



The CSPRA

Wave

Volume 20, Number 3

Newsletter of the CALIFORNIA STATE PARK RANGERS ASSOCIATION

Summer 2020

"State Park experts and professionals advocating for State Parks since 1964."

President's Message

Hello All,

The Coronavirus pandemic has impacted CSPRA. I hope during these difficult times you all are keeping safe, trying to stay sane, and taking the necessary precautions.

Some of the CSPRA programs that the Coronavirus has impacted are:

The 2020 CSPRA and State Park Retirees Rendezvous, scheduled for Truckee Donner, has been postponed to 2021 at the same location, probably the week of 9/13-9/17/20. For this year, there will be a Board and CSPRA Membership meeting by Zoom on 9/16/20, details will be coming out closer to that meeting date.

We hope to make have a small presentation ceremony for the 2020 Honorary Ranger **Dave Allen** in September or October.

The CSPRA v DPR legal action, regarding the theater performances at Jack London, has been delayed by court closures. The theater productions for

this year were canceled due to the Coronavirus situation. The new timeline for a possible court decision is now estimated to be in March of next year.

In the good new category, CSPRA has started a series of Zoom programs and presentations that have proved popular. These

programs will continue through the summer and fall.

The Ranger Foundation has established a new grant program for the families of park rangers in Latin America who have perished from the Coronavirus. Three such grants have been approved so far. My thanks to all those who donated for this program.



Finally, I will not be running for a third term as CSPRA President (twice is enough). In the next month or so the announcement will be going out soliciting for candidates for the positions opening up on the Board, including President, Secretary and Directors.

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CSRA President



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**Deadline for next issue
October 1**

OHV 50th Anniversary News

The Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation (OHMVR) Program will be commemorating its 50th Anniversary in 2021. "The Chappie-Z'berg Off-Highway Vehicle Act of 1971" was signed into law on December 22, 1971 by **Governor Ronald Reagan**, authored by off-road enthusiast **Assemblyman Gene Chappie** and environmental support **Senator Ed Z'berg**. The Chappie-Z'berg Law was founded on the principle that responsibly managed OHV use was better for the environment than unmanaged activity. In 1982, the law was amended to create the OHMVR Division. CSPRA has officially recognized the 50th Anniversary milestone as one of the major component of California State Parks mission to provide recreation and resource protection to state park lands.

Some of the anniversary efforts in the works are:



*Official recognition of the OHMVR 50th Anniversary by the OHMVR Commission in August.

*Establishing an annual OHV Safety Week, starting in May of 2021 (like Boating Safety Week).

*Recognition of Hollister Hills as a California Historical Landmark (CHL) as the first State Vehicular Recreation Area (SVRA) and as an excellent example of the development and evolution of off-highway recreation in California starting after WWII. A similar CHL status is being considered for the Rubicon Trail.

*A special OHV 50th anniversary badge has been authorized for purchase by active and retired SPPO Rangers and Lifeguards. The order form is available on the CSPRA website www.cspira.com/OHV50th/

*Also available are a pin and patch of the anniversary badge design for \$5 each from the California State Park Anniversary Committee at cspac150@gmail.com.

GrayBears Zoom Video Chats

The Backstory

*by Jeff Price,
GrayBears Moderator*

Back in early April **Broc Stenman** sent me a note proposing that we occasionally set up video chats as something different for retirees to do while intelligently governed states in the nation were under COVID19 lockdown. We discussed possible themes and how they would be presented in the 40-minutes allowed by Zoom on their "free account" service.

After researching Zoom I was pretty well convinced they had solved their earlier hacking problems and so we set up a test group Zoom video meeting with **Broc, myself, Bill Krumbein, Dave Van Cleve and Jim Baird**. It went really well, so Broc announced our first planned event in April as a themed "virtual cocktail hour" on GrayBears with this invitation, "Grab your favorite cocktail or shrub and spend a few minutes with a bunch of old friends in the comfort of your home or patio. To raise our spirits and lighten our concerns, GrayBears will be hosting a Zoom Cocktail Hour on April 15 at 3:00 pm." (Side note: I learned the word "shrub" can refer to a cocktail popular during America's colonial era, using fruit syrup, spirits, and carbonated water.)

