



The CSPRA

Wave

Volume 24, Number 1

Newsletter of the CALIFORNIA STATE PARK RANGERS ASSOCIATION

Winter 2024

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

Scholarship And Grant Opportunities Are Here For You

Ron Krueper, Training and Development Committee

The California State Park Rangers Association (CSPRA) places a strong emphasis on professional training and career development. To that end, CSPRA offers its members financial assistance through scholarships and grants under the direction of the CSPRA Training and Professional Development Committee.

CSPRA offers two basic kinds of support to members as follows:

Training and Education Scholarships are available for professional and career development training courses, seminars fees, or similar career enhancement training endeavors, that fit the mission and goals of California State Parks (CSP) and/or CSPRA. The scholarships are for training the state parks will not fund. An example might be to attend the California Parks Training Conference or

an out-of-state conference of the National Association for Interpretation (NAI).

Professional Development Grants are available for non-training activities that expand an individual's skills, knowledge, expertise or other characteristics as a park professional and that fit within the mission and goals of California State Parks and/or CSPRA. Examples would be attendance at the World Ranger Congress, making a presentation at a park-related symposium or volunteering at an archaeological dig.

The Training & Development Committee is also interested in other financial assistance requests, needs and ideas from all members for assistance in their careers or work place. We need you, the member, to take the next step in developing your skills and enhancing your perspective of the park profession. Download the Application [here](#) for specific criteria and rules.

Send questions and/or your completed application to CSPRA, Ron Krueper PO Box 1667, Big Bear Lake, CA 92315. Ron@cspira.com 909 838 8249

Over the last 25 years, over \$40,000.00 in scholarships and grants have been awarded to members to attend such courses as an historic preservation class given by the Sagamore Institute, training to learn how to make a wooden bow from a bowmaster in Texas, the National Association for Interpretation Conference, a course on Elementary Science and how to teach kids from K-6 at Hayward State University, a course on Basic River Canoeing, a conference by the Association for Living Historical Farmers and Agricultural Museums, a leadership training course sponsored by Leadership Santa Cruz County, the California Mission Studies Conference, and scholarships to attend the CSPRA conference held each year.



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**Deadline for next issue
March 15**

Medal of Valor & Award of Honor

The Medal of Valor, Medal of Honor, of Life Saving Medal are for park professionals employed by any California, Nevada, Oregon, or Washington state municipal, county, state, regional or federal park agency open space district, or special park district.

Nominations are now open and must be submitted by January 15th 2024.

Nominations must be submitted to Mike Warner at michael.warner@cityofpaloa.to.org or Rick Parmer (CSPRA/PRAC liaison) at rickrparmer@gmail.com. A copy of the nomination form will be sent by either committee rep for prospective candidates. The completed forms should be submitted by email only and are confidential.

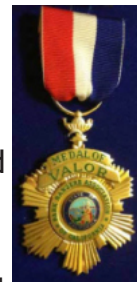
Nominations were suspended during the pandemic and resumed in 2022. The Awards Committee is getting back on an annual cycle but can consider acts that occurred since 2020 if deemed appropriate for consideration.

The Awards

Medal of Valor

Public safety personnel are routinely charged with handling emergency situations and may be called upon at any time to put their own personal safety at

risk. Park rangers and other park professional classifications fight wild land fires, conduct search and rescue operations, apprehend law breakers, provide emergency medical services, and perform other duties to ensure the safety and welfare of the public they serve.



The Valor award may be presented to any park professional who risks his or her own life to an extraordinary degree in saving or attempting to save the life of another person. Or sacrifices him or herself in a heroic manner. The heroic act does not have to be related to the recipients official duties nor occur at their official duty station. They can be on or off duty.

Award of Honor

The Award of Honor may be presented by the Association to the individuals whose actions are admirable or heroic but do not arise to the Medal of Valor criteria.

Lifesaving Award

The lifesaving award may be presented by the Association to individuals whose actions are an exceptional act under emergency conditions not involving bravery wherein a service is rendered that results directly in sustaining human life.

President's Message

By David Carle

There is a report in this WAVE issue on the State Parks Rendezvous held in November at Lake Perris. Great speakers, field trips, and organization by **Ron Krueper**, who I presented with the President's Award plaque for all of the work he has done for CSPRA. As I hinted at in the Autumn newsletter, we plan to go to the North Coast Redwoods for the 2024 Rendezvous.

