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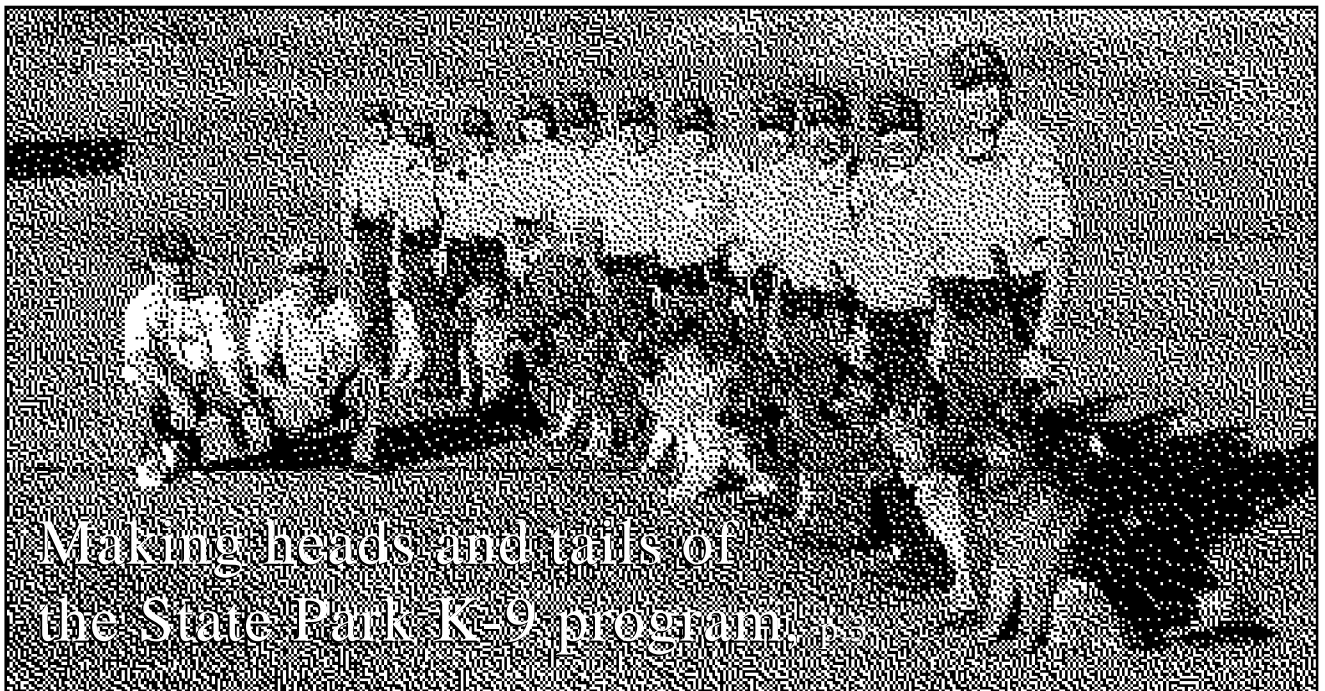
Wave

Newsletter

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California State Park Rangers Association

September - October 2001





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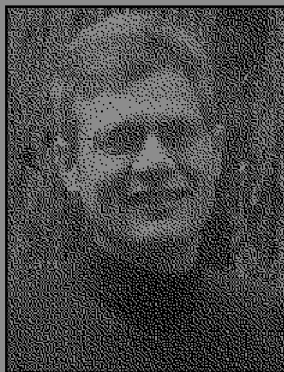
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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



BY GEARY HUND

CSPRA President

A couple of months ago, a strange unfamiliar haze settled over Idyllwild, where I live in the southern California Mountains. Because of our elevation, 5200 feet, and other mitigating factors, we are fortunate to have good air quality most of the time, but it can get smoggy under the right conditions.

However, this was not typical southern California air pollution; it was unlike anything I had ever seen before. It was reminiscent of accounts of 19th century industrial Europe – it was a thick, reddish brown pall hanging in the air. A day or so later I learned that a strong windstorm on the steppes of Mongolia had blown smog from China across the Pacific to California.

For me, the moral of the story was, what happens anywhere in the world can affect anywhere else, and the choices we make affect our environment. While we benefit from inexpensive, Chinese goods, the cost is ultimately higher than we pay at the store.

An example closer to home is the Salton Sea, which supports millions of birds; over 400 species have been recorded there. The Sea is a critical stepping-stone in the Pacific Flyway and it helps offset the tremendous loss of wetlands that has occurred. Now, efforts are underway to divert 300,000 acre-feet a year away from

the Salton Sea to thirsty Southern California. It is predicted that this action would lower the Sea by 15 feet, destroying the fishery, and exposing 40,000 acres of lake sediments in what is now productive bird habitat.

As much as we love parks, our diligent efforts to protect, maintain, restore, connect, and buffer them, need to be coupled with sustainable living practices at work and at home. We also need to convey this message to the millions of Californian's who cherish State Parks – today, many people are several steps removed from their connection to the land. They may not see the nexus between conserving water and saving the Salton Sea, and they may not recognize that driving a high mileage car could prevent the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and many other fragile places from being despoiled. State Parks must communicate this message by example – by recycling, using recycled materials, buying and driving fleets of low emission, high mileage vehicles, using biodegradable chemicals, using alternative building materials, designing and building energy efficient buildings, practicing energy and water conservation, and by the installation and use of solar panels and other renewable energy sources. We must also communicate this message through education and interpretation – the future of our parks and the rest of our natural world may ultimately depend on what and how we consume.

Another way to help ensure the future of our parks and our planet is to invest responsibly. CSPRA is committed to investing our funds only with companies who are socially and environmentally responsible. If enough institutions and individuals invest this way, industry will become greener and more humane, much to the benefit of people, the environment and our beloved State Parks. I hope each of you will do what you can to contribute to sustainability. Prompt action is needed, and it will make a difference!

A Ranger and a dog not named Balu

BY NOAH MARTIN
San Simeon District

The other day I was walking through the visitor center of Hearst Castle with my patrol dog, Gorbi, and a lady asked me, "Why do you have to have K-9s?" Before I explained the usefulness of the K-9 program I said, "I don't have to have a K-9, I choose to have one."

In March I transferred to the dog handler position at the San Simeon District. I always thought that working with a K-9 must be very rewarding, I found that it has changed my life.

When I reported to the San Simeon District I had about a month and a half before I was handed my dog. In that time I had the words of my supervising ranger at Millerton Lake SRA ringing in my head, "Are you sure you're ready for a K-9?" As I traveled to La Honda (just south of Half Moon Bay) in early May to watch the other K-9s work and to pick up my dog, I came to the conclusion that one is never truly ready for anything that will change your life.

