



The Eighth Annual Pacific Southwest Maintenance Management School By Carol Fredrickson

On Sunday November 24, I flew out of San Jose Airport headed for the UCLA Conference Center at Lake Arrowhead, California. I was looking forward to a relaxing week of training in a beautiful setting. *I was definitely in for a big surprise.*

The curriculum was excellent and challenging. The highlights, for me included: leading high performance teams, Communicating for high performance, introduction to maintenance management systems, basic urban forestry practices, managing safety and liability and capital programs administration.

The week of training wasn't easy but if it was easy everybody would do it! I highly recommend this training for anybody who would like to gain valuable knowledge, philosophies and techniques for maintenance. This training should also be a "**must do**" for administrators, managers, supervisors and personnel wishing to advance in their profession.

The program is sponsored by the National Recreation and Park Association and the California Park and Recreation Society, Park Operators Section. Tuition includes all materials, housing and meals (the food is **very good**, I'd definitely give this restaurant a five star rating). Anyone who would like more information on next years school can call the NRPA Pacific Regional Office at (916) 646-9050. Their address is 1600 Sacramento Inn Way, Suite 121, Sacramento, CA 95815.

The next Session is scheduled for November 13 through 18 of 1994.

Two WILD Views

From Bill Trunick

On November 5 & 6, members from Regions 1 and 2 met at the Lake Sonoma Visitors Center and Fish Hatchery for the Project WILD and Project AQUATIC workshop. Besides the interesting environmental activities we participated in, each person attending received three activity guidebooks. The activity guidebooks were for K-6, 6-12 and the AQUATIC program book. Each book contains a list of materials needed, if the activity is indoors or out, goals, duration of activity, number needed, and background information. Detailed information on how to run the activity to reach the desired goals is also included.

The other half of this workshop was a camp-out. The food was great and plentiful. We even made a cherry cobbler in a back-packing dutch oven.

Story continues on page 2.

From Bill Wolcott

Things were getting a little crazy at Lake Sonoma on November fifth and sixth. That's right, for two days nine PRAC members, some in full uniform, were seen chasing each other up and down the lawns of the ritzy Lake Sonoma Visitor center. The occasion? A Project WILD workshop.

Project WILD is a state sponsored interdisciplinary, supplementary education program emphasizing wildlife. The program is based on three guides containing over 100 activities for K-12 students. Project WILD workshops train educators (such as park rangers) to use the guides. These guides are available only through the workshops.

In the November workshop, PRAC members enjoyed the fun and entertaining leadership of

Story continues on page 4.

Dues Are Now Due!

With the new year coming all PRAC members need to remember to renew their membership. A reminder notice and form was included in the last issue of the *Signpost*. If you have forgotten where that form ended up, you can also use the form on the back page of this issue.

Support PRAC and renew today!

From the Presidents' Desk

By Bob Donohue

Another year has come and gone. This past year has seen a number of changes occur, some of them good, some not so good. One thing is certain, the ranger profession will long remember this year.

The money crunch deeply affected almost every park agency throughout California. There cannot be many park departments that did not have to curtail their budgets in some way. Many cities saw parts, or all of their park employees transferred to other departments or let go completely. Many parks were closed or just not staffed.

Now the good news. Very few PRAC members lost their jobs. There were many agencies that were threatened with large cuts but for the most part came through reasonably unscathed. The dedicated efforts of many PRAC members kept their departments intact.

The current budget crisis is not going to go away soon, so we must continue to monitor what is going on within the state and federal budgets that will directly impact our local departments. That is where PRAC can directly benefit its members. We keep an eye on legislative and budgetary items affecting parks and try to anticipate potential problems. We can also endorse good legislation and ballot items. Items like CalPAW and Keep Your Parks Open & Safe Act of 94, are programs that are going to directly affect all of us in this profession. PRAC is actively endorsing CalPaw because we believe it is legislation that will do the most for all park systems.

We will keep you informed on any and all new legislation in the new year that we believe will have an impact on the parks.

In closing, I want to thank a couple of board members who have worked long and tirelessly for PRAC. Carol Fredrickson & Don Watstein, regions 2 & 4 directors respectively, have both contributed much to the success of PRAC. Their dedication to the association and their guidance has made my job this past year much easier and a lot of fun. They will both be missed and I hope they will stay active. I look forward to whomever is elected to take their offices because I am certain they will be just as hard working. Thank you Carol and Don.

