



The CSPRA

Wave

Newsletter

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CALIFORNIA STATE PARK RANGERS ASSOCIATION

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PROTECTING PALOMAR



ThermaGel being sprayed onto the historic CCC-built park residence at Palomar Mountain SP

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**Palomar Mountain fire photos by Paul R.
Johnson, Don Solleder and Gary Reece**

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



CSPRA President Gail Sevens

by Gail Sevens

This month we have good news and...good news. Mixed with more good news and some sobering news on the horizon. But let's get to the good news first.

Some of the most destructive threats to our parks suffered blows these past two months. First off, it is looking like the proposed Toll Road through San Onofre State Beach will be subject to meeting state environmental laws after all. An amendment to the federal defense spending bill by federal Congresswoman **Susan Davis** (D-San Diego) would repeal the federal law that had specifically exempted this project from state environmental laws. The bill has cleared committee hurdles and is expected to pass and be signed by the president. California environmental laws provide much stronger protections for environmental resources, and would also require a coastal development permit—not just a determination that the project is consistent with federal coastal laws—from the California Coastal Commission. (You might recall the staff of the Commission had recommended that the Coastal Commissioners reject the toll road's federal consistency bid; the project proponent will go before the Commission in February, and CSPRA will be there.)

Interestingly, a spokesperson for the project was described in a December 9 *San Diego Union-*

Tribune article as asserting that the exemption from state protection law was not meant to circumvent state laws, but rather to make sure federal laws superseded the state ones. Huh? If you go with weaker federal laws, and don't take state ones into account, you have just circumvented the state laws, however you want to portray it. The project proponent realizes that if they want to bulldoze the park, they need public opinion on their side, and they will use any kind of double-speak they feel like in order to justify it. That is why it is so imperative to have CSPRA and all our great partners—Surfrider Foundation, Sierra Club, California State Parks Foundation, and others—fighting this travesty.

In the wake of an excellent article November 27 about the proposed Toll Road in the *Sacramento Bee* that quoted the California State Parks Foundation President **Elizabeth Goldstein** and others, I submitted a letter to the editor that ran, further homing in on the damages the project would cause. And this January, watch AB 1457, by **Jared Hoffman** (D-San Rafael), which would place limitations on roads in all state parks.

Ah, more good news? The proposed Sunrise Powerlink mega-transmission lines through Anza-Borrego Desert State Park received a blow when one of its planned partners, the Imperial Irrigation District, pulled out of the project. San Diego Gas and Electric is still pursuing the project, and their draft environmental document is due out in February. CSPRA will be commenting.

The smoke had literally not yet dispersed from the devastating San Diego County fires (see Jim Dice's article, p. 3) when SDG&E announced that the fires bolstered their arguments for the powerline. A similar line already runs along Interstate 8, and opponents of the alignment through the park had long questioned why SDG&E did not place their new line there, where it would have far less impact. SDG&E had used what I consider a

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FIRE ON THE MOUNTAIN

by *Jim Dice*, Sr. Env. Scientist

The October 2007 Firestorm that devastated 370,000 acres of San Diego County included seven named fire events that started during a three-day period of Santa Ana winds, from October 21 through October 23. Nine people died and more than 1,700 homes were destroyed in the fires.

Two State Park units were burned. The 50-acre San Pasqual Battlefield State Historic Park in San Diego Coast District was burned completely in the 197,990-acre Witch Fire, the largest of the seven fires. The Poomacha Fire, third largest of the San Diego County fires at 49,410 acres, burned 1,066 acres of the 1,865-acre Palomar Mountain State Park and might have burned much more had it not been for three years of forest-thinning and fuel reduction efforts at the Park.

Sunday morning, October 21, began as a warm, but calm, day here in Borrego Springs. However, in the San Diego County mountains and inland valleys, hot, dry Santa Ana winds were already acting up. By mid-morning a major fire (the Harris Fire, which eventually reached 90,440 acres) was already burning out of control in the

*Burned
garages
at
Palomar*



southern portion of the County, along the U.S.-Mexico border. A second major fire, the Witch Fire, began west of Julian, near Witch Creek, in the early afternoon.

