

P.L.E.A. EXPLORER

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20TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE IN ALBUQUERQUE



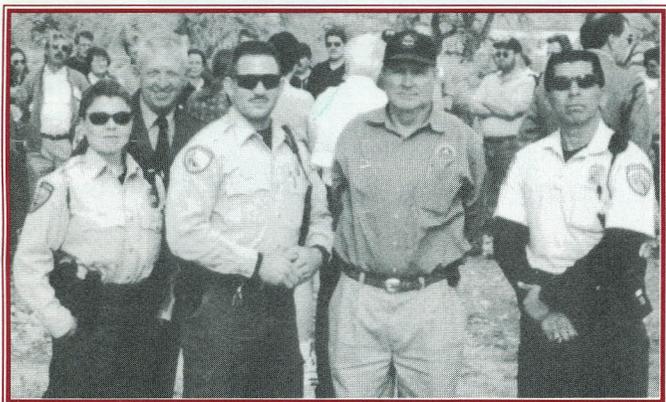
Mathew Schmader, PhD., of Albuquerque, addresses conference attendees on preserving archaeological artifacts

MANAGING AND PROTECTING NATURAL RESOURCES

ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO HOST 20TH ANNUAL PLEA CONFERENCE

The atmosphere and the people of Albuquerque were perfect, especially our host at the 20th annual Park Law Enforcement Association Conference, the Open Space Division of Parks and General Services, in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Park Rangers gave interesting and educational sessions on protecting our natural resources. Protecting Archeological Sites and their artifact were the main items of discussion throughout the conference. The conference attendees, who numbered over a hundred, were fortunate to have a first hand view of some ancient and very valuable archeological sites. Guided by the US Park Service and Albuquerque Park Rangers, attendees were taken to a mesa, called "Sky City," the oldest continuously inhabited pueblo in the United States, and to an interpretive tour of El Malpías National Monument. 



Conference Coordinator Chief Ranger Stephen Thomas, third from left, with Staff Members



Interpretive Tour of Acoma, "Sky City" Pueblo

20TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE IN ALBUQUERQUE

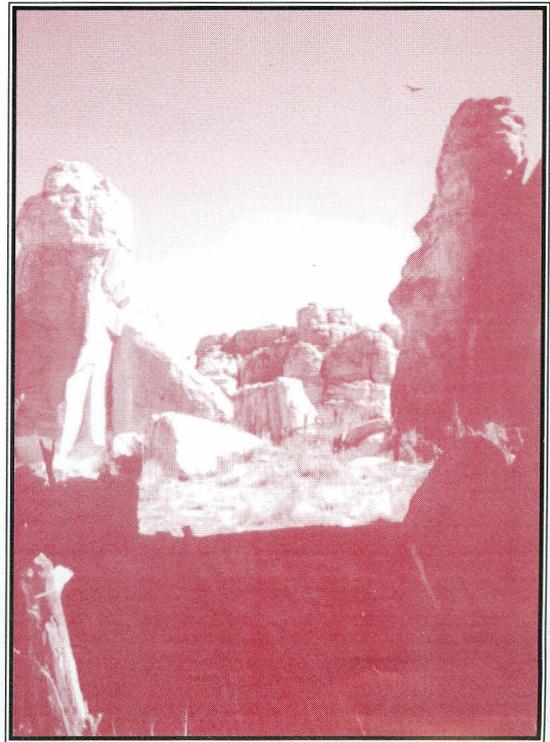
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Classroom sessions dealt with our jobs as park law enforcement trying to protect such items and how to prevent our users from destroying valuable links to our past. Patrolling techniques to monitoring systems were topics throughout the sessions. For entertainment and for dinner one evening, attendees were taken to Los Amigos Roundup, and served an excellent meal. During the dinner a Mariachis Band played, while Spanish and Indian Dance groups performed afterwards. Also, attendees toured historic, "Albuquerque Old Town," and a number of shops and dining establishments.



