle

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



**ANGY NOWICKI**  
*CSPRA President*

Where were you on March  
20<sup>th</sup>, 2006?

CSPRA was at Park Advocacy Day representing you at the Capitol. Over one hundred seventy volunteers, park advocates and California State Park employees were broken into teams and given appointments with members of the Senate and Assembly. We roamed the Capitol with *Love Your State Parks? Me Too!* buttons on our lapels and our talking-points packets in hand, from 10 AM to 5 PM asking them to:

...oppose the Toll Road through San Onofre State Beach;

...to support the renewal of the State Parks deferred maintenance account;

...support Senate Bill 1582 (Chesbro) to protect state parks from a proposed casino;

...vote for adequate annual funding to maintain and operate our State Parks.

My team was made up of

**Gail Sevrems**, President Elect CSPRA, **Mark Hada**, CSPRA District Representative for the Capitol District, a representative from the **Cuyamaca Rancho State Park Interpretive Association**, and another from the **Stewards of the Coast and Redwoods**. Each of us said our piece, another facet of how California State Parks matters to the people of California.

I am convinced that Advocacy Day matters. It reminds these representatives that we do exist and we do care about what happens to State Parks.

So where will you be on March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2007?

## **MONO BASIN BIRD**



## **CHAUTAUQUA**

**June 16-18, 2006** Register now  
[www.birdchautauqua.org](http://www.birdchautauqua.org)

## **International Ranger Federation 5th World Congress: June 14-21, '06 Stirling, Scotland**

[www.int-ranger.net/congress.html](http://www.int-ranger.net/congress.html)

## **BIG BASIN FOUNDER'S DAY & REDWOOD JUBILEE**

**SEPT. 30, 2006**

Vintage trailers, melodrama, music,  
crafts, special events.

[www.mountainparks.org/events](http://www.mountainparks.org/events)

## PROVIDENCE MOUNTAINS SRA

# A PAUSE IN PROVIDENCE

by **Janet Carle**, editor

We were finally driving up to Providence Mountains, 30 years after I had first heard of the park as a Ranger Trainee. The road used to be 16 miles of dirt, one way, and the place was out in the middle of nowhere. Friends had worked there, and told stories of Mojave Green rattlesnakes, howling wind, and long, lonely nights. The place has a mystique rarely found in more easy to get to parks. I was beginning to wonder if I would ever actually get there.

Then, lo and behold, the California Parks Conference was held in NEVADA—who would have thought? In Laughlin to be exact, only 1 ½ hours from Providence. A phone call to the park requesting a tour after the conference was answered with enthusiasm, and the day had come. The windswept, open desert we were driving through was a welcome respite after the casinos of Laughlin. Luckily, we had brought lunch with us.

The park's 5,900 acres, very few of which are flat, are on the eastern slope of the Providence Mountains at altitudes of 4,300 – 7,117 ft. On a sunny afternoon in early March, it was definitely cooler here than down by the Colorado. The setting is dramatic—a sweep of grand landscape overlooking some 300 square miles of desert, valleys and mountains. The little 6 site campground must have one of the finest desert views in the state, but bring extra tent stakes in case it's windy.

Another surprise was the interesting



architecture of the park visitor center and residences. **Jack Mitchell**, the original owner and operator of the Caverns, built them out of native materials and anything else he could scrounge. The result is delightful—a blend of native rock, glass, cement, and even a petroglyph or two, formed into bungalows that almost disappear into the landscape. There is even a dome-shaped “Wedding Hogan”, built for newlyweds who complained the main building had a lack of

privacy. These were some of the most unique park houses I have ever seen. Of course, there is the generator to keep running for electricity, and the chronic water shortage to deal with. And the nearest big grocery store is an hour away in Needles. And, oh yeah, the District office is 4 HOURS away in Lancaster.

Supervising Ranger **Darrell**

**Bennett** greeted us in the “Tour Center”, the largest of the cool stone buildings. He is a relative newcomer to Providence, and says he is “just passing through”.

Of course, that's what he said about Salton Sea SRA, and he stayed there for 14 years! Darrell provided a wealth of information about Mitchell

Caverns and Providence. One point of major confusion for visitors, he explained, is that they don't realize that Mitchell Caverns is WITHIN Providence Mountains SRA, making the number hard to find in the phone book or on-line. The staff is trying to use Providence Mountains/Mitchell Caverns on signing and literature to make it easier for

visitors. Another major adjustment for the park was the creation of the Mojave National Preserve in 1994. The Preserve consists of 1.6 million acres surrounding Providence SRA. The Kelso Train Depot, northwest of the state park, was just recently re-opened as a visitor center for the Mojave Preserve. Darrell told us the two agencies are working well together.

