



The CSPRA

Wave

Newsletter

VOLUME 8, NUMBER 2

CALIFORNIA STATE PARK RANGERS ASSOCIATION

MAR - APR 2008

NO TOLL ROAD AT SAN ONOFRE!



Fight the budget cuts and
park closures, pp. 2 and 10

COASTAL COMMISSION DECISION
on toll road, Page 3

PARK ADVOCACY DAY
Monday, April 7



CSPRA OFFICERS

PRESIDENT

Gail Sevens, Colorado Desert
(916) 595-2167, gail@cspra.com

SECRETARY

Natalie Lohi, Mendocino
(707) 367-1324, natalie@cspra.com

TREASURER

Wendy Martin, Diablo Vista, Bay Sector
(925) 673-2894, wendy@cspra.com

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

Angy Nowicki, Silverado
(707) 538-8734, angy@cspra.com

DIRECTORS

Brett Mizeur, Castle Crags
(530) 235-2684, brett@cspra.com

Sal Goshorn, Orange Coast
(714) 377-5691, sal@cspra.com

Dave Gould, Marin
(707) 769-5665 x 224, dave@cspra.com

Rain Greenslate, Monterey, Big Sur
(831) 667-2179, rain@cspra.com

Tyson Butzke, Channel Coast, Gaviota
(805) 968-3852, tyson@cspra.com

ADMINISTRATION

Allison Pedley, Executive Manager
P.O. Box 10606, Truckee, CA 96162
(530) 550-1268, (800) 749-8749
allison@cspra.com

INTERNET COMMUNICATIONS

Jeff Price, Webmaster
(805) 278-9201, webmaster@cspra.com
www.cspra.com

The CSPRA Wave

Janet Carle, Editor
(760) 647-6431, wave@cspra.com

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of www.californiacoastline.org**

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



CSPRA President Gail Sevens

by Gail Sevens

The past two months have been a whirlwind for Parks and CSPRA: a huge donation to CSPRA, proposals to shutter 48 parks, a giant victory in the fight to protect San Onofre, Governmental Advocates offering to represent CSPRA pro bono, preparations for the CA Parks Conference March 31 to April 3 and Park Advocacy Day April 7.

Let's start with some fantastic news. Honorary Ranger **Bill Lane Jr.** has donated \$20,000 to CSPRA, spurred by the proposed Parks budget cuts and desiring to boost the morale of the employees who would be impacted by shuttering 48 parks. For an organization with a shoestring annual budget of \$50,000, a gift like this is tremendous. See page 7 for more details. Please extend him your own thanks for this wonderful act of generosity. And a big thanks to **Barbara Hill** of the California State Parks Foundation for helping to facilitate this great gift.

The proposed budget cuts are a large focus of time and energy for CSPRA and all our park supporters. Let me first extend my heartfelt thoughts to the employees proposed to be affected by the proposals. Those of us who have been through it know the uncertainty and feelings of not being in control of one's own destiny. We know that many good things can come out of something like this—but also know that that is not of any comfort right now!

But, some of those good things are already happening. The reaction to the closure proposal has been overwhelming. Legislators—who are the ones in control of the purse strings—have swiftly and roundly decried this action, both Republicans and Democrats. Please take a moment to call your local legislators; as a political intern my duties once were to keep tallies of the calls that came in. Each phone call is calculated to represent a large number of voters, so these do make a big difference.

The media has also grasped the significance of letting our parks go dark. Story after story leads with the mention of the parks' plight, ahead of the other cuts proposed for government services. CSPRA and other park advocacy organizations have fielded calls by and conducted interviews with numerous media outlets.

At CSPRA, we are putting together a YouTube slideshow to fight the cuts and ask for parks to be fully funded. Member **Bill Lindeman** is heading this effort. If you have personal photos (no photos taken on work time or with DPR equipment please, as we are using these images for lobbying) of parks slated for caretaker status, please contact him at 530-525-3341.

www.cspra.com/advocacy/save-our-parks.html, has more info, and see CSPRA's press release on pg 10. Visit the CA State Park Foundation's www.savestateparks.org website, set up specifically to fight the cuts, and join the campaign. The Foundation has pulled together a broad coalition of park supporters to work in the legislature, the media, and with the public. Kudos to President **Elizabeth Goldstein**, Director of Legislation and Policy **Traci Verardo-Torres**, Legislative Coordinator **Linsey Fredenburg**, and all their hardworking staff and interns. Meanwhile, many of the park cooperating associations have gotten the word out to their members, many of whom have started letter writing campaigns, sent letters to newspaper

