



The Signpost

May - June
1993

PRAC Events

Rangers Party Down! by Patty Walker

The Joint Conference of the Park Rangers Association of California and the California State Park Rangers was held in March at Santa Clara this year. Rangers came from all over the state and many agencies were represented.

The session had a variety of topics. The conference was run on three tracks: Operations, Resource Management and Interpretation. Being a ranger with EBRPD, I concentrated on Operations and Resource management. Speakers were interesting and the many topics covered how to find your park boundary, what to do about encroachment and park neighbors infringements. Other talks were about GIS (Geographic Information Systems—computer mapping) and how to use this system to pinpoint fire hazard areas. One afternoon session was a real eye-opener for me as it discussed the occult and how parks are used for rituals.

Story continued on page 4.

NSPR—Missing From the Alphabet Soup by Bill Hendricks

In an effort to educate PRAC and CSPRA members regarding other professional membership organizations, the 1993 Annual Conference provided a session on number of organizations that may be beneficial to career development. The session was well received and provided a number of options for park rangers in expanding their professional involvement.

Unfortunately a major national organization, the National Society for Park Resources (NSPR) was not represented on the professional panel. NSPR, a branch of the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) is a leading advocate of park and resource protection, environmental ethics, and outdoor recreation. NSPR was developed to “advance the art of planning, maintaining, interpreting and administering natural, historic and cultural resources at local, state and federal levels, of government.”

For PRAC and CSPRA members looking for a professional organization niche at the national level, NSPR may fulfill their needs. The organization seems particularly suited for generalist park rangers and individuals interested in legislative advocacy. Membership includes park rangers, administrators, and educators at each level of government. Services provided include a subscription to Parks & Recreation, the monthly NRPA National Magazine, bi-annual NSPR newsletter, and information on national, regional and state training sessions, conferences and workshops.

Further information regarding NSPR may be attained by contacting NSPR, 2775 South Quincy Street, Suite 300, Arlington, VA 22206-2204, or phone 1-(800)-626-NRPA.

800 Number Now Available

CSPRA, PRAC and the CAL Ranger Foundation have obtained 800 phone service. The phone will be answered “Ranger Office” and you will be asked to leave a “Voice Mail” message. Please leave a complete message and we will get back to you only if you ask us to or we need additional information. The “Voice Mail” will usually be checked every two hours.

Our phone numbers are:

Local or outside California—(916) 558-3734.
Long Distance in California—(800) 994-2530.
FAX—(916) 387-1179.

Riverside 1994

The Sheraton in Riverside will be the site of our 1994 workshop. Put March 7–10 on your calendar for next years annual meeting. If you have ideas or would like to help plan the annual workshop call (800) 994-25230—we need your help!

From the Presidents Desk

"The Conference was Great!"

by Bob Donohue

The annual conference is history but those who attended will agree that it will long be remembered for its educational and entertainment value. I want to thank the conference committee for a superb job. The committee is too large to name individually but they did each receive a certificate of appreciation at the banquet. Janet McGowan chaired the committee and was the first to say it was the committee who did all the work and should get all the credit. I agree, but it took her leadership and drive, in concert with Doug Bryce, to make things happen.

Each of the tracks had knowledgeable dynamic speakers and all were well attended. Our opening speaker, Michael Modzelewski, was very entertaining and informative. His tales about spending two years on an island in the Inland Passage were both humorous and touching. He has authored a book chronicling his experiences.

The tours, casino night, fun run, Ira Bletzs' interpretive beer tasting, golf tournament, and banquet were all well done. Thanks to Wayne Gutherie are in order for bankrolling casino night. It was a huge hit. Some of the prizes that were handed out were autographed footballs by Brent Jones and Joe Montana of the 49ers. From the comments I heard from many people it is safe to say the conference was a success. Looking to next year, our annual conference will be in Riverside. If you would like to be a part of that committee please contact Doug Bryce or me. We will have a great time.

