PARK RANGERS ASSOCIATION CALIFORNIA

THE SIGNPOST

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 1988
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PRAC EXECUTIVE MANAGER DOUG BRYCE RETIRES FROM THE CALIFORNIA DPR

By Tom Hofsommer,
PRAC Vice President

After more than 31 years of service with the California Department of Parks & Recreation, PRAC Executive Manager Doug Bryce is retiring.

Doug's career started in 1955 as a park aide at Cuyamaca Rancho State Park near San Diego. As a ranger he had stints at Anza-Borrego Desert, El Capitan Beach, Bolsa Chica Beach, Calaveras Big Trees, and Marshall Gold Discovery parks. From there, Doug became the assistant superintendent of District I during the early 1970's. Currently, he is the Supervisor of Audio-Visual Services and Publications at the State Office in Sacramento.

Doug says the most memorable portions of his career have involved working in a wide-range of units, and supervising the parks of the Upper Sacramento River Valley. His most rewarding incident though was the opportunity to stand waist deep in "ice-cold" sewage for several hours in an attempt to clear a blocked line as a busy weekend approached. What a thrill!

On a more serious note, one of Doug's most challenging experiences was getting the State Railroad Museum, in Sacramento, on-line in the midst of critical timelines and staffing shortages.

Doug has been the PRAC Executive Manager since 1980. In that time he has been instrumental in coordinating the PRAC-CSPRA-LEAGUE joint conference. He has also become an invaluable resource person for PRAC members because of his experience and his affiliation with the California State Park Rangers Association and the Western Interpreters Association.

After retiring with the State, Doug will maintain his position with PRAC, and he will work elsewhere as a private consultant.

Congratulations Doug for an outstanding career, and our best wishes to you in your retirement.

NOTES FROM THE SEPTEMBER PRAC BOARD MEETING

* Membership- Executive Manager Doug Bryce reported the current PRAC membership to be 107. Two new voting memberships from the Conejo Recreation & Park District were received since the last report. Total PRAC membership has increased 100% in the past six months.

* Trail Maintenance Training- Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District ranger Dennis Danielson is planning a workshop on trail construction and maintenance at preserves of the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District. The workshop is scheduled to take place in April 1989.

* PRAC Slideshow- PRAC President Bill Hendricks noted the PRAC slideshow is being revised, and that more slides are needed. Members with slides showing ranger duties are encouraged to contact Bill at (415) 459-5267.

* PRAC Honorary Member- The Board has selected its second ever Honorary Member. The recipient will be announced at the 1989 Palm Springs conference.

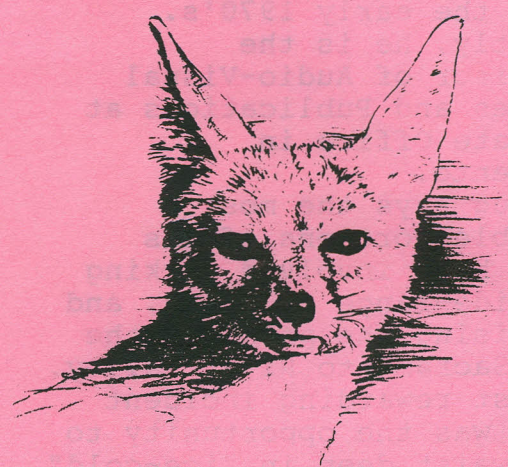
* 1989 Conference Update- Tom Hofsommer will be serving on the Conference Committee and will be attending all planning meetings. PRAC will be responsible for coordinating educational sessions on "current park issues". Those members with topic ideas, or who are willing to assist Tom, should contact him at (916) 366-2072. (See conference article in this "The Signpost" issue for more details.)

* Park Law Enforcement Association Affiliation- President Bill Hendricks noted that the Park Law Enforcement Association would like PRAC to host a national conference in 1990. They are also looking for PRAC to become a state affiliate, thereby placing a PRAC member on their national council. This issue is still pending before the Executive Board.

* PRAC Scholarship- The Executive Board approved guidelines for offering a $200 scholarship starting in 1989. (See scholarship article in this "The Signpost issue for more details.)

* PRAC Professional Citation Award- The Executive Board approved guidelines for implementing a professional award in 1989 (See professional award article for more details.)