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SAN ONOFRE STATE BEACH

NO TOLL ROAD!

by ***Sara Feldman***

*Vice President for S/ California
California State Parks Foundation*

On Wednesday, February 6, the California Coastal Commission dealt a decisive blow to the Transportation Corridor Agency's plans to build a toll road through the heart of San Onofre State Beach. In an historic decision, the Commission voted **8 to 2** to deny a federal consistency permit to the TCA, thus stopping the toll road dead in its tracks. The coalition of groups working to save the park, including CSPF, National Resources Defence Council, the Sierra Club, Defenders of Wildlife, Endangered League, Surfrider Foundation, Audubon California, and the California Coastal Protection Network, made a powerful presentation to the Commission that clearly showed how this environmentally destructive project did not – and could not – comply with the Coastal Zone Management Act. The points made in the presentation were echoed by the many members of the public who spoke, and the many hundreds more who attended but did not speak. It is estimated that over 3,000 people turned out to participate in the hearing process, the largest turnout in the Commission's 36-year history.

The coalition and speakers irrefutably demonstrated to the Commission that the toll road would do the following:

- Permanently eliminate over 50 acres of undisputed Environmentally Sensitive Habitat areas in the coastal zone
- Destroy San Mateo Campground, which serves

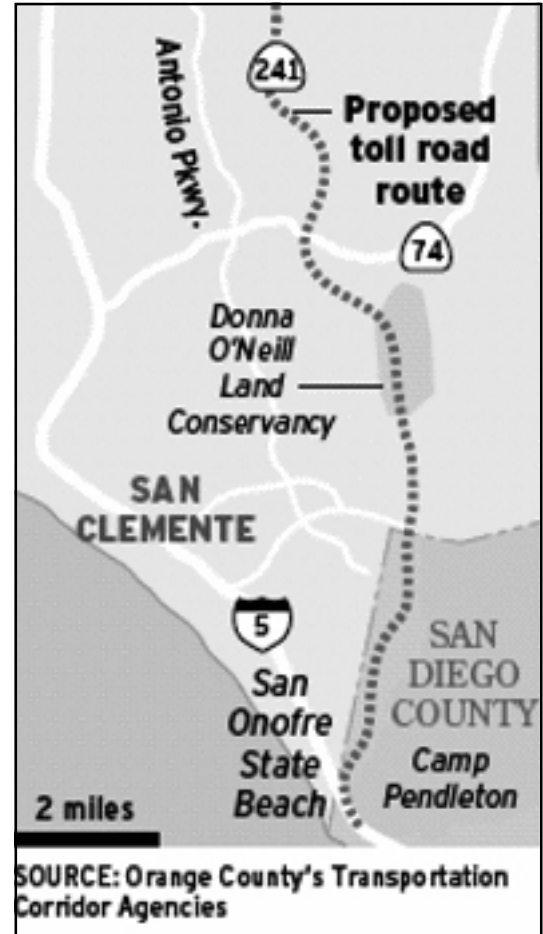
100,000 visitors annually

- Harm Trestles Beach by threatening wave formation at this world-famous surfing beach
- Fill wetlands and degrade water quality in one of the few areas in Orange County where water quality is good
- Damage Native American resources by irreparably damaging sites sacred to the Acjachemen/Juáñeno people.

The Commission's vote was expected to be closely divided, but at the final moment the momentum was overwhelming and only Commissioners Burke and Kram voted to grant the federal consistency permit, with Commissioners Blank, Wan, Krue, Neely, Shallengerger, Reilly, Achadjian and Clark voting to preserve the park for future generations. Commissioners Hueso and Potter were not present.

We applaud the courage of the California Coastal Commissioners who rose to the occasion and acted decisively to protect the park and the coast from infrastructure threats. There are feasible alternatives to the Toll Road. We will continue to fight for those alternatives to be adequately analyzed and considered.

For more information, link to www.savesanonofre.com. More to come!



WHAT'S IN A NAME?

The Department of Personnel Administration recently changed the name for our Peace Officer classifications.

From: State Park Ranger
To: State Park Peace Officer (Ranger)

From: Lifeguard
To: State Park Peace Officer (Lifeguard)

(Ed: Should CSPRA now be CSP(R)A?)