In closing I just want to say how grateful I was to see this year's conference dedicated to the memory of William Penn Mott Jr. who passed away last September. He was a force in the parks field and he will be missed. His son, John Mott, graciously donated some of his father's memorabilia as prizes and auction items. Thanks to his generosity the Cal Ranger Foundation benefited tremendously as did the people who were fortunate enough to obtain a piece of parks history. Mr. Mott was highly respected and it was fun to watch the excitement of those who received their particular treasure.

Remember, if you have any suggestions or want to work on a committee be sure to get in touch with your regional director. This is your association, please get involved. We need you!

The CAL Ranger Foundation

The Board of Directors of the CAL Ranger Foundation meet in Sacramento in February, at the home of Doug Bryce. Items that were discussed included a review of the text for a brochure, an agreement with the California Recreational Trails Foundation to act as their fiscal agent till they get started, the future of a State Parks retreat, and a proposal that the Foundation assume responsibility for the office management, scholarships, workshops, and the annual conference for CSPRA/PRAC.

The agenda was a discussion about methods that we can use to approach those that reward grants to organizations. In other words, **why do we exist!** Handling the scholarship money was a major reason, and is a given. Tom Smith and Rick Palmer brought a proposal that we could provide the following:

1. Habitat and restoration grants to be given to park rangers who have projects going in State parks, regional, county and municipal parks.

2. The creation of model environmental education areas within parks in California, including promotional items, interpretive items, signs, creation of study guides, and coordination with local school districts.

3. Development of a state-wide data base for resource and park management within the Foundation acting as a clearing house for on-going research in colleges and universities.

It was also suggested that we approach the membership of CSPRA and PRAC for any additional ideas that they might have. It was felt that in order to approach other foundations for money that the subjects should probably be environmental or timely. If you have any additional ideas for this approach, please contact Tom Smith at (408) 356-5702 or drop him a line at 5453 Blossom Dale Drive, San Jose, CA, 95124.

Bird Words Used by Southern California Bird Watchers

from Jude Weierman

(based on a Los Angeles Times Magazine article 12/13/92)

Burned in the scope v. to have recaptured remarkable detail of a bird while studying it through binoculars.

LBJ initials for little brown job. Any small brown bird of indeterminate species that the watcher cannot identify. "All I spotted was a pack of LBJ's in some bushes."

life list n. a list of birds seen during one's lifetime. Many birders also keep state, county and back yard lists.

pish n. a sound made by birders that is thought to attract birds.

pisher n. one who pishes entirely too much. "That guy's a real pisher, he just spooked that western tanager."

trash bird n. a common bird, such as a house finch, that birders ignore.

twitcher n, a nervous bird-watcher who rushes from one bird sighting to another. "That twitcher hardly looked at that stunning tri-colored black-bird before hunting down some great tailed grackle!!"

whoopie list n. a list of birds seen copulating. Birds often have curious mating rituals—for example, white-throated swifts climb 200 feet, join and then plunge toward the ground in pinwheel fashion, separating just before crashing.

WNK initials for "we'll never know." A glimpse of a bird that shows great promise, but remains unidentified. "It could have been a hermit warbler, but to be honest, it was a WNK."



A Grey Pine?

by Pam Helmke

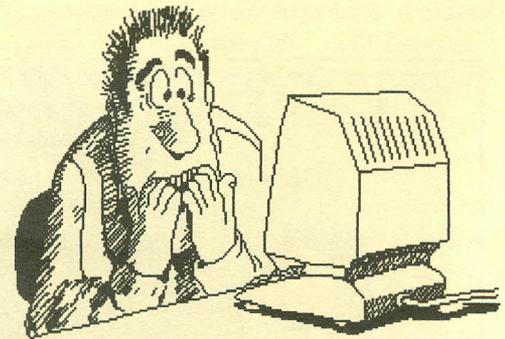
Park Ranger, City of San Jose

During a recent workshop on native food plants one of the instructors, a member of the local Ohlone Indian Council, mentioned the Grey Pine. A number of us looked about in a confused manner and she clarified. The Grey Pine or Ghost Pine is the tree most commonly referred to as Digger Pine or *Pinus sabiniana*. She went on to inform the class that "digger" was a derogatory statement used in reference to many members of California's Native American tribes.