We had so many RSVPs for the first event that we split the group into 2 sessions, hosted by Broc and me. Inaugural participants were **Broc Stenman,**

Jeff Price, Susan Grove, John Quirk, Mimi Guiney, Heidi Doyle, Kim Preston, John Crossman, Nina Gordon, Carl Chavez, Smokey Bear, Jim Baird, Denzil Verardo, Dave Carle, Mike Muetz, Lynn Rhodes, Russ Guiney, Broc Stenman, John Kolb, John & Suzie Jennings, Ron Kreuper, John Mott (no video), and **Cali Quail**. We had a few "no shows." Several ice-breaker questions were asked of each participant, such as where there were now living and what they were doing. I was surprised to hear Broc was living in Palm Springs!

After the first several "social" events, we asked for and got 3 GrayBears volunteers to join our duo: **Mike Muetz, Mimi Guiney and John Mott**. We discussed the future and what we should anticipate or improve. I offered to contact several people who would make great presentation guests and perhaps interest more GrayBears. Former Director **Russ Cahill** agreed to be our inaugural guest for an event on May 27 hosted by **Mimi, Lynn Rhodes and Mark**



Jorgensen agreed to be up next in an event on June 25 hosted by **Dave Van Cleve**, discussing our Mongolian sister park Ikh Nart. I also called former Ranger and current nationally acclaimed author **Jordan Fisher-Smith**, and he cheerfully agreed to a presentation July 1, with John and Mimi as co-hosts.

In June, we discussed Zoom concepts with the CSPRA officers, and they were in support. A Zoom Pro account was set up and we started using it for GrayBears presentations, without the pesky time limit. The CSPRA Board also held their first video Board meeting in June with great success and 20 people attending. John asked the Board for approval to invite CSPRAnet members as well as GrayBears and was given a green light for a July 1 event.

As of this writing 3 of us are still volunteer hosts. I'm not sure where this bright idea will go next. If you have some thoughts, or great ideas for improvement, or would like to join our Zoom Team, let me know

Democratic Republic of Congo Rangers

By Rick Parmer

In November 2019 I was part with the CSPRA delegation to the World Ranger Congress in Nepal. I met many interesting colleagues from a myriad of countries. Somehow four separate contacts I made there have developed into a budding field project partnership in Africa.

Seven months later an anti poaching patrol of community rangers in the Democratic Republic of Congo has just finished its mission with modest U.S. funding support. The rangers are men and women recruited from local villages to protect species at risk from poaching in the Kisimba-Ikobo Primates Reserve.

The Reserve is home to endangered gorillas, chimpanzees, Okapi, native birds, Pangolins and

Elephants. All have seen an increase in poaching since the 2007 world recession with most of the demand from the middle class to affluent Chinese consumer. The value of a single rhinoceros horn is worth much more than its weight in gold. I have included a few photos of its most recent June patrol.

80 rangers are funded by a shoestring but meticulously detailed budget (right down to women's feminine hygiene products). To effectively patrol these vast jungle areas it requires a platoon like group of rangers with logistical support, training, equipment/ uniforms, communications and food for up to 30 days or more. The ranger patrol project proposal stated: "Rangers will consume their usual foods (rice, beans, cassava bread, coffee, sugar, and potatoes)" The goal of the project was to "allow



...community rangers...to improve working conditions by acquiring food autonomy from the patrol ration".

And we think we have working condition hardships in California? This is a whole other work paradigm. No food, no patrols. To counter poacher activity successfully there need to be regular well equipped patrols The annual food and support budget for patrol missions in one of the four Primate Reserve sectors is \$6,000. A government ranger in the Congo makes about \$1,000 USD annually. CAF rangers less.

These 80 rangers do not work for the government but more like a CSPRA of the Congo. The CAF, Community Rangers Association of the Congo was founded by Jean Claude Muhindo Ndakasi a former Congolese government ranger who spent several years assigned



to Virunga National Park. To get a true feel of the hazards and challenges of being a DRC ranger watch the Netflix 2014 documentary, Virunga.

The CAF mission is to engage local villagers to be more supportive of the parks since many lived within these wild lands before they became parks. Some villagers had been evicted from land they had hunted and foraged in for generations.

This local approach to ranger stewardship has been a growing trend that the CAF is spearheading. The government does not have the resources or in some cases the political will to protect the critters for which the parks were established. CAF is headquartered in Goma City

in eastern DRC.