JANUARY CELEBRATION

by Jeff Price, Retired Member, Webmaster and GrayBears Moderator

Some interesting events were taking place during the spring of 1933. Most significant to CSPRA and our state park history is that in January of that year, the first parcel was added to what is now the superlative Anza-Borrego Desert State Park.

To recognize this 75th anniversary, almost 100 former and current staff, supporters, and volunteers accepted Supt. **Mark Jorgenson's** generous offer to gather in Coyote Canyon at the Whitaker Horse Camp for a celebration and reunion on January 31, 2008. By rough calculation, attendees represented over 30 centuries of park experience. Now that is GrayBears at its best! My fondest memory as I drove into the horse



*Front, L to R: **Bud Getty, Diana Lindsay, Kirby Morgan, Celeste & Wes Cater, Peggy Price, Bambi Woodson, Fred Jee;** Back, L to R: **Mike Wells, Mark Jorgensen, Gary Watts, Jeff Price, Paul Remeika, Dave Van Cleve, Paul Jorgensen, Lynn Rhodes.** Photo courtesy D. Lindsay*

also taking place about the same time: Construction of the Golden Gate Bridge begins. The first airing of a radio program called "The Lone Ranger." An obscure leader of the German Socialist Workers Party, Adolf Hitler, is appointed Chancellor.

The night before the event was

staff in the snow at Calaveras, and on the beach at Ano Nuevo and Seacliff parks. We were honored with a very special presentation describing life in Borrego Valley in 1949, as **Wes Cater** reported on his first temporary assignment to the park. In keeping with the recognition of history represented by the attendees, Mark arranged to have staff and volunteers record oral history from those with park experience dating back to the 1940's. They also had digital scanners available to archive photos that guests brought with them. Author **Diana Lindsay** was honored with a special recognition including a straw Stetson. Later in the evening after a bonfire, Diana provided a slide program illustrating her experiences in writing guide books about the park. The event was assisted by the Anza-Borrego Foundation and Institute.

As Mark ended the very special event he said, "Thanks to you all for the years you've put into this wonderful place, and for your friendship and generosity in joining us for the 75th Anniversary of Anza-Borrego Desert SP."



<Photo by Peggy Price

camp was having nominated **Vern Whitaker** and having the CSPRA Board select him as Honorary Ranger in 1981. It was the least we could do to recognize the equestrian experience and service he provided the park for decades. We have posted a page at www.CSPRA.com, where you can see a few more photos.

Just to put this date in perspective, these events were

the coldest (34°), darkest, most moonless, star-filled sky I have experienced in a long time! The next morning started with opportunities to get warm and greet new and old park friends. During the afternoon there were park photo exhibits, and a special live demonstration of the park's satellite classroom uplink was provided (PORTS), where we were able to chat real time with

PARK VETERANS REUNION, NAMING OF GETTYSBURG WASH

by *Diana Lindsay, historian,
author, and park volunteer*

More than 75 former and current employees of Anza-Borrego Desert State Park and their spouses gathered on Thursday, January 31, 2008, to share memories and celebrate the 75th season of the park.

Park Superintendent **Mark Jorgensen** welcomed the group and encouraged them to swap stories and view old photographs that were on display from the park's history. Jorgensen then retreated to cook burgers for the BBQ that followed.

LuAnn Thompson, who heads the park's PORTS program, had her long-distance learning satellite mobile unit set up so that former employees now

at Columbia State Historic Park could also visit with park staff and former employees at the reunion.

Park employee **Leslie Bellah** was particularly interested in stories that former Park Superintendent **Wes Cater** told about hosting Cesar Chavez at Borrego Palm Canyon Campground during the Di Giorgio grape strike of the 1960s in Borrego Valley. Chavez and his crew could not find a motel in town that would take them in, so they camped at the park. Former Park Ranger **Frank Padilla** heard the conversation and mentioned that his uncle was there with Chavez. Padilla whipped out his cell phone and called his uncle who added more details to the story.

Former Park Rangers **Gene Ham-**
mock and **Jon**

Muench recalled during a taped oral history session what it was like to be the state's first ranger pilots. They wrote the manual on how to do it and proved how valuable and necessary the position was to a park that exceeds 600,000 acres.

