

**VOLUME 13, NUMBER 4** 

CALIFORNIA STATE PARK RANGERS ASSOCIATION

**FALL 2013** 

"...to support, protect, and defend the integrity of State Parks for present and future generations."

# Past to Future A Crossroads for Parks

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L. P. Griffith, CSPRA's first president at Seacliff SB in 1938



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



by Matt Bellah, CSPRA President

I have been attending graduate school, working towards a master's degree. Currently, I am taking a course in Recreation and Park Administration focusing on the Foundations of Leisure and Recreation and examining important questions about why leisure, recreation, and parks are important.

California State Parks is celebrating its 150th anniversary in 2014. State Park employees are proudly wearing the 150th Anniversary pin on their uniforms. State Parks 150th banners are prominently hanging in State Park units and visitor centers. The California Parks Training put on by CSPRA and the Park Rangers Association of California this March (which everyone reading this should attend) is an event dedicated to celebrating 150 years of Parks.

President Abraham Lincoln signed the Yosemite Grant Act granting the Yosemite Valley and the Mariposa Big Trees to the State of California, with the express conditions that the land be for public use, resort, and recreation, and that the land shall be used for those purposes for all time. This first Act, setting aside public land to be used as a park, created a legacy for California and our nation. After the Act many park, playground, and preservation movements in the late 19th century successfully secured public places for outdoor recreation at the local, state, and national level.

In these movements parks, recreation, and open space were believed to benefit an individual's physical and mental health. Participation and access to parks and recreation was seen as a critical part of a democratic society. Active participation in recreation was thought to create individuals with good character and strong citizenship. Parks and recreation were seen as a vital part of American society. These park movements were one of the most important forces in the preservation of open space and the provision of outdoor recreation in the country. At the height of these movements, dedicated individuals and groups convinced politicians that parks were beneficial to the individual, beneficial to society, and that the government should support parks.

Now, over 100 years later, we are still at a crossroads concerning support for State Parks. Recently I attended a *Parks Forward* initiative public meeting where this question was posed: Should California State Parks still receive some level of funding from the state? The obvious answer is yes - parks should always receive funding from the state. **Parks are a public good that we all should support.**Over a hundred years ago, passionate and dedicated individuals in the parks movements convinced the public and the legislature to support parks.

Somewhere along the line, State Parks fell out of support. Government support for State Parks has been consistently falling for several years. While the relatively recent scandals of past executive leadership don't help our current situation, the support for State Parks waned before any of the recent scandals appeared in the *Sacramento Bee*.

How do we create the momentum for a new park movement that secures stable funding for State Parks? Without some type of stable, consistent funding other important challenges for State Parks, such as making them more accessible and more meaningful to all Californians, will never be fully addressed.

# CSPRA 50th Celebration Update

by Nina Gordon, Committee Chair Our CSPRA 50th committee is working hard to make the upcoming training in Yosemite a very special occasion to reflect on CSPRA's accomplished past and celebrate the present and future. Committee members Pat Clark-Gray and Janet Carle are developing a small book covering CSPRA's history and highlights. **John Mott** is working on a display. Joanne Danielson is heading an effort to honor past presidents and Honorary Rangers. Cindi Whitehead is gathering reflections and insights from CSPRA members. Mike Lynch is working on some special awards, budget coordination and serving as

our liaison with the State Park 150th celebrations. The Committee is putting together a session for the training and **Karyn Lombard** is assisting as needed. All CSPRA members attending the Training will receive a surprise gift as well. These efforts will serve CSPRA throughout the year and into the future as we celebrate our 50th Anniversary.

We are celebrating and commemorating all of you and your support for all these years. To assist with these activities or if you have questions, please contact me at *nina@cspra.com*. Big thanks to all the hardworking committee members!



**Pat and Ken Gray** with 1998 Honorary Ranger **Les Strnad** 

The CSPRA 50th booklet team is collecting any CSPRA memorabilia and photos (like the one above) you would be willing to share. Please scan and send to wave@cspra.com at high resolution (at least 300dpi)



O YEARS ~ 1864-2014

Millows Park Theory Engineers - March 34, 2014 - Essent 10

### **Don't Miss Out**

The 2014 California Parks
Training Conference is
Almost Sold Out!