While hiking on Mt. San Jacinto during our conference, my phone woke up and I received an email from **Director Quintero**. He was sorry he could not attend the Rendezvous but wished us success. He then addressed our interest in identifying long-term dedicated funding for the Department. Here are some excerpts ([the full letter is on our website](#)).

"For the last three years State Parks has been experiencing support from the legislators, the Governor, and the Resources agency unlike anything in recent memory. We have received two years of robust budgets and program support and in the most recent budget year State Parks received extraordinary support from our legislators.

The actions and investments we are making in the parks continue to receive the full attention of the state's executive leadership, the

legislators, the public and our many non-profit partners and philanthropic supporters. The legislators are not only aware and concerned about challenges with deferred maintenance - they know and are seeing the progress we are making in tackling the priority issues in parks.

In the next few months, we will be publishing a 5-year strategic plan, "Paths Forward" ...our current answer to the near future challenges and opportunities that the California State Parks are facing."

Regarding other issues we are following, there is still no word regarding the court ordered CEQA analysis for theater performances at Jack London SHP. The final EIR has now been released for the gondola project that would impact LA SHP, with no significant adjustments to the draft we had commented on. The State Park Commission will have to take on the question of amending the park's General Plan to permit a "transit corridor," so opportunities to comment will be forthcoming in 2024.



In our Fall election, Vice President **Ann Meneguzzi** and Treasurer **Ron Krueper** ran unopposed, but there were 6 candidates competing for 3 Board of Directors positions. Not surprisingly, that led to a very close race. I congratulate **Sal Goshorn** and **Rich Rozzelle** on being re-elected, and welcome new Board member, **Greg Kania**. Greg becomes the fifth active-duty park professional currently serving CSPRA. We thank **Rob Pickett** for his years of service as a Director. Next year the cycle of 2-year terms means 4 positions become available, and I hope **Riley Budd**, **Mark Hada**, and **Steve Moore** will run again.

Thanks, everyone, for your support to CSPRA and California State Parks.

David Carle

High Desert Delight

Rendezvous At a Lake, a Mountain, & an Orange Grove

By Janet Carle

As we drove south, the temperatures warmed and the sun shone on the Joshua Trees. We were heading to a place we hadn't explored much before, the Moreno Valley high desert. Dave and I have heard many stories over the years from the Perris-ites about the challenges of working at the reservoir, a place close to a major urban population and developed intensively for all sorts of recreation. It was fun to finally see the park. In November, with balmy weather and a few token weekday visitors, we had the place to ourselves: a beautiful blue lake, acres of grass and big trees and an empty campground!

The first field trip was to the California Citrus State Historic Park. Dave felt like he'd gone back in time to

the days of his childhood in Orange County among the groves. The park interprets the long history of citrus fruit and is surrounded by a working citrus operation. State Park Interpreter I **Jose Cabello** showed us around the grove and visitor center and helped us appreciate the combination of challenges and opportunities such a unique park provides. In the afternoon, we toured the Lake Perris Ya'l Hek'l Regional Indian Museum with SPI I **Philip Harvey** and SPI II **Ian Bernstein**. The Museum, in a spectacular glass building overlooking the lake, is working with five local tribes to tell relevant stories. A wonderful day finished with a late afternoon bird walk with volunteer **Joyce Schwartz**, enjoying grebes and pelicans at the far end of the lake.

Our second day featured a ride up the Palm Springs



Aerial Tramway to Mt. San Jacinto State Park and Wilderness, one of the most interesting parks in our California State Park System. Imagine managing a wilderness park where a half million visitors a year are whisked to your doorstep in 15 minutes from the desert floor! I felt like we had magically gone back home to Yosemite! Ranger **Stephen James** shared what it is like to welcome the world and keep everyone safe at the same time. Resource Scientist **Ken Kietzer** led a hike to Hidden Lake, a vernal pool jewel that is home to a rare plant found nowhere else on Earth. More management challenges! **Donnell Norwood**, Operational



Liaison, provided insight as well. Fencing, no advertising and a permit system seem to be working well to protect the Hidden Lake Blue Curl plants.

