



The CSPRA

Wave

Newsletter

VOLUME 13, NUMBER 3

CALIFORNIA STATE PARK RANGERS ASSOCIATION

SUMMER 2013

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



see page 6

MEMBERS: HELP US SAVE TIME, MONEY & TREES. **PAPER COPIES OF THE WAVE WILL BE PHASED OUT SOON.** SEND YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS: ALLISON@CSPRA.COM



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



by Matt Bellah, CSPRA President

We all just recently closed out the State's Fiscal Year. California State Parks has had an interesting year, which may be a very significant understatement. It was a year ago when we watched the Vacation Buy Out and Hidden Funds Scandals play out in the media and the department. We then saw the series of audits and investigations that followed. We witnessed the change in California State Park's Executive Leadership. We've read the Little Hoover Commission Report on California State Parks titled "Beyond Crisis." We'll soon see the Parks Forward Initiative roll out, designed to evaluate, improve, and sustain California State Parks. And through all of these events, visitors are still coming to State Parks, and State Park professionals continue to provide quality services to our visitors. Last year was a long year, but I think there is reason to believe this coming year will be better than the last.

State Parks is excited to be celebrating its 150th Anniversary in 2014. CSPRA has a lot of great work going into the "The Heritage of Parks Training," which celebrates the 150th Anniversary of California State Parks, Yosemite, and local parks in California in Yosemite March 3rd-6th, 2014. Hotel rooms and registration are limited, so reserve your spot soon. There is more detailed information about the event on CSPRA's website, www.cspira.com.

CSPRA is also excited to be celebrating its 50th Anniversary. A committee is making plans to commemorate this achievement. If you are interested in getting involved please contact CSPRA Board Member Mike Lynch or Nina Gordon, immediate Past President.

That phrase "if you are interested in getting involved" applies to so many things.

California State Parks is taking time this year to evaluate its operations and to improve and sustain the State Park System. The goal is to address the financial, operational, and cultural challenges facing State Parks to ensure the system's long-term sustainability. Hopefully, this is a positive step forward for California State Parks. It is also a time for park professionals to get involved. Are you a CSPRA member? Do you belong to other park professional organizations? If not, you should consider joining CSPRA and other park professional organizations advocating for what is best for State Parks and all State Park professionals.

If you are already a member of CSPRA, we encourage you to consider getting more involved, which can be as simple and rewarding as attending "The Heritage of Parks Training" event, helping on the committee to celebrate CSPRA's 50th Anniversary, serving as a CSPRA District or Program Representative, or helping to recruit new CSPRA members. You can also get involved by bringing important causes or issues involving State Parks or park professionals to CSPRA's attention.

We are all busy with work, family, and ultimately with life, and getting involved may take some of your time. But it can be a very rewarding experience to be part of this organization and to aid in moving State Parks and the parks profession forward. As we all head into the new fiscal year, I am confident that State Parks is moving forward. Part of moving forward is engaging all park professionals to get involved.

2014: 50th Anniversary of CSPRA and 150 Years of State Parks

CSPRA50 in 2014

CSPRA will celebrate its 50 Anniversary in 2014 (CSPRA50).
The Board has approved the following goals for the anniversary:

- * develop and publish a history of CSPRA
- * make efforts to recognize all past and living CSPRA Presidents
- * recognize all living CSPRA Honorary Rangers; and
- * develop 50th Anniversary merchandise and promotional items.

The initial CSPRA50 Committee is:

Nina Gordon
Cindi Whitehead
Steve Ptomey
Mike Lynch
Pat Clark-Gray

Anyone interested in this effort is welcome to join the committee or provide feedback on possible ways to highlight and commemorate CSPRA's many accomplishments over five decades. Please contact Nina Gordon at: elephantseal@sbcglobal.net.



Park Heritage



2014 Parks Training Conference Rolling Along

70% of the program for the 2014 California Parks Training Conference has been confirmed.
60% of the room block has been reserved.

You don't want to miss out on this once in a life-time conference. It is going to be a sell-out! Make your room reservation now. Go to www.cspra.com for room reservations, program details and registration information.