The next board meeting is scheduled for January 20, 1989 The location will be the Effie Yeaw Nature Center in Sacramento. Meeting specifics will be announced in December.



THE VIEW FROM MY PICNIC TABLE

A Message From
John Ramirez,
PRAC Past President

I recently finished reading several articles on the recreation industry, and found two I thought would be of interest.

The first dealt with the way park professionals throughout the nation are handling ornamental lawns during drought conditions. Since some urban parks in my Department manage such turf areas, I carefully searched for clues that would assist us. Solutions presented included:

* Use of moisture sensors
* Discontinuing watering
* Stop controlling clover (It's the only thing that stays green!)
* Let the public know why lawns are yellowing through publicity
* "Pray For Rain!" (My personal favorite)

The second article was on the results of the Managed Recreation Research Report. Between 1984 and 1988 recreation professionals were asked to answer questions about job satisfaction. During this period respondents indicated a general increase in job satisfaction. The 1988 report yielded the following responses with regard to being "satisfied or better" with specific job conditions:

* Satisfaction with pay (79%)
* Satisfaction with management (81.3%)
* Satisfaction with control over the job (87.3%)
* Satisfaction with career progress (87.1%)
* Overall satisfaction (91.1%)

I was pleased to see some of the comments made in this report. Each the year the survey was administered, satisfaction levels increased. Considering the challenges that face every organization, the job satisfaction and commitment revealed by these respondents will be important to the future growth of our industry as well.

PRAC WELCOMES NEW SOUTHERN REPRESENTATIVE

The Park Rangers Association of California would like to congratulate Ernie Del Rio for accepting the Southern Representative position on the PRAC Executive Board.

Ernie currently is Park Ranger III for the Santa Barbara County Parks Department. He is responsible for supervising operations at Cachuma Lake. His major duties include staff training, boat patrol, and campground management.

PRAC praises Ernie for his willingness to contribute. His skills and dedication will truly be appreciated on the Board.

Give Ernie a call to welcome him to this new challenge. He can be reached at Cachuma Lake at (805) 688-4658.

PRAC SCHOLARSHIP APPROVED BY EXECUTIVE BOARD

The PRAC Executive Board in September approved guidelines for a scholarship to be offered to an outstanding student in a parks-related field. The amount of the scholarship is $200.

The guidelines allow the President to appoint a Scholarship Committee which would select a recipient.

Eligibility requirements are that applicants must be PRAC members; must have a minimum 6.1 unit course workload in an accredited park & recreation management, resource management, forestry or related program; must have a minimum 2.50 overall grade point average, or have demonstrated significant improvement over the previous two semesters; and submit two letters of recommendation.

The scholarship application deadline is June 1, 1989. Interested members should write to: PRAC, P.O. Box 28366, Sacramento, CA., 95828. Call Bill Hendricks at (415) 459-5267 for more information.

PRAC MEMBERSHIP MAILING LABELS AVAILABLE

Does your agency need to advertise for an upcoming ranger recruitment? Can you see the benefit of including seasoned rangers in your recruiting process? Would you like to share legislative information with other park professionals? Are you interested in promoting training opportunities?

If so, PRAC offers its complete mailing list, in label form, free of charge to all its members.

Two types of labels are available: the standard member address label and a label with PRAC's return mailing address.

If you need labels contact Doug Bryce, PRAC Executive Manager, P.O. Box 28366, Sacramento, CA., 95828. Allow two to four weeks for delivery.

PRAC INSTITUTES PROFESSIONAL CITATION AWARD PROGRAM

At the September PRAC Executive Board Meeting in Marin County, a Professional Citation Award Program was approved.

The purpose of the program is to appoint a committee to recognize outstanding professional service by PRAC members.

To be eligible, nominees must have been a PRAC member for at least one year. They should have also displayed exemplary performance in two or more of the following areas:

* Article submission to PRAC publications.
* Coordinating a PRAC training session or event.
* Chairing a PRAC standing committee.
* Coordinating an annual conference activity.
* Performing a presentation at a PRAC workshop.
* Performing as a PRAC board member.
* Introducing ideas which consistently benefit PRAC and the park ranger profession.

