



The CSPRA

Wave

Newsletter

VOLUME 14, NUMBER 4

CALIFORNIA STATE PARK RANGERS ASSOCIATION

FALL 2014

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

California Accepted the Yosemite Grant on September 28, 1864



Stanford Mansion Celebration



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



by **Matt Bellah**, CSPRA President

I don't know if any of you have ever taken the time to search the internet for reviews of the park units you work at or are planning to visit. I recently searched the internet for reviews of one of the parks I am responsible for, the Governor's Mansion State Historic Park, and on three or four different websites found what amounted to about one hundred unsolicited public reviews of the park and park staff.

I wasn't surprised by what I found in the reviews. I was very pleased to find that the vast majority of reviewers enjoyed their experience visiting this State Park and ratings were mostly "excellent" and "very good" (and to be fair there was a small amount of "average" ratings to round it out). More than the numerical ratings I enjoyed reading the actual comments. For example, in compiling different

comments our State Park Tour Guides were described as:

Friendly, Helpful, Attentive, Knowledgeable, Informative, Interesting, Witty, Fun, Entertaining, , Great, Amazing

I wasn't surprised by the reviews because I think park professionals in all disciplines do a very good job serving our visitors every day. So while the Department may still be in different ongoing states of flux, park professionals should always take pride in the excellent public service we provide on a daily basis.

This is just one example of how park professionals do very well with our visitors, especially visitors that we are able to have face to face interaction with. We should all take pride in this.

One of our ongoing challenges is this: How do we successfully engage the people who are not visiting our parks? With limited staffing and resources, how do we successfully engage the people that we are not able to have that positive face to face interaction with? I obviously don't have all of the answers to these questions. But I think this example and these questions highlight that park professionals should take pride in what we do well and that we should continue to work together to take on these challenges and work towards a solution that keeps parks relevant and supported.

CSPRA NOMINATIONS FOR 2015

President : Victor Bjelajac (Marin)

Directors: Cindi Whitehead (North Coast Redwoods)

Ann Meneguzzi (Retired)

Brian Cahill (HQ)

Matt Bellah (Capital)

Returning Vice President: Mark Hada

Returning Directors: Mike Lynch

Rob Walton

Steve Ptomey

Secretary: Nominations needed.

BALLOTS WILL BE MAILED IN EARLY 2015

150th Anniversary of California Accepting Yosemite Grant

California Accepts the Yosemite Grant

by Janet Carle, WAVE Editor



On Sept. 28, 1864, Governor Frederick Low accepted the Grant of the Yosemite Valley and Mariposa Big Trees Grove to the state of California, in response to President Lincoln's act in June. 150 years later, a crowd gathered at the Leland Stanford Mansion State Historic Park, site of Governor Low's office in 1864, to remember this historic day. Governor Low, portrayed by **G. Albert Howenstein**, (L) read the proclamation, which also established the first State Park Commission. Live music, costumed docents, the State Parks 150 Quilt Show, speeches by dignitaries, a time capsule and tours of the magnificently restored Leland Stanford Mansion rounded out the gala event.



CSPRA was represented at the ceremony by **Janet Carle** (WAVE Editor), **Matt Bellah** (President), **Mark Hada** (VP), **Mike Lynch** (Board Member), **John Mott** and **Dana Jones** (Past Presidents)

Yosemite Grant celebration at Leland Stanford Mansion SHP



National Parks and State Parks celebrate 150 years of shared heritage: L to R: **Steve Lehman, Donna Pozzi, Mike Lynch, Scott Gediman, Don Neubacher, Dana Jones, Matt Bellah, Scott Liske and Aaron Robertson**



Hopefully, some of these children will be able to return for the 2064 ceremony!

Costumed docents from Sacramento flank the time capsule, a collection of park-related artifacts to be opened in 50 years, at the 200th year celebration in 2064

Ellen Clark, Volunteer in Parks Coordinator, receives an appreciation award from 150th Anniversary Co-chairs **Mike Lynch and Donna Pozzi**



Yosemite Grant Celebration at Leland Stanford Mansion SHP

Yosemite National Park was represented by Superintendent **Don Neubacher** and Public Affairs Officer **Scott Gediman** (with **Mike Lynch**, center). After the acceptance of the Grant in September, 1864, the State of California managed Yosemite Valley and the Mariposa Grove for 42 years, until the National Park System was created in 1906.