I am hoping to take a CAF proposal to the CSPRA board of directors for a similar affiliation akin the Mongolia

park partnership at some future date. I will report further details of this and other projects in both the Congo and Uganda in a future WAVE article.



Negro Bar – Name Change?

*By Dan Winkelman
and Rodi Lee*

The history of Negro Bar is emblematic of a small gold rush town that prospered for a short time and was abandoned for greater prospects at a larger settlement away from river floods. In 1849 two men of African heritage found gold on a sand bar located below what is now historic Sutter Street in Folsom California.

The bar was about a mile long and yielded two ounces of gold per day. As was common practice of the day, the area was named for the origin of the miners who discovered gold in the area and Negro Bar was chosen, in later years many used the N-word instead. One of the men's names is lost to history, but the other, **Samuel Smith**, can be

identified from San Quentin records where he was imprisoned after being convicted for murder.

Negro Bar grew rapidly and by 1850 had a hotel and general merchandise store owned by the Meredith brothers. Soon two more stores opened followed by a saw mill and a theater. In 1855 the route for the first rail road in California was constructed by the Sacramento Valley Railroad Company.

High priority for the line was placement above the river flood zone. It ran from Sacramento to the foot of present day Sutter Street above Negro Bar. A new town originally named Granite City was built at the



end of the line. The name was changed when the president of the railroad company passed away. In his honor, Granite City became the City of Folsom.

Today Negro Bar lies at the bottom of the American River/Lake Natoma. The north side of the river was named Maine Bar. Oddly the town of Negro Bar was actually across the river

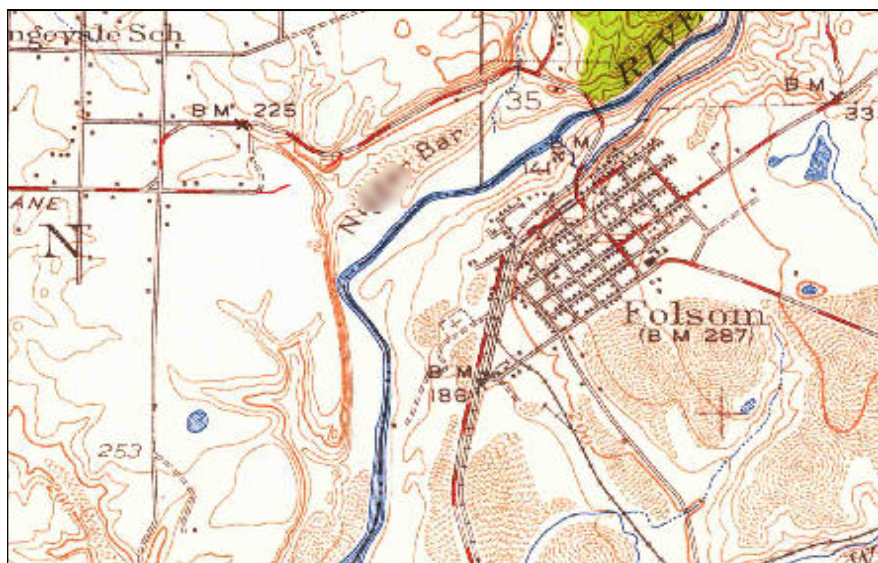


from the area that is now called Negro Bar. Negro Bar features a boat launch ramp, swimming area, group camp, a major paved trail for bikes and hikers, and a paddle board rental. A project to improve ADA restrooms, access to the beach, and a building for the paddle board concession/ junior lifeguard meeting room is underway. Also interpretive panels will be installed that tell the story of Negro Bar.

The name Negro Bar has been controversial for decades and now is causing many to demand change.

Phaedra Jones was so appalled by the name that she started a name change petition two years ago that now has 26,000 signatures.

How many of those who signed actually were aware of all the elements of the issue is unknown. People of both White and Black



The offensive name shows clearly on this 1922 topo map (pre-state park)

ancestry have made their opinion known. Each side has supporters of both cultural backgrounds. The Sacramento Region is at present taking a hard look at symbols of racial injustice and Negro Bar is at the forefront. Those who support the Negro Bar name see that any change would

erase the significant contribution made by Black citizens to the City of Folsom. It is a legacy that deserves recognition. A name change will take away the honor given to the men who worked hard in search of gold. Without the name Negro Bar there is no recognition for miners of color.