Colorado Desert District (CDD) law enforcement staff responded to a request for assistance from the San Diego County Sheriff's Dept. and helped evacuate residents of the areas between Santa Ysabel and Ramona. Superintendents **Mark Jorgensen** and **Kent Miller**, Supervising Rangers **Paul Reisman**, **Fred Jee** and **Bob Hillis**, and Rangers **Nancy Wittig**, **Bob Thériault** and **Don Strampfer** worked into the wee hours of Monday morning evacuating people from the line of fire.

CDD Archeologist **Sue Wade** and her husband's home east of Ramona was quickly surrounded by fire and they prepared to evacuate, but the fire was too fast and too intense. Miraculously, they were able to defend their home and save their horses, dogs and cats, losing only a tool shed.

Environmental Scientist **Pam Beare** was forced to evacuate her Ramona home and was kept out until water service was restored to Ramona six days later. Former District Superintendent **Dave Van Cleve** and his wife, **Mary**, suffered a similar fate evacuating their

home in the San Diego Country Estates (SDCE) portion of Ramona. In both cases, homes and animals were spared and the water situation became the major inconvenience.

CDD Fire Management Specialist **Gary Reece** was enlisted by CAL FIRE staff to assist in providing structure protection in and around his neighborhood in the SDCE area, as the Witch Fire passed around them Sunday evening.

By Monday morning it was clear that the Witch Fire had the potential to spread both north and east, in the directions of Cuyamaca Rancho and Palomar Mountain State Parks.

District Supt. **Mike Wells**, Montane Sector Supt. **Nedra Martinez**, ABDSP Sector Supt. **Mark Jorgensen**, CDD Maintenance Chief **Jason Duke** and Senior Environmental Scientist **Jim Dice** began making plans and preparations to protect facilities and resources at the two parks.

In Sacramento, a Department Operations Center (DOC) was established in response to fires burning in Los Angeles, Ventura, San Bernardino and San Diego counties. Support was enlisted from staff at all three CDD sectors and at District HQ as employees began to



Supervising Ranger Jeff Lee

PALOMAR MOUNTAIN SP



clear brush around facilities, protect vehicles and equipment, pack up computers, files, museum exhibits and artifacts.

Salton Sea Sector Superintendent **Kathy Dice** was brought in from her day off to supervise ABDSP so that Mark, Fred Jee, Paul Reisman and most of the ABDSP rangers would be free to work on fire preparation efforts.

Law enforcement and maintenance staff in both sectors were put on 12-hour shifts. Help was offered and accepted from the DOC, setting in motion maintenance workers, fire crews from Hearst Castle, Santa Cruz District and Central Valley District, and law enforcement staff from northern districts that would arrive during the next 48 hours.

In the very early hours of Tuesday morning, October 23, a house fire broke out on the La Jolla Indian Reservation south of Palomar Mountain. The hot, dry, Santa Ana winds quickly turned it into a major wildland fire, the Poomacha Fire, that burned much of the reservation.

By 5 a.m. that morning, Nedra was marshalling forces to prepare for the evacuation of Palomar Mountain State Park. Nedra, Jason, ABDSP Maintenance Supervisor **Dave Robarts**, CDD Research Analyst **Don Solleder**, PMSP Ranger **Travis Johnson** and others

rushed to the Park to salvage what they could.

Gary monitored fire-fighting efforts at the southern base of Palomar Mountain as CAL FIRE crews attempted to keep the fire from crossing State Highway 76 to the north.

Borrego Springs became a Red Cross evacuation center for fire victims that morning and all schools were cancelled. ABDSP opened its campgrounds and the Horse Camp to evacuees.

By mid-morning District Supt. Mike Wells instituted an Incident Command System (ICS) structure for the situation, designating Mark Jorgensen as Incident Commander, with branch chiefs consisting of Gary Reece, suppression; Nedra Martinez, law enforcement; Jason Duke, logistics; **Wendie Wallace**, administration; Kathy Dice, evacuees; Jim Dice, resources, and **Steve Bier**, information.