I hope the new year is a prosperous one for all. Let's meet the new challenges head-on.

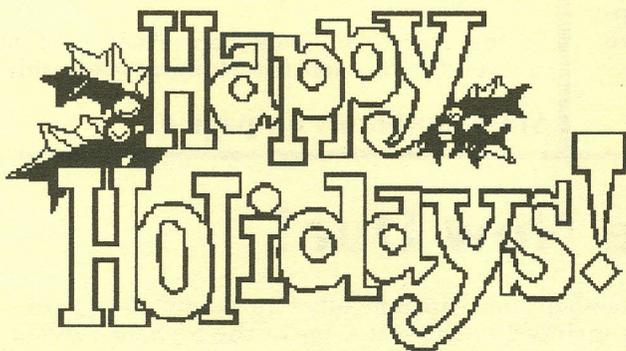
Views From Bill Trunick

(Continued from page 1)

As with all PRAC workshops and activities I've attended the best part was sitting around and sharing ideas, stories, woes and other information with each other. I was asked by a couple of workshop attendees to write down the story about lichens but I forgot at the time and thought others may want to use it as well. So here it is.

Once upon a time a girl named Alice Algae met a boy, Freddy Fungi and they really took a lichen to each other. They went out on a limb for one another, but their relationship ended up on the rocks because their parents did not approve of living in symbiosis.

But Alice Algae had no other choice but to take a lichen to Freddy....because he was a fungi (fun guy).



Controlled burn destroys the old to save the future

by James Bruggers

reprinted from the Contra Costa Times, Nov. 21, 1993

On the southern flank of Mount Diablo, crisp autumn air carries a light smell of burned brush and ash. Entire slopes are charred. Blackened, twisted branches of dead manzanita rise from scorched ground. Elsewhere, however, swaths of chaparral remain untouched; it is green and vibrant under an occasional gray pine or native oak.

This fire-cause mosaic of colors is by design, unlike the destruction in recent Southern California blazes and the 1991 Oakland hills firestorm. It is the product of last month's intentional burn west of Rock City, a popular recreation area in the 20,000-acre Mt. Diablo State Park.

The 175-acre controlled burn was the largest so-called "prescribed" fire in park history. Park managers started doing controlled burn seven years ago. "The objectives were to reduce fuel load and maintain natural vegetation," says Larry Ferri, park superintendent. "It was deemed a success." Homes along the park's southern boundary now have a better chance of escaping a wildfire, he says. "If we do have a wild fire now in the coming years...it will be a very different kind of fire."

On nature's front, grass seeds are already sending fresh green shoots through the soil in some burned areas, getting a jump on others that remain dormant where flames were kept away. "I think we will see a real good recovery next spring," says Ranger Carl Nielson, who helped plan the burn and worked 28 hours straight to help carry it out. "A lot of poppies will be coming out. We've seen that even with some of our (small) pile burns. It will be interesting to see what happens next spring, what comes up." California has a rich fire history. Mount Diablo is no exception. Some plants, such as knobcone pines, depend on fire to renew their populations.

The burn area, between Wall Point Road and the Dan Cook Fire Road, had not been exposed to flames in 75 years, Nielson says. Evidence suggests the mountain's natural fire cycle—is at least 25 years, Nielson says. It's probably much shorter, perhaps every five years, says UC-Berkeley forestry Professor Bob Martin, a fire expert. California's Indians were frequent fire starters, putting the power of flames to good purposes, he says.

October's controlled burn triggered a flood of phone calls to authorities, with residents worried about smoke and flames. The scene was particularly eerie during the evening commute, when thousands of motorists on Interstate 680 and Highway 24 could see a bright orange glow.

Park officials want the public to know they don't just start fires on a whim. Three years of planning went into the burn, which was a cooperative effort of the state Department of Parks and Recreation, the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection and the San Ramon Fire Department.

Weather had to be near perfect, Nielson says. The morning had cool temperatures and moderate to high humidity, along with a relatively high moisture content in dead vegetation. The Bay Area Air Quality Management District gave the go-ahead, authorizing a 18-hour burn period. "This was actually planned for two years ago," Nielson says. "But the weather put us off for two years."