As we drove up the old dirt road in La Honda to the training ranch of Witmer-Tyson I saw the other state park dog handlers out and about with their dogs, shaking hands, smiling and conversing. I was the new kid on the block, but I received a warm welcome from everyone there. Within minutes, Jim, the lead agitator and trainer for Witmer-Tyson Imports approached me and said, "Do you want to get your dog?" Of course I responded with a quick yes, and I followed him to a barn at the training ranch where my dog was waiting. They told me his name was Balu and that he was from Hungary, not Germany or Czechoslovakia like the other dogs.

As we approached the kennel my dog was barking, jumping and going crazy. Jim opened the gate and demonstrated how to put a collar on a

dog. I watched, but of course it all happened so fast and the dog was jumping around so much. As he put the leash on him he gave me these two rules before I went to training the next month, don't lose him and don't let him get killed. With those words we began our first walk together.

Suddenly, at the end of this leash

California State Park Dog Handlers:

- Bill Berry, K-9 Coordinator
- Jim Burke, K-9 Coordinator
- Andy Ahlberg & Urban, San Diego Coast
- Roy Burner & Sam, Santa Cruz
- Rob Chambers & Dino, San Simeon
- Al Chavez & Tarzan, San Diego Coast
- David Graham & Xito, San Simeon
- Terri Jensen & Bear, Four Rivers
- John Russo & Cim, San Simeon
- Jeanne Sisson & Dino, Goldfields
- Mike Smittle & Kahn, Gold Mines
- Randy Trefry & Aero, Goldfields

On the cover: Top photo, K-9 handlers May 2001. Lower left, Rob Chambers and Dino. Bottom right, Ranger Kelly Roach and Jeanne Sisson's Dino.

was a big hairy dog that was pulling so hard I could hardly keep my footing. He barked at growled at all the other dogs, and suddenly I felt like maybe I wasn't ready for this.

That night when I got back to my

hotel room my dog was sleeping in his travel crate while I studied his papers from Hungary. Of course, I couldn't read anything but his name. His titled name was Steinhart Gorbi, but for some reason they told me his call name was Balu. All day I had been calling him Balu in every form I could and he just never responded. So I thought let's try Gorbi. "Gorbi," I called and suddenly he awoke and perked his ears. I tried again, "Gorbi," and he came to me. Well, that settled it, his name is Gorbi, not Balu.

Before the training was over I tried to ask more about giving him direction or commands and Jim told me, "No commands yet, just let him be a dog." So, for the first month Gorbi was just that, a dog. We would go running and hiking together, but at times it was frustrating not giving the dog any commands. He was so young, one and a half, and still acting like a puppy. Thirty years-old and I suddenly felt very young too. The other handlers would give me advice at San Simeon and I must have looked like my dog, young, excited and not knowing where we were going.

The first week of June came and I reported to Fremont to begin my month long training with Witmer-Tyson. John Pfaehler, a ranger from Lake Perris SRA, was going to the class at the same time. John and I reported to the training field the first day and met the other nine handlers from other police agencies from around the Bay Area. Right away I found that Gorbi was the only German Shepard in the group not from Germany.

The dogs varied in training experience and they did not know how much he had since he was the first dog they have used from Hungary.

See K-9, p.5

CSPRA barks out at SB 712

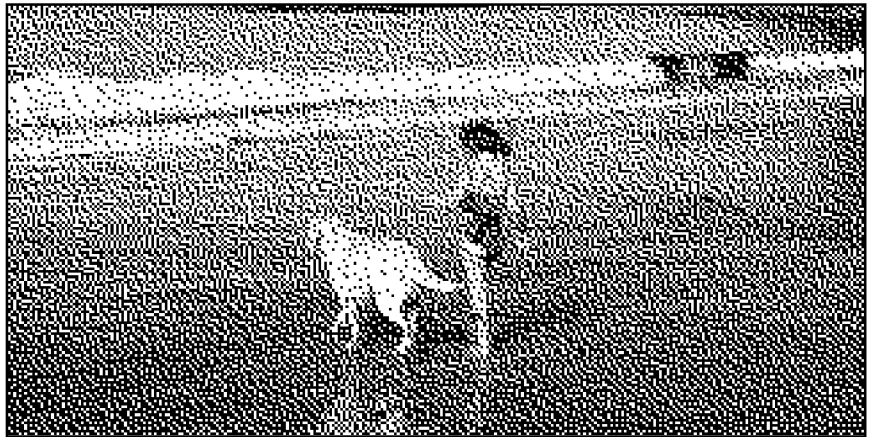
The Director recently met with Senator Speier regarding SB 712, which would require the Department to study the feasibility of allowing dogs off-leash in designated State Recreation Areas.

The Director agreed to initiate a pilot program of off-leash dog use in selected park units. He has set certain criteria for when such use would be acceptable – including avoidance of impacts to resources, not displacing existing recreational use, and confining off-leash use to designated enclosed areas or areas with natural topographic boundaries.

The Director has also formed a task group of off-leash dog advocates, park staff and conservation representatives to develop the program, and to determine which parks will be included. CSPRA was also asked to participate on the task group. CSPRA wants to make it clear to our membership that our fundamental position on this issue has not changed.

We believe that off-leash dogs can pose a public safety risk, and they can cause, stress, injury, or death to wildlife. We acknowledge that there is a great need for dog off leash areas, but we feel this is a local issue, and is not a role that DPR should be playing. In fact, the current Resource Code prohibits this type of use. On August 24, I was asked to sit on the Task Force, representing CSPRA. Also present were five dog park supporters, (four from the Bay Area), Department personnel, and a member of the Sierra Club. The Department representatives unveiled criteria that the Department feels needs to be met for this pilot project to work. That included fenced areas, no impacts to wildlife or displacement of other visitors, supportive operations staff in the proposed areas.

Staff pointed out that several locally run state parks currently allow



dogs off leash. Those parks included Lighthouse Field State Beach, Robert Crown Memorial State Beach and Lake Del Valle SRA. The current areas under consideration for dog off leash areas include Folsom Lake SRA, Prairie City SVRA, Candlestick Point SRA, Kenneth Hahn SRA, Cal Citrus State Historic Park and possibly McNee Ranch (part of Montara State Beach).

The dog off leash proponents come from the perspective that dog walking is a valid recreational activity and should be given the same considerations as other recreational activities. They feel that dog off leash activity should not be held to a higher standard than other recreational uses such as hiking and jogging, and they do not appreciate being treated as outlaws for walking their dogs off leash. They appear to be a well educated, very organized, formidable political group. They seemed unfamiliar with the mission of California State Parks. They were disappointed that the pilot project included fenced dog areas. They would like to see dog off leash trails considered in the pilot program. The Sierra Club representative pointed out that allowing dogs off leash in State Parks at all is an extremely difficult proposition to consider, and they might see that as a great success.

CSPRA made clear at the meeting

that we feel that this is not a State Park issue, and we continue to be opposed to the any amendments to the CCR to allow this to occur. However, it must occur, we would only like to see this type of use in recreation areas, in fenced, previously developed areas, not displacing other recreation.