An incident command center was set up at the ABDSP Sector office. On the mountain, crews worked furiously that morning to cut brush around buildings, coat buildings with fire-retardant gel and foam and to remove valuable equipment, files and exhibits from the Park.

By 11:30 a.m. the fire had crossed Boucher Lookout Road and all non-fire-trained staff had evacuated the Park. Gary, Don, Travis and Dave did what they could, with the help of a few

Forest Service (USFS) and CAL FIRE crews, to protect the Park.

As the fire approached, they lit backfires in the Boucher Hill area and later in the area behind Travis' residence. They were forced to retreat from Supervising Ranger **Jeff Lee's** historic CCC-constructed residence when the fire overwhelmed that area along State Park Road. They were amazed when they returned to find that the fire-retardant gel they had used on the structure had prevented the house from burning, though the nearby CCC garage and attached shops had lost their roofs and the contents had completely burned.

After leaving Jeff's residence, the crew moved to the Boucher Overlook where they were able to save the viewing deck. With the hose and water support of a USFS engine, Don climbed up inside the historic Boucher Lookout Tower and extinguished a spot fire that was burning the roof.

Without the dedicated perseverance of the State Parks crew, neither the historic CCC residence nor the Lookout Tower would have survived this event!

Several more days of fire threats remained at PMSP, as crews of rangers, maintenance workers and resource staff continued clearance around structures where the fire had not burned. Gary, Don and **Scot Martin** worked the firelines with USFS and CalFire crews, helping to direct the placement of hand and dozer lines – preventing extensive damage in the Doane Valley Natural Preserve as the fire moved around to the northwest and re-entered the Park.

Even after the fire was contained in PMSP, it continued to burn for another week uncontained in the Agua Tibia Wilderness of the Cleveland National Forest to the north. Containment was finally achieved after 18 days, on November 9, though hot spots within the fire perimeter continue to burn even at this writing.

Tree fellers, heavy equipment operators and other maintenance staff provided by the DOC in Sacramento, to-

COLORADO DESERT DISTRICT

gether with District staff are working diligently during very long hours to clean up Palomar Mountain State Park and get it open again to the public.

District staff also is working closely with San Diego Gas & Electric employees to realign power poles burned in the fire and to restore power to the Park as soon as possible.

Though the Poomacha Fire has caused a tremendous disruption at Palomar Mountain State Park, it may, in the long run, be beneficial. Thanks, in a large part, to the fuel reduction efforts at Palomar during the past three years, which Gary has overseen for State Parks, this fire did not burn as intensely as the Cedar Fire that blazed through Cuyamaca in October of 2003.

Many parts of Palomar burned by the Poomacha Fire look as though a prescribed fire had been conducted there. The fuel reduction and forest thinning efforts that have been conducted

at the Park were made possible by funding through State Parks' Natural Heritage Stewardship and Natural Deferred Maintenance programs, and were combined with efforts funded through the County of San Diego and the Natural Resource Conservation Service.

Sadly, ABDSP Volunteer (and former employee) **Jamie Mendez** and her husband Lee lost their home on the La Jolla Indian Reservation — the only State Park employee or volunteer to have lost a home in these fires. A collection has been started at the Begole Archaeological Research Center next to District HQ. Checks can be mailed to Jamie Mendez at the Colorado Desert District, 200 Palm Canyon Drive, Borrego Springs, CA 92004.

Following the fire, Incident Commander Mark Jorgensen sent the following message to State Parks staff:

"I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to all of our staff who came

together to be such an excellent team during the major wildfire events of the last two weeks. From the first call to assist in the evacuation of Ramona, through the tremendous danger of the fire, to the restoration and clean-up phase on Palomar which will be ongoing, our administrative, maintenance, ranger and District resource staff did an outstanding job of putting together a strong team effort. To all those who worked long hours, tirelessly, doing anything they saw that needed to get done and who rose to the cause when asked to do a job, my sincere thanks to each of you.

"You are all champions. What a group of dedicated Park professionals!! So many people came from outside our District or worked in Sacramento to lend a strong hand to meet our needs, we can only say, We will be here to return the favor if needed, anywhere, anytime."

