



The CSPRA

Wave

Newsletter

VOLUME 14, NUMBER 2

CALIFORNIA STATE PARK RANGERS ASSOCIATION

SPRING 2014

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

150 YEARS OF PARK HERITAGE



Celebrated in Yosemite



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



by **Matt Bellah**, CSPRA President

The 2014 California Parks Training Conference has come and passed with great success. If you were lucky enough to join us in Yosemite for the 2014 Training you shared some of the great experiences of this event. I would like to give a very big thank you to Conference Co-Chairs **Mike Lynch** and **Jeff Ohlfs** for all of their efforts in putting together a wonderful conference. I would also like to thank all of the CSPRA Members who gave their time and effort working on the CSPRA 50th Anniversary Committee. My last thank you is to outgoing CSPRA Board Members **Joanne Danielson** and **Cecilia Rejas** for their service. I would also like to welcome incoming CSPRA Board Member **Roberto Walton**.

The Conference focused quite a bit on the storied and significant history of parks in California. And surrounding that discussion and that great history were also talks about the future of California State Parks. The *Parks Forward* Initiative is on-going with a current Staff Working Draft Outline available on their website www.parksforward.com/research-reports. A revised, more comprehensive version is due out this month and will be posted on their website prior to their next Commission meeting in San Francisco on April 30th, 2014. I encourage all CSPRA members to review the documents on the *Parks Forward* website and attend the Commission meeting or view it online. CSPRA Board Members met with the *Parks Forward* staff in January and I highlighted some of CSPRA's points in that discussion in the last edition of the *WAVE*.

There are possible changes in store for California State Parks. Hopefully those changes are positive ones and make California State Parks more sustainable while preserving the Department's Mission. One of the strengths of CSPRA is that it is a voice for park professionals. I encourage CSPRA members to utilize that voice by talking with CSPRA Board Members and letting us know what issues are important to you.



Galen Clark (Miles Standish), Buffalo Soldier (NPS Interpreter Shelton Johnson), and 1930s State Park Ranger (Scott Liske) enlivened the Parks Conference with their portrayals
Photo by Betty Wong

**NEXT
CONFERENCE
March 2015 in
SAN DIEGO**

California Parks Training Conference

March 3-6, 2014 – Yosemite Valley

More than 200 participants, presenters and special guests from 30 plus park agencies and two colleges/universities, convened in Yosemite Valley for the 2014 California Parks Training Conference on March 3-6, on the occasion of the 150th Anniversary of California State Parks and the setting aside of Yosemite Valley as a park. The conference program included over 20 different training segments from Bats to OHMVR Outreach Program to Fire Management at Yosemite National Park.

The annual Parks Conference is sponsored by the California State Park Rangers Association (CSPRA) and the Park Rangers Association of California (PRAC) and this year was also supported by a wide number of agencies, groups and individuals, including the National Park Service and California State Parks.



REGISTRATION TEAM

L to R: **Lolly Bartlett, Karen Cumber and Brandy Greene**



CONFERENCE CO-CHAIRS
Jeff Ohlfs (PRAC) and Mike Lynch
(CSPRA) at the opening reception



CSPRA awards & recognition

Charter Members **Bud Getty**, **Kirk Wallace** and **Doug Bryce** were honored for their 40 plus years each of service to State Parks and 50 years of dedication to CSPRA



Long time Executive Manager **Doug Bryce** with **Donna Pozzi**



Retiree Rendezvous Organizer **Kirk Wallace** with **Matt Bellah** and **Mike Lynch**



Past President Nina Gordon accepted a special contribution award on behalf of the CSPRA 50th Anniversary team



Past President (twice!)
Bud Getty

CSPRA highlights



Mike & Cindi Whitehead (below) became CSPRA benefactors, along with **Russ Guiney** and the **Olmsted family**. Treasurer **Victor Bjelajac** accepted the checks!