We are opposed to the precedent set by this program occurring in a state historic park. We feel that a full programmatic EIR is called for, and agree with the Department that public hearings, and general plan amendments are required. Additionally, we have grave concerns about the staffing load this will require. The plan calls for a variety of performance measures to gauge impacts, and will obviously call for more maintenance and enforcement. Since all Department staff are already stretched thin, this seems an unreasonable additional load. The initial outlay costs must also be considered.

With the already overwhelming task of preservation in the face of a growing population, it would be more appropriate for California State Parks to assist local and regional agencies to address the need for urban dog off leash areas, through local assistance programs. We'll keep you updated. — Kim Baker.

**I WANT TO PROMOTE
PROFESSIONALISM IN
CALIFORNIA STATE
PARKS**

Sign me up as a member of
CSPRA

Name

Address

City State Zip

Social Security #

Park unit # Home phone

email

Membership type (Circle):

Active \$8/month

Active Retired \$18/year

Supporting \$36/year

Organization \$50/year

Benefactor \$1,000/life

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 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.

Send to: CSPRA, P.O. Box 247, Carpinteria, CA 93014-0247

Signature



Date

Dog days in the Park

Every spring all handlers are required to pass a departmental, P.O.S.T certification. During yearly department certification K-9 handlers vote on the dog and handler that performed the best over all. This year's winner of the State Park handlers "Top Dog" was Jeanne Sisson and Dino. Last years winner was David Graham and Xito.



Going to the dogs: David Graham, left, 2000 Top Dog, Jeanne Sisson, right, and Dino, 2001 Top Dog.

K-9: from p.3

His commands were not in German like the other dogs, but they wanted to train him in German.

The very first training exercise is to take the dogs out on the field and to do an obedience routine. This is when I met the legendary Randy Tyson. She said, "I know these dogs are smarter than you guys, but let's take them out to the field and see what they know."

Once on the field they began training us on how to handle the dogs and one thing became painfully apparent to me, Gorbi knew very little. The other 10 dogs were somewhat in control and lead the handlers through the exercise. Not Gorbi. He was jumping around, not listening and wanting to fight with other dogs. Randy came and began working with me one on one and she encouraged me, "This will be a great dog, he is just very young."

By the end of the first week, I watched guys like John and his dog Nuck, look like a team. Gorbi and I looked like the San Francisco Giants of the early 80s. Two officers had already had two new dogs given to them because theirs weren't going to work with them. I really liked Gorbi, but at the end of the first week I begged Randy to get me a new dog too. Randy said, "Gorbi is a great dog, he will come around."

Going into week number two I had my doubts, but suddenly things began to change. Gorbi and I began to learn together in leaps and

bounds. Exercises that I thought he never could have done were done. I was suddenly the proud papa of a 80 pound German Shepard from Hungary named Gorbi. Our partnership and bond grew as did our skill and by the end of the class we had past the P.O.S.T. certification.

So far K-9 training has taught me some simple concepts that transfer over into everyday life: When the dogs are tired, they're tired; little improvements aren't little; eating and sleeping are good; patience is everything and loyalty is everything.

Now two months later Gorbi and I are learning to patrol together. Every day is something new and the team bond grows stronger. My life has changed. I now am responsible for a 80-pound trained German Shepard at work and at home. He is my friend, my companion and my partner.

Editor's note: In August John Pfahler lost his dog Nuck. Nuck overheated in his patrol vehicle due to a equipment failure.

In Memory: Nuck



Loyal Friend.

Kayaks, kids and a desire to help

Giving youth a sense of belonging through adventure

BY JILL BAZEMORE
Channel Coast District

"We made it," was our motto for the aquatic outdoor leadership class in beautiful Corona Del Mar. For two days we met at the Orange County Harbor Patrol facility, overlooking the Newport Harbor. Along with lifeguards, rangers and interpreters, the class was attended by several different agencies that have youth programs. The Boys and Girls Club, City of Corona, Project Self Reliance and the Gang Prevention Unit from the City of Stanton.

The Department of Parks and Recreation, Office of Community Involvement had two instructors to mold our skills and build our enthusiasm in outdoor activities. Jack Shu and Gail Krippner led an action packed class on engaging our underserved youth in outdoor fun and games. Shu explained that we need to empower the kids by giving them tools to overcome adversities such as gangs, drugs, abuse and lack of resources.

Bonie Benard published an article titled Resiliency Research: A Fountain for Youth Development. Benard discussed environmental characteristics of resiliency, which are caring relationships and are the most powerful protective factors involved by the presence of a caring supportive relationship with someone, somewhere in their lives. Benard states, "With all the kids, I know who will make it, there's one thing in common: An individual contact with an adult who cared and who kept



**“
Being interested in, actively listening to, and getting
to know the gifts of each youth validates their existence,
letting them know they are not invisible.**

-Bonie Benard

”

hanging in with the teen through his or her hardest moments.”

Benard also said, “Being interested in, actively listening to, and getting to know the gifts of each youth validates their existence, letting them know they are not invisible.”

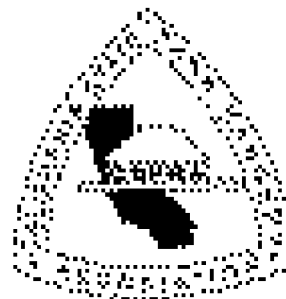
Although our junior lifeguard and ranger programs do not allow us the time to get to know a child well, we can make a positive and meaningful impression on them. If we all take a little time out of our very busy schedules and give them added attention, they might open up and fulfill their need for personal interaction.

Our second day we had two representatives from the Department of Motor Vehicles “Whale Tail” Coastal Protection License Plate Program. The proceeds from the sale of these plates benefit the California Coastal Commission’s Adopt-A-Beach Program, Coastal Cleanup Day and other coastal protection and restoration projects throughout the state. Supervising Lifeguard Paul Reyes shared his

grant writing experience and success in being awarded \$25,000 for his kayak and equipment purchase this year. We were given several helpful hints on what the commission is looking for in a grant proposal.

The climax of our training was when we all broke-in Reyes’ new kayaks on a pleasure tour of Newport Harbor. Even though the sun was not shining, we had a great time! Thank you Jack, Gail and Paul for a great class.

Is there a class or seminar that you would like to take, but your district doesn’t have the funds to send you? Apply for a CSPRA Scholarship today!! Contact Fred Jee at (760) 767-367.



Let CSPRA pick up the tab

The California State Park Rangers Association has become more than just a professional organization for the State Park Ranger classification. In the past few years, a greater emphasis has been placed on increasing involvement of more professionals from throughout the Department. This diversity has the effect of offering more employees a greater voice on Department-wide issues that are of concern to them.

One of the concerns that has been an issue for the membership is the matter of training. Support for training for individual members has been weak over the years, and out-of-state training is difficult to fund. Except for law enforcement training that is usually mandated by POST, interpretive training and other training that is not job-required, has often taken a back seat. CSPRA attempts to bridge that gap with the scholarship program.