MALIBU FIRE

by **Tim Hayden**, *Ranger*

Early Sunday morning a fire sparked by downed electric lines started along Malibu Canyon Road, which runs through Malibu Creek State Park. It was near the Sheriff's Memorial, about two miles in from the coast. Extremely high winds quickly pushed the fire to the sea, burning several structures, including the church, the ugly castle house, a building at the Hughes facility, the CVS pharmacy in the big strip mall across PCH and some beach houses in the Colony. Wow, right through Downtown Malibu...

Luckily, it tracked North/West of the Adamson House, Lagoon and Pier.

The fire jumped the ridge to the East into Carbon Canyon, and burned thereabouts for two days. Luckily, the winds were offshore, and the fire had started fairly close to the coast, so the footprint

was limited. This was a relatively small, fast fire, that stubbornly persisted in the canyons, contained by the winds that stoked it.

A major contingency was protection of Will Roger's House. Vehicles were pre-positioned to take away the collection, and specialists were brought in to assist, basically driving all night from NoCal: Curators **Chris Swiden** and **Katie Metraux** from Sacto, and the "Gel Truck" from Calaveras Big Trees driven by **Steve Wilcox** and **Jason Hart**. The Hearst Fire Engine arrived with **Sanford, Arebalo** and **Kalata**, and a water tender from Millerton driven by **Keith Strange**.

Together with the intrepid Wills staff, they prepared for the worst; think Wake Island, 1941... We really dodged the bullet on this one. I spent Monday up on the East side of Topanga Canyon, watching the smoke and fire at

the top of Las Flores and Saddle Peak, but the wind was at my back, and the fire never crossed the ridge.

For you old Malibu hands, there were some sights to behold: The entire downtown Malibu area (chili-cookoff field, Civic Center and adjacent lots) full with hundreds of fire engines, tents, trucks, etc. PCH closed down, with flame burning down to the backs of the businesses along the strip South of the pier. I drove up Malibu Canyon Road to the Creek Sunday, first passing a burned out Jaguar on PCH, then burned landscaping at Pepperdine, numerous buildings destroyed along the road, driving under the collapsed utility poles, passing a flare-up on the side of the road with a chopper dropping water on it as I passed...

...oh, and I saw a mountain lion on East Topanga Fire Road Tuesday morning at 1:45 am.

PROTECTING PALOMAR

by **Janet Carle**, *Wave Editor*

Supervising Ranger **Jeff Lee** was backpacking in southern Utah in October. The busy summer season was over, and things had calmed down at Palomar Mountain. When he came out of the backcountry and checked messages on his cell phone, he knew immediately that something BIG had happened. "I usually have only a few messages after a trip, but this time there were twelve. As I listened, the news got progressively worse— there is a fire near Palomar — the fire is very close—we are evacuating the park—we are doing a backburn — what do you want out of your house? — we are putting ThermoGel on the house — we need to get out of here!" Jeff listened from hundreds of miles away, hoping that his house was still standing when he returned to Palomar.

In late November, we visited Jeff at Palomar, and saw his vintage CCC era residence still standing. It is a classic park house, and we were all happy it made it through the fire. "This house is the poster child for ThermoGel," Jeff said with a laugh. "Though I had to spend \$350 on dry cleaning for all my smoke damaged clothes." The garages and shop behind the house did not fare so well, and were totally destroyed, along with Jeff's possessions inside. He showed us a weightbelt and scuba tank, melted to puddles by the raging fire. Jeff's Hyundai subcompact car had been parked at the house, and had also survived the fire with some damage. There was still no electricity, phone service or internet in the park, which was closed to the public until further notice. The only way to contact Jeff was via cell phone, which only worked in two high places in the park. "I know what it feels like to be the lone ranger," he joked.

"It definitely could have been

worse," Jeff explained. The 2003 Cedar Fire, which burned Cuyamaca Rancho SP, was a wake up call. Three years of fuel reduction greatly reduced the impact of the Palomar fire. The fire's intensity quieted down as the flames reached the thinned areas, burning in some places much like a prescribed burn.