CSPRA PRESIDENTS, past & present (back row, L to R): **Rick Parmer, Matt Bellah, Angy Nowicki, John Mott** and **Jeff Price**. Front row: **Kim Baker, Nina Gordon** and **Bud Getty**.



CSPRA STAFF RECOGNIZED: **Janet Carle**, Newsletter Editor and **Jeff Price**, Webmaster, received plaques for their long-time service from President **Matt Bellah**



Past President **John Mott** produced a photo display of CSPRA's 50 year history.

A collection of historic photos and Yosemite conference images prepared by Webmaster **Jeff Price** is on the CSPRA website at:

<http://www.cspra.com/pages/50-150/>

CSPRA 50 BOOK debuts in yosemite

A special book on the 50 year history of CSPRA was produced in honor of the organization's anniversary in 2014. **Jose Miguel Mayo** of CSU Monterey Bay's Science Illustration Program (pictured) won the contest to produce a 50th anniversary logo, which adorns the book's cover and many other commemorative items. Copies of the book are available for \$10 from Mike Lynch (mail check to Box 3212, Bowman, CA 95604, to *CSPRA*).

Photo by Pat Clark-Gray



Kass Hardy, Yosemite 150th Anniversary Coordinator and **Jeff Ohlfs**, Conference Co-chair & Chief Ranger at Joshua Tree National Park, were presented special contribution awards by State Parks 150th Anniversary Committee Co-chair **Donna Pozzi**

special contribution awards



Handgun Class

by **Matt Yarbrough**, Ranger
Sierra District

Last month I attended a three day Adaptive Shooting Science- Handgun class held at the Sacramento Valley Shooting Center near Prairie City SVRA presented by Haley Strategic. The class was taught by **Travis Haley**, a former police officer, special operations US Marine, and founder of Magpul Industries. As the title of the course suggests, the focus was the science behind proper shooting. The main focus was on the physical skills needed to prevail in a life or death encounter. Haley also shared some stories as well as his philosophy on proper mindset and emotions that crystallized the seriousness of being a person who has in his words “chosen to uphold a higher standard of care for those around us.”

The breakdown for the class came out to about one full day of classroom work and two days of shooting. The class had 25 participants, but the instruction was individualized and focused on scientific principles of body mechanics and how a handgun operates. One of the benefits of the course, was the fact that the instructor wasn't trying to sell a specific “system”. Instead, what is taught is best practices of handgun manipulation. Haley has based his instruction upon research into what works consistently and most effectively in a variety of situations. For example, instead of introducing all new techniques, instructors would show ways to improve and maximize techniques that participants were already using.

The main themes were using efficiency of movement to reduce distances and thus time when drawing and reloading, and how to use friction



and leverage to mitigate recoil. The goal was to achieve the desired mix of speed and accuracy---shooting fast without missing. The class had a wide range of students and was open to the public. By the third day all students were consistently and safely getting hits at close range from the draw in the 1.1 to 1.5 second range and were also getting regular hits on ¾ human size steel targets at 100 yards. The class was conducted in a very professional manner with a focus on safety.

I found the instruction to be top notch and would recommend taking a course from Haley Strategic. Although this was a beginner class with no prior training required, I believe that even the most advanced shooter will get a lot out of it.

I'd like to give a huge thank you to CSPRA and the scholarship committee who made this class possible. I look forward to working on the many aspects learned in this class with the goal of always improving. I have no doubt that the training has made me more proficient with a handgun, increasing my safety on and off duty. For a short

view of the instruction and the way scientific principles are used in teaching Handgun Shooting Science you can view <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MY6gwhj5qpY>, a video on the biomechanics of grip with Travis Haley from the Personal Defense Network.



CSPRA 50th ANNIVERSARY: coffee cups, t-shirts, tote bags, travel mugs, and mousepads are available at cspira.com/pages/yosemite2014/merchandise (Mark Hada and cup)

“PARTNERSHIPS, A NEW THING?” REVISITED

by **Victor Bjelajac**, Maintenance Chief
Marin District

In the FALL 2012 Wave I outlined ongoing partnership programs within the Marin district of DPR, specifically Mt. Tamalpais State Park. When the article was being written new partnership agreements between National Parks and the Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy non-profit were in development to keep several State Park units slated for closure, open. DPR, GGNRA and GGNPC staff began meeting to better understand each agencies areas of responsibility, operations, project process, environmental compliance policy, planning process, program development and project review process.