Mike Lynch & Jeff Ohlfs, Conference Co-chairs - cptc2014@gmail.com

150th Round Up

By Mike Lynch, Co-chair, 150th Anniversary Committee

There are great many things happening in conjunction with the upcoming 150th Anniversary of California State Parks in 2014. Some of these many efforts include:

- **150th Logo pins for each state park employee** have been distributed. Additional pins can be purchased at the State Park Store: <http://store.parks.ca.gov/>.
- **150th banners** have gone through a second order. The initial supply was sent out a couple months ago. Over 800 banners have been produced. We should now have met and exceeded the Director's goal of an 150th banner in every park. Contact Donna Pozzi (donna.pozzi@parks.ca.gov) if you would like to purchase a banner for your group or event.



The 150th Banners which will be displayed in every park unit.



150th Bookmark

- **Department history brochures and 150th bookmarks** are in their second printings. They are available from the Interp/Ed Division in Sacramento.
- **The 150th table top exhibits** are now in every District and two are available at headquarters. The exhibit package a pop-up exhibit shelter, 2 tablecloths with the dept logo, and the exhibit.

- **150th tool kit:** The tool kit is being developed and will include: FAQ's, bibliography, talking points, history of parks power point, and historic images.

- **A Park Partner Letter** was distributed to over 500 park partners and there has been some good response from various groups including The Native Plant Society, California Preservation Foundation, California League of Park Associations, Native Sons of the Golden West, Crystal Cove Alliance, Hesperia Recreation & Park District, Morrow Bay Tourism Bureau, Sierra Club, Santa Clara County Parks, the CCC and many more.



- **150th Governor's Proclamation** is in the works. The request is to have the Governor sign a proclamation designating 2014 as the 150th Anniversary of California State Parks. We are requesting that this take place on Sept. 28th of this year, which is the 149-year anniversary of Governor Low signing the original proclamation accepting Yosemite Valley and the Mariposa Grove from the Federal Government. The concept for this request is that it will be a media event and the first high-profile public roll-out/announcement of the anniversary.

- **150th at the State Fair/Cal Expo** –A 30 second 150th spot recorded by Supervising Ranger Scott Liske and Ranger Angie Milligan, ran at the Fair on the Jumbotron screen many times during the State Fair. The video will be available for viewing on the 150th website when it is operational.

- **Anniversary Badge:** The 150th Anniversary badge can still be ordered by active and retired State Park Peace Officers. Contact Mike Lynch at mikelynych@cspira.com



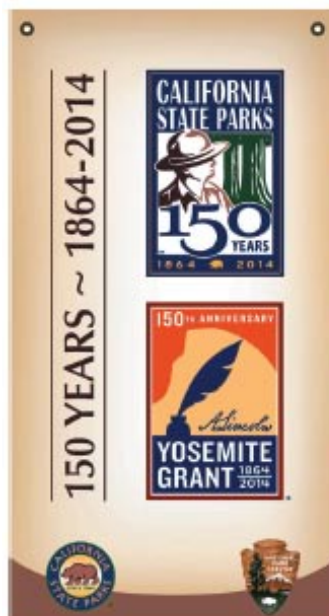
More 150th Round Up

CA STATE PARKS TRAILER WRAP
SPONSOR: CABELA'S



- **150th Road Show.** The 150th Road Show concept has evolved into an plan of a 5th wheel trailer, with exhibits and displays, traveling throughout the state during the four month heart of the 150th Anniversary. The concept includes the idea of a donated or loaned trailer and possibly retired employee volunteers to move it around.
- **UC Santa Barbara Public History Symposium.** The UCSB Public History Department has been in contact with the 150th Committee and is interested in putting on a symposium type program. They proposed the possibility of holding a scholarly-public conference next year in Santa Barbara on the occasion of the Parks' 150th anniversary. The theme could be as broad as the history and future of California's State Parks, as focused as the history and future of history in the State Parks.

- **150th Website development:** Much work has being done on the new 150th website. It should go live by the end of August. The web address will be www.150.parks.ca.gov.



- **Coordination with NPS and Yosemite's 150th.** We are coordinating many projects with the NPS Yosemite 150th effort. NPS's Kass Hardy, the Yosemite Anniversary Coordinator, is on the state parks anniversary committee and both Mike Lynch and Donna Pozzi are on the Yosemite anniversary committee. Joint efforts include dual logo anniversary banners for use in all the gateway areas of Yosemite including 18 state parks and various visitor and welcome centers. We will also have a joint anniversary poster in all Caltrans rest stops in the state.