The smoke is gone, the roads are being cleared of fallen trees and debris, and almost half of the park was not touched by the fire. The group camp, main campground, second ranger residence, and picnic area, as well as the School Camp, are all intact. The only structure lost, besides Jeff's garages, was an unused bathroom in the picnic area that had recently been replaced with a modern restroom. It was an eerie feeling to tour the park for the first time while it was closed to the public, with an on-alert fire crew up at the Fire Lookout (also intact) watching carefully for new smokes because Santa Ana winds were predicted.



^^Supervising Ranger **Jeff Lee**

Palomar Mountain State Park is one of the oldest in the system, dating back to 1932. There is a lot of history and many fond memories in such a place (see *Back in the Day*). The Poomacha fire roared through, but thanks to fuel reduction and valiant efforts by firefighters, most of the memories live on.

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PALOMAR MOUNTAIN: BACK IN THE DAY

BOB MACOMBER, retired Carol and I have fond memories of Palomar. It was my first assignment, in 1970. **Tom Miller** was the Ranger II, **Vic Butler** was the Maintenance Worker I, and I was Ranger I. We lived in the small residence (it was a former CCC shower building) in Doane Valley. Later they eliminated the Ranger II position and we moved to the CCC Warden's house near the picnic area. I remember some great times with poker games, monthly potlucks at the Observatory, and hiking the park.

The work at Palomar was a great mixture of interpretation, maintenance, resource work and light law enforcement. We worked with inmate crews on the rock work in Cedar Grove and Doane Valley campgrounds. In the winter it was our job to plow the snow from the roads leading into the park and to the school camp.

One day I gave a nature walk at the Picnic Area, and I discussed the bedrock grinding stone found there. I told the group that Native Americans would turn the portable stones over to hide them. About an hour later, two boys came into the office carrying a portable

grinding stone (it was almost as big as they were) they had found. It was in the park office when I left.

One of my assignments was to go to each of the water tanks and chlorinate them. Tom didn't like chlorine, so I was to put one salmon egg jar of chlorine into the 50,000 gallon of water in the tank. Then, I took a long pole with a coffee can on the end, and dipped out the dead mice floating on the top of the tanks.

Back in 1970 cattle were a constant problem in the park. I remember Carol waking me up one morning telling me that someone was outside our window. I looked out the window as it was getting daylight and one of Spike Alford's cows was looking in. I remember a story about an unnamed Ranger who got fed up with the cows and took a mop and some turpentine and painted the cow's backside. The last time the cow was seen it was heading for Valley Center.

Fires were (and still are) a constant concern. In 1972 a major (200,000 acres) fire broke out in Jamul area and fires were being started all over San Diego County. We pulled fire patrols

and relief for the CDF lookout, who had been up for several days. The park was evacuated, I was on fire patrol and it was up to Carol to contact all the visitors to leave the park.

One of my first citations was two men who were hunting in lower Doane Valley.

There I was alone, unarmed, giving a citation to two men who had rifles and handguns. Times have changed - thankfully.

Jim and Peggy Whitehead stayed frequently in the trailer near the shop. During his visits he shared his thoughts on park values and I carried those values into my career. Jim was a mentor for many District 6 employees. I remember him sending me a personal handwritten note congratulating me on my promotion to Ranger II when I left Palomar on May 1st, 1973.

Thank you for allowing me to share my memories about a very special place.

GARY HOWARD, retired It seems Palomar holds many great memories for park people, myself included.

In Jan. 1973, I went to Palomar as a Trainee. There were 12 Training Areas then (it later got reduced to 9 and Cuyamaca and Palomar were dropped). There were a lot of great people on the mountain and probably still are. It



Bob Macomber, 1970



Gary Howard

was one of those small places where if a letter with only your name on it got to the post office, you would get it put in your (or the park's) box. My first supervisor there was Bob Macomber until May, then Jim Hart came in. You might say I saw two different styles of park

See BACK IN THE DAY, page 8
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BACK IN THE DAY, from page 7

management in a very short time. Both effective styles when applied to the appropriate circumstance. It was a time when hang gliding was first starting and a friend and I sent away for a kit on how to build a hang glider out of bamboo and sheet plastic. We were supposed to fly off the mountain at the lookout....we never built it and never launched.