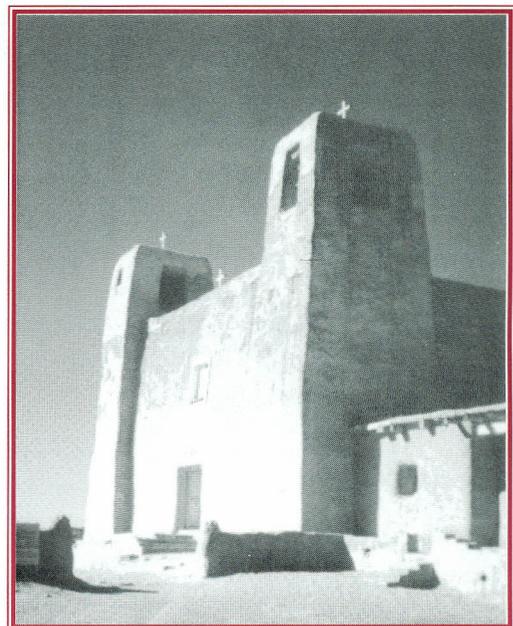
Indian Dancers at Los Amigos Round-Up

During the conference, a number of issues were discussed during the Board of Directors Meeting. Membership dues will remain the same, and an associate membership will now be offered to those wishing to get in the field of park law enforcement, but do not work in the field. The associate membership has already attracted a number of students, and people who want to show their support for what we do. A scholarship program was recommended by President, Chief Ranger Steve Pokrywka, of Wyandotte County / Kansas City, Kansas Park Rangers, for these students, and was passed by the board. The Scholarship Award will be named after the late, Commander Newell Rand, who served with the Maryland National Capital Park Police and as PLEA's Vice-President when he passed two years ago.



View from bottom of mesa

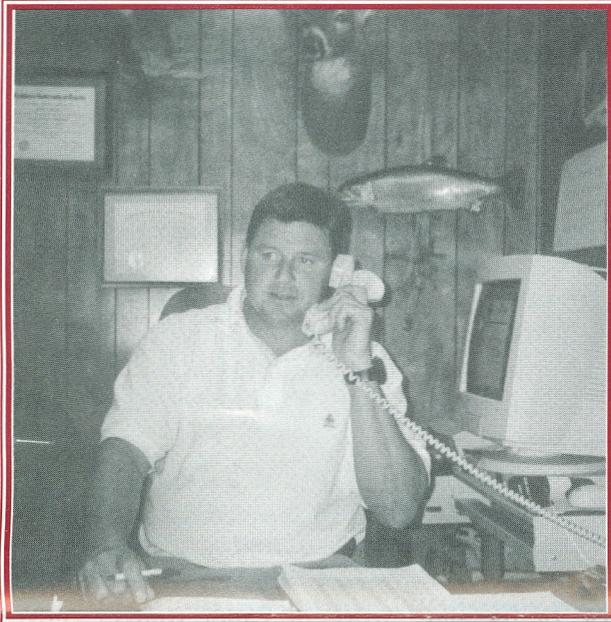
The success of this conference was due mainly because of the hard work of Chief Ranger Steve Thomas, of Albuquerque. Steve and his staff, are to be commended for all the extra hard work, the professionalism, and commitment, that it took to pull off such an ordeal. The conference was a huge success, and they seem to keep getting better and better. Thank you Albuquerque for your hospitality and a job well done!



Chapel at "Sky City"

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

The Dogs Days of summer are here. In the Midwest it is brutal this time of year, so we do what we can to stay cool. I hope that everyone has had an entertaining summer, and hopefully uneventful. After the Fourth of July, we kind of start hoping it would snow about now. Not just for the relief from the heat, but to slow things down a bit. Don't take me wrong though, I love to see our parks full, but as I would assume, most of you are in the same shoes. We need a break somewhere in between these summer months just to catch up on the paperwork. Maybe our members of the Great North can bounce a few cold fronts our way . . . but just dreaming.



