

The Signpost

Sept-Oct

1990

FROM THE PRESIDENTS DESK

By Chris George, PRAC President

"Lessons About Feeding 'Yogi' Is Painful"

I used to love the old "Yogi Bear" cartoons when I was young because he was always outsmarting ole "Ranger Smith" at Jellystone Park. As a kid I watched that cartoon as often as I could. I never could figure out why the ranger was so adamant about not feeding the bears.

While on vacation during the last weeks in July, I discovered the unpleasant reason why. I saw a bear cub killed because he had attacked a 16-year old girl in a campground not far from Grand Junction, Colorado. The cub was in the area because it had been fed "Zingers" sponge cake, chocolate chip cookies and ham, a Colorado Division of Wildlife Warden had told me.

Wildlife officers theorize that the bear cub was still hungry and was looking for more food when it attacked the girl. The bear had to be destroyed because it posed a possible danger to humans and because it wouldn't be afraid to attack again.

I was there with my friend from Colorado Division of Wildlife when the piercing crack from his rifle came. The sound and the memory of the little black bear being destroyed still makes my stomach turn.

I was there when he died. The bear cub had scrambled up a tree in an attempt to get away from us. But he couldn't. He sadly looked down at us with his puppy dog eyes. It was as if he knew he was begging for mercy. He would receive none. A lump filled my throat and my lips quivered as tears swelled in my eyes when the little guy tumbled down, landing with a sickening thud.

My friend, Warden Haggerty, told me how this was always the toughest part of his job, and it was such a senseless waste of a natural resource to destroy these animals.

It was a hard lesson for me. I have understood the reason, but never a witness to it. Now I know why Ranger Smith didn't want people to feed Yogi and Boo Boo.

Haggerty said they didn't have a bear problem, they have a people problem. Once a bear comes into contact with humans, it becomes a problem bear. This unfortunately often means death for the animal.

There was a time when I was young, that I was a part of the problem. If a cute little bear had come strolling into my camp, I too would have probably fed him something. I would have fed him thinking I was doing the right thing. After all, the bear was hungry and I was keeping him from starvation. I only learned latter on in life when I became a park ranger, why you "Don't feed the bears!" No one told me when I was young. But never could I have imagined the pain I saw in the little cubs eyes before it died that day.

I will never forget that day in Colorado, a day my friend asked me if I would like to ride along to see the other side of our work. A day of sadness. People need to learn why Yogi needs to get his own food. A lesson the cub never had a chance of experiencing.

Board Meeting Highlights

The following are highlights of the PRAC Board meeting held on September 28, 1990 in Sacramento:

- * The Student Rep position is vacant. Someone from the north, preferably Chico State University is needed to fill this position.
- * Plans were discussed for the spring conference in Yosemite. Room rates at the Yosemite Lodge will range from \$58.00 to \$65.00. CSPRA members will be invited to participate.
- * Proposed constitutional changes were discussed. It was decided to bring the issue before the membership at the next annual meeting.

Legislative News

Assembly Bill No. 4305 has recently been signed. AB 4305 enables county park rangers to receive the same safety retirement benefits as various other law enforcement and firefighter personnel. This bill was introduced by Sam Farr at the request of the Monterey County park rangers.

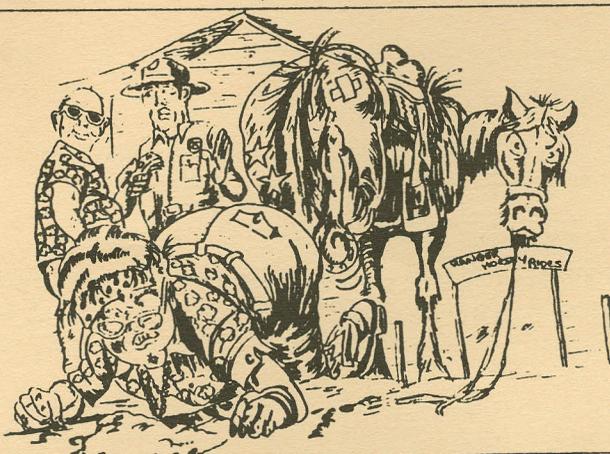
“County peace officer” now includes persons employed by the county parks department whose primary responsibility is maintaining the peace and whose duties include law enforcement, emergency medical care first response, or fire suppression and prevention. Local boards must elect to be subject by the provisions of this law.

Coming Soon A Ranger Is ...!!

Bob Donahue, Conference Chair

This is the theme of the upcoming PRAC Conference on March 11, 12 & 13, 1991. If the theme is not enough to grab your attention maybe the location will — **Yosemite National Park!** The conference committee is busy working on the agenda and gathering speakers. There will be something for everybody. The various tracks that are being planned includes law enforcement, interpretation and resource management.