PRAC members interested in serving on the award committee, nominating a member, or obtaining more information on the program should contact President Bill Hendricks at (415) 459-5267. A nomination form can be found in this issue of "The Signpost".

PARK RANGERS ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA
PROFESSIONAL CITATION AWARD

Candidate Name: _____

Title: _____

Agency: _____

Address: _____

_____ Phone_____

Eligibility of Candidate

In a brief paragraph(s) summarize the qualifications of the candidate in meeting the criteria of candidacy as set forth in the eligibility requirements of the Professional Citation Award. Supplemental information is also encouraged (i.e. job experience, other awards, professional affiliations). The Citation Committee will base selection only on the information received. Nominations not meeting the eligibility requirements will not be accepted. All nominations must be received prior to January 1 of the year for consideration.

Person Submitting Nomination: _____

Agency: _____

Address: _____

_____ Phone_____

Return nomination form before January 1 to:

Doug Bryce, Executive Manager
Park Rangers Association of California
P.O. Box 28366
Sacramento, CA 95828

"THE SAFETY CORNER"

EDUCATING THE PARK VISITOR

By Sharon Russell
Park Ranger
Cachuma Lake Recreation Area

How many times have you run across a camper who went to a sporting goods store and spent $500 or more on camping equipment and had no idea of how to use it. If fact, how many of them even needed most of the stuff they bought.

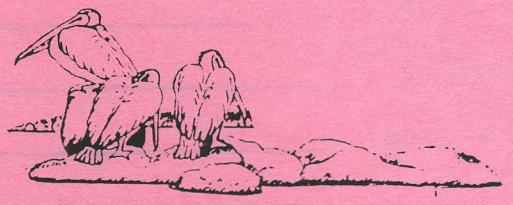
How about the guy who buries his hatchet in a tree, thinking it's a good place to store it! But what about the tree!? As park rangers, we all know, or should, that cuts through the cambium allows insects and disease to enter the very heart of the tree, and eventually kill it. A tree that took 100 years to grow is irreplaceable.

Then there's the fellow who pours gasoline on his dying campfire just to get it going a little. If he's lucky he'll wind up looking like Telly Savalas for a few months. But worse, he's looking at hospitalization, blindness, skin grafts, pain, or death.

Park rangers are in a unique position to prevent these, and other, incidents from ever happening. We must take the time to educate and explain the proper, safe to camp. Doing so not only prevents park damage, visitor injuries and death; it also reduces our stress load. Let's face it, doing emergency first aid, responding to emergencies, and documenting the sad results of such incidents are no fun and are extremely time-consuming.

If we can prevent even a tenth of these accidents, we'd be much ahead of the game. Let's get back to a friendly, helpful park ranger image. this can be accomplished by graciously explaining why some methods are safer, and even more fun, than others.

EDITOR'S NOTE: In the next issue of "The Signpost" Sharon gives her views on safe boating and fishing.



A LETTER TO PRAC

August 1, 1988

Bill (Hendricks):

It was good to talk to you last week and hear what PRAC is up to these days. I really like to see that folks are trying to get things moving again.

I've noticed that we as park rangers (the ranger in those of us who used to be, never does really go away) tend to be too independent and unwilling to accept the need to join together. Maybe too many of us harbor that old idea of "I'm going to be a ranger, living in a cabin in the woods, and eatin' bean sprouts." If rangers will only realize that those days don't exist, and probably never did, then they might see the value of organizations such as PRAC.

Good luck to you.

Phil Benge
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

A FIRST BARBEQUE SUCCESS

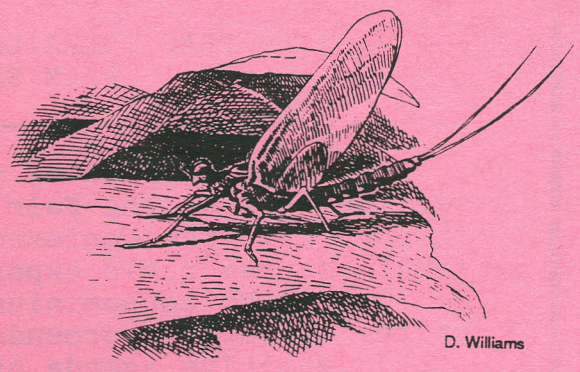
By Bill Hendricks,
PRAC Presiedent

On September 16th, PRAC held its first social event in a good many moons. More than 30 rangers, and their families, attended the Fall Board Meeting and Roast Pig BBQ at Samuel P. Taylor State Park in Marin County. Both PRAC and CSPRA representatives enjoyed the event, with many camping out courtesy of the California Department of Parks & Recreation.