The Grand Isle Fire Brigade provided authentic period music, which **Judy Muetz** and **Janet Carle** enjoyed

22nd RETIREES' RENDEZVOUS OCTOBER 7 - 9, 2014



Over 50 participants enjoyed the 22nd Annual Retirees' Rendezvous in early October, organized by Board Director **Mike Lynch** assisted by Monterey District staff. Interpreter **Sara Arnett** (in uniform) presented a campfire program. NEXT RENDEZVOUS : OCTOBER 6 - 8, 2015 at PFEIFFER-BIG SUR SP.



View the entire Retirees' Rendezvous Gallery of photos at www.cspira.com/pages/rendezvous/2014Gallery/

Myles Standish (L) received a plaque of appreciation from CSPRA Director Mike Lynch, recognizing his contribution to the 150th celebrations portraying Yosemite Guardian Galen Clark, the first California State Park Ranger

The Breakfast crew included (L to R) **Peggy Price**, **Glen McGowen**, **Tom Bernardo**, **Jeff Price** and **Tress Putnam** (not pictured).

Guided hikes, bicycle tours, a visit to the Condor Center, and potluck dinners were on the agenda, as well as a showing of Ken Burn's film on the Yosemite Grant.



Interpretive Program Ideas

Painting with Kinetic Energy and Marbles

by **Steve Ptomey**, *Interpreter,
Tehachapi District*

A new and exciting interpretive method for teaching youth about movement has been introduced to the interpretive world of State Parks. Recently, an Interpretive Special Event Training was held at the Folsom Powerhouse SHP. Attendees were introduced to methods, styles and programs to teach about science. Many of our park interpreters and rangers know about leading tours and programs in Natural or Cultural history, but how many of us can lead a program about electricity?

Or power generation? That was one of the things that made the training (pardon the pun) so powerful. The training led by **Terri Lopez**, Gold Fields District Interpreter and electricity guru, touched on topics of power generation and how to meet the current State of California standards for 3rd and 4th grade science. At the end of the training the attendees helped staff the "Electricity Fair" at the powerhouse, and put many of new programs/techniques to work. One of the standout programs was Marble Painting, eloquently simple in presentation, and yet complex enough to be readily adapted to nearly any park in the system. Like most great ideas it's very simple. In order to teach children the difference between "static" and "kinetic" energy (being still vs moving), Lopez came up with a method allowing children to paint with marbles, (mess free) that is easy to do and gives the child a take home piece of artwork that bears the logo of your event or park and whatever message you want. And Mom and Dad will probably stick it on the

refrigerator for a couple of weeks.

The program starts off with a simple postcard that bears the logo of the event, park or message (web address etc.). It is then placed into an upside down canvas picture frame (this con-



tains the marbles when tilted and allows them to move). The idea of kinetic energy is explained to the participant, the presenter places two marbles that have been dipped in poster paint (using a gloved hand, and removed from a red plastic cup that has paint) in the frame. The child then tilts the frame allowing the marble to role, dragging paint with it across the postcard. As the marbles are used from the cup with the paint, they are dropped into a small bucket of water (using washable poster paint) and rinsed to be reused. In effect, the energy of the marbles in motion (kinetic energy) creates art by transferring its energy to the paint across the paper. The post cards are then hung to dry nearby, facing out so that the passing public sees the art/color and are drawn to the booth. Then the cycle repeats.

That makes this interpretive program so unique and valuable to Parks is that is so adaptable. While teaching about energy might not be your subject, the idea of motion and changing environments is applicable to every unit of the state park system. At Colonel

Allensworth SHP we have used this program to explain the migration of people from the South to California to settle at Allensworth, the paint represents their culture and how it affected California. At the recent special event

at Tomo Kahni SHP we used the same method to teach about the "seasonal round" of Native Americans, how they moved following the seasons to use different resources. Or at Tule Elk SNR how the elk would move across the valley to forage. This method can be used in almost any park based on motion: ie migration birds, animals or people. Even water safety can be taught using this method, with a postcard of a life vest and a story about how boats create waves in

their motion across the water.