A chili cook off featured venison chili that disappeared early on. A 75th anniversary cake was enjoyed by all. Later that evening, as the campfire kept everyone warm, a

75th anniversary PowerPoint program was presented giving the details of the park's formation and early history. Many cheers erupted from the Ocotillo Wells SVRA crew when

creation of the off-road area was mentioned as part of the park's history.

Former Park Superintendent **Maurice "Bud" Getty** received some special recognition the next day when a wash in the off-road area was re-named for him and an official unveiling ceremony took place. The new "Gettysburg" Wash is located off S-22 in the Ocotillo Wells State Vehicle Recreation Area where Crossover Trail intersects the entrance to what was once known as Tectonic Gorge—the wash where the last episode of *X-Files* was filmed.

The wash was originally known as Gettysburg Wash many years ago, and now the name has been officially restored. Even though Getty was the first superintendent of OWSVRA, that is not the reason the wash was named for him.

Former Park Ranger **Paul Schuessler** recalled how the name Gettysburg came to be. It was 1976 and he and his wife Marjorie decided to surprise Getty by silk-screening some T-shirts that displayed the outline of ABDSP with a star marking Borrego Springs.

"It was Marjorie's idea to write the word 'Gettysburg' above the outline and California below it. We made up T-shirts—one for Marjorie, one for daughter Amy, one for Bud and an extra one," Schuessler explained.

Getty was the ABDSP superintendent – called Park Manager in those days – from 1972 until 1981. Getty frequently wore his T-shirt, and "it became a local joke," Schuessler added.

The unnamed wash on the eastern edge of the park boundary in Imperial County received its name about a year



*L to R: Colorado Dst. Supt. **Mike Wells**,
Doreen Clement, **Bud Getty**, **Gail
Sevrens**, ABDSP Supt. **Mark Jorgensen**,
Diana Lindsay, **Jim Meyer**. Photo by **P.
Schuessler***

BORREGO BIRTHDAY

BORREGO, from page 3

later when then park aide Jorgensen quipped to guidebook author **Lowell Lindsay** that when one came to the park from the east on S-22 and saw the wash, “you were about to enter Gettysburg.”

The name and a photograph of the wash appeared in the new Wilderness Press guidebook, *Anza-Borrego Desert Region*, published in 1978. Several years later the name Tectonic Gorge appeared on a new map of the off-road area when it was not realized that the wash had previously been named. The original name of Gettysburg Wash was still preserved in a 1993 publication for the San Bernardino County Museum.

When asked how he felt about having the wash officially named for him, Getty, who retired from park service in 2001 after 42 years of service, said, “I feel really great and honored.”

Those attending the dedication included **Mike Wells**, superintendent

of the Colorado District and the first ranger to serve at OWSVRA in the 1970s, **Mark Jorgensen**, superintendent of ABDSP, and CSPRA President **Gail Sevrens**.

Getty first came to ABDSP as a seasonal naturalist for both ABDSP and Palomar Mountain from 1959 to 1960. When park naturalist **Dalton Merkel** retired, Getty served as the park naturalist from 1965 to 1967. He returned in 1972 and served as the superintendent until 1981.

Under his watch some key events occurred in the park’s history: grazing leases ended within the park; visitation hit 1 million for the first time; the annual sheep count began; state wilderness areas were created within the park boundaries; Coyote Canyon had its first summer closure; and designated routes of travel were established in the park. What really helped the park control off-road damage were the removal of non-street legal vehicles from the park’s boundaries and the creation of

Ocotillo Wells SVRA. The new off-road area fell into Getty’s supervision until a separate management team was formed. He would dispatch rangers to both parks.

Getty also helped with the site selection for the visitor center and worked diligently with the Anza-Borrego Foundation to acquire key inholdings within the park, such as Hawk Canyon, the entrance to Coyote Canyon, and Culp Valley. During his tenure the park’s paleontology program had significant growth and funding was acquired to build the Stout Paleontology Lab. The park archaeology collection also grew and a storage unit was constructed.

On the lighter side, Getty recalled that he was also part of the original group that made plans to revive the annual Pegleg Liar’s Contest in 1974. He recalled telling everyone that Annette Funicello was going to attend, and when a crowd showed up and asked where she was, he said, “It’s a Liar’s Contest!”

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editors, and even formed new groups to support our parks.