From these initial meetings projects and programs that benefited both agencies were identified and developed. Initial collaborations were focused on shared facilities, daily operation efficiencies and interaction of staff from all three organizations in planning and management activities with a geographic focus.

Assessments for work that would benefit the watershed were memorialized in “Redwood Creek Watershed Assessment” (Stillwater Sciences, 2010) Based on historical usage of the area, scientific understanding of the watershed hydrology, cultural and natural resources assessments and management recommendations, this document advised potential joint agency management activities.

The RCW watershed encompasses Muir Woods National Monument and Mt. Tamalpais State Park. Tamalpais Lands Collaborative (TLC) is in the development stage but, like RWC watershed initiatives, is based on partnership and guided by a five party agreement allowing for joint activities on and across lands managed by various agencies. This model holds great promise for collaborative multi-agency



work supported by philanthropic donors. These works will benefit Mt. Tamalpais lands, offer resource protection and offer visitors to any of the agency lands, safe, informed, visitation experiences.

I will use one responsibility of both DPR and GGNRA to illustrate the benefit of partnering based on resources and not agency jurisdictional borders, and the value of shared vision and collaborative work.

Illustrative collaborative work within the RCWI would be remiss without mentioning the pioneering work developed, modeled and implemented so

well in the GGNRA by **Brian O’Neill** (General Superintendent, 1986-2009). The 21 Partnership Success Factors has been developed into a pocket guide and is handed out to staff and discussed in partnership workshops far away from where it was so well implemented. The work accomplished in RCW was possible because of many factors but the guiding principle for the work draws heavily from O’Neill’s

success factor 3, Adopt a Shared Vision.

Without shared vision the desire or necessity for partnerships and joint agency interactions is never realized as neighboring land agency staff drive past one another in the course of their duties, sometimes acknowledging one another, sometimes not.

Winter of 2013 found the Bootjack trail project one bridge away from its completion. Over the course of two seasons 10 bridges and several miles of trail containing Civilian Conservation Corps era features were preserved and rehabilitated by Marin District and DPR Statewide Trail Crew leads with California Conservation Corps (CCC) crews. Permits for the initial phase of the work were secured through regulatory agencies and developed by DPR environmental scientists.

With one more section of a two part bridge left to complete, Marin county

PARTNERSHIPS

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was hit with a deluge of storm water that resulted in a slide that took out a section of trail needed to develop a bridge abutment for the final section of Bootjack. The trail was closed for weeks as a temporary alignment was established across the slide area. Regulatory agencies were contacted to see if existing in-stream permits could be amended to cover the work now necessary due to storm damage. A host of regulatory staff visited the site and made helpful suggestions in support of the new round of permits that would be necessary. They felt that the scope of work and required in-stream work to stabilize the slide area would warrant a new set of regulatory permits.

In one of the regular meetings with GGNRA and Conservancy staff DPR discussed the situation and possible remedies. DPR could work with CCC to secure a crew to perform the high-line work necessary to move the many tons of stone, creating a dry stack wall within the stream channel and would reserve their services for two intensive months, but permits needed to be in place by the targeted start date. At this point we had approximately three months to secure 401, 404 and 1600 series permits from the regulatory agencies. The issue was brought to the advisory group for RCW funding and a case was made to support the work. Monies were allocated to assist with the overall cost of the repairs, supplementing DPR funding in support of a new bridge design and in-stream stone work. More importantly, Conservancy environmental staff were tasked to assist GGNRA and DPR environmental scientists in obtaining the services of consultants and working with regulatory agencies to obtain the permits identified, allowing for the work to be completed before Northern Spotted Owl, Salmon and other listed species noise and activity restrictions were in place in this ecologically sensitive zone. High drama ensued in the RCW.