- **Quilters for the 150th:** The 150th quilt project, coordinated with the Quilters' Sew-ciety of Redding, continues to roll along. They have signed up over 60 participants to produce a quilt with a state park theme. The goal is to have 150 quilts. The Sew-ciety plans to have a booth at the State Fair in 2014 to show of the 150th quilts. For more info on the quilt project contact:

marcy.brown@parks.ca.gov



The front page of new 150th website.

- **New publications and histories:** Subjects included, the state park commissions, CSPRA history, reprint of the Petey Weaver park story and a history of state parks decals/logos.
- **Logo patch, pin and other 150th logo items** are now available online. Check them out at the parks store: <http://store.parks.ca.gov/>.

We are still looking for ideas, volunteers and sponsors for 150th events. Especially we would like to find a winery to produce a 150th logo label(s) wine and possibly provide both wine and financial support to the 2014 California Parks Training Conference.



Pat Scully Memorial Highway

In early June the Patricia M. Scully Memorial Highway sign at San Gregorio State Beach was unveiled. Pat Scully was a California State Park Ranger who enjoyed sharing her love of nature with children. She was killed while on duty and driving on Highway One by a drunk driver on May 6, 1976. Pat was working in the San Mateo Coast Area and started her career at Big Basin State Park. She was one of two women among the 38 State Park Ranger Cadets in 1974.

The event was attended by over 50 people and included her 95 year old mother, her brother and four sisters. In addition, California State Parks provided a Color Guard, **Natalie Lohi**, a female Ranger, sang "Star Spangled Banner", and many California State Parks staff from all over the state were in attendance. Deputy Director for Operations **Mat Fuzie** unveiled the sign along with Ms. Scully's brother Tom and one of her sisters.

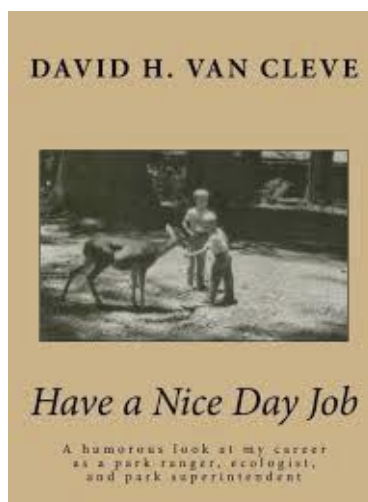


Have a Nice Day Job by David Van Cleve

Hilarious & True. Stories of a dedicated State Park man

Amazon review by **Mark Jorgensen**

Dave Van Cleve has woven the story of his 32 year California State Park career together with his dry humor and keen wit, but the stories he tells are true. Van Cleve accomplished many milestones in his productive and colorful career--he left the State Park System better than he found it and he had the guts to face many environmental challenges as a true warrior and leader. *Have A Nice Day Job* highlights the good and the funny side of Dave's career while leaving out many of the negative characters who darkened his days as a Superintendent. Van Cleve left an indelible legacy on the park system,



and now, with this book, he's left us an unforgettable tale of that legacy. I look forward to more from this story telling park superintendent!! Bring them on Dave!

Humorous, entertaining, and a great look into the park profession

Amazon review by **David Carle**

This is the most entertaining and yet truthful memoir I've seen about a professional career in the park service. Van Cleve's wit, punctuated by the malaprops used as headings throughout the text, deserve my "3 Thumbs Up." This approach is like the successful humor in the movie and TV series *M*A*S*H**, where all of the comedy us underlain, in both cases, by a core of professionalism and idealism. Fantastic!

Paperback: 138 pages; \$8.96

Kindle edition, \$4.99

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Former State Park Ranger Turns 100

by Jeff B. Price, retired

Clark Adkisson, the oldest living former State Park Ranger, will celebrate his 100th birthday on September 21, 2013 at his home near San Diego. To put things in chronological context, President Abraham Lincoln signed the Yosemite Grant in September 1864, transferring Yosemite Valley to California to be operated and preserved as a park. Fifty years later to the month, Clark Edward Adkisson was born in Tennessee. Fifty years after Clark's birth, CSPRA was formed.