The story of **Jack and Ida Mitchell**, the original operators of the Caverns, is a fascinating one. Jack was a miner looking for silver in Kingman, AZ,



when he discovered the area around Providence. He staked 4 twenty-acre mining claims in the area in 1930. Some of the holes and “workings” can still be seen today. Before long, Jack

**See PROVIDENCE page 4**

*The CSPRA Wave*, May-June 2006 **3**



## PROVIDENCE

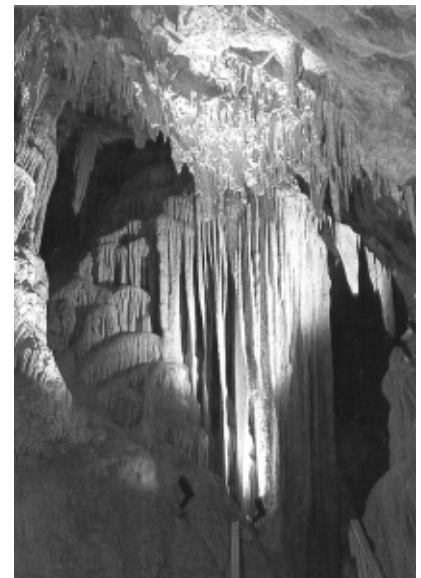
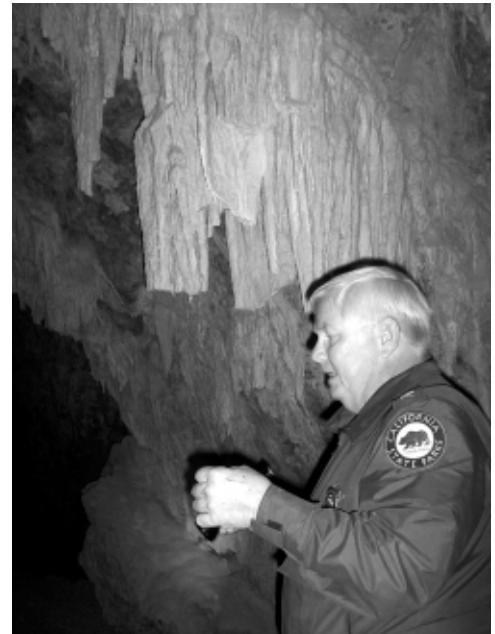
### *PROVIDENCE from page 3*

realized the real treasure of the site was the beautiful limestone caverns. He opened up the caverns with lights and trails, built the resort, and for the next 20 years welcomed 40,000 guests with lodging, tours and a chicken dinner, all for \$1.50.

Jack and his wife Ida had many adventures. Once, Jack was exploring the “other” cavern, the Cave of the Winding Stair. The entrance is straight down 300 feet. Jack, using a block and tackle, got stuck 200 feet down, and spent a long night hanging on the rope until help arrived. Jack developed an ingenious water system, piping water from Crystal Spring to his home via gravity flow. Unfortunately, after many cave tours and chicken dinners, Jack met an untimely death in the early 1950’s. He was helping a customer with his car when the jack gave way and he was killed by the falling car. Ida didn’t want to run the place alone, and sold the 100 acre property to the State soon afterward for

(The Devil’s House) and Tecopa (named after one of the last chiefs of the Shoshone Indians). State Parks connected the two caverns for ease of tour access, with door locks on each side to preserve the climate. Much has been learned about cave preservation since Jack Mitchell’s day. Care is taken to have lights on for as little time as possible, and to minimize the effect of human visitors. A volunteer group from the American Hiking Society was actually vacuuming the trail the morning of our visit, removing dust before it affects the cave formations.

The Caverns are lovely, with limestone formations dripping from the ceiling. Draperies, shields, and helictites appeared as the lights went on. It was amazing to me that the formations are in such good shape, considering so many years of tours and exploration. The Queen’s Chamber, the Bottomless Pit, and the Fallen Stalactite Room are major features. Wildlife also uses the caverns, including bats and ring-tailed cats. Park staff has recently acquired a motion detector camera to post at the cave entrance, for security and also



\$25,000. State Parks began public tours in 1959. Jack’s autobiography, “Keepers of the Cave,” was published in 1964.

Tour time arrived, and we were joined by **Lois Harter**, recently retired Sector Supt. from Big Sur, and **Mike Whitehead**, GreyBear retired from Angel Island. Darrell gathered up the group, and we began the half mile-long walk to the cavern entrance, passing mining entrances and water piping along the way. The two main caverns are El Pakiva



## PROVIDENCE

wildlife monitoring. It will be interesting to see who comes in at night! In such a remote location, technology still has an impact. A car radio transmitter system will tell visitors about the park as they drive in. Darrell, as well as long-time Senior Park Aide **Mike Ray**, are both video wizards, and have created some wonderful films about the park. One recently-made video features the Cave of the Winding Stair. Only experienced spelunkers can actually explore it, but everyone can enjoy it via video using the cavers' footage.