Through shared vision, DPR, CCC,

GGNRA and the Conservancy worked together to secure permits, prepare in-stream work plans and accomplish identified work within a compacted build schedule to the high standards needed in this important cultural and natural resource location. Materials were staged on federal lands, and trundled in by hand by the CCC. Work was overseen by local and statewide DPR staff, and regulatory compliance was assured by Conservancy and DPR environmental scientists with final inspections carried out by regula-

cal zone, an iconic historic trail was made available to visitors from around the world because partners choose to focus on joint management of resources. Any one of the partners in isolation would not have been able to accomplish the work alone in this short amount of time but, by focusing on the resource and not the jurisdictional management boundaries, significant and lasting work in the tradition of public work projects of the past was accomplished.



tory agencies. Less than a week after completion Marin was hit by another significant storm event that saw 21 inches of rain fall within three days. I am happy to say that the work held up beautifully.

From a vision, to accomplished built works in a heavily regulated ecologi-



**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.*

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Social Security #: _____

Phone (Work) _____

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District, Section, or Park: _____

Membership type (Circle one):

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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
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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 _____

A WAVE Goodbye

GARY BISCHOF, 1938-2014

Gary, age 75, passed away recently in the Redding area. He was a long-time trail worker for State Parks in the Marin District, and helped build and maintain the trails on Mt. Tamapalis and in S. P. Taylor State Park.. Gary did volunteer trail work at Whiskeytown Lake in his retirement years.

STEPHEN SOTO, 1951- 2014

Steve passed away in March in Sacramento. He worked for many years at Headquarters as a Telecommunications Systems Analyst. Steve loved Hawaii and traveled there often.



JASON CRISP

Officer Crisp worked for the US Forest Service on the Grandfather Ranger District in North Carolina. He was assisting in a manhunt on March 12th for a suspected murderer in the woods when he and his service dog were ambushed and killed by the suspect. Jason was 39 years old. The shooter was later found and killed after firing at other officers.



ROBERT FREEMAN

Robert passed away in February. He began his State Park career as a Park Aide at Cuyamaca Rancho in the early 1960s. He became a Ranger and worked at Julia Pfeiffer Burns, New Brighton, Historic Ships in San Francisco, Ventura State Beaches, and Old Town San Diego and Border Field. Robert worked over the years in both Visitor Services and Maintenance. He retired as a Manager IV at Lake Perris State Recreation Area.



EXECUTIVE MANAGER



by Allison Pedley

Retirees Rendezvous

October 7 - 9, 2014

Big Sur State Park

see CSPRA.com/pages/rendezvous

It's been wonderful to see the excitement and enthusiasm over CSPRA's 50th anniversary, along with the even more impressive 150 years of State Parks Heritage. Through thick and thin, it seems pride in a career with parks is always present. I would like to thank those of you who have maintained your membership with CSPRA over the years, including an astonishing 67

members who've been with us for over 40 years! CSPRA truly appreciates the dedication all of our members have to State Parks, and of course, those who remain dedicated to CSPRA's mission as well. Thank you!

Extra copies of the Golden Acorns Wave issue are available by emailing me at Allison@cspra.com, with your request and a mailing address.

Mixed Metaphors and Malaprops



*by Jeff Price
semi-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

Sounds like one did the splits.
These five women are seen hiking to the summit of Cowles Mountain . . . half are bundled up, and the other half are in t-shirts.

What floats in a sewer?
It's a real sewer out in the field right now, but the best always rise to the top in state parks.

. . . and resisted treatment as well?
She has been diagnosed with esophageal cancer and it has defiled all forms of medical treatment.

That is one primitive privy perception!
That mistake made me feel like a dump on a log.

Out of balance . . .
His whole life is hanging in the wings.

Typical argument from a contortionist.
You can't go head to toe with an expert in court unless you know what they know.

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GrayBears



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