The 49ers originally coined the term as an ethnic slur referring to the Northern Maidu Indians. The Maidu were observed using fire hardened branches to gather roots and bulbs for food and the term digger came to represent

these hunters/gatherer tribes. It seems that the early European settlers felt that societies that gathered their food were less intelligent than farming societies.

Our instructor went on to request that the common name "Digger Pine" be dropped from our vocabulary. Many Native Americans find it to be very offensive. Two less well known common names, Grey or Ghost Pine were submitted for our use. I have selected the common name Grey Pine as it reflects the overall color of the needles and makes it easy for children to remember. I hope that other park interpreters will also begin to use the alternate names. Hopefully, as time progresses the old name will be replaced in our speech, field guides and test books.



Oops!

We goofed! The phone number on the announcement for the Swift-water Rescue & Adventure seen on page 3 of the last issue (March-April) of *The Signpost* is incorrect. The real phone number is (916) 647-4628. Our apologies for any inconvenience.

Rangers Party Down

(Continued from page 1)

The second day the resources track went to Palo Alto Baylands and discussed shore, sea and land. In the afternoon Rangers from all over exhibited their rescue vehicles and showed off special equipment.

The operations and interpretation tracks continued in Santa Clara. A fascinating session on setting up environmental computer games was informative and encouraging for those of us "techno inept" types. The afternoon was used for search and rescue techniques and practice. Though I had heard some of the material elsewhere, the Henry Coe SP rangers had some new ideas.

The best part of the conference was meeting and greeting old friends and making new friends. The Casino Night was a great opportunity to have fun and raise money for the Associations. Everyone who went said it was more fun than Las Vegas and they won more prizes.

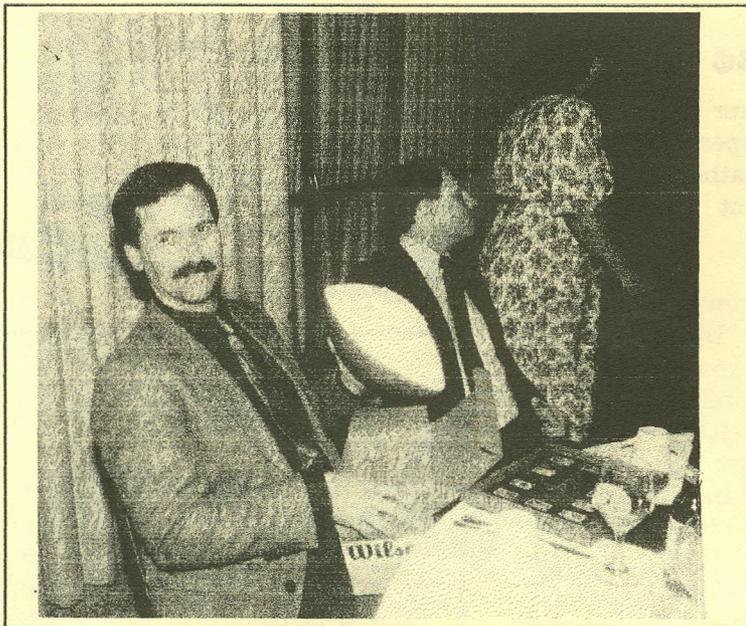
The banquet the next evening was just as lively! The raffle prizes were lusted after—a Joe Montana autographed football, weekend trips to Lake Tahoe and Hollister Country Club for golfing, and several dinners, plays and shows. (The

prize committee really out did themselves.) Then as if that wasn't enough, Ranger John Mott brought some memorabilia from his father, William P. Mott, to be auctioned. The bidding was hot and fierce for items like a William P. Mott name badge, stamp collection, plaques and pictures! All in all, the auction was great fun. Yours truly even won a prize from the raffle—a holiday week-end!