The Renovation Project currently underway includes interpretive panels that tell the story of Negro Bar

Homer Rail is a retired State Park Ranger who worked at Folsom Lake State Recreation Area in 1965. He has made a suggestion that may bring all sides of the name change dispute to a resolution. His idea is to add a subtitle to the existing Negro Bar sign that says, "Former African-American Gold Mining Settlement." That sign addition and the installation of Negro Bar interpretive panels would add an educational element to the name rather than removing the entrance sign and the historical significance of the park experience.

Interpretation in the Age of COVID

Somewhere around mid-March, things just stopped. It seemed like no big deal at first, but soon it became obvious that this might really be some kind of “tipping point”. Many interpreters found it particularly tough. Seasonal jobs in interpretation were all but nonexistent this summer. Some seasonals were transferred into maintenance work and many interpreters ended up reassigned to Covid contact tracing. Permanent interpreters were hard-hit. The California Academy of Sciences laid off 105 employees, furloughed another 96 and reduced salaries for another 165.

But amid all of the doom and gloom, there were exciting things happening in the field of interpretation too. Instead of doing the same old thing that has been done every summer, it was now time to seriously innovate if interpreters were going to stay relevant at all. Suddenly everyone was going live on Facebook for nature walks, creating video web content and virtual Junior Ranger Programs.

We spoke with Anne Kassebaum, Chief of Interpretive and Recreation



Nocturnal Animals, 11m:08s



Services for East Bay Regional Park District about her experience. Her team was creating entirely new content for the District webpage within a week. Most days you will find something brand new posted before 9 am. The park district has long enjoyed strong citizen support (and funding) and did not want to lose that connection when people were not in their parks.



Geology Ancient Life: Sunol, 2m:20s

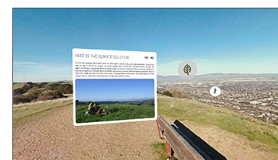
These “Creature Features” have proved very popular. The first ones were recorded very simply on the Naturalist’s phones before starting to upgrade the equipment and quality of the production through the generosity of their Foundation.

Acknowledging that those school buses are not coming anymore, they shifted to a new reality and

offer live in-person virtual programs via Facebook, Instagram, Zoom, Microsoft Teams and other platforms. While there was virtual content available before the days of covid, it has become much richer during the lockdown.

Ms. Kassebaum credits the success of this effort to her 26 Naturalists and their supervisors with Ira Bletz and Kevin Damstra leading the way. She also praises Trent Pierce for his Pond Studies (and excellent film technique). Ashley Adams brings the excitement needed to reach elementary students while Morgan Guenther’s talents with toddlers comes through silly songs. Each of these talented naturalists is finding their niche in this new digital world.

Chief Kassebaum sums it up nicely “We have to stay relevant. We can’t quit just because people can’t come”.



Mutual Ensured Survival: Pleasanton Ridge Regional Park. Discover the wonders of Pleasanton Ridge as we explore how East Bay Regional Park District is a leader in climate resiliency.



Discover Alameda Creek: Sunol Regional Wilderness: Alameda Creek snakes through the hills of the East Bay, connecting habitats and communities. Discover the ways this strand of water weaves us together.



To get a more interactive experience, try Timelooper. The “East Bay Parks: Virtual Tour” in the Apple App store.

Interpreters with California State Parks also had to shift what they do overnight. According to Brad Krey, Chief Instigator for the Department, “the existing culture of digital interpretation made the shift easier. No one wrote up a plan and got it approved – interpreters were given enough latitude to just react and do”. Existing expertise from their longstanding PORTS Program supported these efforts with technology and risk management, heading off concerns like “Zoom Bombing” and assuring a safe place for K-12 students.