Evening entertainment was provided by State Park Ranger Mike O'Connell. He performed many songs made famous by Ranger Carl Berger. PRAC thanks Mike for his effort- and by the way Mike you don't play a bad guitar.

A few individuals were instrumental to to the success of this activity. Glenn Kinney put a great deal of time into planning the BBQ. Doug Bryce handled registration and, as always, did a great job. Gordon Hasler volunteered his time and cooking expertise preparing the roast pig. He spent the entire day over a hot fire; even when the keg did'nt work. Oh No! No Beer!

Special thanks to all those involved in making this a memorable event. It is this kind dedication from the general membership which makes PRAC tick.



D. Williams

PRAC SLIDESHOW A BOX OFFICE BLOCKBUSTER

Since its premiere showing at the Annual Conference in March 1987, the PRAC slideshow has taken a whirlwind tour to organizations throughout California.

Viewers have said the program is an excellent tool for introducing people to PRAC and the park ranger profession. Highlights included PRAC's goals and objectives, how members are served, and the various roles of the ranger.

Presentations have been made to students at American River College, California State University at Chico, San Francisco State University, and Santa Rosa Junior College. In addition personnel with East Bay Municipal Utilties District, Marin Conservation Corps, Marin County Open Space District, Marin Municipal Water District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineer at Lake Sonoma, and Walnut Creek Open Space District have viewed the program.

Currently, the show is being revised. It includes a synchronized tape, and is also available on videotape. If you would like to assist in presenting and promoting the slide program contact Bill Hendricks at (415) 663-9305.

1989 PRAC/CSPRA/LEAGUECONFERENCE COMES TO PALM SPRINGS IN MARCH

The 1989 edition of the PRAC/CSPRA/LEAGUE Conference will be held at the Palm Springs Racquet Club, March 7 through 10. The conference committee is planning an exciting, memorable experience.

Overnight condominium accomodations will be available on the conference grounds at $65 per night for a double.

A tentative agenda of the Conference follows:

PRAC/CSPRA/LEAGUE CONFERENCE
MARCH 7-10, 1989
PALM SPRING RACQUET CLUB

Tentative Agenda

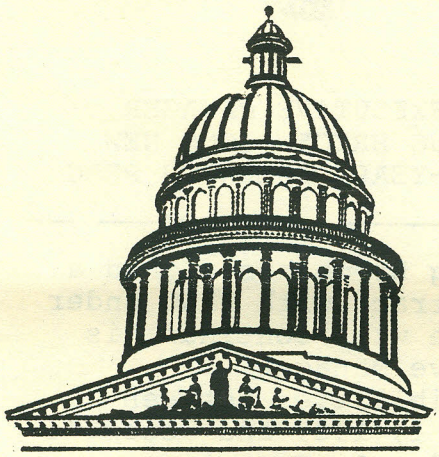
MARCH 7th	
1200-1800	Registration (Racquet Club)
1230-2200	Childcare (Racquet Club Club Room)
1300-1700	Golf Tournament (Racquet Club)
1300-1700	Tennis Tournamnent (Racquet Club)
1400-1700	Tour Of Desert Museum
1800-2200	Welcome Party (Hospitality Room)
MARCH 8th	
0800-1600	Registration (Racquet Club)
0800-2200	Publications Exhibit (Farrell House)
0800-2200	Childcare (Racquet Club Club Room)
0815-0845	Opening Session (Farrell House)
0845-1015	Panel Discussion-Facilities vs. Resources
1030-1200	Panel Discussion-Partners In Parks
1200-1300	Luncheon Buffet
1300-1600	Field Trips (Indian Canyons, Living Desert Reserve, Mt. San Jacinto
1700-1800	Palm Springs Aerial Tramway
1800-2130	Dinner/Touney Awards/Raffle/Stargazing
MARCH 9th	
0800-1600	Publications Exhibit (Farrell House)
0800-2400	Childcare (Racquet Club Club Room)
0830-1200	Worhshops (Formal Paper Presentations, League of Cooperative Associations, PRAC Issues)
1200-1300	Lunch
1300-1600	Meetings/Installation of Officers (CSPRA/LEAGUE/PRAC)
1500-1700	Board Meetings (CSPRA/PRAC/LEAGUE)
1800-2400	Awards Banquet/Dance
MARCH 10th	
0800-1100	Farewells (Hospitality Room)
0900-1100	Joint PRAC/CSPRA/LEAGUE Board Meeting
0800-1200	Checkout