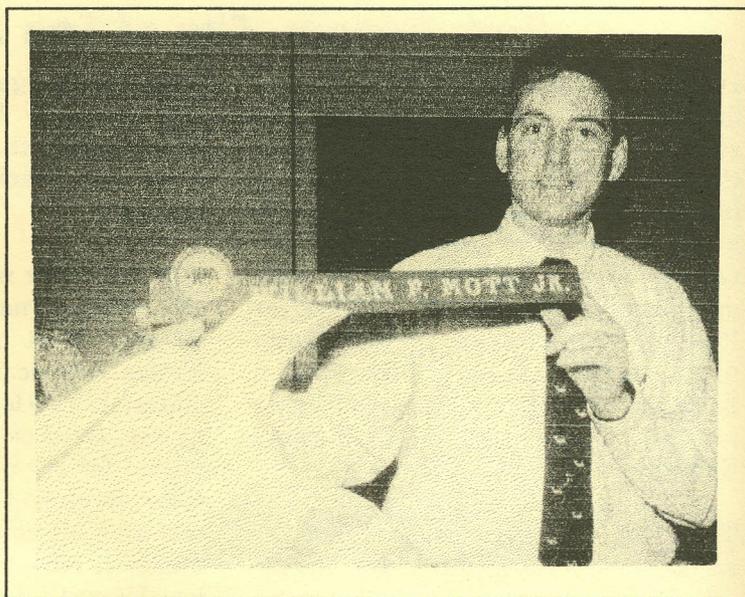


Fun at Casino Night

All in all the PRAC/CSPRA conference was well worth the time spent there. It was really good to talk to rangers from all over California about similar problems. I'm looking forward to March '94 in Riverside California!! See you there.



The happy winner of the Joe Montana football raffle prize.



One of the auction items donated by the Mott family.

What to do if Attacked by Africanized Bees

(This information is courtesy of Don Watstein)

1. Run as fast as possible in a zig-zag pattern away from the direction of the attacking bees.

2. Do not stay in the area. Do not stand still. Do not try to wash bees off with water. It doesn't work. Do not swat or wave at bees.

3. Get into the protection of a building or a car. Bees will likely follow a victim into a building. The bees like light and avoid the darkness of indoors.

4. Cover your face with a shirt or coat. If an AHB nest is disturbed, people are going to be stung. The body will survive the stings; the face may not.

5. Once a casualty is safe, begin to remove stingers by scraping them free.

Use Of Common Sense

Although the africanized or "killer" bees strike fear into the hearts of just about everyone, apiculturists say there is no need to become paranoid or distraught of the arrival of the bees. Using common sense will go a long way in avoiding an AHB attack.

People who work outdoors are obviously at greater risk, but there are a couple of rules to remember that will reduce that risk.

The Africanized Honey Bee is nomadic. Therefore, do not assume there are no nests in an area just because there were none there a week earlier.

Before beginning job, walk through the job site. Look around the site, peer over fences and be aware of any insect flights from a central point. Be aware of escape routes, where vehicles are parked and buildings that might be easily accessible on a dead run. Make sure windows of vehicles are closed.

As uncomfortable as they may be, wear long sleeve shirts, pants and trousers.

What You Need to Know About the Blood-Borne Pathogens Standard

by Jim Wheeler, Recreation Supervisor for the City of San Ramon

*Reprinted from the January 1993 issue of Leisure Lines
(Published by the California Parks and Recreation Society)*

Federal OSHA designed the Blood-borne Pathogen Standard (BPS) to limit the occupational exposure to human blood and other material that could transmit blood-borne pathogens.

The BPS was intended to make the workplace safer for those who deal with blood and other bodily fluids on a day-to-day basis. Public safety personnel come in contact with these fluids, so they were included in the standard.

Component of Standard

Exposure determination is a critical part of the standard. Jobs must be evaluated for potential exposure. Then justification for or against pre-exposure vaccination for specific job classifications must be based on the evaluation.

Use old accident reports and workers' compensation information to study the frequency of exposure incidents in different job classifications.

Universal Precautions

Methods of compliance deal with using "universal precautions" when exposure is possible. It also focuses on engineering and work practices such as hand washing and equipment cleaning.