We believe this conference is one you will want to attend. Along with the training sessions there will be existing keynote speakers, tours or the majestic Yosemite Valley, a banquet, and of course lots of fellowship.



8/31/90 "Sorry, Sir - We've already had twenty offers for that horse." *Charles Long '90*

The City of Poway Community Services Department

The City of Poway Community Services Department is proud to announce that it will be hosting the First Annual San Diego County Park Ranger Training Workshop.

The workshop, which is open to all PRAC members, is scheduled for Wednesday, November 7, 1990 at the Lake Poway Recreation Area.

Topics which have been tentatively scheduled for discussion are as follows:

- 8:00 - 8:30 A.M. Registration (Coffee & Donuts)
- 8:30 - 9:30 A.M. Gangs
- 9:45 - 10:45 A.M. Interpretive Programs
- 11:00 - 12:00 A.M. Systems Management (Multiple Usage)
- 1:15 - 2:15 A.M. Trails (Design & Conflict)
- 2:30 - 3:30 A.M. Public Relations
- 3:45 - 4:30 A.M. Discussion

The cost of the workshop will be \$10.00 per person, which will include coffee and donuts, a share fair and a canned lunch.

For more information, call Brent Mason, City of Poway at (619) 748-6600, Ext. 386.

Winter and Spring 1991 Workshops

PRAC is planning six workshops, three in Northern California and three in Southern California, for the Winter and Spring of 1991. We hope to be able to do at least this many workshops each year. It will take your participation for us to do this.

Northern California

Concord

January 28, 29, & 30, 1991
Side handle Baton Training, Post Certified, 16 hours
Arrest, Search & Seizure, 8 hours

Sacramento

April 10 & 11, 1991
Water Safety (reservoir & river)
16 hours

West Valley College

May 7 & 8, 1991
Fire fighting & prevention, 16 hours

Southern California

Long Beach

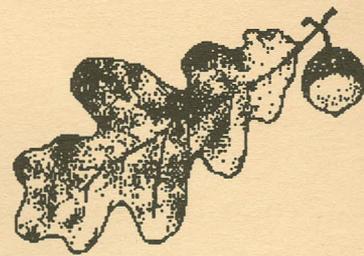
February 16, 1991
Gang seminar, 8 hours

Anaheim

April 28, 29 & 30, 1991
Public Relations, 16 hours
Great Rope Challenge, 8 hours

Idyllwild

Spring, 1991, 2 days
Fire Training, 16 hours



News from San Jose Parks

Recently, Todd Quick, a Senior Park Ranger for the City of San Jose's Department of Recreation, Parks and Community Services was diagnosed with malignant melanoma. Unfortunately, the disease was already in an advanced state.

Friends and co-workers are planning a benefit for Todd, his wife and their 10 month-old daughter, Sarah. If you would like to attend the benefit, please contact Janet McGowan at (408) 251-5417.

Donations are also being accepted. You can mail your check to: The San Jose Park Rangers Association, Municipal Employees Credit Union, 140 Asbury Street, San Jose, CA 95110-2105. Thank you for your help during this difficult time.



PRAC Scholarship Award

This years PRAC Scholarship has been awarded to Sharon Woehl. Sharon is a Seasonal Ranger for Santa Clara County Parks. She has been attending West Valley College and is planning to go to San Jose State University. The following letter was submitted to the Scholarship Committee with her application.

After years of debating over what type of park career I wanted to strive for, I have finally made a decision. It has not been an easy road. There are so many career choices in the park field. I thought I would be the only ninety-year-old seasonal still working my way through college trying to make the big decision.

After months of talking to counselors, park people, teachers and friends I have decided to major in recreation and park resources. Eventually, I would like to become a park planner. This seems to me a challenging opportunity to have a hand in the big decisions, but still allows one to get their hands dirty. This will not be an easy major for me, but with a lot of devotion and hard work, I know I can accomplish whatever I set out to do.

If chosen for the PRAC scholarship, I would use the endowment

to assist in my first semesters tuition at San Jose State University in the spring of 1991. It would be a great feeling knowing my peers thought enough of my ability to assist me in my future career.

Sincerely,
Sharon Ann Woehl



Natural Resources Communications Workshop

January 7-11, 1991

The Natural Resources Communication Workshop, sponsored by the Western Section of The Wildlife Society. It is designed to help natural resource workers more effectively communicate with the general public through personal presentations using good visual aids — especially slide presentations.

Since many of the problems in natural resources management are people-oriented, more effective communication can significantly improve many management programs.

Workshop Content:

1. Discussion topics include:
 - a) Planning: communication principals, audience analysis design

- b) Preparing: creating graphics, computer graphics, photographing graphics, tips for photographic composition

- c) Presenting: equipment setup, speaking tips for reaching various audiences, multimedia presentations

- d) Evaluating: evaluation of performance

2. Each participant will bring a selection of slides for organization into an illustrated talk.

3. Each participant will prepare graphics (title slides, graphs, charts, maps, cartoons, etc.) to be used in their presentations. All graphic art supplies will be furnished.