The fire escaped its boundaries by 3 acres, but was quickly knocked back, Nielson says. Seventy firefighters and a helicopter with a water bucket were on hand. The burn allowed the three agencies to work together in a controlled setting, something that will help firefighters do a better job of battling a wildfire blaze, says Steve Hart, a fire training officer with the San Ramon Fire Department. "Doing this under controlled condition gives us a better handle on how each of us operates."

Deciding to carry out a controlled burn in a park that borders suburban homes might seem a risky proposition. If the fire escapes the park and destroys property, lawyers would no doubt rush to the courthouse. Images of burning cities in Southern California and memories of the Oakland fire, which destroyed more than 3,000 homes, fuel fears.

"I think those wildfire...maybe have more people apprehensive about prescribed fire," says Dave Boyd, a state Parks Department ecologist based in Marin County. "But maybe these fires have made people aware about the need to do something." Fire suppression policies over the past century have not only harmed natural plant communities but allowed great quantities of biomass to accumulate, he says. That was part of the problem in the Southern California fires, which burned tens of thousands of acres and destroyed hundreds of homes in the past month, Ferri says.

In Marin County, liability issues and concerns over how fire might harm some plants have prevented controlled burns on Mount Tamalpais. The controversy has centered on chaparral on Marin Water District land that borders Mt. Tamalpais State Park, but there haven't been any controlled burns in the park, says Boyd. As a result, shrubs now blanket what was once native grassland. The state Parks Department would like to reintroduce fire to Mt. Tamalpais State Park just as it is doing on Mount Diablo, Boyd says.

Martin advocates more use of controlled fires. He leads classes each year on controlled burn and provides advice to the East Bay Regional Park District when it conducts burns. "I'm trying to get them going more," he said. "We need to get the public to accept the fact that there will be a little smoke once in a while."

Controlled burn present a challenge, says Nielson. "There's definitely some controversy, but it's worth the risk."

A Present Past

By Winifred Medin

Reprinted from the Sonoma County Regional Sparks, May/June, 1993

One of the more hoped for events of any nature outing is the possibility of discovering a piece of history, a carefully sculpted obsidian arrowhead or an old glass bottle hidden among the leaves and rocks that border a well worn trail. Many of us possess true appreciation and eager curiosity about the history associated with such wonderful finds. Unfortunately, after the initial excitement has faded, the historic treasure often finds its way to the back of a junk drawer in the kitchen or a collection box in the garage.

The disturbing part to this is that an obsidian projectile in junk drawer or a hand-blown bottle in the garage are just that—an arrowhead and an old bottle. Certainly they are historical, and yes, they are lovely to look at, but what can they tell? They can tell us very little once they have been removed from their original site.

These types of objects are commonly referred to as artifacts and each artifact serves a number of functions. When we look at the arrowhead, for instance, we can be fairly sure that its use probably included hunting, recreation, and warfare. We know this because we have seen similar objects in paintings, history books, and toy stores. We can assume that the glass bottle was used to hold fluids because we also use similar types of containers. So what's the problem?

There are many problems with isolated artifacts taken from their original locations. If, for example, this arrowhead was tested and found to be made of Lake County obsidian, does that mean it was found in Lake County? If it was found in Sonoma County, how did it get here and why, who was using it and for what purposes? Had the glass bottle been part of the buried remains of a goldminer's cabin or part of the garbage discarded by a wagon-train heading north to Oregon? How did the bottle get here and what was it used for? These are only a few of the questions that can never be answered because these two artifacts are orphans.

Likewise, once these articles have been removed from a site, an information void is created. It becomes impossible to get an accurate picture of the material remains of our past if parts of those materials are missing. We will never know that the young Native-American woman was killed 1,000 years ago by a raiding party because the arrowhead that once rested between her ribs is now in someone's kitchen drawer. We can never know that the goldminer was being treated for a highly contagious disease because the tell-tale bottle is being stored in a darkened garage.

The importance of these objects is that they are things made and used by men and women of past generations. These remains tell us what sort of cultural activities were taking place on the spot at a particular time. Any finds of the past, be they rock paintings, garbage dumps, burial sites, or individual artifacts must be preserved, protected, and left in place. The job of putting the pieces of the past together falls to the archeologist but each of us can play an important part in the preservation of historical articles.