As we strolled back to our cars after the cave tour, the desert once again spread out before us. The Hualapai Mountains, 100 miles away, were clearly visible. Mojave Yucca and Mormon Tea swayed in the wind. Another treasure of the area is the varied plant life, ranging from cholla and catclaw to pinon and juniper forest. One of the park's trails is named for **Mary Beal**, an amateur naturalist that lived in the Mojave for 50 years, collecting more than 1,000 plant specimens. Another trail, the Nina Mora, is named for **Benita Mora**, an eight day old infant whose grave is found along the pathway. Benita's parents worked at the Mexican Mines in the early 1900's.

We were just a few more visitors in a long line of people that have been drawn to the slope of the mountains called Providence.



*Supervising Ranger **Darrell Barrett** with Senior Park Aid **Mike Ray***



*Wedding Hogan park residence. Is this the most unique park house in the state?*



*Sup. Ranger Darrell Barrett with Graybears tour members, L. to R.: Mike Whitehead, Lois Harter, Dave and Janet Carle*



*Rock detail of the Wedding Hogan*



# LET IT RIDE ON THE RIVER

Laughlin, Nevada?? Where on earth is THAT??? Well, it is about an hour south of Las Vegas, on the Colorado River. The desert scenery was beautiful, with colorful mesas visible from the pool deck of Harrah's and a private beach on the river to boot. Rangers convened from all over California and Nevada to see old friends, learn new things, and ponder our parks profession.

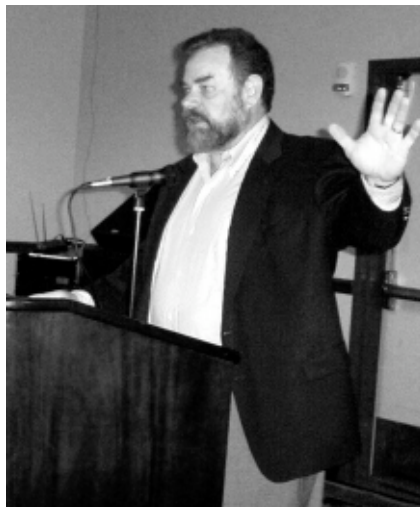
Monday trips included an insider's tour of Hoover Dam, upstream of our conference site. Another group visited the ghost town of Oatman, site of a gold strike in 1915. Wild burros roam the streets now. A pistol competition was also held, with a tactical combat course as a new twist.

The California State Parks Foundation provided a wonderful reception on Monday evening, complete with the "house specialty" fried chicken drumettes. DPR Director **Ruth Coleman** welcomed the group with a short talk on the state of the State Park System. Federal money is drying up. Endowments from people that love parks may be the wave of the future. Political advocacy pays off, and is one of the most important things we can do as park people. The National Resource Defense Council reports that 95% of the public believes that parks are important, and cherish their personal memories and experiences in parks. That support needs to be channeled into necessary funding for good park stewardship. "Be proud of who you are and what we stand for. We are not alone."

A similar theme continued into Tuesday morning, when keynote speaker **Joe Edmiston** of the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy & Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority spoke on advocacy



DPR Director **Ruth Coleman** with former deputy directors **Ron Brean** and **Dick Troy**



Keynote speaker **Joe Edmiston**

issues. Mr. Edmiston stressed that the excuse that we are "Just park rangers" with no political clout does not hold up to scrutiny. The 5 most respected professions as seen by the public are 1) firefighters 2) nurses, 3) teachers, 4) scientists, and 5) park rangers. The things that we do, and the places we protect, are prime values for the voters of the state. Parks have what society needs, and we, as park people, need to take back our own destinies. Teachers, nurses, and correction officers have all organized and used their

political clout to bring about better conditions, better pay and guaranteed funding for their professions. Park professionals need to step up to the political world, bring our message to the forefront, and demand to be recognized as serving a critical purpose for society. Political leaders need to know the power of the profession and parks in today's society, but this can only be accomplished if we organize and put our money where our

heart and values are. Mr. Edmiston talked about the "ranger image" and how important it is to sustain it. It makes us different from other public servants and visitors and voters respond to it. Our greatest power is in our history as good stewards of parks and good guides to park visitors

Tuesday morning continued with sessions on Volunteer Management by Interpreter **Sean Malis** of Ft. Tejon, Verbal Judo, and a GrayBears reception. The luncheon speaker was **Diana Lindsay**, President of the Anza-Borrego Foundation, who recently wrote and published a new book on **Marshal South**. Mr. South

See **CONFERENCE**, page 7

## PARKS CONFERENCE

### **CONFERENCE, from page 6**

and his family lived for 16 years on Ghost Mountain, a waterless mountaintop within the current State Park. He wrote many articles in Desert Magazine, and people all over the country followed his family's "experiment in primitive living". Afternoon sessions included Fire Management with **Frank Padilla** of Angeles District, Interpretive Secrets Revealed with Retired Supt. **Joe Mette**, and Learning Styles with CSPRA President-Elect **Gail Sevrens** of the No. Service Center. An especially popular session was the Gray Bears "How to Travel on the Cheap". It helped that we held it outside by the pool!