We picked up rattlesnakes in the campground with poge sticks and put them in garbage bags to be later released to an impassable canyon that drained much of the park.

The park had one of the first "Iron Rangers" that I know about. It was a day-use pay station in front of the kiosk. We used to slow down the teachers going to the school camp (and some regular park visitors) by filling a couple lengths of fire hose with sand and nailing them down with big spikes a couple of feet apart, kind of a home made speed bump. They worked well and you could take them out if it was snow plow time or the bosses from Cuyamaca were coming over. When I got there Macomber already had a system for specific-site assignment. It had little chalk boards that mounted on each post with pins pulled with a stick magnet. It worked great and I hear the concept is back. We did not get paid any extra for doing it...in fact, speaking of pay, monthly gross for a Trainee was about \$790. I could go on forever about a special time and place.

KENNETH SMITH, retired
My brief exposure to Palomar was due to the loss of my good friend and fellow trainee, **George Kowatch**, at the old San Diego Coast Area. George was often a visitor at Borrego when I was assigned there and he loved to kid
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about his Polish ancestry. (Polish jokes were a big thing back then.) As I remember George was transferred to Palomar when DPR gave up Sugarloaf SP to another agency. George loved Palomar. He found it an interesting and challenging assignment and he loved to hike the area. His biggest problem seemed to be poachers and illegal hunters.

George was killed in a solo



Gary Howard and George Crow, 1973

traffic accident near Lake Henshaw. Evidently he was distracted by a mountain lion that crossed the highway in front of him. He drifted off the road and over corrected, rolling his vehicle. He was buried at the military graveyard near March Field in Riverside County. During the service, the air was filled with military aircraft, including the world's fastest plane, the SR-71. It was as though God was saluting George for his public service. I know he had a ringside seat.

MIKE CURRY, retired
While a park aide at Cuyamaca(1973), we held one of our monthly staff potlucks at the Palomar school camp pool. The highlight was chasing **Sam Bitting** down & throwing him in the pool.

My wife's brother later worked as a park aide there. His memories include the ground squirrel eradication program. Visitors would bring dying ground squirrels wrapped up in a little "blankie" for him to care for, which he did out back.

EXECUTIVE MANAGER



by **Allison Pedley**, Executive Manager

I'm pleased to report that CSPRA has signed up six new members, all who are or will soon be sporting their new CSPRA backpacks. Among our new members are interpreter **Blythe Liles** (whose name you may also recognize from the recent CSPRA ballots - way to jump right in, Blythe!), **Jeanie Sturges**, an office assistant in Monterey, and **Kathy Wilson**, Supervising Ranger in Big Sur. Welcome!

In late November, all voting members of CSPRA should have received a ballot for electing new board members. These were mailed in fold-over (no envelope) style, but I have heard reports of a couple ballots not making it to their designated address, likely due to postal machine munching. My apologies to anyone who may not have received a ballot - hopefully there weren't too many of you. Next year I will announce ahead of time when ballots are mailed.

I also wanted to extend a huge thank you to those of you who sent in contributions in support of **Brian** and **Joanie Cahill**, after a fire destroyed their home. The Cahills have expressed their sincere gratitude and feel fortunate to have such a supportive network of friends in State Parks. Thank you everyone.

And speaking of park friends, with the next California Parks Conference right around the corner, I just wanted to remind members that in addition to providing great training opportunities, the conference is truly a wonderful way to just get together with park friends, particularly those who have moved a lot during their careers and you may not see very often. Please come - and bring your families!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (continued)

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scare tactic—they had said placing two lines together would make them more vulnerable to terrorist attacks or catastrophic fire. Post-fire, SDG&E announced that the fires proved this vulnerability.

As cynical as I am that a huge corporation would use a fatal fire to bolster arguments for a facility that would bring the company profits, I was glad that these assertions did not go unchallenged. A project opponent mapped the locations of the fires against the proposed alignment, and lo and behold the fire would have taken out Sunrise Powerlink. Then, it emerged that SDG&E powerlines had actually caused the three biggest fires. Not exactly sterling arguments in support of installing the Powerlink.