Whenever the natural surface of the soil is broken by erosion or heavy rains, artifacts are often brought to the surface. There is, therefore, a good probability that one of us will come across an important artifact as we walk along the trails of our parks and beaches. If the artifact should surface on the trail itself, remove it to the side and follow the same procedure. You must remember that the next person to spot the special piece of history may not understand the importance of leaving it in place and in their excitement carry it home for a display on a shelf in the T.V. room.

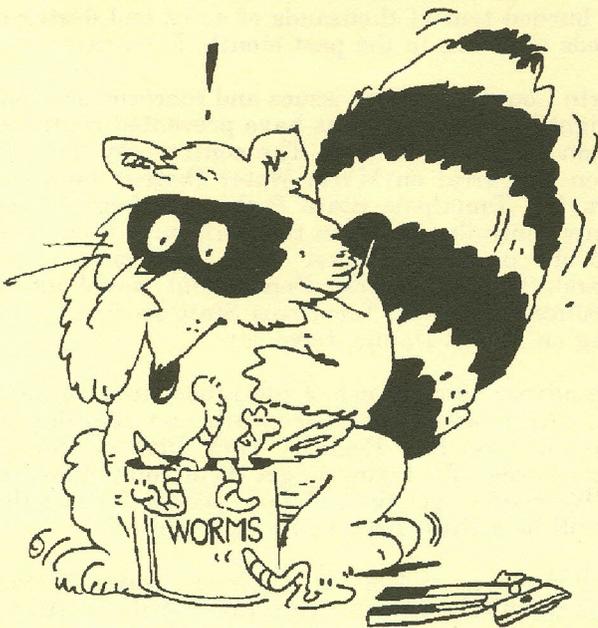
Views From Bill Wolcott

(Continued from page 1)

U.S. Army Corp of Engineers ranger, and volunteer Project WILD teacher, Kasey Wade. In the spirit of Project WILD, Kasey engaged us in a series of hands on activities while acquainting us with Project WILD Guides and philosophy. For two days we took on the persona of spawning salmon, beached turtles, and fictional fish. We learned to adapt games to circumstance and draw educational points from various chance situations.

To round out the two day event, those in attendance were also treated to facility tours and a campout in the rolling oak woodlands of Lake Sonoma. Friday night, organizer Bill Trunick treated us to his culinary bag of tricks, including cobbler cooked on the fire in his homemade dutch oven. MMM. A good time was had by all and we learned something new.

For more information regarding Project WILD workshops contact Project WILD at the Department of Fish and Game Headquarters at (916) 327-4734.



PRAC – CSPRA Annual Workshop

Sheraton Hotel

Riverside, California

March 7 – 10, 1994

The 1994 Joint Annual Conference for the Park Rangers Association of California and the California State Park Rangers Association is being held at the Riverside Sheraton, March 7-10, 1994. Programs for the conference include various topics involving Resource Management, Park Operations and Interpretation, with speakers, demonstrations, exhibits and hands-on workshops.

This year's keynote speaker will be Huell Howser, host of the popular TV series California's Gold. California's Gold is the only statewide series seen in California about California. Nearly 40% of these programs highlight parks. Huell will be speaking Tuesday morning, March 8.

The topic for this year's hot issues panel is Mountain Lions in Parks. On the panel will be Laura Itogawa, Supervising Ranger from Cuyamaca Rancho State Park, Dr. Paul Bier, author, "The Cougar in the Santa Ana Mountain Range," Terry Mansfield, Chief, Wildlife Management Division, Department of Fish and Game, Joel Davis, Deputy Attorney General for the State of California - Los Angeles Office, and Ken Jones, California's Department of Parks and Recreation, who will relate his department's new mountain lion/bear protocol and procedures.

The Operations track will include sessions on reserve ranger programs, use of the Handler 12, tactical communication, use of horses and bikes for patrol, reservations management and officer survival.

Time for winding down will occur each evening. Monday will feature a reception and Tuesday evening will include a fun run and barbecue. Wednesday's programs will be followed by a banquet and dance until midnight followed on Thursday by the annual golf tournament and tours. This year's tournament will be held at the El Rivino Golf course.

For more information on the conference and golf tournament, please contact:

Doug Bryce
P.O. Box 292010
Sacramento, CA 95828-2010
Voice Mail: 800-994-2530
FAX: (916) 387-1179

California & Pacific Southwest Recreation & Park Conference

Expanded educational sessions with quality information . . .