Personal protective equipment is also a method of compliance. **When there is occupational exposure the employer shall provide at no cost, gloves, pocket masks, goggles or any other necessary protective equipment.**

Hepatitis B Virus

"The employer shall make available the Hepatitis B vaccine and vaccination series to all employees who have occupational exposure and post exposure evaluation and follow-up to all employees who have had an exposure incident." (BPS)

Those who have been determined as having potential for exposure need to offered vaccination within 10 days of employment. Those that refuse the se-

ries need to sign a statement of declination.

Anybody having an exposure incident needs to go through post-exposure follow up with a physician including starting the vaccination series.

Employee Training

Training is required for employees with occupational exposure. Annual training should be provided within one year of previous training. Any person that is knowledgeable in the subject matter, as it relates to your workplace, can do the training.

Record Keeping

It is the employer's responsibility to establish and maintain an accurate record for each employee with occupational exposure.

Contra Costa County Municipal Risk Management Authority has an excellent compliance package that may be available to your agency. Contact Stephen Brooks, CSP, (510) 943-1100.

Regional News

Region 5 News from Ron Slimm

Wheels are starting to turn within Region 5. In the next couple of weeks Region 5 members will receive *Tracks*, a newsletter for the region.

To help PRAC better serve the needs of its members, we will be forming regional committees for; membership, training, fundraising, social activities and newsletter.

From Region 4 by Donald Watstein

A big hello from Region 4, Southern California. "It's our duty to protect and serve all park users so that they are able to enjoy themselves in a peaceful atmosphere while they have fun at any of the parks."

These classes now available to all rangers.

Sign up now for classes at Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District office, 1692 Sycamore Drive, Simi Valley, CA 93065.

Classes are available at the following times:

Standard First Aid

May 4 & 6, 6-10:00PM, you must attend both classes. The fee is \$30.00 which includes book.

Basic Life Support (BLS) For The Professional Rescuer

Prerequisite; must have a current Community CPR card or current Infant, Child and Adult CPR card. The class is June 5, 8:00AM-5:00PM, fee is \$30.00 (\$20.00 includes book, \$10.00 for face mask).

Title 22 (Pre-EMT)

Prerequisite; current Standard First Aid, Infant and child CPR, and CPR Basic Life Saving cards. Class will be June 19, 8:00AM-7:00PM, cost is \$10.00 plus \$10.00 for book

If you have any questions, please call (805) 584-4400.

City Of Roseville Park Ranger Program by Dave Lydick

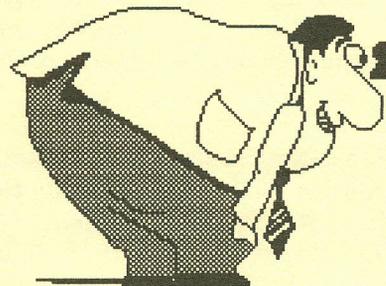
After this past workshop/conference I thought about what I find most important in attending. Yes the sessions are all very informative and the social and sporting events are great, but I find the knowledge gained from talking to rangers from other agencies is invaluable. To further this experience some, I am going to be interviewing rangers from agencies in the Valley District and writing short articles about them. I thank Ken Weiner from the City of Roseville for the information in this article.

The City of Roseville began a Park Ranger program in 1986 with the part-time hiring of a reserve police officer to work as a Park Ranger. This person was hired to take care of problems in the parks but did not carry a firearm. Ken Weiner was hired in Aug. 1987 and became the first full-time Ranger with Roseville. Ken was appointed as a peace officer under 830.31(b) and was issued a baton, mace, and handcuffs for safety equipment. Ken says that the scope of his law enforcement duties were mostly limited to municipal code enforcement at that time. Dave Sloane was hired as a part time Ranger in 1989 but was made a full-time Ranger when a 1989 ordinance limiting and prohibiting alcohol increased the need for Ranger time.

Ken and Dave are also involved in resource management and interpretation, (they have two four week sessions of junior ranger scheduled for this summer, plus four other interpretive events each), but they were mainly hired to take care of problems in the parks. Their progression to the level of law enforcement that they are at now is due to their training, and the research and work that they did to argue for full safety equipment.