Our last day featured an array of speakers: **Ken Kietzer** told us more about the Blue Curl plant, BLM Law Enforcement Ranger **Tom Friend** shared his experiences taking care of the desert, Resource Scientist **Doug Rischbieter** gave us fascinating insights into meadow restoration and controlling erosion and **Richard Rojas** discussed the Latino Outdoors program. After a delicious street taco lunch, keynote speaker **Jay Chamberlin**, Chief of the Natural Resources Division, spoke about the challenges faced by Parks in an era of climate crisis. He feels state parks can be a leader in sustainable stewardship, partnerships and multi-disciplinary management. His words inspired us all to do what we can in our own parks and communities to be part of resilience building! Inland Empire Superintendent **Kelly Elliott** next gave an update on what's going on in the District: land acquisition at Chino Hills, a new marina at Silverwood Lake, new development at California Citrus and a solar system at Providence Mountains. Lots going on!



An emotional highlight was a successful live Zoom connection with 99-year-old retired Ranger **Jim Davis** in Maui, Hawaii. A certificate from CSPRA acknowledging Jim's long service to State Parks and as one of the original CSPRA members was presented by the staff where Jim lodges these days. It was great to hear Jim and to put the Rendezvous audience on camera to cheer Jim.

As we enjoyed a lakeshore BBQ on our last evening together, we had a new appreciation of this special corner of California and a better understanding of the challenges faced in its State Parks. The staff were all so welcoming and much was learned about plans and projects in this varied and dynamic District.

A special huge thanks goes

to **Ron Krueper**, retired Inland Empire District Superintendent, who made it all happen. His seamless organization made it look easy, but it was lots of attention to detail and connections that made our visit so special. He even cooked the meat for the BBQ! **Dave Carle** presented Ron with the President's Award, a perpetual plaque, to recognize all of Ron's contributions to CSPRA as Treasurer and organizer of this successful conference.



The Ayers Hotel in Moreno Valley went out of their way to accommodate us in everything from lobby gatherings to hosting the Board Meeting in their breakfast room.

So after all these years, I have finally visited Lake Perris with a full lake, quiet in the off-season, but I can imagine all those picnic and camping spots taken and a lake full of boats.

Photos courtesy of Janet Carle, Pat Clark-Gray, Ron Krueper and Mike Lynch.



Back in the Day – An OHV Historian RA

by Robert Pavlik

After retiring from Caltrans at the end of 2015, I still had some forward momentum (and a continuing love of parks). In January 2016, my longtime friend **Rick LeFlore**, Environmental Program Manager for the Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division, invited me to join the program as a State Historian II (RA). I welcomed the opportunity to return to State Parks, to work with Rick, and to learn about a Division of which I had no knowledge or previous experience. Following Rick's retirement I was able to work with **Dan Canfield** and **Jon O'Brien**, both of whom were terrific in their support of a remote RA.

Living in San Luis Obispo, Oceano Dunes SVRA is a short drive down U.S. 101, but a remarkable recreational park and a dramatic coastal landscape



with a fascinating history and a first-rate staff. Prior to my appointment, all I knew about Oceano Dunes was what **Joe von Herrmann** told me of his experiences there in the 1970s! I didn't get to know the Rangers or Lifeguards but I was always glad to see them on duty! **Kevin Pearce** was the Superintendent and **Jeff Findlay** was the District Maintenance Chief, and

Lloyd Kinney was Maintenance Supervisor, all first rate professionals. The Resources and Interpretive staff—**Ronnie Glick**, **Stephanie Little**, **Danielle Bronson**, **Dena Bellman**, **Mallory Claassen**—were great to work with. In the District office, **Robyn Mackey** and her colleagues were always welcoming, supportive and of great assistance. My typical duties included reviewing proposed projects for PRC 5024 compliance, writing brief historical overviews, and attending public meetings on issues related to the Public Works Plan and to the proposed actions of the California Coastal Commission. The importance of the park to its users, many of whom are longtime users and hail from multi-generational families with extensive ties to the region, cannot be overstated. I was privileged to tag along on



field trips with park staff and Senior Engineering Geologist **Will Harris** (with the California Geological Survey), and assisted Senior Fisheries Biologist **Doug Rischbieter** with a couple fish surveys in Arroyo Grande Creek. I enjoyed working with Parks Attorney **Kathryn Tobias**, and benefited from the experience of our neighbor **Elizabeth Scott-Graham**, former Program Manager of the Dunes Center, who graciously shared her files with me.