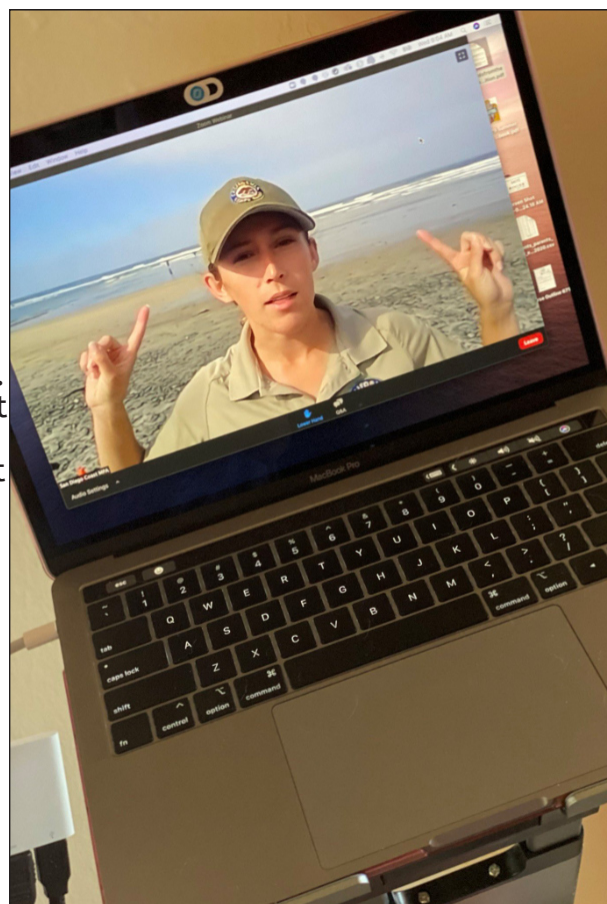
Krey claims the title of “First” in response to this global crisis because of their extensive ongoing partnership network. State Parks (through their generous partners) immediately had the ability to offer webinars with a capacity of 1000 endpoints and they leveraged that to offer 6 programs a day reaching over 200,000 kids in the first few weeks.

The goal was to move quickly to deliver “continuity of learning” so a whole lot of content was ready to go within 3 to 4

days. They followed a model more like Silicon Valley (and unlike government) where you build just enough to be presentable and get it out to the public, then you adjust and improve as you go. They enjoyed trust and buy-in from staff, management and non-profit partners which also facilitated moving quickly. Krey has been fielding inquiries from interpreters as far away as New York, New Jersey and Washington and sharing tips to get them up to speed.

The public demand has been huge. The biggest response was at Sutter’s Fort. As staff there contacted teachers to cancel long-planned field trips they shared online program information and asked them to forward it to their students. The response was overwhelming.

Interpreters throughout the department have demonstrated the agility to find their audience through social media, that is no longer coming to the park. The real heroes that answered the queries from all over the state (and coached, cajoled and mentored) were Jen Langer, Erin Gates, Scott Shepherd, Brandon Caskey and Erika Delemarre. Mr. Krey is quick to credit the success to their extraordinary efforts. He



explains, the task now is to somehow curate and leverage all of these digital “objects”. They need to be usable, searchable, tagged, cataloged and linked into related web content. Once parks reopen, the richness of this additional content will offer a “blended access” model, leading to deeper personal and emotional connections to the resources.



Cali Quail Turns 35 – Time To Celebrate

By Mike Lynch

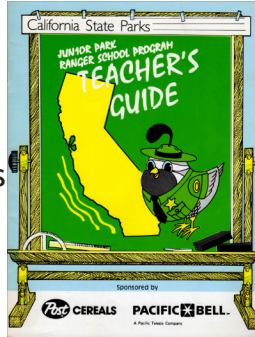
Cali Quail and “POP Into A Park” burst on the scene in 1985 with the publication of a Cali Passport and a Cali-themed Junior Ranger Teachers Guide (by Jenny Verardo). The Cali and POP program were a joint effort between



California State Parks and POST Cereals and Pacific Bell. POST Cereals used Cali to promote a line of non-nutritious and sugary children’s cereals by offering free state park entry or a Cali stuffed doll for sending in box tops from selected cereals.

There many other Cali themed projects including Kids Can Do It All, Reading Rewards, Rangers to the Rescue, and a creative

writing contest for fourth to sixth grade school kids who could win Coleman camping gear.



Out in the field, there were six Cali Quail mascot costumes. These were designed and produced by Disney for a reported \$5,000 each. Reportedly, the costumes were very hard to get into and the wearer



was nearly blind due to the small eye openings. Governor George Dukemajian got into the Cali swing of things when he was pictured with Cali in the department News & Views newsletter.