California Parks Training Conference

Yosemite National Park

March 3-6, 2014







Make your hotel reservations now as the Conference is limited to 175 and it will sell out in the very near future. Reservations can be made online at <a href="https://www.yosemitePark.com">www.yosemitePark.com</a> using Code: 13V6A6 or download the room reservation form on the PRAC and CSPRA Websites below. Room reservations must by made online or by mail. No phone-in room reservation is available. Room rates \$99 Yosemite Lodge and \$84 Curry Village (heated hard-side cabin

Room rates \$99 Yosemite Lodge and \$84 Curry Village (heated hard-side cabin with bath).

The reservation and room reservation forms and all other conference information is available as a PDF download on the PRAC and CSPRA Websites: <a href="https://www.CSPRA.com">www.CSPRA.com</a>

Questions? Email Conference Co-Chairs Mike Lynch or Jeff Ohlfs at <a href="mailto:cptc2014@gmail.com">cptc2014@gmail.com</a> or 2014 California Parks Training - PO Box 3212 - Bowman, CA 95604-3212.

## Retirees' Rendezvous





Ray Westberg and his daughter, Sue

## Retirees' Rendezvous



CSPRA Webmaster Jeff Price and wife Peggy.



^^ Glen McGowan and Vic Maris explore the night sky





Long time Rendezvous organizer Kirk Wallace tends the BBQ with Sue Barrow.

### A Birthday and a Book

Former Ranger Celebrates
100th Birthday

by Jeffrey B. Price, retired

Clark Adkisson, the oldest living former State Park Ranger, celebrated his 100th birthday on September 21 at his home near San Diego with over 200 friends and family members. CSPRA Charter Member Dominic Gotelli and member Allen Ulm presented Clark with a framed CSPRA Board Resolution of congratulations signed by President Matt Bellah. Dom also presented Clark with several issues of the last *Wave* newsletter to share with family.





# A YEAR IN BODIE, 1966-67

# by Carl & Margaret Chavez

c2 Publications in cooperation with Xlibris Publishing has just released a new book, *A YEAR in BODIE, 1966-1967*. The book, co-authored by **Carl** and **Margaret Chavez** is a follow up to Carl's first successful book, A *PATHWAY THROUGH PARKS*, a memoir of his 33-year career with California State Parks.

A Year in Bodie follows the lives of Carl and Margaret from October 1966 to October 1967 in the harsh, isolated conditions of Bodie State Historic Park where Carl began his career as a park ranger with the California Department of Parks and Recreation. The struggles with poor equipment, limited staffing and support will be an eye opener to today's park rangers.

His wife Margaret, pregnant at the time, endured the challenging conditions of Bodie, without such modern conveniences as telephones, TV and radio, yet somehow managed to thrive and provide a loving home despite being snowed in with limited access



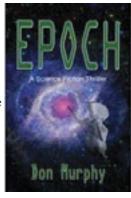
from December to May in the subzero temperatures of Bodie's 8,400 ft. elevation. Their daughter, Abigail Rose, also become a park ranger, and was the first child born from Bodie in 35 years. Margaret's account of those times from a woman's perspective gives the reader a glimpse of a time that is no longer with us.

Bodie State Historic Park remains one of the finest examples of a gold mining "Ghost Town" in the United States because of those individuals who championed the cause of protecting and preserving Bodie in a "state of arrested deterioration," (today called "arrested decay"). Autographed paperback copies of the book are being made available to CSPRA members for \$15.00 direct from: c2 Publications, PO Box 114, Graeagle, CA 96103.

The book is also available on-line in e-book, paperback or hardcover at Amazon.com

Editor's note: An enjoyable read: this book brought back memories of my time covering shifts at Bodie while assigned to Mono Lake. Bodie is a unique place in California State Parks!