At Hollister Hills SVRA and Carnegie SVRA, Archaeologist **Jay Baker** and Resource Ecologist **Clint Esholz** and I worked together on several resource surveys. Supervising Ranger **Anthony Guzman** introduced me to the fascinating park that is Prairie City SVRA. At Hungry Valley SVRA I benefitted from the knowledge and expertise of Biologist **Chris Hon** and Interpreter **Steve Ptomey**, and coordinated with Park and Recreation Specialist **Kate Metraux** on

the General Plan for Hungry Valley. **Jim Newland** was Program Manager at the Southern Service Center and always supportive. As an aside, **Mary Kate Donahue**, the sister of an old friend of mine, was an early Maintenance Worker at Hungry Valley. We didn't cross paths, but I admire the work that she and others performed at this important recreation area.

Ocotillo Wells SVRA is lucky to have **Diana Fong**, **Sarah Lockhart** and **Alex Napier** (and others) oversee the natural and cultural resources of that vast region, along with Heber Dunes SVRA, Salton Sea SRA, and Picacho SRA (I still need to get out to Picacho!).

The 50th anniversary celebration of the Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division was a blast! Fellow RA (State Park Interpreter) **Don Schmidt** did a great job of organizing the event, which was held at Hungry Valley SVRA. There were events for young people on mini-bikes, safety



demonstrations, exhibits highlighting the management that allows for the balance between recreation and resources, and good food! While I was helping to direct visitors to the parking area, who should drive in but my old friends **Bill Moffat** and **Debbie See**! It was great seeing them again after all these years.

In closing, as a Boy Scout in the 1960s San Fernando Valley, I remember seeing the damage in the Los Padres National Forest prior to the Chappie-Z'berg Off-Highway Motor Vehicle law of 1971. I can personally attest to the hard work, the dedicated restoration, the application of even-handed law enforcement, the careful management that brought these lands back, that offer quality recreation along with resource protection of precious natural and cultural resources. I salute every member of the OHV Team, past, present, future. Keep up the great work.



Honoring Mark Faull A Renaissance Ranger

*Words from John W. Foster
shared by Dave Carle*

On October 14, the Red Rock Canyon Interpretive Association hosted a luncheon to honor retired Ranger **Mark Faull**. I was pleased to attend and say a few words as CSPRA's President and as an admirer of Mark's amazing career and longtime commitment to Red Rock Canyon State Park. One of the speakers that day was **John W. Foster**, retired Chief of the Cultural Resources Division, who titled his words [excerpted here]. "**Mark R. Faull, A Renaissance Ranger.**"

Even in HQ we understood the best Rangers in state parks are the mythical Generalist Rangers. They can bust the bad characters out there, render life-saving aid to park visitors in need, and then lead a hike or conduct a campfire highlighting state park wonders in the great outdoors. They might be seen stalking a remote wildflower bloom, explaining complex geological history that left a banded tattoo on the landscape, or perhaps identifying tracks in the sand left behind by a lizard, bird, or mammal.

Mark could do all that, but as a renaissance ranger, he added another dimension. He could discuss the human history on a park landscape as it was in modern times,

and what we can say about it 100, 1,000, 5,000 or even 10,000 years ago. In addition to his keen observations of the human interaction with landscape features at Red Rock Canyon, Mark became friends with many of the archaeologists and other specialists who worked in this region. He helped with their analyses and extrapolated those findings to piece together the human history of Red Rock Canyon as a cultural landscape.

In addition to keeping up his Ranger duties "amidst the spires and cathedrals of stone," Mark found time to publish his findings and ideas in professional journals - an important contribution to the next generation of park professionals. I always

looked forward to seeing Mark... and listening to his ideas on the distribution of Coso obsidian, village establishment and population dynamics in Eastern California prehistory.

Finally, some of my favorite times with Mark were when we taught in the Asilomar BVST training for new Peace Officers. Instead of "Defensive Tactics," Mark's role was to demonstrate how they could also make a difference by learning the intricacies of human experience and natural history on California's parklands. Think of it as "Renaissance Tactics." I'm glad to be celebrating Mark's career as a Renaissance Ranger with you today, and now you know what the R stands for!



Mark R. Faull, left, listening to praise from Russ Dingman, Superintendent of the Great Basin District

Wave Goodbye

Ian Branaman

Ian Branaman lost his battle with cancer in October leaving behind his wife, Pam, and their two young daughters, Emma and Ava. Ian loved his job at California State Parks, and the people he worked with were all very special to him. He served as Staff Services Manager II in HQ for 7 years. In addition to the smile Ian always wore and his piercing blue eyes, we will remember him for his strong desire to solve problems, his sense of humor, how clever he was, his quick wit and most importantly, his friendship. He had a knack for making one feel like they were his top priority, where he would go to the ends of the world (and he would, too). Come to find out, he did this for everyone, as we were all special in his mind and he cherished every relationship he built.