CSPRA Charter Member Dom Gotelli, was surprised to recognize Clark at a recent memorial service for former District 6 Technical Services Manager John Walstrom, and alerted me. Dom, who lives nearby, was then able to take my questions, visit Clark in mid July and get the digital images included here. The State Park's 150th, Clark's 100th birthday, and CSPRA's 50th are all related in marking every half-century park history events. I interviewed Clark and had several very interesting telephone conversations with him and younger brother Bob.

Clark was a member of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), and later honorably served his country in the United States Marines Corps during World War II at the San Francisco Supply Depot as a field mechanic. He was born in Tennessee, but raised in Oklahoma and attended schools there, including Connors Agricultural College in Muskogee. (Incidentally, I found a 1934 college basketball team photo of a very tall Clark in the "Connohoma" yearbook and posted that and a few additional images at cspira.com).

He eventually came to California where he worked in the Wilmington/San Pedro shipyards welding Liberty Ships, then building Parker Dam on the Colorado River, and back in the LA area working for Mobil Oil. His career in State Parks, from August



1964 to January 1978, started at Humboldt Redwoods SP, where Herb Heinze hired him as a Park Attendant. Clark recalls taking a \$150 per month cut in salary, but says working for parks was the best decision he ever made . . . plus he got to live in residence #13 right in the Burlington campground and could walk to work. He later promoted to Ranger I, moving to Old Town San Diego SHP and Silver Strand SB where he worked as a both a Park Maintenance Worker II and State Park Ranger until retiring in 1978.

Clark has a younger brother, Robert "Bob" Adkisson (aka Bob Hanks) who is 94 this year. Bob (now living in Cottonwood, AZ) was a CSPRA member and former Ranger serving at Hearst Castle SHP, Bodie SHP and Donner SP, before retiring as a Ranger II. I spoke to Bob several times about his park service as well as the Adkisson family story. Both men were a pleasure to interview and both had amazing recall. Bob mentioned that when "News & Views" was discontinued for four years, he published an

independent replacement newsletter called "Rangers Report & Review."

The CSPRA Board of Directors, at the urging of several members, adopted a resolution commemorating this landmark birthday, and commending Clark for his public service to country and California State Parks. President Mat Bellah extended CSPRA's sincere best wishes on Clark's 100th birthday, as the oldest living former State Park Ranger.

Employees in the park office at the old Frontera Area are said to have described him as the most

respectful and gracious person they ever met. Former Lifeguard Supervisor Chuck Chase once quipped about Ranger Adkisson at a Frontera Area staff meeting, "If Clark tips his hat to any more ladies or kisses any more babies, he will be elected Mayor of Imperial Beach!" Former Chief Ranger Dom Gotelli commented, "Clark truly enjoyed people and was a natural communicator. I was amazed to see him regularly on foot patrol at the Strand, never driving a vehicle on the beach because he wanted the public contact. He was positive and courteous, and always a pleasure at work. Clark was one of those guys you always felt comfortable with, and that is still true today."

Clark told me his fondest memory as a Ranger was early morning camp check and evening foot patrol where he would personally greet visitors and be sure they were enjoying their stay.

Congratulations Clark Adkisson on your 100th birthday!

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 CSPRA Board Member, 150th Committee Co-chair, author and long-time Auburn Superintendent Michael Lynch. Enjoy!

CSPRA Chronicles...Mike Lynch

So have you “officially” retired now? What was your last job classification, where were you working, and how long did you work for California State Parks?

I last worked as the Auburn Sector Superintendent for a nearly five year stint (which just ended in May of this year) as a retired annuitant or as I thought of it, “full-time work for half-time pay.”

Where were you born and where did you grow up?

I was born in Painesville, Ohio and moved to California at age 3, living in Watsonville and Salinas through high school. I lived in the Santa Rosa area during my college years.

Did you visit any parks when you were growing up? What were some of your favorites?

I remember best being Big Sur, Sunset Beach, and Mt. Madonna County Park. I was in the Boy Scouts and we camped and hiked a lot in parks. On the scout side, I am proud that I made it to Eagle Scout.

We all seem to have memories about parks from our youth. Please share a park-related story from your youth.

I loved jumping off the sand dunes at the beach and exploring in the redwoods.