We really did "Let it Ride on the River" on Tuesday evening, when 70 attendees sailed away to a dinner cruise on the Colorado River. The night was calm and clear, in contrast to our memories of sailing in a snowstorm on Lake Tahoe at the 2003 Parks Conference. Laughlin is using the river as a transportation corridor, with a water taxi plying the "casino row" along the Colorado. Neon lit up the night as we cruised along.

Wednesday dawned bright and clear and sessions continued. An especially interesting topic was English Language Learners in Environmental Education, along with Swift Water Safety and Small Engine Repair – a good example of the wide range of tasks done by park people! GrayBear **Ron Brean** led a fascinating trip to Grapevine Canyon, just north of Laughlin, which has stunning rock art and a rare desert stream.

CSPRA and PRAC held organizational meetings during lunch. Outgoing CSPRA President **Ron Brean** discussed the accomplishments of the past year. District Representatives were re-kindled, lobbying was done against proposals for the San Onofre Toll Road and the Auburn Dam, and the El Moro Trailer Park removal was supported. CSPRA co-sponsored the



**Diana Lindsay, president of the Anza-Borrego Foundation** holding her recently published book about Marshall South

*Paddle-wheeler or casino?  
A view from the river.*



**Gary Fregien, Tom Smith, Dominic Gotelli, Ms. Gotelli, and Kirk Wallace** at the Graybears reception (by the pool!)

**Ron Brean** checks out petroglyphs in Grapevine Canyon



*See CONFERENCE, page 8*



## PARKS CONFERENCE

### CONFERENCE, from page 7

Director's Awards. Seasonal employees will be encouraged to join CSPRA, and an attempt will be made to keep costs down by using conference calls. The location was announced for the 2007 Parks Conference— Tenaya Lodge near YOSEMITE! **Dana Jones** will be co-chair.

Wednesday afternoon brought rattlesnakes into the house, with a session on Venomous Reptiles of Nevada. Gray Bear **Dave Carle** discussed the Colorado River and the California Dream. The ever-popular auction wrapped up at 5pm with banjo music supplied by Sacramento Co. Parks Ranger **John Havicon**. The evening banquet included Honorary Ranger awards. CSPRA honored the Park Rangers Association of CA in this year of their 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary. PRAC honored keynote speaker **Joe Edmiston** of the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority as an Honorary Member. A very interesting slide show was presented by **Marcia and Ken Powers** about their walk across the country on the American Discovery Trail. They left the east coast in early February and made it to Pt. Reyes in mid-October, backpacking all the way. Learn more about them at [www.gottawalk.com](http://www.gottawalk.com). Everyone kicked up their heels after dinner with a lively DJ. Angeles District people know how to party!

All day advanced training sessions continued on Thursday, but for most of us, it was time to head back to California. A few of us visited Providence Mountains State Recreation Area on the way home and had a tour of Mitchell Caverns from Supervising Ranger **Darrell Bennett**. But that's another story (see page 3).

### 2007 PARKS CONFERENCE Mar. 5-8: YOSEMITE!!

**8** CSPRA Wave, May-June, 2006



CSPRA Board, standing, L to R: **Natalie Lohi** (treas.), **Laura Svendsgaard** (exec.mgr.), **Joe Mette** (board member), **Gail Sevrans** (pres.-elect), **Pam Arnas** (out-going sec/treas); Front: **Angy Nowicki** (pres.), **Ron Brean** (outgoing pres.)



The banquet speakers were cross-country walkers **Marcia and Ken Powers**

Graybears tour to Grapevine Canyon, L to R: **Mike Whitehead, Dave Carle, Carl Chavez, Ted Reinhardt, Janet Carle, Penny Lee** (Santa Clara Co. Parks), and **Ron Brean**



PRAC President **Lee Hickenbotham** received a plaque from CSPRA President **Ron Brean** in honor of PRAC's 30th anniversary.

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## MORE PHOTOS FROM THE PARKS CONFERENCE

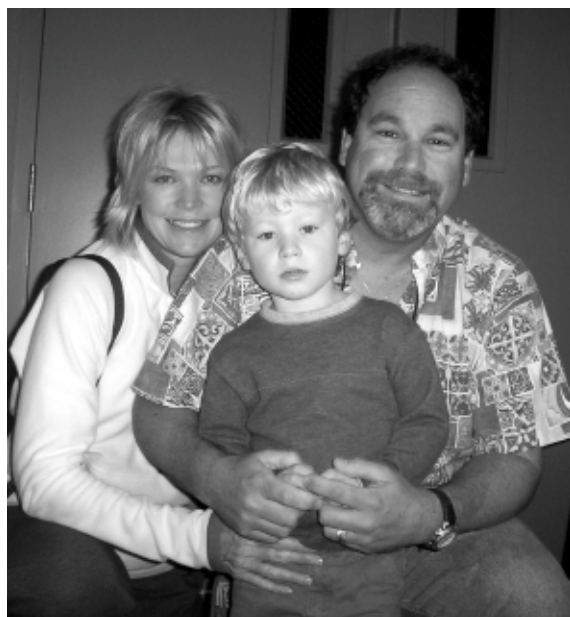
*CONFERENCE from page 8*



^^Past-pres. **Ron Brean**, Pres. **Angy Nowicki**,  
Pres.-elect **Gail Sevrens**