Although his passing leaves a void, he also leaves behind a legacy. Ian will be greatly missed. May we all be an Ian in someone's life, be there to help those when needed and to make them feel as though there is nothing and no one more important. Cherish the memories, share stories and funny tales of our dear friend.



Dale Buschke

Dale Herbert Buschke was born in Fresno and graduated from Mt. Diablo High School. At age 17 enlisted in the US Navy, serving on the USS Cimarron and the USS Buck for the last months of WW2. He served as a Captain in the US Marine Corps during the Korean Conflict. Dale attended Brigham Young University and graduated from the University of Southern California in 1951. There he met and married his wife of 72 years, Mary Ann.

He went to work for Shell Oil, where he was on the executive fast track until he made a career change in 1958, joining the California Department of Parks and Recreation as a State Park Ranger. Working his way up the ranks, he and his family were stationed at Pfeiffer Big Sur, Morro Bay, DL Bliss at Lake Tahoe, Humboldt Redwoods at Burlington, Prairie Creek Redwoods and Jack London Historic State Park before moving to Sacramento Headquarters, finally returning to Sonoma County as Director for the Northern Region of California. He also served on the Santa Rosa City Personnel Board for 18 years. He was a wilderness lover, exploring back roads in his jeep, hiking park trails and camping.

Jim Neal



Jim was born in 1935 and moved to California as a child. As long as he could remember he had wanted to be a Park Ranger.

After graduating from Coachella Valley High in 1953, he worked on the trail crew at Mt. San Jacinto State Park as a park aid. Jim went to Oregon State School of Forestry and returning home found an opening at Salton Sea for a park attendant. He was there from 1956-1960 where met Beverly and they married in 1959. In 1960-1961 he worked at Anza-Borrego where their first daughter Susan was born. Then at Huntington Beach as Ranger I and back to Anza-Borrego in 1961 to 1964, where daughter Kelley was born. Jim worked a split position, Anza in the winter, San Jacinto in the summer.

In 1964 he was at Big Basin, then Ranger II in Morro Bay. In 1968 the family moved to Hendy Woods, where son Eric was born, then as a Ranger III, at Humboldt. Jim promoted to Ranger IV in 1975 working in Concessions at HQ Sacramento and then to Old Town San Diego as Area Manager. He retired in 1988 as Inland Region Deputy Regional Director.

Jim passed from Pneumonia at age 88.

Mixed Metaphors & Malaprops

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. Send us along any overheard slips of the tongue - malaprops@cspira.com

Some of these I just don't get.

This is so obvious you could connect the Crayons with a dot.

Dark inside that case.

She certainly isn't the brightest lightbulb in the toolbox.

Messy bovine high.

When we close this deal we can live like hogs.

A penny for your thoughts.

After that, he's not getting a single red dime!

Overloaded dishware.

I just can't help right now, I already have too many pots on my plate.



Some of these are a continued mystery to unravel!

He's already burned all the rope he was given at both ends, so the judge is not going to split the baby on this one.

Stratospheric surrender.

They commanded him to put his hands above the air, but he failed to comply.

Limited collection.

The fastball has been that pitcher's only arsenal.

Cuff 'em Danno.

You never know what this guy will have under his sleeves.

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

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



The International Ranger Federation supporting the critical work that the world's park rangers do in conserving our natural and cultural heritage.



Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs Promotion of the Proper Use, Enjoyment and Protection of America's Scenic Wilderness and Outdoor Resources.



Association of National Park Rangers communicating for, about and with National Park Service employees of all disciplines and providing a forum for professional enrichment



California Park Hospitality Association representing companies and individuals who provide hospitality services under contract with the California State Parks.



California League of Park Associations supporting the Non-profits that are partners with State Parks.



Ranger Foundation — Rangers Helping Rangers. Our 501(c)3 charitable organization just raised funds for a study of Mono Lake's migrating phalaropes in Argentina. More information about how you can help [HERE](#).





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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.
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- ☐ Active Retired \$60/year (\$5/mo.)
- ☐ Supporting \$36/year*
- ☐ Organization \$50/year*
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* 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



The CSPRA Rendezvous tours Hidden Lake, story on page 4

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