Twenty five hundred dollars is set aside each year for member scholarships. The procedure for obtaining scholarships is simple. Ask for dollar support through normal Department channels through the use of the DPR 392-Employee Training Request form. Whether it is accepted or denied is not a critical factor for a scholarship approval, unless the Department completely supports the employee needs.

What the Department does not support is where the CSPRA scholarship comes in to effect. The next step is to write a brief letter or call the CSPRA education chair, Fred Jee at (760) 767-3674. He will review the request and authorize the appropriate dollar amount available in the scholarship fund.

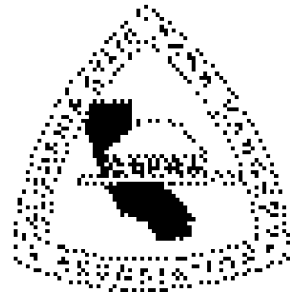
Are there restrictions for the scholarships? Yes, there are a few. First, the request must benefit the employee, the employee's professional career or the Department.

Second, there is a cap on the amount the education chair can authorize, which is \$300 per member per fiscal year. Larger amounts must be approved by the board. Third, the awarded scholarship will be given in two parts: the first half immediately upon approval, and the balance upon receipt of a newsletter article that details the high points of the training. It should be informative so all members can benefit.

How successful has the scholarship program been? Over the last 10 years, scholarships have been given to members to attend a historic preservation class given by the Sagamore Institute, a training to learn how to make a bow from wood from a bow master in Texas, the National Association of Interpreters 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 even a scholarship to attend the CSPRA conference held each year.

This variety of training is reflective of the variety of needs out there amongst state park professionals. The CSPRA scholarship program has been a fixture of our organization. CSPRA's goal is to promote professionalism in the park system. Training of the employees is essential to making that goal happen. CSPRA is doing its part. We need you, the members, to take the next step in developing your skills and enhancing your perspective about this wonderful profession.



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Shortage of rangers critical

With ranks thinning almost daily, safety in parks becomes a concern

August 23th, 2001

By Paul McHugh

San Francisco Chronicle

Evening at Morro Bay Strand State Beach. Sunburned families gather at the grill. Air fills with music and chatter. There's a sound like fireworks. Then people suddenly scream and run from the entrance kiosk. There, a red-faced man with a gun paces near two limp, bloody forms.

On July 8, 6:30 p.m., Stephen Deflaun, 42, argued with Stephen Wells, 36, over a parking spot. Wells and his nephew went to speak with a park aide at the entrance station. Deflaun trailed them, then allegedly shot both dead with a handgun.

A battle ensued between a ranger who'd been called to solve the parking dispute. Deflaun finally was knocked down by the sixth round from the ranger's shotgun. Now recovering from his injuries, Deflaun has been arraigned for murder.

Rangers say this episode shocks, yet is no surprise. As visitation soars at 266 state parks, woes of society-at-large also enter. And the big danger to a law-abiding public, rangers warn, stems from their own thinning ranks.

Low pay, poor recruitment, plummeting morale and a graying ranger force, are now combining to threaten public safety and the park system's environmental health, rangers say.

The Department of Parks and Recreation claims that, in the state's force of rangers, lifeguards and



“Low pay, poor recruitment, plummeting morale and a graying ranger force, are now combining to threaten public safety and the park system's environmental health, rangers say.”

managers with law enforcement certification, 17 percent of positions are unfilled. Leaders of a ranger professional group assert that when it comes to people who actually go out on patrol, more than 40 percent of the positions stand empty. In any case, the situation is poised to worsen.

“We must convince the governor it's imperative to deal this. Public safety in our parks is about to plunge,” said Steve Johnson, president of the State Park Peace Officers Association. Johnson is negotiating for salary increases he hopes can snatch a loss of personnel.

Numbers from the Department of Parks and Recreation reveal the paltry incentives. In 1990, top pay

for rank-and-file rangers was \$2,894/month. In 2001 it's only \$893 higher. “During California's big economic boom, we didn't get to participate,” Johnson Said.

At the same time, the job has grown tougher. Trying to handle swelling visitation, rangers have had to shift focus from resource protection and interpretation to law-enforcement actions and campground management.

Park use grew from 70.5 million visits in 1990 to 75 million in 2000. Because of a drop in entrance fees, visitation is on a pace to exceed 90 million this year.

The vast majority of park users may be law-abiding. Yet, more visitors still produce more problems. There were 259 felonies reported in 1990; that number more than tripled last year. Cited misdemeanors ballooned from 4,730 in 1999 to 6,124 last year. Once, state park rangers were told to keep cuffs and guns concealed in a briefcase. Now, those tools of enforcement must be cinched about their waists all day. On the San Francisco Peninsula, supervising ranger Gary Strachan oversees eight state parks, including Ano Nuevo and a string of beaches. A 27-year department veteran, Strachan says in the 1970s, area beaches grew risky on weekends because of heavy use by partying gangs from nearby urban areas. Only steady pressure from ranger patrols induced gangs to relocate, making the beaches safe once more for families.

Repeating such a performance will be tough. “We're down five ranger positions,” Strachan said. No one can afford to live here anymore. The situation's not good. If we don't cover patrols, it can revert in a minute back to that insanity.”

The state ranger force is losing vigor at the recruitment end mainly because of low pay. All state law-enforcement personnel must finish six months of training for certification. Rangers must

also possess at least 60 college units. Ranger cadets then start at \$2640.

Graduates who choose the highway patrol need only a high school education, yet receive \$1,024 more to start. With 5 percent annual increases, plus an array of incentives and benefits, after five years a highway patrolman can haul down almost \$6,000 a month – while a ranger still slogs toward \$3,787 a month. Similar disparity is found in comparison with many urban police forces.

“I had people try to woo me to other departments,” said Djohariah “Jo” Singer, elected president of her class last year. Ranger cadets do get siphoned away as they complete training, at a rate of 38 to 60 percent, Johnson said.

Singer, a former social worker, said she persevered because of her love for the park mission. She’s now at Lake Perris State Recreation Area.

“I talk to kids about nature one moment, and rescue somebody the next,” said Singer. “I love being an idealist. Not everyone can afford it. I talk to many rangers who want a transfer to other agencies. If I got married and had kids, I’d also have to do something else.”

Scott Pace, a supervising ranger in Sonoma, is a 22-year veteran, and one of 15 volunteers who assist department recruitment.

“It’s bleak,” Pace said. “We have a great work environment, but pay is not attractive. We used to get 6,000 applications for 35 open ranger positions. Now, just 800 apply, although more positions stand empty.”

The ranger force also faces a drain at its exit end. Johnson said an average ranger has been with the department 18 years. A quarter of the force is expected to retire within the next five years.