^^**Kirk Wallace**,  
**Mike Whitehead**,  
**Lynette Hernandez**,  
**Frank Padilla**



^^The **Serpa** family



<<Conference co-  
chairs **Dave Updike**  
(PRAC) and **Pam**  
**Armas** (CSPRA,  
Monterey District)

>>  
Interpreter  
**Sean Malis**  
(Ft. Tejon),  
**Stacey Malis**,  
and Guide  
**Robert Latson**  
(Hearst Castle)



^^**Linda Ratz** (Big Sur), **Debbie Wyatt** (Mont. Penn. Reg.  
Parks), **Jeri Zeman** (Anza Borrego), **Pat Clark Gray**  
(Monterey)



^^**Dave Carle**, **Gary Fregien**, **Dick Troy**, **Joe Mette**

## ***Traffic, Traffic, Traffic...the San Onofre Toll Road proposal***

by **Monica Miller**, CSPRA Lobbyist

While all Californians understand and appreciate that traffic and congestion are problems with our existing roads and believe that steps need to be taken to help alleviate those problems, we don't want to do it by putting a State Park at risk in California. On February 23, 2006 the TCA voted on two resolutions to allow a toll road to run through this precious commodity.

Many in the Legislature are in an uproar about this action, specifically, the Transportation Chairs and the Natural Resources Chair along with the Senate Democratic leadership. They have been very active in opposing the Foothill-South Toll Road and have urged both the TCA

and the Governor's office to find a politically sound and feasible alternative.

In February Senators Sheila Kuehl (D-Santa Monica), Joe Simitian (D-Palo Alto), Joe Dunn (D-Orange County), Alan Lowenthal (D-Long Beach) and President Pro-Temp of the Senate, Don Perata (D-Oakland), co-authored a letter stating that they believe the proposed toll-road is a 1980's-style traffic solution. They went on to state that the smart growth alternative to building a new transportation corridor is to improve on existing infrastructure, including I-5 and surrounding routes, not to bisect a State Park with multiple lanes of concrete. Legislators believe the proposed Toll Road is exactly the type

of project that fuels global warming by perpetuating urban sprawl, destroying natural vegetation, and paving over open space. They are pushing for California to implement smart growth principals that limit greenhouse gases and promote infill development rather than sprawl, to maximize the economic use and value of our irreplaceable public lands.

This issue is not over in the Legislators' minds. They will continue to push to protect San Onofre State Park. They understand that it is not only a jewel of a park, but one of California's most visited State Parks and, as with all open-space, needs to be protected. We will keep you updated as this debate continues in the Legislature.

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## ***DOHENY STATE BEACH TURNS 75***

by Ranger **Brad Barker**

Doheny State Beach turns 75 this year. We (Doheny's staff) will celebrate by hosting a day-long festival on Saturday, June 24. It's shaping up into a special day, but the event will be even more meaningful if we can get some of our alumni involved.

Over thirty vintage trailers will spend the weekend at Doheny. They'll be joining woodies, surf memorabilia, and our own State Parks surf band (the Knobby Knees) as the backdrop to the celebration. We've been collecting historic photos and contacting old-time lifeguards and surfers. We'll have marine life interpretive displays, fish feedings in our visitors' center tide pool, and booths hosted by historical societies,



Ranger **Carl Whitfield**, 1967

the Audubon Society, etc.

Most importantly, this is a rare opportunity for Doheny's alumni, and generations of visitors, to see old friends, share memories, and help us hold onto the park's history. We are hoping that, if you worked at Doheny, you'll share some of your memories from your days here (if you can't come in person, please write to us).

We are also looking for photos of

anything related to the park - you, other employees, or the park itself - to be added to our unit history. As you know, anything that we receive would be valuable.

We are hoping that, at a minimum, you former Dohenians will e-mail us with the dates you worked at the park. We're also interested in learning who your co-workers were while you were at Doheny.