Chief Ranger Steve Pokrywka

As I reflect on the positives this past spring, and try to stay focused this summer, **the acts of violence in our schools and communities are happening at an alarming pace.** It is astonishing and our parks have been put in jeopardy. This violence that we used to see on television is now on the doorsteps. These types of crimes and senseless acts didn't use to take place in our neighborhoods, especially in our parks. Now, from the school grounds to our park playgrounds, we have petty crimes taking place everywhere. Rangers and Park Police are being caught off guard, and in this past year I can recall several incidents involving Park Law Enforcement personnel that turned into brutal acts by criminals.

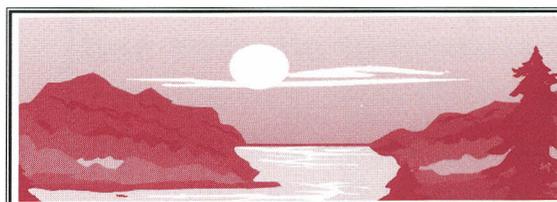
Who are we to blame? The media, their parents, movies, I am sure you would agree on a few of these and more. Is this what we signed up for when we started this career? I think someone told me when

I first started, that this job was more public relations, than law enforcement. The run in with the local drunk or the vandalism at one of our shelters, were few and far between, and now it seems as if we are doing more and more arrests. Getting ourselves in some very dangerous situations seems as the norm from now on. I see some of our troops being very lackadaisical and non-chalet when dealing with the public. Think of this past year's media events as an awakening.

What can we do to change things? Maybe we cannot do too much, but realistically I cannot see things getting any better. There are some great interpretive programs for our youth that have really effected some communities. If you are like most though, we are under paid and under staffed. The personnel and money it would take to do something positive in the community doesn't weigh out. We don't even need to talk about political and administrative roadblocks along the way.

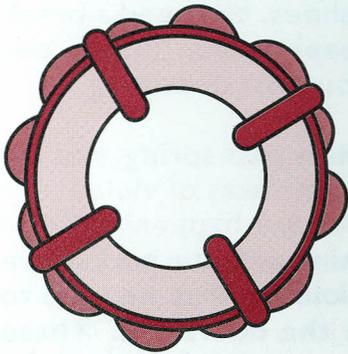
We have to take it upon ourselves to be better prepared. Don't be paranoid, but be cautious, and practice officer safety. Now is the time to prepare your training curriculum for the next year. Make sure your sessions are realistic, because our jobs are getting more dangerous than ever before. Don't let your guards down, wear those ballistic vest, take a class in verbal judo, practice weapon retention, make car stop scenarios a must for training, and above all, train for the worst, so that you are not caught off guard. Do not become a statistic.

***Be safe and extra cautious,
and for public relations sake,
smile!***



WHY A BOAT PATROL?

*by Ranger Sgt. William Troxel
Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas, Kansas Parks*



Regardless of what part of the country your parks are in, and whether they are in an urban or rural area, chances are very strong that you have some type of water in them. You may be responsible for patrolling an area such as a stream way or as large as a coastal shoreline. Where there is water, you will find a never-ending array of different types of water recreation. Water based recreation brings many challenges and opportunities to those who are responsible for protecting them. The best answer to these challenges and the greatest way to capitalize on the opportunities is to have an active water patrol.

As diverse as the water areas are that we have to patrol, so are the means at our disposal to patrol them. Boat manufactures produce a larger variety of types and sizes of vessels then ever before. Many boat companies offer models designed especially for law enforcement use, and some will custom build a boat to meet your specifications. A recent trend in water patrol is using personal watercrafts (PWC). PWC's has become very popular due to their accessibility and maneuverability. They are propelled by a jet pump, which does not have an exposed propeller. This makes each PWC safer than other vessels for most water rescues.

Although the job of Water Patrol Officers looks like fun, the duties are both challenging and dangerous. Water Patrol Officers must have specialized skills and extensive training. They must be able to operate and maintain different types of watercrafts proficiently. Each officer must be able to perform water rescues and possess some good common sense traits. Knowing CPR and advanced first-aid skills are very vital in their profession. These officers must know the laws and regulations pertaining to water vessels of all sizes and shapes, while trying to figure out a game plan to effectively enforce them. The job requires strong skills in officer safety, communication, and public relation. Officers may also be asked to assist other divisions with tasks such as helping the maintenance division during water front repairs, or the fisheries biologists during surveys. Many states now are recognizing the importance of boating education and offer safe boating classes that are often taught by water patrol officers.