“Moral is substantially lower. There’s a worry about maintaining a minimal standard of living,” said a ranger at Folsom Lake State Recreation Area, who asked that his name

not be used. “I work with 20 rangers. Of those, five will be leaving next year, four of them taking early retirement. Five others are looking at lateral transfers into other agencies.

“I’d prefer not to be the last ranger left,” he said. “It’s hard to cover shifts as it is. Absent a pay correction, if we get the losses we expect, it could be disastrous for public safety.”

This summer, rangers from Folsom are paid per diem and overtime to go hundreds of miles north to Jedediah Smith and Del Norte Coast Redwoods State Parks, where no local rangers are available to fill shifts.

Another event at Folsom is a sample of pressure put on parks. A local land owner has been charged with sending a chain-saw crew into the park to cut down trees that he felt obscured his view. This crew was finally surprised by rangers while carving one stump into an animal shape to further sate the landowner’s whim.

To some, the plight of rangers might be a surprise. In 1999, Gov. Gray Davis and then new state parks director Rusty Areias engineered a \$157 million transfusion from the general fund to cope with the parks’ gigantic backlog of deferred maintenance.

In 2000, the Park Bond Act, a \$2.1 billion issue, passed handily. Of these funds, only 25 percent goes to state parks; the remainder goes to local parks, new preserves and public recreation sites throughout California. The Department of Parks and Recreation is charged with overseeing that many of these funds for local projects are well spent. Of the money the department receives itself, all must be devoted solely to land acquisition and development. This will, ironically, further the task of the ranger force.

That’s another reason why it is urgent that the ranger pay issue be resolved with the Department of Personnel Administration (DPA) and

the Legislature, which must approve a deal and is scheduled to adjourn in mid-September.

“Our governor is tightfisted about increasing costs of government,” Areias said, “but I think he wants to do the right thing. I can make our case forcefully. Rangers are woefully underpaid by any measure. The state budget got balanced on our backs during the Wilson-Deukmejian years.”

Marty Morgenstern, DPA’s director, is negotiating salary contracts for 175,000 state employees. Of that rangers form a tiny subset. On the table is a scheme to cut ranger contributions to their pension fund by half, then add this to amount to their take-home pay. Other incentives might crop up, but Morgenstern, in negotiation, was reluctant to tip his hand.

“We’ll try to enhance the offer,” Morgenstern said. “Where there’s recruitment and retention problems, we may make special adjustments. Aside from that I have no comment.”

Even if the state can rescue its shriveling ranger force, other measures might be needed to keep parks fully staffed and capable of serving a flood tide of visitors.

Park aide Pamela Ramsey has staffed kiosks for more than a decade, most recently at Salt Point on the Sonoma Coast.

“I’m quitting to become a teacher,” Ramsey said. “I can’t make it on \$10.38 an hour. Here I’m a 13-year veteran, and I earn barely a dollar more than a brand new aide would. I just had to cancel my medical insurance. Couldn’t afford it. For a single mom, that’s pretty scary.”

There is one more scary thing for Ramsey, in this era of an overextended ranger force. She recently found out that, only four days before the incident at Morro Bay, the suspect Deflaun had stayed in her campground at Salt Point. “That chilled me to the bone,” Ramsey said.

A different Ranger at Fort Ord

Thursday August 16, 2001

By Kevin Howe

Monterey County Herald,

This week 32 California State Park Ranger cadets are finishing up two weeks of field training at Fort Ord's East Garrison, where state park rangers have trained in police tactics for 15 years. The class is due to graduate at the end of the month.

The fort Ord training caps a six-month basic ranger course based at Asilomar Conference Grounds, said Broc Stenman, department training officer for the state Department of Parks and Recreation's Mott Training Center at Asilomar.

"They'll be back in two years," he said, "for a smaller version," a refresher course in police tactics that have become necessary for the men and women who patrol the state parks.

The training includes vehicle stops, a police officer ambush scenario, robbery and burglary crime scene, and dealing with suicide threats, snipers and victims of child abuse and sexual assault. "In these times, all of these problems show up in the state parks," Stenman said. "Society's changed. When I was a new ranger 28 years ago, only nine districts allowed rangers to carry guns, and then they had to be kept secured in a briefcase unless there was an actual situation."

The state Parks Department, he said, is the second-largest state law enforcement agency, right after the California Highway Patrol. The graduates will be sworn police officers and the training is required through the



state Police Officer Standards and Training program.

The cadets in training wear uniforms without badges and carry "red handles"—weighted dummy versions of the Smith & Wesson .40 caliber pistols they'll be issued when they become sworn peace officers. Evaluators in yellow jackets take notes at the various stations where the cadets are put through their paces and show what they know about arresting, handcuffing and interrogating a suspect.

In one case, versions of the service pistol that fire paintball "simunitions" are used to test officer's use of cover and ability to react to an ambush.

They must also pass a rigorous physical training test, including a 550-yard dash, body-dragging, fence-climbing and other situations that a policeman might encounter, said training officer Denise Reichenberg, who has been leading the Asilomar cadets on runs and calisthenics at Pacific Grove High School three days a week at 6 a.m. for the past 10 months.

"It's part of the job," she said. The "suspects" used in the training are actors provided by a theater company under contract with the

state. The acting gets pretty realistic, according to Steve Wagdy, training specialist. "The problem is the actors like to get out of the box."

One of them, Carlos Bressler, 20, of Hayward, a student majoring in teledramtic arts and technology at CSU-Monterey Bay, said he was recruited for the job by email. "It gets scary," he commented, while sitting outside a former Army storage building in handcuffs after being "arrested" by Cadet Mike Winterton as a mock suspect.

"This is some of the best training we get," Winterton said.

Cadet Susan McLaughlin of Humboldt County is the widow of a state park ranger who died of brain cancer, and the mother of two teenage sons. "After my husband died I decided to go get tested, and passed," she said during a pause in training.

"There have been some surprises here, but it's been interesting, and you meet a lot of good people. The hardest part has been being away from my kids."

The final test this week, Stenman said, will have each ranger cadet put on a simulated campfire presentation, talking about nature and conserving natural resources, wearing their "Smokey the Bear" hats.

The 40-acre East Garrison site is being eyed by a variety of groups for other uses. It has been perfect for law enforcement training, Stenman said. It is used by the highway patrol, sheriff's department and other agencies as well as the park rangers, and the state hopes to hang onto it. "There's nothing like it between San Jose and Santa Maria."

Powell and Park, a passing of history

Ed Park

**By Walt Wiley
Bee Staff Writer
(Published Aug. 14, 2001)**

The son of a state park ranger, Ed Park worked summers driving bulldozers, building trails in the Santa Cruz Mountains, to begin a career as a labor leader that took him around the world.

He was Gov. Earl Warren's state labor commissioner and Gov. Goodwin Knight's director of industrial relations, as well as a labor technical officer for the U.S. State Department in such far-flung postings as Djakarta, Indonesia, and Monrovia, Liberia.