"ISSUES" SPEAKERS NEEDED FOR 1989 JOINT CONFERENCE

PRAC needs speakers for the 1989 PRAC/CSPRA/LEAGUE Conference in Palm Springs. Conference Committee Member, Tom Hofsommer, is looking for people to talk on resource related issues.

Major topics include: OHV use, off-road bicycling, grazing, and other related subjects.

For more information contact Tom Hofsommer at Sacramento County Parks, (916) 366-2072.



RANGERS LEGAL UPDATE

By Dave Lydick,
Ranger II,
Sacramento County Parks & Recreation Department

California State Law requires the joining of related offenses in a single prosecution (P.C. 654). A person that is being arrested/booked should not also receive a citation for a related offense. In a court decision (Kellit vs. Superior Court, 1966), Kellit plead guilty to a misdemeanor offense then used 654 P.C. to keep from being prosecuted for a related offense which was a felony.

For more information on this update, or if you wish to submit your own "legal update", contact Dave at (916) 366-2072.

EXECUTIVE BOARD OPENINGS FOR 1989

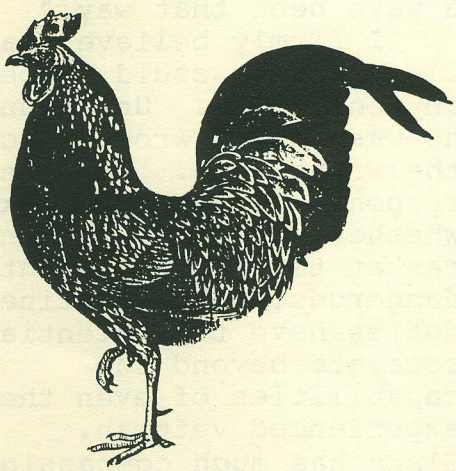
Do you want to become more involved in your professional organization? Are you interested in representing the park ranger profession on a statewide basis?

If so, your "golden opportunity" is here! PRAC is looking for professionals to serve on its Executive Board.

Upcoming Board openings are for Treasurer, Coastal Representative (two positions), and Southern Representative.

Nominations for Treasurer are open to all voting PRAC members. Representative nominees must reside in the area for their position. Current PRAC membership is required from all nominees prior to election. These Board positions will become effective June 1, 1989.

If you are interested in serving on the 1989 Board, or would like to nominate a fellow PRAC member, contact any current Board member (see roster on backpage) before January 13, 1989.



BEST WISHES TO A FALLEN COLLEAGUE

By Bill Hendricks
PRAC President

On June 28th, Glenn Galloway- Supervising Ranger/Naturalist for the East Bay Municipal Utilities District- suffered near fatal injuries while fighting a wildland fire near Pardee Reservoir. The fire started when a CDF controlled burn went out of contol. EBMUD rangers aided in controlling the fire, which threatened the town of Paloma. During the fire Glenn and another ranger, Bill Chu, were hit by the top of a burning oak tree. Bill escaped relatively unharmed, but Glenn was not so lucky. He was struck by a limb which fractured five ribs, his hip and his pelvis. He also had internal bleeding and burned lungs. Since his surgery, though, Glenn's recovery has been remarkable.

I worked with, and for, Glenn a few years ago, and I even had him as a field training officer at one point. He was always willing to take that extra effort to help green, young rangers enter a profession he had mastered years earlier. EBMUD Supervising Ranger Jim Pierner said of Glenn, "He'd give you the shirt off his back. He's always been that way."

I firmly believe that Glenn's fate could happen to any one of us. Unfortunately, he was in the wrong place at the wrong time. The ranger's responsibilties and tasks, whether we admit it or not, can at times be inherently dangerous. Even routine duties have the potential to escalate beyond the capabilities of even the most experienced veteran. Glenn has much compassion for his fellow man. In return, we express our best wishes for his continued speedy recovery.