Please let us know if you would like to camp during the weekend of the celebration - we'll do our best to get you into one of the State Parks in the area. Contact:

Ranger Brad Barker  
Doheny State Beach  
25300 Dana Point Harbor Drive  
Dana Point, CA 92629  
(949) 496-5290 (4#)  
rangerbarker@yahoo.com



## BOARD MINUTES/ the GEC

**California State Park Ranger Association, General Executive Council.** March 8, 2006.  
Laughlin NV

**Call to Order** – by Ron Brean.  
**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Roll Call – Present:** Ron Brean, President; President Elect, Angy Nowicki; Secretary/Treasurer; Pam Armas; Board Members: Joe Mette; Gail Sevrens. **Absent:** Val Bradshaw, Past President; , Joe Rodgers

**Consideration of Minutes** – Ron reviewed meetings minutes of last year's GEC Wednesday, March 7, 2005 in Santa Rosa.

**Report of President:** Ron discussed what was talked about at the last GEC which in short was a revitalization of CSPRA because it has a declining membership and a declining presence at the annual conference. He discussed the district representative idea, and why in general membership has declined and why there is a lack of interest in CSPRA. Additionally, the board members were working diligently at working on many issues within CSPRA and State Parks in general; re-energizing CSPRA; the revitalization of the district representative program; recruitment effort.

Ron discussed the issues that were talked about at the offsite Board retreat in Aug.– CSPRA needs to take up a cause similar to Bodie – one might be the toll road in San Onofre , one that we are paying attention to. The infrastructure bond, high speed rail through Henry Coe SP , El Moro Trailer Park – people are moving out; Auburn Recreation Area is one that Ron would personally like to get involved in; it is time that we raise the issue of building a Park instead of building a dam . He has begun doing some ground work on it.

Focusing on CSPRA's mission, looking at professional develop-

ment, making sure people know about scholarships and training. We may utilize the knowledge of the Gray Bears. We need to also focus on the generalist ranger and recognize the value. The generalist park professional; capture the Gray Bears corporate knowledge and continue to make Gray Bears an ongoing track at the conference.

Supporting the mission of the department; meeting with the director on an ongoing/quarterly basis.

Continuing support of CSPRA of acquisition of land for State Parks.

More fiscal resources for parks – contacting legislature, media, elected officials or others to interpret how important parks are to the State.

### **Report of Committees**

**Advocacy/Ron Brean** – see above

**Awards & Recognition/Gail Sevrens** – last year we co-sponsored the Directors Awards ; co-sponsored the reception & programs and received recognition from the Director.

**Honorary Ranger** – we did not receive any nominees; plan to give a commendation to the Trust for Public Land.

### **Conference Site Selection – Dana**

**Jones** announced that Yosemite was conference for next year held at the Tenaya Lodge. Dana will be the co-chair. Dates are the first full week in March, 5 - 8th.

**Finance/Pam Armas** – Ron Brean gave this report. Approved as presented.

### **Membership & Recruitment/Angy**

**Nowicki --** Angy's theme for next year during her presidency will be "Bring a Friend". One of the goals is to focus on the multi-disciplinary nature of different classifications. The board is a cross section of what the department looks like. E-mail is a good way for members to get ahold of the board if they want anything. Angy pointed out that members of CSPRA get a big bang for their buck. CSPRA's missions are in line with the department's mission. We are involved and interested in the same things that the department in general is interested in. District

representatives are extremely important .

Angy's idea – offering skills and talents that the members are able to do--a nice incentive to recruit members. Whoever brings in the most members would win an activity from a list of activities members choose to donate.

### **Unfinished Business – Results of election:**

Angy is the New President  
President Elect Gail Sevrens  
Secretary/Treasurer – Becky Shenone  
Amendments to the by-laws to split out the secretary/treasurer.  
Natalie Lohi – Board of Directors  
Sal Goshorn – Board of Directors  
Brett Mizeur – Board of Directors  
Another amendment to by-laws is the acceptance of seasonal members.

### **Adoption of New Officers**

### **Adoption of Amendments**

### **New Business – Kirk Wallace**

announced a benefit that was happening for **Mike Mercle**, a naturalist at Anza Borrego. Kirk asked that CSPRA provide support to provide a plaque to commemorate Mike for all he did for State Parks. . It was moved and carried that CSPRA support a plaque to commemorate Mike at Anza Borrego Desert State Park.

Even though there is no Honorary Rangers CSPRA will be honoring PRAC's 30<sup>th</sup> year anniversary.

### **Adjournment**



## **THIS CUP COULD BE YOURS!**

**All contributors to the WAVE receive a stainless steel CSPRA travel mug**



## BOOK REVIEW

*I'M JUST A SEASONAL: The Life of a Seasonal Ranger in Yosemite National Park*

by **Thomas A. (Smitty) Smith**,  
Productivity Publications, 2005

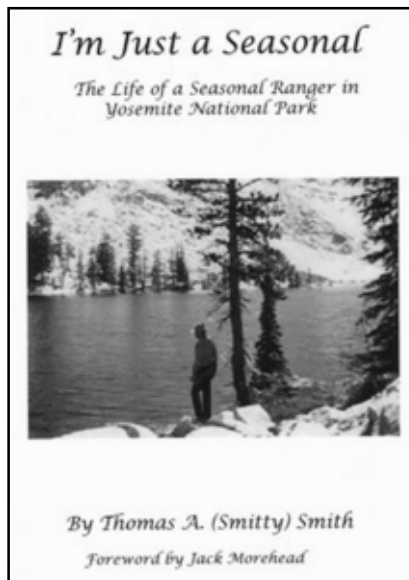
Hot off the press, this is a little gem of a book for all of us who have ever said, "I'm just a seasonal". Smitty worked for 15 years as a seasonal ranger in Yosemite, at Buck Camp, Merced Lake, and Tuolumne Meadows, while teaching at West Valley College in California. Smitty writes of the days of the family seasonal, when employees as well as their spouses and kids came up to the high country for the summer, living in tent cabins, roaming the park, and loving every minute of it.