This is a truly innovative program; easy to prepare, easy to perform, fast clean up, portable and with a lasting impact. The whole "kit" to do this program fits into one medium sized box and can be purchased with enough supplies for a medium sized event for about \$50.00. What you are going to need: 3 8'x10' canvass picture frames, three red plastic cups, 1 bag of marbles, 3 small plastic buckets, 1 large bucket (waste water), 3 containers of washable poster paint (bright colors are best), 1 box of disposable rubber gloves, 1 apron, 1 box of precut paper postcards. All of these are available at Michaels or your local Walmart (both on vendor list). If you are in a historic unit, the packaging can be "period", if in recreation area or natural area "green" containers can be used.

This is a great investment for any park. The child learns about energy and the park, and has a take home piece of art that has your park or message on it. Thanks to Terri for sharing this idea!

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Book Reviews

Desert Bighorn Sheep: Wilderness Icon

Sunbelt Publications,
available November 2014
\$29.95, soft cover
by Mark C. Jorgensen
Photos by Jeff Young

Mark Jorgensen, over his long career in State Parks, was a Ranger, Resource Ecologist, and Superintendent in Anza-Borrego Desert State Park. Mark now shares his knowledge and passion for this iconic desert species in a stunning new book. *Desert Bighorn Sheep* combines the wonderful photos of **Jeff Young**, who captured elusive moments rarely seen, with the depth of scientific expertise Mark has accumulated over his many years watching, documenting, and working to protect the sheep. The book is comprehensive yet easy-to-read, illuminating to the scientist and also appealing to the newcomer to sheep lore. Mark and Jeff have created a beautiful volume that brings us into the world of this fascinating animal and that will hopefully aid in their protection in the future.



Tower Tales: Remembrances of a California Lifeguard

by Brian Hickey
Available at Amazon.com , \$12.59, \$3.99 on Kindle

Retired State Park Lifeguard, Ranger and Superintendent **Brian Hickey** shares his memories of days lifeguarding on the ocean beaches of Southern California in the 1960s. Recruiting and training for lifeguards, competitions, colorful local characters and the whole beach culture of the time and place is covered, offering a rare glimpse from an insider into what it was really like up in the lifeguard tower.

*You may review over 40 books and guides written by other retired park employees on the GrayBears page of Published Authors. Check it out by going to www.cspra.com, select "GrayBears Links" from menu and then select "Member Authors." Several are available online, at certain book stores or as electronic media. Of note, a FREE download, **Them Were the Days**, by Harriett "Petey" Weaver, CSPRA's Honorary Ranger 1971, made available courtesy of Mike Lynch and GrayBears, Published by the 125th Ranger Anniversary Committee*

A WAVE Goodbye



DARRELL GEROY

Darrell served a tour in Vietnam, and later was a Ranger at Hollister Hills SVRA, Pajaro Coast District and the State Railroad Museum, where he began an Interpretive Railroad Handcar program. He retired in 2000. While at Hollister Hills, Darrell performed as a motorcycle rider in a Molson beer commercial, seen in photo.



ALEX WEISS , 1936 - 2014

Alex (center, in band photo) was born in Austria, and escaped the Nazi occupation with his family when he was 4 years old. His family settled in San Francisco, in the Fillmore District, where Alex began a lifelong interest in music. He served two years in the Navy on a destroyer escort and, in 1961, traveled to the Jim Crow south, and was a Freedom Rider, helping to integrate public transportation. After a few years as a zookeeper at the San Francisco Zoo, Alex's State Park career began in 1970 as a seasonal ranger on Angel Island. He was instrumental in recognizing the importance of the poems and messages written on the walls of the Immigration Station and preserving them from destruction. Alex then became a permanent ranger, with a stint at Samuel P. Taylor as a trainee.

He then worked at Hearst Castle, where he started the first campground campfire programs and helped get a campfire center built at

San Simeon State Beach. Alex moved north to the Santa Cruz District, where he helped start the first "Welcome Back Monarchs Day" at Natural Bridges, complete with the 5M band, Mostly Mediocre Music at Monarch Mariposas (pictured). Alex moved to Candlestick Point as Chief Ranger for 4 years, then retired and returned to zookeeping. In his later years he worked for the Registrar of Voters as an election official.