One key message that I think we all need to carry out there is that not only should we not shutter the parks, we need to fully fund the parks. We need to bring a proactive perspective to the debate, not just reactive. The caretaker proposal has made everyone realize how much they love the parks, and we need to capitalize on that realization and press for long-term, adequate funding mechanisms.

So how else can you join this effort? Attend Parks Advocacy Day on Mon., April 7 or recruit someone from your park to attend. You don’t have to know anything about politics or lobbying, and in fact some of the most compelling stories our lawmakers hear on that day are the straight-forward, “here is the reality in the parks” narrative. Yes, you have to take a day off. But, the experience is so

rewarding and makes a big impact. Please sign up today, www.calparks.org/park-advocacy-day-2008.html.

The proposal to run a toll road through San Onofre SB was dealt a huge, potentially fatal blow in February when the California Coastal Commission ruled that the project was not consistent with coastal protection laws. Proponents are appealing the decision to the federal government, but even if this decision were overturned the project would face several more hurdles.. Thanks to all of the commissioners who bravely voted to protect our resources.

This year’s **CA Parks Conference** is going to be tremendous, with many knowledgeable and skilled park professionals slated to conduct workshops and trainings. You will also get to meet new the new board members: Secretary **Don Schmidt**, and members **Craig Mattson** and **Blythe Liles**. Please tell your col-

leagues, including seasonals, that now is a great time to join CSPRA, receive a discount on the California Parks Conference, and join a great group of professionals fighting hard for what we all believe in so strongly. See www.cspira.com for details.

A big thank you to **Sara Skinner**, our new “district” representative, representing the Mott Training Center. Also, Anza-Borrego Ranger **Steve Bier** has joined our International Ranger committee, helping out **Jeff Ohlfs**. Thanks folks!

In recognition of CSPRA’s tight budget and the importance of the work that we do, **Governmental Advocates** has offered to represent CSPRA pro bono (that means free!) for the next year. Governmental Advocates is a leading lobbying firm that normally charges clients \$10,000 per month, so this is no small matter for a grassroots organization like us.

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by **Allison Pedley**, Executive Manager

Amidst frantic calls from park visitors wanting to vent about proposed park closures and regular calls from the media requesting budget cut sound bites, CSPRA received communication of a unique sort from a very unique man. Frustrated by the proposed budget cuts, park advocate and 1997 CSPRA Honorary Ranger **Bill Lane, Jr.** along with his wife **Jean**, informed CSPRA in January that they will be donating \$20,000 to the California State Parks Foundation, which is to be allocated to CSPRA via a grant from the Foundation. As Bill wrote, the gift is "to help the challenge of State Parks to cope with these cuts — and work on legislators to protect CSP personnel cuts especially!"

Bill and Jean are long-time park supporters. Mr. Lane was a founding member of the California State Parks Foundation, and currently serves as Foundation Trustee Emeritus. As former publisher of *Sunset Magazine*, Bill was known to use the publication

BILL LANE DONATION TO CSPRA



< **Bill Lane, Jr.**
and his wife **Jean**

to promote park conservation, thereby bringing critical park values and issues to his readership. The publication has, ever since, featured our beautiful park system and encouraged readers to visit and to take action to ensure park preservation. Mr. Lane's work does not stop at the state level, having served on the Secretary of the Interior's Advisory Board, the Council on National Parks, as Chairman of the President's National Parks Centennial Commission, and as a member of the National Park Service's 75th Anniversary Committee, all culminating in being

appointed Honorary National Park Ranger. Retired now from a professional life that also included Ambassador to Australia and Nauru, and Ambassador-at-Large and Commissioner General to Japan, Bill has not lost his passion for parks.

Keeping in touch with **Barbara Hill** at the Parks Foundation, Director **Ruth Coleman**, and most recently, CSPRA, Bill and Jean remain aware of all that parks have to offer, and now, all that we could lose. The positive effects of their generous gift, to boost member morale and fight the budget cuts, are likely to be felt by us all. We can't thank them enough!

EXECUTIVE MANAGER'S REPORT

by **Allison Pedley**

There is five feet of snow piled up outside my window as I write this, and I can truthfully say that while we've had a wonderful ski season so far here in Truckee, my family and I are already itching for the camping season to begin. Perhaps a visit to Gail at her new assignment in Borrego Springs can get us through the rest of the

winter!