EDITORS NOTE: Those PRAC members who would like to send get well wishes to Glenn, or to see how he is doing, can contact him at: 815 Windward Drive, Rodeo, CA., 94572.

EXECUTIVE MANAGER DOUG BRYCE SIGNS NEW TWO-YEAR DEAL WITH PRAC

Doug Bryce has signed a new contract with PRAC under which he will continue his Executive Manager responsibilities between January 1, 1989 and December 31, 1990. As Executive Manager, he will continue to act in an advisory capacity, and will perform the essential administrative duties of the organization.

This important new agreement gives PRAC a solid management foundation on which to grow. During this time Doug's expertise and experience will benefit the Association immensely.

Also serving as the Executive Manager for the California State Park Rangers Association (CSPRA), Doug will provide a vital link between our two organizations.

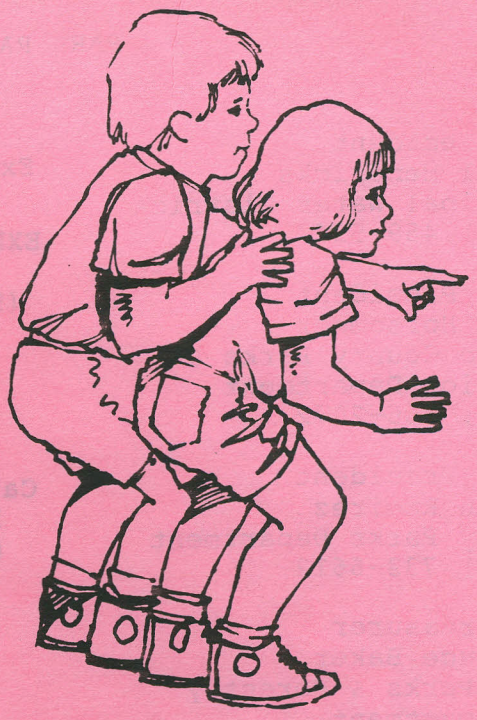
The PRAC Executive Board looks forward to its continuing relationship with Doug, upholding the ideals of PRAC and the park ranger profession.

CSU CHICO SPONSORS YELLOWSTONE FIRES FORUM

The Park & Resources Committee (PARC) of California State University , Chico will sponsor a "Yellowstone Fires Issues" Forum on December 8, 1988 from 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. The forum will be held on the Chico campus at Laxon Auditorium.

This educational event will present the true facts about the effects of the Yellowstone fires. A panel will feature Alston Chase, author of "Playing God In Yellowstone"; Dennis Bungart of the U.S. Forest Service; and Walt Dabney from U.S. National Park Service Regional Director's Office. Senator Alan Cranston and Interior Secretary, Donald Hodell have also been invited to speak.

A wine and cheese social will follow the forum. For more information contact: Vern Huffman, PARC President, (916) 895-6408.



COMMUNICATION SKILLS WORKSHOP AVAILABLE TO PRAC MEMBERS

PRAC President, Bill Hendricks, has announced that a communication skills workshop will be offered by Santa Rosa Junior College on January 30, February 6 and 13, 1989. This course is open to PRAC members, who can earn 1/2 unit of college credit for attending. The workshop is designed to assist rangers in better communicating with visitors during the course of their duties. PRAC members will receive an application flyer this December. For information in the meantime contact Bill Hendricks at (415) 459-5267.

The Signpost is published by the Parks Rangers Association of California (PRAC), P.O. Box 28366, Sacramento, CA., 95828.

The Signpost address is 806 S. Saratoga Ave., #P-206, San Jose, CA., 95129. The editor is Chris Crockett. Articles of 1,000 words or less are welcome. All submissions may be edited without notice, and become the property of PRAC. Submissions may also be phoned in at (408) 249-4312.

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and
Glen Kinney
Livermore Area Recreation &
Parks District
(415) 449-0491

Valley Representative
Dave Lydick
Sacramento County Parks &
Recreation Department
(916) 366-2072

Southern Representative
Ernie Del Rio
Cachuma Lake
Recreation Area
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