More good news: in response to another tragic event, some positive might emerge. Earlier this year, words were exchanged between two groups recreating at Folsom Lake SRA. When it was all over, a young man was dead, and allegations were made that he had been attacked due to his race and perceived sexual orientation. The investigation is ongoing. But in November, Assemblyman **Mike Eng**, (D-Monterey Park), chairman of the Assembly Select Committee on Hate Crimes, convened a hearing on combatting and preventing hate crimes in state parks. I had the opportunity to testify, expressing condolences to the young man's family and underlining CSPRA's opposition to hate crimes in the parks. (Testifying on behalf of DPR were Southern Division Chief **Tony Perez** and Goldfields District Superintendent **Scott Nakaji**.) We began a dialogue with the coalition of groups working to end hate crimes, and will look to including training opportunities to prevent such crimes in the future. Please let me know if you are interested in becoming involved.

In addition to the threats above, the New Year brings in a flurry of action on other threatening proposals. The

proposed Blacktail Timber Harvest Plan that would have virtually clear-cut land across from Castle Craggs SP was rejected by CAL FIRE on aesthetic grounds—reportedly the first time this has happened. The proponent, who declined to amend their proposal to include avoidance measures such as maintaining a screen of trees in from the cut, appealed the rejection. CSPRA, the California State Parks Foundation, the Sierra Club, and representatives of the Department attended the appeal hearing. Unfortunately, after a procedural irregularity, the hearing had to be postponed until after the first of the year. When it comes back, CSPRA will be there.

This year CSPRA has joined with California State Parks Foundation to cosponsor their annual threats to parks survey, which they distribute to each district. The information gathered is put into an annual report, which generates much attention for the needs of the parks. If you are a **District Superintendent**, please make sure you or a delegate can complete the survey in a timely manner (this year it is an electronic survey, and shouldn't take too much time). It has been my experience that the earlier we jump on emerging threats the better opportunity we have to be at the table and avoid negative impacts to our precious resources.

CSPRA is quite aware of the difficulty that vacant positions are causing our maintenance, operations, and other work in the parks, and we have been raising the alarm. I had the opportunity to discuss the issue with the *LA Daily News*, which was doing a story on how ranger shortages might impact the ability to prevent and fight fires. I provided the reporter with lots of information, including how increase of all staff, including maintenance, interpretation, seasonal, administrative, etc., provides increased presence, compliance with safety regulations, prevention, etc. The paper ran my quotes about ranger

presence, but not the other staffing. This is partly because it was not the focus of their story, but shows how we need to make sure the **WHOLE** story gets out there. As budgets once again become vulnerable, we need to raise the flag for increased funding to state parks, not reductions. As the Governor's budget proposal is released in January, we need to make sure parks are protected by getting the resources we need. If you have an opportunity to pass the message on to your local legislators, please do. This makes an incredible difference, and will be key as we head into one of the worst fiscal years in a while.

Internally, CSPRA continues to work on our long-term strength, in particular regarding financial continuity and sustainability. We have been examining every expense and cutting what is not necessary (see Treasurer **Wendy Martin's** report on page 10). We are limiting expense reimbursements to board members (who already make commitments of time and energy—thank a board member today) and conduct most of our business via conference calls. We are exploring new options for lobbyist support—something that takes financial resources but is so critical to the future of the parks. And we have increased our membership drives to make sure we bring in new members as quickly as we have active members converting to retiree members (who pay lower dues).

If you are a member of CSPRA, I think it might be safe to say that you believe in what we do. It then stands to reason you would like to see the organization flourish. We can only do that with a strong membership base. Won't you consider recruiting someone to CSPRA today? Share this edition of the *WAVE* with a colleague and give them a personal invitation to join. The benefits are great: professional development and networking

See PRESIDENT, page 11

**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
retired" payroll deduction, please
include check for 1 year's dues.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City State Zip

Job Classification _____

Social Security #: _____

Phone (Work) _____

Phone (Home) _____

Email: _____

District, Section, or Park: _____

Membership type (Circle one):

Active \$8/month

Active Retired \$36/year

Supporting \$36/year

Organization \$50/year

Benefactor \$1,000/life

Check one: I prefer getting the WAVE
_____ as a PDF file by email;
_____ 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 _____



by **Angy Nowicki**, Past President

Interested in attending the California
Parks Conference for FREE?