In official CSPRA news, a great many members retired during the last quarter of 2007. While plaques have gone out to most, we're having a hard time tracking down addresses for a few others. I do receive official notice of your retirements from the State Controllers Office, but no additional details. As we'd all love to keep in touch with you new GrayBears, and of course send you your well earned retirement plaques, please let us know about your

whereabouts. Don't forget to sign up for the free GrayBears list server, by e-mailing GrayBears@CSPRA.com. The list server now boasts over 200 retired park employees!

New members: **Steven Ptomey**, an Interpreter II in the Tehachapi District, **Ty Smith** in Interpretation and Education, and **Charlie Thompson-Orsua**, a Ranger in the North Coast Redwoods District have just signed on. Welcome to you all!

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A WAVE GOODBYE



CURT KRAFT

April 7, 1947 – January 14, 2008

Curtis Dean Kraft was born in Watertown, South Dakota, where he learned to love the land and the rich history of his ancestors who homesteaded the farmland. He took great interest and pride in the Hauge Family Heritage Farm his grandparents had owned, and which is now preserved for future generations.

Curt graduated with honors from Cal State University, Long Beach, and soon after entered the California State Park system as a Ranger. Together with his new wife, Mary, they began a fulfilling life living in California's most beautiful redwood State Parks.

Curt excelled as a supervising ranger with many achievements gained over his 30 year career span. He began as a trainee at Folsom Lake SRA, with a first assignment at San Luis Reservoir State Recreation Area near Los Banos, CA. The highlight of his career was the 12 years spent at his favorite park, Calaveras Big Trees State Park. Curt also worked a short time at Jedidiah Smith Redwoods State Park, and ended his career at Indian Grinding Rock State Park.

SALLY ALTICK

1929 to Nov. 2007

Sally was named CSPRA's Honorary Ranger in 1987 for her work on the California State Park and Recreation Commission from 1970-76 and the Ano Nuevo Interpretive Association from 1979-1982.



VITORIA ARAUJO

Sept. 1918- Jan. 2008

Viki, a long-time activist in Kern County, was named CSPRA's Honorary Ranger in 1988 for her work with the CA State Park and Recreation Commission.



MILT McDONOGH


May 1915 – Jan. 2008

Milt founded the Angel Island-Tiburon Ferry Co. in 1959, and continued to operate the service in his 80s. He made over 1000 trips each year across Racoon Strait.



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Trainee Weekend at Palomar Mountain

by **Rich Lawton**, Retired

In 1977 I was a State Park Ranger Trainee assigned to the old San Diego Coast Area. As Trainees we were farmed out to other parks for additional training. There was no union back then so we traveled on our own time and used personal vehicles for transportation to and from these "Training Assignments".

It was opening weekend of deer season when I got the word to head for Palomar Mountain early Saturday morning. After driving most of the day I met up with Ranger **Kay Schmidt** who took me to a vacant residence in the park. Towards dusk, Kay parked at the head of a fire road and took me for a short hike (about a quarter mile) out to a meadow. From there we walked about 100 yards to a small rock outcropping. She pointed out that from this vantage point I would be able to see the entire meadow and the fence on the far edge. The other side of the fence was not State Park and hunting was allowed. My assignment was to be at the outcropping prior to sunrise Sunday morning to spot hunters. They could cross into the park with their weapons, however, the weapons needed to be unloaded and, of course, no hunting.

After a good night's rest, Kay picked me up at "oh dark thirty" and drove me to the trailhead. I headed out in the moonlight down the fire road towards the meadow, walking quietly without my flashlight so I would not give myself away to any of the hunters. About half way down the road I began to feel as if something was watching me. A little voice went off in my head, "Damn, it's been 7 years since the last time I had this feeling." That was back in the jungles of Viet Nam, which ended up in a long drawn out fire fight. Nah, this

couldn't be happening, so I pressed on. Unable to shake the feeling, I would stop and look back as I moved from one shadow to another, hoping to get a glimpse of whatever was following me as it crossed the moonlit areas between the shadows. What ever it was, it never came out of the shadows. As I got close to a fork in the road I remembered that there was an oak tree overhanging the road. Under the tree were lots of dry leaves in the road, except for a small path on one side. I quietly moved along the path and stopped about 50 feet past the shadow of the oak and into the shadow of another tree. I settled on a rock alongside the road and peered into the moonlit area between the trees.