KEN GRAY, 1950-2014

Ken passed away in October at age 64. He was born in Orange, CA and graduated from UC Davis in 1972. A Ranger Trainee in the Marin Area, Ken worked at Folsom Lake, where he met his wife, Pat. Ken and Pat were one of the early married ranger couples in State Parks. He was a Supervising Ranger at Mt. San Jacinto, and then a Senior Park and Recreation Specialist in Monterey where he worked until his retirement. Ken was known as a leader in many of the largest and most complex habitat restoration and coastal access projects undertaken by the State Parks System. In 1986, he managed a major habitat restoration project at Marina State Beach, stabilizing the dunes and constructing a boardwalk. He was instrumental in restoration of the Carmel River Lagoon following a major flood in 1995. Ken spent 15 years on the Fort Ord Re-use Working Group and was key to establishment of the Fort Ord Dunes State Park. He was also very involved in CSPRA over the years, chairing the first Resource Protection Committee. As a community leader in Marina, he helped found Marina 2020 Vision and spearheaded an Urban Growth Boundary, the first ever in Monterey County. He served for many years on the Marina City Council. Ken coached teams for his two sons and serving as a leader in the Boy Scouts. After retirement, he volunteered at the local Food Pantry and as a guide at Point Sur Lighthouse. He is survived by his wife, Monterey District Interpretive Specialist Pat Clark-Gray, and their two sons, Douglas and Wesley, who is an, Environmental Scientist at Hollister Hills OHVP.



JACK STOWE

Jack began his State Park career in 1949, working at Pendleton Coast, Donner, SP Taylor, Silver Strand, and Salton Sea. He was Safety Officer at Sacramento Headquarters, and later in the Headquarters Off Highway Vehicle Division.

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
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Rangers Association. This authorization will
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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

I'd like to extend a big
welcome to **Valerie Watt**,
who recently joined CSPRA
as a retired member. Welcome Valerie
-- you will be receiving your CSRPA
flashlight soon! Also, thank you to
those retired members who have
remembered to send
in their annual
dues -- we truly
appreciate your
commitment to our
mission for parks.

Cindi Whitehead
has been appointed
to fill a Board
vacancy until the
next election.

I received a nice letter from **Clark
Atkisson** recently; you may recall
Clark was featured in the CSPRA
Wave a year ago, for having turned
100 and being the oldest living former
park ranger. Well guess what? He is
101 now! Happy Birthday, Clark!!

We love to hear
what all you retired
folks have been
up to, so drop us a
line when you
have a celebration.
Remember, too,
your park family in
difficult times .
The parks bond is
sometimes stronger
than we realize.



Mixed Metaphors and Malaprops



*by Jeff Price
Seriously Retired*

Mixed Metaphor: A combination of thoughts that when strung together produce a ridiculously funny effect of melded clichés. Send us any overheard slips of the tongue - malaprops@cspira.com

... more solid than he thought?
I was looking at some Huell Houser archives last night; I worked with him, but took him for granite at the time.

Sure thing.
I did have a credit problem once when I forgot to pay a gym membership and they guaranteed my wages.

That classification likely comes after seminary, right?
You know, talking about the new Pope, our own Governor Jerry Brown is a former Jesuit cemetarian himself.

Double redundancy?
That budget fight really put a bullseye on the Republican target.

Director directions?
It got real foggy on the drive to Big Sur; thank goodness for the reflective Mott's Dots.

CSPRAnet

CSPRAnet & PayPal

Member List Server and Online Payment Coming Soon

by Jeff Price, Webmaster and Mike Lynch, Director

At the meeting in Big Sur, the CSPRA Board approved two new Internet based proposals:

1) Setting up an electronic payment method for non-payroll deduction member dues, annual training conference/GEC registration, Retiree Rendez-vous registration, donations, and other financial or sales features. The payment method will feature the ease of using PayPal, but also include payment using any major credit card. It is hoped this will give all financial transactions an alternative and easier option. More on that soon at www.cspira.com

2) Authorization of a group forum named CSPRAnet. It will be established as a members-only list server, an easy way for members to post and share opinions, exchange professional thought, and communicate with 600 other members, as well as have direct access to officers and board. Please direct specific questions to the team at: webmaster@cspira.com.



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

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

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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