Mr. Park died of a heart attack Wednesday in his Sacramento home at age 89. He had been in relatively good health, breakfasting regularly with friends days before his death.

He retired in 1981 as the director of education and research for the California Conference of Operating Engineers in Sacramento, a job in which he was a registered lobbyist and a major voice of labor in the Capitol.

During his tenure in that job, he had a hand in the creation of Rancho Murieta, which was developed as an Operating Engineers union project using union trainees to grade and build streets and other features.

Everett Powell

**By Steve Gibson
Bee Staff Writer
(Published July 24, 2001)**

Everett E. Powell, a former park ranger who oversaw efforts to expand the California State Park System, died Sunday of prostate cancer. He was 99.

As chief land agent for what was

then called the Division of Beaches and Parks, he played a major role in acquiring property for what is now called Folsom Lake State Recreation Area and Anza-Borrego State Park, said William Maddox.

He was also involved in the state's acquisition of Bodie, an abandoned 19th century mining town on the eastern slope of the Sierra and Hearst Castle, on the coast south of Big Sur.

Mr. Powell, who started with the parks system as a temporary laborer, worked his way through a variety of assignments at various parks before being placed in charge of development and acquisitions in 1953.

Except for time out during World War II, when he served in the Navy, Mr. Powell was employed continuously by the state from 1922 until 1963.

Born in Siskiyou County, Everitt Eugene Powell was the son of former Ella Travis Fortson, a homemaker and Marcus J. Powell, a lumber-mill worker.

Leaving home with only an eighth-grade education, he bounced around in a series of jobs before finding work with the state.

During much of the 1930s and early '40s, he was chief ranger - then called warden - at Big Basin Redwoods State Park.

"I never knew a more kind and understanding man," a colleague wrote when Mr. Powell retired. "Yet he was firm and always had things under control. He was slow to anger but quick to recognize any acts that were detrimental to the best

interests of the division. Several ex-employees can verify that."

In 1963, a member of the California State Parks Commission wrote: "I talked with Powell more than I did any other person when I wanted a sensible, sane and realistic opinion."

Several year after retiring from state service, Mr. Powell and his wife, Annabelle, moved from the River Park neighborhood in Sacramento to Folsom.

There, they developed a garden and nature area around their home on a builder-and rock-covered half-acre site.

Every major room in their 2,000-square-foot house was designed with a large window "so we can see the beautiful nature scenes wherever we go in the house," Mr. Powell said in a 1977 interview.

His wife, the former Annabelle Whitner, died in 1997. They had been married 72 years. They had one son, who preceded him in death.

Mr. Powell is survived by a granddaughter.

Do you have information about someone in the Park Family? CSPRA members want to know. The Wave is a way to keep the Family together through communication. Write to P.O. Box 247, Carpinteria, CA 93014-0247 or email at news@cspira.com. We are waiting to hear from YOU.



A bill that will be paid by Salton Sea

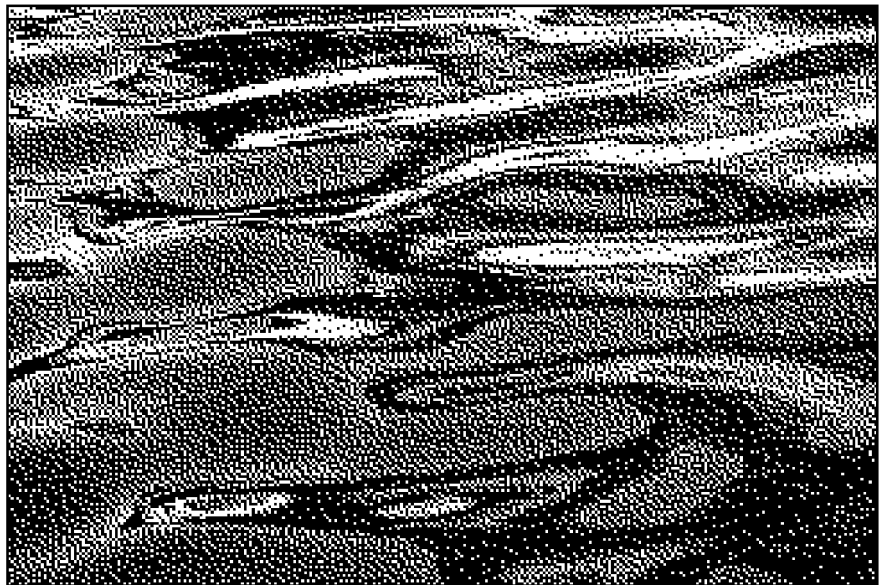
Re: HR 2764 "Colorado River Quantification Settlement Facilitation Act."

Dear Senator Boxer:

I am writing on behalf of the California State Park Rangers Association, an organization of more than 700 park professionals dedicated to the protection of California State Parks. We are strongly opposed to the potential annual transfer of 300,000 acre-feet of water from the Imperial Irrigation District to the San Diego County Water Authority, and the Coachella Valley Water District. The bill is termed the "Colorado river Quantification Settlement Facilitation Act," and it may soon be submitted for your consideration. I am asking that you do not support this bill as written, as it will cause significant environmental and recreational damage to the Salton Sea.

While the bill is written to appear as a positive measure for the Salton Sea, it in fact will be devastating to this important lake. The transfer of 300,000 acre-feet annually from the Salton Basin will reduce the Sea's level by 15 feet. This will expose approximately 40,000 acres of lake bottom sediments. Most of the exposed lake bottom will be around the river deltas at the north and south ends of the Sea, where the best wildlife habitat exists. If this bill passes it may only allow for a north and south riparian restoration, while the center of the Sea will die.

Over two million people visit the Salton Sea each year. Many of these visitors stay at one of our park units, the Salton Sea State Recreation Area. Most come to fish, many come to watch birds, hike, camp or simply enjoy a piece of nature so important to us all.



The Salton Sea supports over 400 species of birds; this is almost one half of the species known to exist in the United States. Three to four million individual birds can be counted at the Salton Sea each day during the winter migration period. The Salton Sea is a critical part of the Pacific flyway and the habitat it provides mitigates for the tremendous loss of wetland habitat in other areas of California. Many bird species would be in great jeopardy if the proposed water transfer and its subsequent impacts occurred. The Salton Sea is the greatest single location of avian diversity in the state, second in the nation to the Texas Gulf. Losing this important natural and recreation resource would not only cause great environmental damage, it would also negatively impact our lifestyle.

The bill also has the effect of rendering the Endangered Species Act meaningless, in regard to the Sea, as it causes the Secretary of the Interior to approve Imperial Irrigation District's draft Habitat

Conservation Plan as mitigation. This plan has not had public, nor significant judicial review. This is effectively an end run around the ESA, setting a dangerous precedent. Its end result could leave us with California's largest dead lake, rather than one of the most productive fisheries in the world.