Shadows from the trees made it hard to see much. Then there was the fateful sound of footsteps slowly going through the dried oak leaves. If it was human, they had a light foot. Not loud enough to be the narrow feet of a deer, more like the paws of a cat. Whatever it was, it started to appear in the moonlight and stopped on the edge of a shadow. The form seemed to be about 3 feet tall as it stood motionless in the shadows. As the sun started to break up the shadows I could finally make out the form. It was a mountain lion, sitting and just staring at me. I slowly reached for my 35 and took aim. Focused in and realized that I would have to shoot at about 1 full second shutter speed. Reset the 35 to 1/60th and went to turn on the flash. The little voice in my head sounded an alarm, "Don't do it, you'll end up spooking the lion and become its breakfast." About then the lion got up and started walking down the fire road in my direction. It was staying on the opposite side of the road from me as it passed. By then I

had switched to my 38 rather than the 35. After the lion passed I slowly got up and followed it to the fork. The lion took the left fork and I took the right towards the meadow.

After arriving at my assigned spot a little after sun up, I heard shots in the distance. A couple of hours later the first of the hunters appeared. I made contact with each one, checked weapons and hunting licenses until the appointed hour. At that time I headed back to the trail head to meet up with Kay and a ride back to the residence. After all, I did not want to be late and I did not have a radio to use. I gave her a short report on the morning's activities, packed up my car and headed back to San Diego Coast Area.



March 31st to April 3rd, 2008 at Embassy Suites, South Lake Tahoe.

The 2008 Conference promises to be great, with Australian Park Ranger **Sean Willmore** of (*The Thin Green Line*) as the keynote speaker. Activities include snowshoe tours, Grover Hot Springs soaks, a dinner cruise on Lake Tahoe and a Mark Twain impersonator. Please contact co-chair **Natalie Lohi** at natalie@cspra.com or (707) 367-1324 for more information. More info at www.cspra.com.

**PROMOTING PROFESSIONALISM IN
CALIFORNIA STATE PARKS**

Membership Mail to: CSPRA,
Allison Pedley, P.O. Box 10606,
Truckee, CA 96162. Or join online
at: www.cspra.com/membership

*For all except "Active" or "Active
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Check one: I prefer getting the WAVE
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_____ by postal mail (hard copy).

May we print your name as a new
member in the WAVE? _____

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

Signature _____

Date _____

January 15, 2008 Press Release

***CSPRA Denounces Proposed
Park Closures, Budget Cuts***

The California State Park Rangers Association today denounced the proposed closure of 48 State Parks, cutting of lifeguard services, and slashing of the 2008/09 budget for the California Department of Parks and Recreation.

"State Parks are California's treasures. They provide education to schoolchildren, support fitness through outdoor recreation opportunities, drive local and state economies through tourism, protect our natural resources and cultural heritage for future generations, and reduce global warming," stated Gail Sevens, president of CSPRA. "Shuttering these parks is a short-sighted measure that would cost Californians more in the long run, as our facilities deteriorate through lack of use and maintenance."

"CSPRA fears the public safety consequences of the proposed halving or elimination of seasonal lifeguard protection at our State Beaches. Further, closing parks to the public may draw illegal entry into closed areas, threatening public safety and fire protection," Sevens said.

"Unfortunately, State Parks budgets have been repeatedly cut—662 positions have been cut over the last two decades—that any decrease in our current lean budget will have draconian impacts. The State Parks also face a \$1.2 billion backlog in deferred maintenance."

The proposed shuttering of 17% of the State Park system would save just \$9 million, or 24 cents per California resident. Meanwhile, \$4.8 million revenue will be lost to the State.

Furthermore, each dollar spent for the State Park system in turn generates a \$2.35 return to the State's coffers from visitor spending in local economies and the parks.

Spinning operation of State Parks off to local entities is not a viable solution

either. California State Park professionals have the expertise and experience to safeguard and operate our world-renowned State Parks.

"State Parks are a bargain for California. Any cuts will cause irreparable harm," Sevens said.

The California State Park Rangers Association is a professional organization of active and retired California State Park professionals from all park disciplines and functions dedicated to protecting park values and professionalism.

PRESIDENT, from page 6

Many thanks to GA's President **Cliff Berg**, lobbyist **Monica Miller**, and all the firm's partners and staff for this outstanding representation!