There does not seem to have been much in the way of Cali memorabilia items like pins, stickers, or

patches, apart from the Cali plush toy from Post. One unusual Cali related item was the large 6.5” gold-colored state park system badge that came with the Cali costume, the largest officially used badge in department history!



The Cali and POP program faded from the department by the late 1980s. It is not known when exactly the last Cali costume was officially used.



To celebrate Cali Quail’s 35th Anniversary, the California State Parks Anniversary Committee (CSPAC) has produced a limited supply of Cali Quail patches. These patches are available for \$5 each (including postage). To buy your Cali patch, email to cspac150@gmail.com or use PayPal to order and pay for patches using the same email address.



Mixed Metaphors & Malaprops

By Jeff Price,
Seriously Retired

Mixed Metaphor: A combination of thoughts that when strung together produce a ridiculously funny effect of melded clichés.

Virus Voyeurism?

... and we are really paying attention to where people like to conjugate.

Frozen surface?

We've only begun to scratch the tip of the iceberg.

On the nose!

... as we all watched his life evaporate between our eyes.

Bovine dinnerware?

He's definitely not the brightest bull in the China shop

Not to scale?

That decision will certainly tip the needle

Where else would it be?

I'm nervous about my colonoscopy and will be glad to get it behind me.

No footwear means it's a shoe in!

...and now he's waiting for the other foot to drop.

So, is there an alternative?

This nonstop weather just keeps happening.

Isn't there supposed to be a cart in there somewhere?

They have it all backwards, they are putting their feet before the fire.

He was raven about it, which is nothing to crow about, and I've been rooked.

The administration is not handling the CORVID-19 issue very well with 130,000 dead.

Wave Goodbye: Jon Zaugg

Jon Zaugg passed away June 16, at the age of 71, due to complications from Alzheimers. Jon started with State Parks back in the 90's as a Heavy Equipment Mechanic in the Santa Cruz District. Those that worked in the District back then remember that he was a top notch mechanic with great organizational skills to go along with his mechanical skills.

Jon however wanted to change directions and he got into supervision on the Tech Services side, ending up

before he retired as the District Services Manager in the Central Valley District. He lived in Groveland.

Jon is survived by his wife Donna (retired DPR) along with his two children. His daughter Tamra, works for Parks in Maintenance. Folks who had the pleasure to working with Jon recall him as "kind, caring, knew his job, and had a good sense of humor. Big Jon with a heart to match." He was also remembered fondly by old friends from La Habra High School.

CSPRA is affiliated with other non-profit organizations that share our goals.

The Park Rangers Association of California is a professional organization for park Rangers and other uniformed park employees of municipal, county, special district, state and federal agencies.



The International Ranger Federation is a non-profit organization established to raise awareness of and support the critical work that the world's park rangers do in conserving our natural and cultural heritage.



Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs was established in 1932 for Mutual Service and for the Promotion of the Proper Use, Enjoyment and Protection of America's Scenic Wilderness and Outdoor Recreation Resources.



Association of National Park Rangers is an organization created to communicate for, about and with National Park Service employees of all disciplines and to provide a forum for professional enrichment.



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If you or a co-worker will be retiring soon, please contact Membership Services Coordinator Betsy Anderson at (707) 884-3949.

betsy@cspira.com.



Already Retired?

Want to keep in touch after you leave DPR? Join GrayBears email ListServ - FREE and EASY

graybears@cspira.com

Join CSPRA Or join us online at cspira.com

Name: _____

Address: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Job Classification: _____

District / Park: _____

Social Security # _____ (req'd for payroll deduction)

Phone(W) _____ Phone (H) _____

Email: _____

Membership Type (Check one)

- ☐ Active \$10/month
- ☐ Active Retired \$60/year (\$5/mo.)
- ☐ Supporting \$36/year*
- ☐ Organization \$50/year*
- ☐ Benefactor \$1,000/life*

* Please include check for 1 year's dues for these membership levels.

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 canceled 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 _____

Membership by Mail:

CSPRA — Betsy Anderson
PO Box 618 Gualala, CA 95445



California State Park Rangers Association



CSPRA is an organization of State Park professionals dedicated to advancement of the highest principles of public service, established to support and preserve California State Parks for present and future generations

Founded 1964