Every season in Yosemite is an interesting one, but Smitty's 15 years spanned an amazing variety of people and happenings. Carl Sharsmith, the legendary Tuolumne naturalist, and Ferdinand Castillo, the gatekeeper of Tioga Pass, were both working in Tuolumne Meadows at the time.

Queen Elizabeth visited Yosemite while Smitty did traffic control. Car crashes, poachers and bears were all part of the job. Smitty was a mounted ranger for years, and one of the best parts of the book is when he talks about his horses. John Paul, in particular, was an amazing patrol horse who was capable of crowd control, search and rescue, and riot duty, while still being gentle enough for children to pet. Smitty bought John Paul when he was "surveyed" and still sees him almost every day.

Smitty also created the character of Sergeant Carruthers of the US Calvary which protected Yosemite after its creation in the late 1800's. The mounted Sergeant did many Living History programs in full uniformed regalia.

"I'm just a seasonal?" Smitty's



book brings home once again the fact that seasonal employees are the ones there when the rubber meets the road. Day in and day out, they respond to crisis and talk to visitors. As Mr. Smith writes:

*Why did we do it? Why did we ride around in helicopters and on horses, get involved in climbing rescues and the stress of medical emergencies, place people under arrest and haul them to jail, all for low pay and lousy*



*housing? It was great fun.*

*We made many friends working a season in a place like Yosemite, close friends. We lived next to one another. We laughed together, went through stressful situations together, and we sometimes had to depend upon each other in times when our own lives might be in danger. ....*

*We watched each others' children grow up and be successful. We were like an extended family.*

All members of the "park family" no matter where you work or worked, will enjoy Smitty's book, available from Productivity Publications, [www.prodpub.com](http://www.prodpub.com).

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# Changes in EMT Guidelines

by **Kevin Joe , DFG Game Warden**

Our department's emergency medical training standard for State Park Rangers and Lifeguards is First Responder (FR). Many of us have taken the course work to become Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT), which is the next level of training above FR.

The basic difference between the two levels of certification is the length of the course (approximately 54 hours for FR and 140 hours for EMT). The longer hours required for EMTs allows for more in depth explanations of the causes and treatments of medical emergencies and more training in patient packaging and gurney work.

Both certifications allow the application of airway adjuncts, the administration of oxygen and the use of automatic external defibrillators (AED). Administration of drugs and IVs still remains the purview of Paramedics.

Why would people decide to pursue an EMT certification? Some of us decided we needed a higher level of training to provide better pre-hospital care in our parks since many of our park units are a long distance from any ambulance service or advanced medical care. Others became EMTs when they became involved in their local Volunteer Fire Departments. FRs cannot work on ambulances and many of us have become EMTs, because we wanted to volunteer or work part-time on a local ambulance. Many Lifeguards and Rangers were EMTs before they joined the department and choose to continue to keep their certification current. All of our departmental FR instructors are EMTs.

I became an EMT 20 years ago for the first three reasons mentioned. Since then, I have attended a two

weekend refresher class every two years to maintain my certification and skills.

A CSPRA scholarship helped me attend my EMT refresher class at the Santa Rosa Junior College this last month.

In a previous Wave article, I presented a cheat-sheet for trauma and medical calls. In this article I'll focus on the recent changes in Treatment Guidelines for EMTs in my area.

EMTs are certified through either a local agency, national registry or both. My certifying agency is the Coastal Valley's EMS Agency which covers Mendocino, Napa and Sonoma Counties.

Each agency adopts its own guidelines and protocols for their EMTs. The most interesting recent changes in the CVEMSA's guidelines for EMTs are in the areas of pulse oximetry, Release at Scene (RAS)/Refusal of Evaluation-Treatment-Transportation Against Medical Advice (AMA) and Determination of Death in the Prehospital Setting.

Pulse oximeters measure the percentage hemoglobin which is saturated with oxygen and calculate the heart rate. Paramedics have long used pulse oximeters in the field to quickly and continuously evaluate the oxygen saturation level and pulse of their patients. Now EMTs may use pulse oximeters in the field as long as it is for "reporting purposes only...[and you] do not withhold oxygen therapy based on pulse oximetry readings." Like any piece of equipment, they are not fool-proof and one should not rely solely on the reading from a pulse oximeter to determine oxygen therapy.