Recruit a new member and you and
the new member will both be entered
into a raffle to waive your registration
fees. **The conference will be March
31st to April 3rd, 2008 at Embassy
Suites, South Lake Tahoe.**

Names will include members who
were recruited since September 2007
until February 1st, 2008.

Names of 5 members will be
selected February 4th, 2008.

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 or to volunteer to
help. Registration packets will be mailed
out soon! More info at www.cspra.com.

**HONORARY RANGER
AWARD NOMINATIONS**

by **John Mott**, Nom. Comm. Chair

The Honorary Member committee is
accepting applications for CSPRA's
highest award the Honorary Ranger
Award. Only written nominations are
accepted. **Nominations close on
January 20, 2008.** The award will be
presented at the 2008 CA Parks
Conference in South Lake Tahoe.

Prepare a 1-page nomination
describing how this person has had a
statewide or major impact on the
mission of California State Parks and/

**Financial Committee
Update**

by **Wendy Martin**, Treasurer

The CSPRA Board has reviewed the
2007/08 budget and, as is the case
with many organizations, a mid- year
correction is in order. The
organization's primary piece of
equipment, a seven plus year old
computer, finally quit working and
after a diagnostic exam it was
determined that a replacement was the
most cost effective means to continue
the work of CSPRA. Thankfully the
Board approved a one time expendi-
ture to cover the cost of a new laptop
computer. This unplanned expense
more than exhausted our budgeted
amount for equipment maintenance,
but should reduce our expenses for
equipment maintenance and repair in
future fiscal years. Corrections in
other budget line items are also in the
works and as soon as the December
income and expenses are tallied the
Board will vote on a revised budget in
an effort to reach our goal of main-
taining a balanced budget for this
fiscal year.

Critical to balancing our budget are
your continued efforts to recruit new
members. So please spread the word,
and keep on recruiting!

The Financial Committee took a big
hit recently when committee member
Jann Bullock transferred out of the
Department. If you have a mind for
finances, and can spare just a few
hours a month, please consider joining
the CSPRA Financial Committee by
contacting wendy@cspra.com.

or the park profession. Other
members may sign the nomination as
well, but this is not required.

Submit to CSPRA Honorary
Member Committee, c/o
John Mott, 95 Breckenwood Way,
Sacramento, CA 95864, or via email
mottfour@surewest.net, or fax (916)
654-9048.

You will be notified whether or not
the application has been forwarded to
the board.

humor in unicorn



Mixed Metaphors and Malaprops

by Jeff Price, retired

Mixed Metaphor definition: a combination of metaphors that together produce a ridiculous effect of carelessly strung together clichés. Feel free to send along any overheard slips of the tongue - malaprops@cspra.com

Overheard - Maybe she is a frustrated chiropractor?

My yoga instructor was talking about bats at Halloween, and bless her heart, she said, "Bats are much misaligned creatures."

Clearance issue?

... and then the fan really hit the roof!

Over, under, sideways, down!

Ms. Nevada lost her title when nude photos appeared on the overnet.

The eyes have it.

At least the President's problems with Iran have taken the ball off Iraq.

Want a CSPRA scholarship?

Go to www.cspra.com

or email

scholarship@cspra.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@cspra.com
Colorado Desert	Jeri Zemon	jzemon@parks.ca.gov
Diablo Vista	Carl Nielson	junctionrangers@earthlink.net
	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
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.

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opportunities, free training scholarships, the annual California Parks Conference, lobbying and park protection, Gray Bears opportunities, and more! Don't forget supervisors are eligible for a complete reimbursement of dues from DPR (contact Executive Manager **Allison Pedley** for how-to info). If you'd like to help put on a recruiting event in your district, please contact us and we will help. CSPRA is only as strong as its members!!



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
Truckee, CA 96162
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