4. Each participant will give a 5 and 15-minute talk (which will include graphics prepared during the workshop). These presentations will be evaluated by the class and the instructor.

Instructor: Dr. Jon K. Hooper, California State University, Chico

Dates and Location: January 7-11, 1991, at California State University, Chico. Participants receive 1-unit CSUC Continuing Education credit; the workshop is worth 32 hours of continuing wildlife education credit through The Wildlife Society's Professional Development Program (Category II).

NOTE: If there is excessive demand for the January 7-11, 1991 workshop,

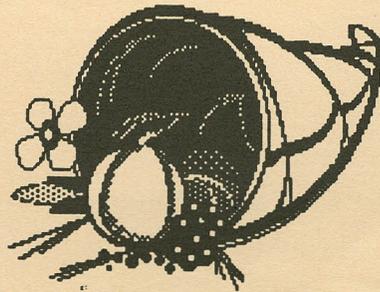
a second workshop will be offered January 14-18, 1991 (same location, etc.) Please help spread the word that this is a good year to apply for the Natural Resource Communication Workshop.

Application Procedure: The deadline for applications is Friday, November 9, 1990. The registration fee is \$250 (do not send registration fee with application). The workshop is limited to 16 participants. To apply, send a letter on your organization's official letterhead describing your job title, job duties, and how the training will help in your job. This is important since it is used to select workshop participant.

To apply or for more information, write or call:

Dr. Jon K. Hooper
Dept, Recreation and Park Management
California State University, Chico
Chico, CA 95929-0560
(916) 895-5811 or 895-6408

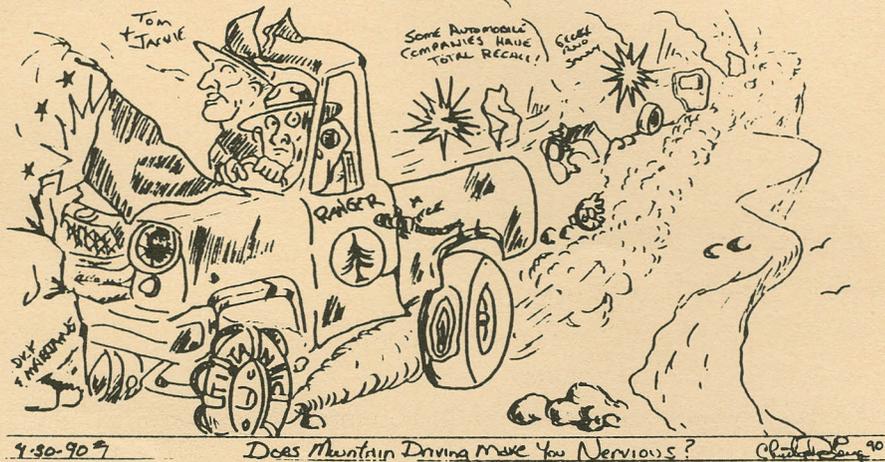
were there, where were you? On September 20th Vasona Park was invaded by personnel from local and not so local park agencies. Thirty-seven people attended, representing park rangers, CDF firefighters, and even a representative from the District Attorneys office; from as far as Chico and Yosemite, and as local as Santa Clara County.



"Vice-President Works as Chef!"

The annual Ranger Games BBQ Picnic was a big success. We

Vice-President Bruce Weidman "volunteered" to be the chef and did a great job, flipping burgers and turning "dogs." Lots of eating, talking with old and new friends, a little softball and volleyball was the agenda for this PRAC event. A BIG Thank You to Bob Donahue, for assisting with the organizing of the BBQ and also for the use of his rope, needed for the volleyball game.



Meditation on Park Maintenance

8/90

The following is a poem written by Patty Walker. Patty has worked for the NPS, CA State Parks, EBRPD, and currently works for Santa Cruz County Parks.

The city park stands out from one mile up.

The airplane ride shows you the greens of the ball fields and the sandy play areas.

Mostly you can find the park by where the cars go.

The other kind of park, the wilderness place, it's harder to find.

Someone who knows has to point it out to you.

Someone who knows where and what to look for.

These things I ponder as I pick up the garbage and clean the restrooms.

A million cigarette butts later I catch myself taking pride in making things "nice & clean," everything in tidy order.

What do these things really mean?

Do they profit the natural world that sustains us?

We manipulate our environment to suit our sense of the world.

We impose lawns where there would be meadows & mosquitos so we may play ball games with each other.

We put buildings on land to hold our ceremonies and celebrations where the animal life has had their own there for centuries.

We put paved walkways down because we don't want "to get dirty."