EMTs used to choose between RAS and AMA forms when patients either declined or refused our offer of medical assistance. Now only paramedics can use the RAS form and

EMTs must only use the AMA form.

Of greatest interest to those of us who work Basic Life Support ambulances in areas where the Advanced Life Support ambulances are often an hour away, is the change in the **Determination of Death in the Prehospital Setting**. Now we can terminate or not initiate CPR if the patient is an "Unwitnessed arrest who is "pulseless, apneic and "no shock" is indicated [on the AED]" or a "Witnessed arrest that was confirmed pulseless and apneic for ten or more minutes and "no shock" is indicated.

Now EMTs in my area don't have to work up a person who has been down for a long time and isn't in a shockable heart rhythm. Previously, we would be doing CPR for a long time waiting for a paramedic to arrive, so they could attach their heart monitor, see the aystolic "flat line" and then pronounce the death.

I hope that all of us park professionals will continue to provide excellent care to our co-workers, volunteers and park visitors in the event of a medical emergency and that many of you will choose to enhance your skills by becoming an EMT.

CVEMSA guidelines and forms are available on their website: <http://www.sonoma-county.org/cvremsa/index.htm>

## **Editor's Note:**

**Kevin Joe was a CA State Park Ranger for 20 years, most recently on the Mendocino Coast. He recently retired from DPR, and is now in training to become a Fish & Game Warden. He plans to be home patrolling the southern Mendocino Coast as a game warden by late June.**

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Date

## EXECUTIVE MANAGER



by *Laura Svensgaard*  
*CSPRA Executive Manager*

Though this year's California Parks Conference was hardly in a park-like setting (nor obviously in California), it was clear that where park folk gather, the spirit and camaraderie of the park family prevails. This year's gathering proved to be every bit the warm family reunion of past Conferences, and welcomed in a very successful second running of the new Gray Bear's track. To all of our delight, next year's Conference will be held in Yosemite, so save the dates NOW – March 5 - 8, 2007!

During CSPRA's General Meeting, we reported on the status of the organization. In summary, we've been seeing shifts in the membership primarily related to the number of DPR staff retiring and converting from Active membership (at \$96 per year) to Retired membership (at \$36 per year). We also haven't been expending much in terms of time or money toward our recruitment effort lately (i.e. of the \$1,200 allocated in last year's budget for recruitment, we spent \$7). As a result, comparing FY 2004 and 2005, Active membership went from 462 to 432 (respectively), and Retired memberships went from 182 to 208 (respectively). Total membership for the two categories combined dropped by 4, but the net result of the shift is a loss of \$1,944 per year. This decline is generally reflective of what's been occurring over the last several years.

Consequently, adjustments were made to the FY 2006/07 budget that was adopted at the General Meeting.

Since revenue collections have been down (FY 04/05 was almost \$6,000 short of projected), we've reduced budgeted revenues from \$57,000 to \$52,620. To compensate for the reduced revenues, we're going to do our best to reduce expenses primarily in two areas: equipment & equipment repair from \$1,000 to \$300; board meeting travel from \$8,000 to \$3,170. Other smaller reductions will bring the budget expenditures into balance with the anticipated revenues.

I sincerely hope you recognize that these changes didn't happen overnight, or even in the past year. They began several years ago when fairly significant numbers of CSPRA's membership collected their coveted retirement plaques and wandered off to do research on the latest and greatest travel bargains, and other such "life of leisure" adventures.

But, you'll be glad to know your CSPRA Board is on it! With president Angy Nowicki's enthusiasm and determination, and the awareness of our trusty Board members, recruitment and promotion of CSPRA's assorted and on-going activities will be in the forefront. While you may not have known that this shift was occurring, take heart, because I do believe this will be the year that we see the trend reverse direction. And certainly, your continued support as a CSPRA member, and any contribution you make toward the recruitment effort, is greatly appreciated. In fact, if you bring in a new member, we'll send you a free CSPRA stainless steel coffee mug or Retired State Parks cap!

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## humor in unicorn



## Mixed Metaphors and Malaprops *by Jeff Price, retired*

### Emissions Test

*The needle is on empty; if we get there we'll be breathing fumes.*

Can't explain 'em all, just report them.

*That really puts the mustard on the rocks!*

Equipment misplacement.

*Stay clear of her, she's got a spur under her saddle this morning.*

I'm feeling lightheaded!

*The US skater was in the lead from the first giddy.*

Resisting Lady Liberty

*The statue of limitations is 7 years.*

## GET CONNECTED

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Representatives are needed for:

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## GRAYBEARS



*Attention retired members!*  
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## Do you know someone who is retiring?

CSPRA provides a plaque for each member when they retire. Contact us at (800) 749-8749, or email [executivemanager@CSPRA.com](mailto:executivemanager@CSPRA.com), or write to CSPRA, P.O. Box 2132, Newport, OR 97365



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## **CALIFORNIA STATE PARK RANGERS ASSOCIATION**

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**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***