Ken and Dave have gang problems in their parks, (yes, even relatively small cities have gang problems), and an incident in Oct. 1990 when Dave made an after hours contact on a gang member that had a sawed off shotgun, semi-automatic, drugs, and drug money, started the push for firearms for the Roseville Rangers. Initially there was support from the police dept. but only if the Rangers were switched so that they worked for the P.D. The summer of 1991 brought a new police chief who supported Ken and Dave's request for firearms and agreed that they should remain in the Parks Dept. Ken and Dave began carrying firearms in June 1992 and have enjoyed a close relationship with the P.D. for training and assistance in the field. Ken told me that he is "envious of Parks Departments that don't have gang problems" and made this correlation, "gangs are a little like star thistle".

TAKE A PEEK AT THIS



Training Seasonal Staff

by Bill Tunick

Like many agencies, Sonoma County Regional Parks hires a large number of seasonal employees. In the past, we have not had a large percentage of returnees. This has changed in the past two years, due in part to our new training techniques. With staggered starting dates, different shifts, and staff needed to cover daily park operations, it was difficult to arrange large blocks of time to train and orient the seasonals.

To help correct this situation two field staff decided to improve the training the seasonal received. This method is multi-faceted. The program includes an hour long video, handbook, check sheets, ride-a-longs, and tests. The video shows staff rangers giving a tour of the facility, demonstrating radio operations, emergency response procedures, and performing all the jobs that seasonal will be doing—including emptying the garbage, fee collection, and cleaning toilets. The video took staff more than six weeks to shoot and edit as work schedules permitted. The video is use with the handbook to give trainees a clear understanding of the job and the expected performance standards. This format decreases the amount of staff time needed to oversee the training. After the video and handbook are thoroughly covered, a multiple choice test is given on the material. Test is reviewed with the trainee to correct any mistakes or misunderstandings. If a passing grade of 90% is not achieved the video and handbook are reviewed again and then a different multiple choice test is given.

Before driving 'solo' in a county vehicle, a ranger reviews a check list of county policy and safety rules with each trainee. This is followed by an actual driving test. These steps have helped to dramatically decrease the number of accidents.

Once the tests and check sheets are satisfactorily completed, the trainee is given a certificate of completion of training. This form is signed by the

district supervisor and a copy is placed in the district's file.

We have seen many benefits of this training program. The video makes clear the expected performance standards and duties of the seasonal employees. The video can be used as a screening tool, since some people have decided after viewing the tape that this is not the summer job for them. This program also saves the supervisor headaches mid-season when they have to fire someone for sub-standard work and hire a replacement. The questions asked by the trainees are now more detailed and specific resulting in better understanding of responsibilities. We can also make sure that each trainee receives the same training. This program allows the rangers to train the seasonals, instead of the seasonals training each other. This method also provides easy documentation of training practices in case of any needed disciplinary action or law suit.

The training video and written materials are available for loan. You may use our program to help develop a seasonal employee training program for your own agency. Contact Ranger Bill Tunick for more information. Sonoma County Regional Parks, 2300 County Center Drive, Santa Rosa, CA 95401 (707) 433-1625.

Not Sour Grapes

Dear Editor;

"Not Sour Grapes!" That's what it looks like to me. I am again amazed at another letter about how business is conducted by the PRAC members from a PRAC member who should know better. Mr. Baird's letter about the last election was way out in left field.

I think people vote for whoever they think is qualified or wish to vote for. I know both Rick and Bill and can attest to their help in PRAC. It wasn't until Mr. Baird's letter that I even considered either individual was a Reserve. Thanks for telling us. I certainly did not use that in my decision for whoever I voted for. I think someone is just looking for something to complain about!

We shouldn't be looking for piddly-ass reasons to start desertion. PRAC has had a proud leadership and we should continue to support your elected leader and put our efforts and comments towards solving our many professional goals.

Sincerely,
Jeff Ohlfs



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1993

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Submissions should be mailed to David Brooks, 560 Hillcrest Dr., Ben Lomond, CA, 95005. Information can also be submitted by telephone at (408) 336-2948. Submission deadlines are the last day of January, March, May, July, September, and November.

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