Then we shed our unwanted "stuff" — garbage, cigarettes and sewage — as a final manipulation of the natural world.

We do everything possible to make the world/earth suit us.

There are no acorns or native grains in the supermarket to buy for your table.

You do not go to the stream for water. If you did, you wouldn't drink it straight.

How strange our world must look to a burrowing owl or deer.

We resist any changes that natural forces thrust upon us; yet we are amazed at the reaction of the natural system to our own changes.

In the old days we had a "manifest destiny" to "conquer nature."

We the humans were superior to all life forms (and sometimes other humans).

Then the scientists declared "the balance of nature must be preserved."

So we strive to change our ways, to be in "harmony and equilibrium."

But the wilderness is not a static thing. Catastrophe is an everyday occurrence.

One learns to adapt & tolerate, to survive and be happy.

Is this then where our desires for static order and square green lawns comes from?

In the naming of things, do we make them tangible and easily put into boxes — therefore contained?

Are our lives so far from the wilderness that we fear the ancient voices within us?

I have only more questions as I go about my rounds.

Yet somehow I sense how we make and manage our parks has a lot to do with the future.

Do we see wild places or picnic tables? Are we giving green relief to overcrowded cities or chances to be with wildlife?

Both are important, both are needed.

How much of what land? Where?

How does this affect the future?

Maybe someday there will be oxalis & acorns in the supermarkets.

And we will remember to make tools and boats.

I would like to see that future.

Meanwhile, I got to go pick up the trash.

Oh, is that a cigarette butt over there?

Is there a baseball game tonight? And a wedding?

Oh no — somebody said a wildlife fair too!

With you in parks,

Patty.



Sustained Yields in Our Forests

Dr. Lawrence Davis from UC Berkeley will be the guest speaker on Oct 29, 1990, at 7:00 PM at CSU Chico, at Ayers, # 120, with reception following Ayers is located across from Salem & First Street. Dr. Davis will discuss the meaning of sustained yield within our forests. He will also explain propositions 128, 130 and 138. These propositions will be on the November 6th ballot.

Accompanying Dr. Davis will be a panel of 4 individuals representing the US Forest Service, the Biology Department at CSU Chico, the timber industry, and the Sierra Club. For more information contact Marci Moser at (916) 342-5654.

THE MERCHANDISE COUNTER

Prac Polo Shirts Still Available

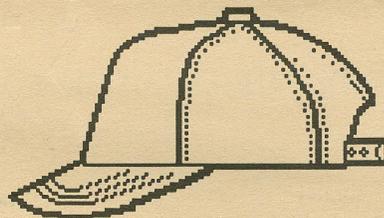
PRAC is offering its members a high quality, buff colored polo-type shirt (100% cotton mesh with knit collars and sleeves) with the Association logo emblazoned on the left breast area. These attractive shirts are ideal for casual recreation outings, social activities, tennis, and golf. And, best of all, you'll be letting others know you belong to PRAC. Each shirt is only \$17.00 (including shipping and handling). Be sure

to specify your size when ordering.



Mugs & Caps

You may have already read about the great shirts PRAC is offering its members, but that's not all! PRAC is also making high quality baseball caps (green or brown twill-type, \$7.00 each) and coffee mugs (blue and white glazed ceramic, \$5.00 each).

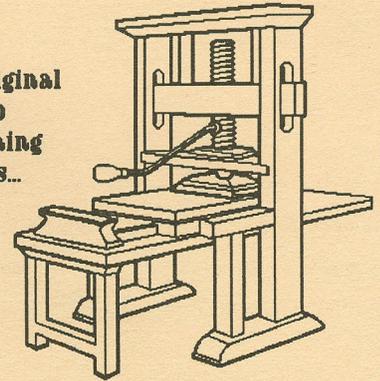


PRAC Agency Directory

The PRAC Ranger Directory is now available. It lists 80 agencies with "ranger personel" throughout California. The cost for this resource is \$4.00.

To purchase any of the above items, send a check, payable to: PRAC, P.O. Box 28366, Sacramento, CA., 95828-0366. Please indicate number of items requested, along with size and color

The original desktop publishing systems...



HOW TO SEND ARTICLES FOR SUBMISSION

PRAC members having access to a Macintosh computer with Microsoft Word/Write/Works, MacWrite or WriteNow Programming can write their article on the computer and mail the disk to The Signpost Editor for use in future issues of the PRAC newsletter. This will speed up production greatly. The disk will then be mailed back to the sender once it has been copied.

Naturally, for those without a Macintosh, articles may be mailed or even phoned in, in the normal way.

For more information contact David Brooks, The Signpost editor at (408) 336-2948. Disks or any other articles can be mailed to: David Brooks, 560 Hillcrest Drive, Ben Lomond, CA 95005.



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1990

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