Another benefit of a boat patrol is being able to enforce certain laws on both water and land. Boating operators under the influence of drugs or alcohol are a serious safety problem on our waters. A boat patrol can reduce the number of these intoxicated operators by just our presence on the water, or by making Boating Under the Influence arrest. A boating officer can also see things on land that an officer patrolling from a vehicle may miss. They can observe remote areas from the water and have the element of surprise since most offenders do not expect law enforcement from the water. Fish and wildlife violations, along with environmental protection, can easily be detected from the water. Polluting waters, creel limits, license checks, and tagging are just a few things your boat patrol can provide.

If you are interested in learning more about your states boating laws or in offering a safe boating class, you can contact your states Boating Law Administrator.

These officers must know the laws and regulations pertaining to water vessels of all sizes and shapes, while trying to figure out a game plan to effectively enforce them.



HAVE YOU RENEWED FOR 1999? IT'S NOT TOO LATE

Make sure you stay current with your Annual Membership

If you have not received a new membership card, window sticker and patch you are probably not a current member ... simply fill out the form and return it to us no later than Sept. 1st to retain your active status. *Don't miss our Fall and Winter newsletters*

PARK LAW ENFORCEMENT ASSOCIATION APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

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Board of Directors 1999

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**STATE AFFILIATES WILL BE LISTED
IN THE FALL NEWSLETTER**

WEB SITE UPDATE:

www.parkranger.com

As you read this, we should be well under way with a major revision of the web site. The site has been a tremendous instrument for



acquiring new members, and it has a lively threaded discussion board and we have a tremendous volume of e-mails and a huge number of hits on the site.

You should see some of the new features of the site popping up anytime now, if not there already. We are going for a lot more interactivity, more information, and better perks for P.L.E.A. members. Perks like discounts on all kinds of PLEA merchandise, and restricted access to a job board. We are also going to start posting the newsletter online.

We also have just got some great e-mail from Mark Reeder with the Kentucky State Parks who suggested doing a monthly piece featuring a division or agency, and he is even going to do the first one for us! You can be the agency or division of the month if you send in your article! Only one featured per month, first come, first in!

So hopefully, you can turn on your computer now, and see how far we have advanced on this mission. We need YOUR input, so let us know if you have any good ideas and we welcome your articles and pictures for the website or the newsletter. If you are a budding author, and would like to submit information and/or photos about your agency, division, or favorite aspect of park law enforcement it will be well received.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

N.R.P.A. CONFERENCE 99 Congress and Exposition

October 19-24th, 1999
Nashville, Tennessee

Call Stuart Foland
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PLEA Mid Year **Board of Directors Meeting**

Friday, October 22nd, 1999

SEE YOU IN NASHVILLE!

21st ANNUAL **P.L.E.A. CONFERENCE**

March 1 - 4, 2000

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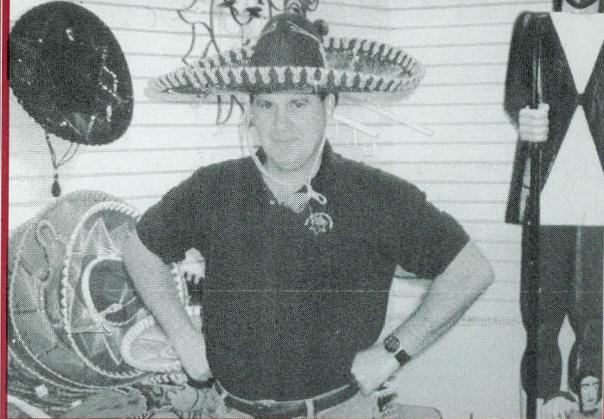
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