Tell us a little about your family.

After college, I married my high school steady.

What is your educational background?

BA in Anthropology and another BA in India Studies from Sonoma State. While in college, I did a study year abroad in India, which was quite an experience.

What were the jobs you held before joining California State Parks?

Starting at age 15 I worked in the agricultural fields around Salinas, the



“Salad Bowl of the World,” leading me to the conclusion that this was not a good career path. In college I worked at the Sonoma County Library and the Sonoma State Library. My final job before state parks, after a graduating from college, was as a janitor for six months.

When did you get the idea that you would like to work for California State Parks?

I did not get the idea to work for state parks, it found me. While in the college employment office one day I saw a flyer on the wall for State Park Ranger (P.I.) and thought “hey that’s cool” or it might have been more like “that looks groovy.” It was 1969 or 1970 at the time.

What were the positions you held and where did you work in your SP career?

I started as a P.I. Ranger on April 4, 1972 in the Sonoma Area (District) at Annadel State Park which had just opened. I worked there for two years

and also worked at Jack London and Petaluma Adobe SHP’s. From there I was a Ranger Trainee at Samuel P. Taylor SP, then George Hatfield SRA from 1974-1977 and then to Auburn SRA until May of this year. I did temporary stints to open Carnegie SVRA and two summers at Folsom Lake SRA while I was on release time as president of SPPOAC. I wanted to keep in touch with the troops during that time.

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

Collecting conservation insignia & old signs and

international travel. I guess you could say history is also my hobby.

You have a real love for history.

How did that develop?

Yes I have developed a love of history. I do not know how it developed, but it has led me to do a lot of research and I developed 12-15 different programs on history subjects over the years and probably made presentations in 200 public programs of one kind or another. I also have authored or co-authored five history publications, which is really the way to provide some longevity for the material. Two of the books were on the history of California State Park Rangers. I was also one of the subjects of a best-selling book *Nature Noir* by Jordan Fisher Smith. I was “Dave Finch” in Jordan’s book. It is very out of the ordinary to have someone write about you.

You have traveled all over the

Mike Lynch

CHRONICLES, from page 8

world and to some pretty interesting places. Tell us about one of your favorite trips.

Yes I have traveled extensively internationally, probably over 30 countries over the decades. There is nothing like it. My wife Patsy and I took a five month around-the-world trip in 1989-90. I had saved up all my leave time and worked a lot of overtime for several years to make it happen. England, Europe, India, Nepal, Singapore, Malaysia, Australia, and New Zealand to name just a few of the stops. I've been actively involved with the International Police Association (IPA) since the 1980s and had personal police and park ranger contacts on the whole trip and for many of my travels abroad. You really get the insider look at places when you have a police officer or ranger to show you around or help you make arrangements. You get to drink in some pretty unique bars too with the police of other countries. One great adventure was that years before they allowed the public to do so, the police in Sydney, Australia arranged for me to climb up and across the top of the famous Sydney Harbor Bridge. The tricky part was swinging out over the traffic lanes, grabbing a steel ladder, swing out and climbing up the side. I have had lots of travel adventures and experiences.

You have spent many years collecting badges and patches from various agencies all over the world. Tell us about a couple of the favorites from your collection.

Wow...it was insignia collecting, trying to find the first state park patch and badge, that led me to figure out that Galen Clark was the first ever park ranger (in 1866) and realizing that 1991 was the 125th Ranger Anniversary. I have some really great items, including probably the best NPS insignia collection outside of the NPS themselves. I once traded an extremely rare NPS patch to the NPS for a more common early style badge. I would have given it to them but it was only right that they pony up something in exchange. It did take two years to complete the trade. Some of the NPS Junior Ranger patches are terrific. And nothing like a Bobbie helmet, the Royal Park Police helmet being my favorite.

You have taken a very active role on the committee coordinating the "California State Parks 150th Anniversary" to occur next year. Tell us what you can about what to expect for this celebration and how CSPRA members can help out.