HR 2764 as written is not a sound and balanced plan that truly provides for the protection and restoration of this priceless resource, the Salton Sea. The potential benefits simply do not outweigh the cost. There are other solutions including increased water conservation and setting reasonable limits on new development. Solutions to our problems that cause the utter devastation of our most important and cherished natural areas must simply be left off the table. Otherwise, our future will truly be impoverished. The Salton Sea is an incredibly important resource that must be preserved. Thank you for your consideration of our position. With your help and support we look forward to a sound future for the Salton Sea. If you have any questions or need additional information, please feel free to contact me at gearyh@pe.net or 909.940.5617.

Geary W. Hund

THE OFFICE MANAGER'S MAILBAG

While we have been receiving your annual dues, some of your attached notes are special treasures that I would like to share. I know I love hearing about my retired compatriots and am sure you will also. The only order to the following is as I pull them off my pile of letters.

From Dick Sly: Congratulations on your success in replacing Doug Bryce. Like with you, I worked with Doug many years ago. Only in his case, it was in Eureka, at Ft. Humboldt SHP where he was the Asst. Supt. and I was just starting out as the first PMA in the DPR system back in 1969. May I assume that you'll be at the Retirees' Rendezvous this October?

From Bill and Roberta Beat: I was surprised to receive my dues letter today and see that you are about to take over the Office Manager duties for CSPRA, congratulations and as a member, thank you for taking on this thankless but important task.

Roberta and I have been very busy since retiring at the end of 1995, first we had to sell our house in Eureka and move our belongings to our house in Kelseyville, CA. We had built the house in Lake County several years prior to our move in Eureka in 1988.

The first couple of years after retiring we spent our Springs traveling around the United States seeing parts of the country that we hadn't had time to visit previously. One of our favorite places to visit every spring is Arizona. We leave at the end of February each year for the Phoenix area to watch Spring Training Baseball, we manage to see at least 25 games or so each March. Following Spring training we sometimes go to Texas or other southern States to visit while we wait for the winter weather to pass here at home.

For the past several years I've spent the month of August as the Camphost at the Cuneo Creek Horse Camp at



Gar Salzgeber

Humboldt Redwoods State Park. Sometimes Roberta spends part of her time with me at the Horse Camp and rest of her time baby sitting grandchildren.

Carl Chavez says: Been busy with travels. In March to England. In May to Alaska. In June to Yellowstone. Now it's time to get to work fishing here in Graeagle!

Bill and Marjie Miller say: Hope your experience in "running" CSPRA will be as good as Doug & John's. Been doing a lot of traveling since retiring in December. Trip to San Diego to go to the Zoo and Sea World, a relaxing week in Palm Springs (doing a lot of "pool time"), two and a half weeks in the islands (Oahu, Hawaii and Maui), and then a short trip to SoCal for a little tuna fishing. In September we will be leaving for an extensive road trip all across the northern U.S. and parts of Canada, then into New England country for the colors, down the East Coast and back to California.

Kirk and Marie Wallace say: We are Camp Hosts at La Jolla Canyon/Ray Miller Trailhead area of Point Mugu State Park.

We are here until late July, than will return home. We look forward to the Retirees' Rendezvous and hope to see a lot of retirees' and Active Park Employees attend. Best wishes for a great tenure as office manager for CSPRA.

Joe McCall says: After Gini passed away, my three sisters in Jacksonville, Florida insisted that I return to Jax where I left in 1936. Nov. 15, 2000 sold my house in Sacto, sent my car and part of my furnishings to Jax. Moved into my youngest sister's mother-in-law apartment. Nice arrangement, my oldest of the twin sisters lives on the lake with a dock and a place to launch a boat. There are two houses on the lot. Too many shrubs and trees to take care of..

Took a deluxe tour bus to Biloxi, MI casinos. Did well. Paid for the trip with enough left to go to a Navy reunion in Laughlin, NV. Also in Sacto for the Jazz Festival and a visit with old friends. Still a few of my old Jr. Hi. Friends left. Hope everybody has a great 4th of July.

Ed Dolder says: I am currently at our cabin in Idyllwild, but will be returning to my home in Hawaii on Jan. 25th. My address is 1825 – Haiku Rd., Haiku, Maui, HI 96708. Ted Willson says: Won't make the rendezvous, but give my best to the assembled multitude.

Best wishes to Doug, Carol, and John for a long and pleasant retirement. A well earned rest to say the least, and good luck to Gar and his new function.

Dom Guitelli says: Gar, it's been a long trip since Salton Sea. Glad to know all is well and hope you will be at the rendezvous.

Jim and Kay Stewart say: We are planning on attending the rendezvous. We are enjoying the good life at Lake Almanor. Getting together with friends, fishing, church gatherings and such. Travels are just on the west coast this year. We bought a mobile home to put in a park in Chico so we can escape the ice and snow of winter.

Gar says: Shione and I will be looking forward to seeing everybody at the Retirement Rendezvous. Cheers!!!

BOARD MEETING NOTES

August 7, 2001 *Big 4 Conference Room*

Present: Geary Hund, Gar Salzgeber, Dana Jones, Adam Stahnke, Kevin Buchanan, Hailee Zaldivar, Kim Baker
Absent: Steve Wagy, Val Bradshaw

Approval of Past Meeting Minutes: Kevin Buchanan moved to approve the minutes from the May 8th meeting, Dana Jones seconded, all approved.

Financial Report: Geary will work with Gar and Doug Bryce to confirm the actual amount transferred to CSPRA from the 2001 GEC. According to the financial statement, \$1914.00 was transferred from the funds. CSPRA receives 35% of the GEC funds with the remainder to PRAC. The current budget has \$1,000.00 for the conference fund.

Board Reports: Kim made a motion that the board spend \$50.00 from the awards/recognition fund to purchase Sees candy for the staff at Big Four thanking them for their support by providing meeting location and supplies. Hailee seconded and all approved. Hailee will handle the detail.

Kevin received a fax from Rey Monge (district representative) for Oceano Dunes SVRA. Cal Poly PD started a memorial fund for the family of the 11 yr. old that was murdered at Morro Strand CG (he wanted to be a police officer when he grew up). Geary suggested that CSPRA send a note to the family expressing condolences. Kim suggested that CSPRA donate \$100.00 from the Award and Recognition fund, and to send the family a card from CSPRA.

Hailee gave Gar a copy of a request for membership cancellation from a cadet at Asilomar. All the

check books/registers were given to Gar to file with the old account information. Any further cancellation requests will be forwarded to Gar.

Geary says the new Southern Service Center district rep. is Paul Webb.