Former DPR Director **Don Murphy's** science fiction thriller, *EPOCH*, is also available at Amazon. com



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### CSPRA Scholarship training report

# **Railway Preservation Conference**

by Kim Baker, Superintendent Railtown 1897 State Historic Park

I never imagined I'd be managing an historic railroad. Like many of us, the challenges and opportunities provided by a career with California State Parks has led me on an unusual path. So, where does one go for continuing education in this field? I just returned from Southern California where I attended the Railway Preservation Conference sponsored by the Association of Tourist Railways and Railroad Museums in October of 2013. My attendance at this valuable training was made possible by scholarships from the California State Park Rangers Association and the California State Railroad Museum Foundation (CSRMF).

The conference was based at the amazing Mission Inn in Riverside, California. The Mission Inn is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, and has a preservation story of its own. The hotel is a unique architectural style that feels like "Winchester Mystery House meets Hearst Castle". It was an ideal setting for this conference, and I never had that 'stuck in a hotel' feeling.

Attendees came from all over the United States, Canada, The United Kingdom, and Japan, to attend sessions on operating historic equipment, preservation methods, exhibit development, fundraising and other topics that are both directly and indirectly relevant to our cultural preservation roles in State Parks. The attendees seemed to be a mix of privately owned excursion railroads and grassroots, volunteer driven non-profits. Wherever they came from and whatever their mission, we all shared a passion for operating and sharing historic railroad equipment.

I wore a state park logo throughout the conference, and it was interesting to note the many who approached me to make connections with California



Kim and Cheryl Meyer (CSRMF) taking Metrolink to LA's Union Station

State Parks through our shared railroad history. On the drive home, my carpool-mates and I tried to associate as many state parks as we could with railroading, just from our own knowledge, and surprisingly, made the connection to many. Does your park have a railroading history? While we only have operating equipment in three of our park units (Railtown 1897 State Historic Park, California State Railroad Museum, and Ft. Humbolt State Historic Park) we were able to find many connections, because railroads have been such a major story in the development of the state, touching on both natural and cultural resources.

While many railway heritage sites are struggling to create relevant connections with park visitors, the popularity of licensed rail events such as "A Day out With Thomas" and "Polar Express" can have remarkable fiscal impacts. Sites with attendance figures in the low hundreds on a typical weekend swell into the tens of thousands for some of these events. The fiscal benefits cannot be disputed, but the struggle of the amusement park vs. heritage park is

also noticeable and very relevant to the discussion underway with our own Parks Forward review.

The conference offered a number of fascinating hands-on field trips providing the opportunity to reflect on the relevance of railroads historically, as well as in our modern lives. I joined a trip to Union Station in Los Angeles, a ride on the Metro Blue line to Long Beach (along the 1902 streetcar line, back in use) and a very interesting tour of the entire Metro system's control center. We spent the final day of the conference at the Orange Empire Railroad Museum attending seminars and touring their collection of well-preserved rail and trolley equipment.

Now home, I am prepared to work with a wider view of the railway preservation world and a refreshed attitude. The CSPRA scholarship program is a great way to experience non-traditional training opportunities and I appreciate the support of the board and members for making this possible.

**Dave Gould** is highlighting a different CSPRA member for each edition of the WAVE. In his many years working for State Parks and being a longtime member of CSPRA, Dave has found that the personal and professional lives of CSPRA members are quite varied and fascinating. This issue highlights Legal Office Senior Staff Counsel Tara Lynch. Enjoy!

# CSPRA Chronicles... Tara Lynch

# Where do you currently work, what is your job classification, and how long have you worked for California State Parks?

I am a Senior Staff Counsel in the Legal Office. I have worked for California State Parks since May, 1999.

## Where were you born and where did you grow up?

I was born and raised in Sacramento, and, of course, in State Parks.

# Tell us a little about your youth, the "formative" years.

My great-grandfather, Jeremiah B. Lillard, built a cabin at Wrights Lake, CA, in the 1920s. My family has gone there every summer for 5 generations. So I have grown-up playing and exploring the out-of-doors. (That is a fib: I haven't grown up!)

#### Tell us a little bit about your family.

My dear old dad, Robert Lynch, was a State Park Ranger, Badge 357. He attended the first State Parks Ranger Academy, which was held in Riverside, California, and worked at McGrath, Emma Wood and San Buenaventura State Beaches, as well as Folsom Lake SRA. My mom, Tina Lynch, is the sweetest, most supportive mom in the world and is always there for me. My brother, Eddie Lynch, is amazingly smart and always makes me laugh.