Yes, I am the co-chair for the Department's "150th Anniversary Committee." The 150th is going to be a great vehicle to help us all remember the value of state parks and all the good things we have, notwithstanding all

the current turmoil and issues. It is inspiring to me to see all those that went ahead of us, who built, sustained, maintained, and protected the park system. We owe them a debt of gratitude and we also can give ourselves a little pat on the back for doing our part in sustaining the best state park system there is. Really it is about people stepping up to protect and keep the fantastic resources we have. You will be seeing lots of good stuff on the 150th celebration coming out in the near future, despite the "challenging environment" that is State Parks today.

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

I joined CSPRA in 1974 or 1975. I'm a joiner. CSPRA was the ranger association and I wanted to be involved. I have served in several capacities in CSPRA over the years including VP.

You are a Director on the CSPRA Board. What was your motivation to become a CSPRA officer?

My primary reason for becoming a CSPRA Director was to help insure that the association was well-coordinated with the 150th Anniversary effort, including the parks conference, and to be a part of the work to celebrate CSPRA's 50th Anniversary in 2014.

If you could make a change (or changes) in California State Parks, what would it (they) be?

That is a very big question. I guess my hope, which has gone unfulfilled for all of my 42 year career so far, is that Headquarters would somehow become more oriented and obviously supportive of field operations.

What is a message you would like to share with CSPRA members?

Contribute where you can outside of the job, especially with groups and others that are trying to improve the lot of staff or the parks. You will feel better when you help, contribute or support efforts bigger than yourself.

A WAVE Goodbye

ROBERT BAMBAUER
1931 - 2013

Bob went to college at Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo, and served in the Marine Corps in the Korean War. He joined the Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Dept. in 1961. In 1978 he began his State Parks career as a Safety and Enforcement Specialist for the Central Coast. Bob had a special interest in K9 and horse patrols. He retired in the Santa Cruz area and died of a heart attack in



March 2013.

CLIFFORD WADE
Cliff was a Ranger at Pismo Beach and a Manager at Castle Crags State Park. He lived in Quincy in retirement. He died in a car crash in early May of 2013 at age 71.



PROMOTING PROFESSIONALISM IN
CALIFORNIA STATE PARKS

Membership Mail to: CSPRA,
Allison Pedley, P.O. Box 10606,
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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 _____

EXECUTIVE MANAGER



by Allison Pedley

A big CSPRA welcome to **Jake Pflapsen** out of Orange Coast and **Lisa DeLacy** from the Capital District who have both recently joined our ranks. Also, one huge congratula-

tions to **Heidi Doyle** who recently retired (but will luckily be staying right here in the mountains). Thanks for renewing at the retiree level, Heidi!

Also, thank you to those of you who have signed up to receive electronic *WAVEs*. This option not only saves trees but helps reduce costs at CSPRA, enabling us to put more money into advocacy and training efforts. Those of you still receiving hard copies, please consider upgrading to our electronic version! Just send me a quick note at allison@cspra.com.

Lobbyist's Report

The Summer Recess has arrived...Almost?

by Monica Miller, CSPRA Lobbyist

With the release of the May revise came a flurry of budget discussions in an attempt to get to Conference Committee so the budget could get to the floor and be voted on by June 15. The budget and its trailer bills were all adopted by June 15th with the exception of the budget trailer bill related to the implementation of the Coordinated Care Initiative that was adopted on Monday, June 17th. This is the first time since the 1980s that the budget and bills have been dealt with at the same time. Keep in mind that the Assembly budget chair resigned shortly after the budget was signed due to his successful campaign for LA City Council earlier this year. The Governor signed these bills in late June however they had to send one bill back to be renegotiated and one bill did not get out due to some political heat; both issues have been resolved. .

Once the budget wrapped, they began working on moving their bills out of policy and into appropriations committee. The Assembly will break for its summer recess on July 3 and the Senate on July 12. This is the first time in our history with different schedules for each house, so we are unsure how this will play out. The Senate continued to meet and do their work after the Assembly broke; we anticipate that once the Assembly returns they will do the same thing. Legislators from the opposition house were expected to present on their bills and staff was not allowed to present in their place.

As we approach the summer recess things are moving at a fast clip. Six months of work are covered in 12 weeks, so there is a lot happening. We will continue to monitor the issues related to Parks. As always, please don't hesitate to ask for additional details. Email mmiller@govadv.com.

Mixed Metaphors and Malaprops

by Jeff Price
semi-retired



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GrayBears



Attention retired members!
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Contact Allison: (530)550-
1268; allison@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