The City of Chino Hills has proposed that SCE run electrical transmission lines through **Chino Hills State Park**, in order to avoid running the lines through the city. CSPRA will provide you with information as this battle unfolds. Looks like we have more people to convince that State Parks are not just a blank spot on the map, waiting to be covered with infrastructure.

On a personal note, I have joined the staff of Colorado Desert District and have elected to pass off advocacy duties regarding the proposed Sunrise Powerlink, which would slice through Anza-Borrego Desert SP. Gray Bear **Wes Cater** will represent CSPRA at upcoming Sunrise Powerlink public hearings and Advocacy Committee member **Dick Troy** will author CSPRA's comments.

Many of you CSPRA longtime members have told me you read this column. You have seen CSPRA save Bodie State Historic Park, fight the big battles, and provide opportunities for training and networking. You know how important it is to have an organization such as this to protect what you have dedicated your career to. I am asking you today to consider the future of CSPRA and State Parks.

See PRESIDENT, page 11

humor in unicorn



Mixed Metaphors and Malaprops

by Jeff Price, retired

Here is another mixed up batch of overheard slips of the tongue and misfires of the brain. Sometimes people get so excited they mix comparisons and come up with some very funny concoctions. Feel free to send along any you hear - malaprops@cspira.com

Golden moment.

If he was worth his weight in salt, he would have done something.

Pick anything from Column A.
She approached the bear with wonton disregard for the child's safety.

What a drag.

That man is a drudge on society.

Criminals, but apparently scholarly ones.

Those men are a regular rhodes gallery.

Want a CSPRA scholarship?

Go to www.cspira.com

or email

scholarship@cspira.com

District Reps

District	Name	Email Address
Angeles	Frank Padilla	fpadilla@parks.ca.gov
Capitol	Mark Hada	mhada@parks.ca.gov
Central Valley	Wayne Harrison	wharr@parks.ca.gov
	Greg Martin	gmart@parks.ca.gov
Channel Coast	Tyson Butzke	tyson@cspira.com
Colorado Desert	Jeri Zemon	jzemon@parks.ca.gov
Diablo Vista	Carl Nielson	cnielson@parks.ca.gov
	Ann Meneguzzi	amene@parks.ca.gov
Gold Fields	Matt Cardinet	mcardinet@parks.ca.gov
	Kevin Pearce	kpearce@parks.ca.gov
Inland Empire	Sue Neary	sneary@parks.ca.gov
Monterey	Pat Clark Gray	pgray@parks.ca.gov
Mott Training Center	Sara Skinner	skimmersara@hotmail.com
North Coast Redwoods	Rick Sermon	sermon@wave.net
	Jenny Donovan	roadkil151@aol.com
North Bay	Karen Broderick	karen@mcn.org
Northern Buttes	Val Nixon	nixons@mchsi.com
San Diego	Fred Jee	jeeology@yahoo.com
San Luis Obispo	Nick Franco	nfranco@hearstcastle.com
	Robert Latson	rllatson@aol.com
Santa Cruz	Charles Edgemon	charlesedgemon@earthlink.net
	Linda Hitchcock	lhitchcock@parks.ca.gov
Sierra	Susan Grove	susan@gbis.com
Tehachapi	Sean Malis	sean.malis@us.army.mil
OHV	John Pelonio	jpelonio@parks.ca.gov

Representatives are needed for:

Orange Coast and Mendocino Districts, Grants, Historic Preservation, Northern Service Ctr., Southern Service Ctr., Interpretation Div., Cultural Resources Div., Natural Resources Div., Planning Div., and Tech Services Div.

PRESIDENT, from page 10

You know that "back in the day" we all became CSPRA members as a matter of course. For me, it was CSPRA Past President **Dana Jones** who handed me an application and said "You will join!" (Sounds like Dana, huh?)

Who asked **you** to join?

As you contemplate the future of parks, please share the importance of CSPRA with someone. Whether it is a new Park Maintenance Assistant, your longtime RAO who maybe never received that personal invitation, or the Park Aid who is eyeing a career with Parks, that one-on-one invite is key.

Who will you hand an application to and say, "You will join!"?

Do you know someone who is retiring?

CSPRA provides a plaque for members when they retire. Contact us at (530) 550-1268, or email allison@CSPRA.com, or write to CSPRA, P.O. Box 10606, Truckee, CA 96162



California State Park Rangers Association
P.O. Box 10606
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www.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