## What is your educational background?

I attended Sacramento City College (my great-grandfather, J.B. Lillard, was the first President of SCC), have a Bachelors of Arts in Theatre Arts from Chico State and a Juris Doctor from McGeorge School of Law.

### Becoming a lawyer seems to take a

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# lot of studying. How did you manage all the work required?

When I graduated from college I did not know what I wanted to do with my life. All I knew is that I really loved being a student. So I thought, "What will keep me in school the longest amount of time?" It was either medical school or law school. And since there is no math on the bar, I chose law school. I absolutely fell in love with law school and the law. Law school is really a 3-year long history class and I love reading and writing, so it was fascinating to read all the cases and learn the history behind the laws and then write my "opinion" of it all.

# What was your vision in wanting to become a lawyer?

Since I love the outdoors I thought I would practice environmental law. I loved my contract and government classes best. I am so lucky to work at State Parks as I am helping the environment one contract review at a time.

# Did you ever expect to work for California State Parks?

No. It is a "dream come true" to work at State Parks. I am very proud to continue my dad's State Parks legacy.

# What is it like dealing with all the park-related issues?

It is very exciting working on park-

related issues. Every day presents a new challenge. And I feel so very strongly about the State Parks' Mission. I love everything State Parks stands for. And State Parks employees are the best clients in the world!

# What is one thing that you really enjoying doing in your job?

I love teaching at State Park training classes, meeting employees from around the state and learning about the legal issues they face on a day-to-day basis and having heady, enlightened discussions. State Park employees are so smart, interesting, and dynamic.

# What are your hobbies and what do you like to do when you are off of work?

I am a long distance runner. My new year's resolution for 2013 is 13 13.1s (half-marathons) in 13. I am running the "California International Marathon" in December, my first full marathon. I also am an actress!

# How long have you been a member of CSPRA and what inspired you to join?

I have been a member of CSPRA since October 1999. I signed up while I was at "Introduction to California State Parks." I like the concept that we are all ("little r") rangers. And I want to do what I can to support State Parks and its employees.

# What is your favorite State Park and why?

It's a tie! Asilomar State Beach was the first State Park unit I visited as an employee in 1999, and the park unit I visit the most teaching classes. It feels like home when I arrive at Asilomar. And I love Mount San Jacinto; the tram, mid-century modern architecture and the beautiful mountains!

## International Rangers visit California





CSPRA Past President Bud Getty is one of a handful of people (along with Aarno, left) that have attended every International Ranger Federation World Congress. Two international ranger friends recently visited California. << Bud, Janet & Dave Carle (retired Mono rangers) & Finnish rangerAarno Tervonen at Galen Clark's grave in Yosemite Valley.

### A WAVE Goodbye

#### **GLENN FULLER**

1946 - 2013 Glenn, 67, died in September of pancreatic cancer. He was a long-time National Park Ranger and Superintendent,



working at Cape Cod, Grand Canyon and Rocky Mountain National Parks, then returning to his home state of California to manage Muir Woods National Monument. Glenn was superintendent of the John Muir and Eugene O'Neill National Historic Sites and Port Chicago Naval Magazine National Monument in the East Bay, working to integrate these special sites into the community and connecting people with their own history. Glenn also worked for State Parks at Folsom Lake as a seasonal ranger, and for the Army Corps of Engineers at New Melones before joining the NPS. Glenn was an avid river rafter and outdoorsman, and served as a board member for the South Yuba River

State Park Association after retiring to Nevada City in 2007. Glenn is survived by his wife Bev and his brother Don, a retired State Park Ranger.

#### SHANE KROGEN

1955-2013

Shane, 57, was the founder and director of the High Sierra Volunteer Trail



Crew, leading over 800 volunteers to repair trails and clean up marijuana grow sites in the Sierra Nevada Mountains. Since 1995 Shane's group assisted in many clean up efforts in National Forests and California State Parks.

Shane died in September from injuries suffered in a 50 ft. fall from a helicopter as he was being lowered to a work site. Shane received the 2012 US Forest Service Regional Forester's Volunteer of the Year award and the 2011 Chief's award for his important contributions to the forests.