Recruitment: BVST #20 will be at Ben Clark June 20th through November 23rd as will BVST #21 October 17th through March 22nd. BVST #22 will be at Mott November 11th through May 3rd. We will catch the BVST #21 cadets while we are at the board meeting at Cal Citrus in November. Dana and Kim will coordinate the BVST #20 and #22 while both are at Mott.
SB116: Jackie Spear met with the Director regarding SB116. A committee has been formed with various members throughout the state. Dick Troy asked Geary if CSPRA would include a representative for the committee. The board agreed that the best for the job was Jeff Price. Geary spoke with him during the meeting, but said he would not be available to attend the first meeting on August 23rd. Kim said she would try to attend. Adam suggested contacting Susan from the State Parks Foundation to see what their involvement could/may be. Geary will contact Susan. Geary requested that he be the point of contact for all information regarding the committee.

Webmaster Contract: Hailee provided the board with the duty statement that Jeff Provided. All approved. Kim said that he felt that \$100.00 per month was adequate for his services.

2002 Conference: The theme for the conference will be "Bridging Borders – Partnerships beyond our boundaries and within."

SB116: The radio ads still not confirmed. Geary has a draft for the radio ad. Mid-term committee

shuffling may be better.

Newsletter: The latest publication was delayed due to Noah's K9 training. We are still on the bulk mail permit. Noah will attempt to find a different printer closer to home. Geary will check the status of the August edition with the K9 program.

Investment goals and options: The board reviewed Val's statement about what our goals are. Stock percentages were discussed and we need to determine what percentage of our funds are not being used for long term investment. The board determined that \$20,000 has not been touched over the last year. Common strategies are 50/50 bond accounts. Dana talked with Val last week and she said she will not support investing with Golden One. Kim suggested holding off on the Domini accounts until we establish our goals. Dana moved to create a financial committee for the board, Hailee seconded the motion, all agreed. The committee will include Kevin, Gar and Geary. Kim made a motion to place 50% of funds into a savings bond account and 50% of funds into a socially responsible equity account to be determined by the committee. Kim seconded the motion, all agreed.

2003 Conference: Dana and Jeff (co-chair from PRAC) have been working on finding a site for the 2003 conference. Possible sites are Bass Lake, Fish Camp, Monterey and Lake Tahoe. The board liked the Bass Lake site but not confirmed that they will have accommodations in time for the event. After reviewing the information Hailee moved to have the 2003 site be Lake Tahoe Embassy Suites, Adam seconded, all agreed.

Office Manager Transition: Gar provided a handout to the board listing all his activities since his transition. He agreed to provide the same to the board at each meeting. Meeting adjourned at 1500 hrs

CHANGES



PERSONNEL CHANGES:

Lori Martin, Ranger PI Portola
Redwoods to Ranger PI McArthur
Burney Falls Memorial State Park

Scott Nakaji, Sup 2 Twin cities to
Sup 3 Gold Fields District

Jill Dampier, position upgrade,
Supervising Ranger Auburn State
Recreation Area to Superintendent
Auburn State Recreation Area.

Mike Lynch, Ranger Auburn State
Recreation Area to Supervising
Ranger, Mammoth Bar State Recre-
ation Area.

Lori Martin, Ranger P.I., Portola
Redwoods State Park to McArthur-
Burney Falls State Park.

New CSPRA member:

Paul Remeika

DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVES

<u>District</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Phone</u>
Angeles, Coast	Padilla, Frank	310 457-4358
Angeles, Inland	Crossman, John	805 726-1671
Bay Area, Coast	Edgemon, Chuck	650 879-2025
Bay Area, Diablo	Nielson, Carl	925 837-6129
Calaveras	Harrison, Wayne	209 795-3488
Capitol	Simmons, Kenneth	916 445-7387
Channel Coast	Robinson, Rondalyn	805 654-5301
Colorado	Zemon, Jeri	760 767-4399
Four Rivers	Stokes, Mary	209 826-1196
Gold Fields	Van Etten-Collins, Laura	916 988-0206
Headquarters	Maris, Vic	916 653-9315
Marin	Whitehead, Mike	415 435-5390
Monterey	Pat Clark Gray	831 649-2855
Northern Buttes	Grove, Susan	530 235-0956
North Coast	Jones, Ronald	707 464-6101
Orange Cost	Serpa, Jim	949 496-5290
Oceano Dunes	Monge, Rey	805 473-7225
Mendocino	Joe, Kevin	707 937-5804
Mendocino	Broderick, Karen	707 847-3286
San Joaquin	Davis, Jeff	559 822-2283
San Simeon	Van Schmus, James	805 927-2020
Santa Cruz	Linda Hitchcock	831 429-2851
Sierra	Lindsey, Tom	530 525-7232
Silverado	Nixon, Valerie	707 279-4293
So. Service Center	Webb, Paul	619 220-5311
Twin Cities	Fitzpatrick, Jim	925 447-0426

Do you know someone who is retiring?

***CSPRA provides a plaque for each member when they
retire. Contact CSPRA at (800) 749-8749 or make a request
at www.cspra.com***

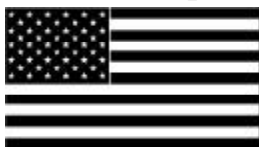
EDITOR'S NOTE:

Seeking Board Member Nominations: The Committee on Nominations will be meeting in October to nominate active and active retired members to the board of directors. This meeting will be followed by a vote of the general membership in December. Do you know someone who would be a good candidate? Most board positions are held for two years. The responsibilities of each member are varied, and it really comes down to what you bring to the position. Each member has a unique perspective and skills to bring to the team. Although board members are not paid for their time, travel expenses are covered. The board must meet at least two times a year under the bi-laws of the organization, but we generally meet 5 or 6 times a year, and we accomplish a great deal of work by the use of email. One of the many benefits of being an active member of the board of CSPRA is gaining a greater understanding of how the department and our state government work. In addition, it is a great way to meet others in the department who share your high ideals and enthusiasm for protecting California State Parks. It is the role of the immediate past president to organize nominations. For more information or to nominate yourself or another member, please contact Kim Baker 831-338-7034 or rangerkim@bigvalley.net.

**SHARE YOUR IDEAS and THOUGHTS,
news@cspra.com**



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www.cspra.com



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PLEASE NOTE CHANGES:

**CSPRA/PRAC
CONFERENCE:**



**March 4 - 7, 2002 at the
Handlery Hotel and Resort in
Mission Valley, San Diego.**

CSPRA CALENDAR

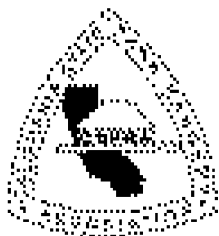
BOARD MEETINGS:

October 4-6, at McConnell SRA/Retiree's
Rendezvous.

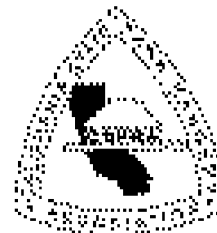
November 27, Cal-Citrus State Historic
Park, Riverside, California

CALIFORNIA STATE PARK RANGERS ASSOCIATION

Mission Statement



***The California State Park Rangers Association is an
organization of park professionals dedicated to advance-
ment 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