^^Scottish Ranger Tony Wilson and his wife Julie visited Mono Lake and Bodie with Bud Getty, Dorene Clement and Janet Carle.



### PROMOTING PROFESSIONALISM IN CALIFORNIA STATE PARKS Membership Mail to: CSPRA, Allison Pedley, P.O. Box 10606, Truckee, CA 96162. Or join online at: http://www.cspra.com For all except "Active" or "Active retired" payroll deduction, please include check for 1 year's dues. 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

## Lobbyist's Report

by Monica Miller, CSPRA Lobbyist

The legislature recessed for the fall in mid-September, after attempting to take on some major issues. Many were pushed to next year given the amount of issues and their complexity. Below are some details on the upcoming 2014 legislative cycle.

The Senate Committee on Natural Resources and the Senate Committee on Environmental Quality held an informational hearing recently to discuss a proposed water bond that they hope will be ready for the November 2014 election. There are currently two measures that are moving through the process, SB 42 by Senator Lois Wolk (D-Yolo) and AB 1331 by Assembly Member Anthony Rendon (D-Los Angeles). They each address different priorities but have some similarities. The goal is to reach some common ground so one bill can move forward next year. Based on our understanding, SB 42 appears to be more environmentally friendly while AB 1331 addresses more structural issues statewide, maintaining our current infrastructure while planning for the future. The goal is to keep the bond between \$7-\$8.2 billion. The parties agree that this does not address all of our current needs but will go a long way to getting the state in a good place. They are hopeful that there will be no opposition, but that may be a bit optimistic. This was only one in a series of several hearings that we anticipate will take place.

The Assembly Speaker did put together a "working water group" that had regional representatives that could speak to individual regional issues. The Senate did not take this approach; their concern was the environment and a way to keep the Delta sustainable. Both authors agreed that there would not be any earmarks for specific projects and each will be competitively bid. They also plan to take amendments to allow for Tribes to be eligible as long as they meet the grant criteria.

The legislature also attempted to deal with some of the CEQA fixes, however the bill that was ultimately successful was specifically targeted at the city of Sacramento's agreement to build a stadium for the Sacramento Kings due to the tight time-line the NBA gave the City in order to be able to keep the team here.

SB 743 by Senator Darrell Steinberg was the only successful CEQA bill this year. The measure was really an attempt at moving the Sacramento Kings Arena along on schedule. We were told that it contained a number of other CEQA reforms, but given the lateness of the session it only dealt with a few, mostly related to the Arena. The only other major issue is how CEQA analyzes parking and looking at that a different way which will be conducted by the Governor's Office of Planning and Research. We are told that the other issues will be dealt with later. Both the Governor and the Speaker are very interested in a bigger CEQA fix which may be addressed next year.

The legislature will return in January and will begin work on the budget as well as moving all of the two-year bills out of their house of origin. In February they will begin to focus on the second year of the session. We will update you as bills are introduced related to parks and other issues that may be of interest to your association.

### EXECUTIVE MANAGER



by Allison Pedley

CSPRA would like to welcome three new members who have recently joined our ranks – **Maria Baggett** and **Erin Renfree** who work in the Capitol District, and **Tiffany Bailie** out of Santa Cruz. Welcome!

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Date

### Upcoming Retirements



Frank Balthis, Ano Nuevo

Michael Grant, Ano Nuevo

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## **GrayBears**



Attention retired members! Want to keep in touch after you leave DPR? Join the GravBears email ListServ. It is FREE and EASY to use. Email graybears@cspra.com

Do you know someone who is retiring? CSPRA provides plagues when members retire. Contact Allison: (530)550-1268; allison@CSPRA.com.

### **GET CONNECTED CSPRA** Online

Catch up on CSPRA activities, contact your District Reps, Board or Officers, read the WAVE: www.cspra.com

Find Us On Facebook www.facebook.com/CSPRA

### Are you traveling soon?

Want to find out what's going on in the State Parks around you? Visit the events page on the California State Parks website to find out what's happening in parks around the state:

www.parks.ca.gov/events



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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