Lots of Networking with other professionals . . .

Effective techniques to save you time . . .

Bottom line solutions . . .

Resources galore in the Exhibit Hall . . .

Anaheim-Orange County attractions . . .

Tours of famous parks . . .

Expert instructors with ideas to use on Monday . . .

!

☆ **Hot Topics** ☆ **Idea Breaks** ☆

☆ **Institutes** ☆ **Keynote Speakers** ☆

☆ **Park Tours** ☆



Feb. 3 - Feb. 6, 1994
Anaheim, California

☆ **Call CPRS** ☆ (916) 446-2777 ☆

☆ **To Request Your Conference Packet** ☆

Parks board won't require bike licenses

by James Bruggers

*reprinted from the Contra Costa Times,
Nov. 21, 1993*

OAKLAND—Jean Siri has dropped her effort to require bicycle licenses on East Bay Regional Park District trails. The proposal "put everyone's teeth on edge," the district director said Monday.

But she and two other directors at a board Operations Committee meeting sympathized with hikers and horseback riders battling over trail use. The committee is conducting an annual review of park regulations.

On Monday, there was talk of requiring bicycle bells, imposing new speed limits and stepping up enforcement to make sure mountain bikes stay off trails that are closed to them—narrow paths wide enough for one person. "I do think some things are going to have to be done," said Director Doug Siden. "We are solidly in favor of bells," said Michael Keiley, a board member of the Bicycle Trails Council of the East Bay. "We are already distributing them."

Bike and horseback riders have worked long and hard to iron out conflicts, Kelly said, citing volunteer patrols. Ongoing disputes need to be worked out in a similar positive way, he said, with cooperation from everyone and without targeting one group.

The district's staff does not intend to recommend major changes in the bike policy, which limits bicyclists to paved trails and fire roads wider than 8 feet. Statistics show trail accidents are down over the past three years and are not a significant problem, said district Police Chief Pete Sarna.

Police use radar to determine whether a 15 mph speed limit on paved trails is observed. Sarna recommended against extending that limit to back-country trails, saying enforcement would be difficult. Police prefer to keep the current regulation which forbids bike rider on dirt trails from riding negligently, unsafely or recklessly but does not establish a speed limit.

Sarna said he would not recommend spending more money on enforcement. It would do more good to build trails or redesign paths to segregate users, he said. "Enforcement should always be the measure of last resort."

Some trail users pleaded with the committee for relief. "I think a lot of people are avoiding certain paths of the parks," said Laura Fend, representing the San Ramon Valley Horsemen's Association. "It just isn't worth the hassle."

JOBS, JOBS, JOBS

Temporary Employment Lava Beds National Monument

Lava Beds NM is currently accepting applications for the 1994 summer session. These jobs will begin about May 24, 1994 and end around September 30, 1994. The following positions are available:

Forestry Technician (Firefighter), up to 2 positions at GS-462-04 (\$15,875 Per Annum)

Forestry Aid (Firefighter), up to 2 positions at GS-462-02 (\$12,905 Per Annum) or GS-462-03 (\$14,082 Per Annum)

Lead Forestry Technician (Engine Operator) at GS-462-05 (\$17,687 Per Annum)

Lead Forestry Technician (Engine Foreman) at GS-462-05 (\$17,687 Per Annum)

Applications should be sent to the National Park Service, Lava Beds National Monument, P. O. Box 867, Tulelake, CA 96134. The first cut-off date is January 15, 1994. For further information, call the Personnel Office at (916) 667-2282.

Park Ranger Openings City of San Jose

The City of San Jose is planning on filling Park Ranger (part time and full time) openings. The pay range is \$13.59-\$16.51 per hour. Applications will only be accepted Saturday, January 15, 1994 between 8:00 A.M. and 10:00 A.M. at Peter Burnett Academy located at 850 N. 2nd St., San Jose. Applications that qualify will be given the written examination at 10:30 A.M. To qualify, you must have a two year degree (or equivalent) in park management, park operations, natural/environmental sciences or related field.

The majority of the positions are part-time. Work schedules for full and part-time positions fluctuate to meet park operation needs, and usually include week-ends and holidays. Most part-time positions are seasonal, with the predominance of hours worked occurring in spring and summer. Part time hours may range from 16-40 hours per week, on a seasonal basis.

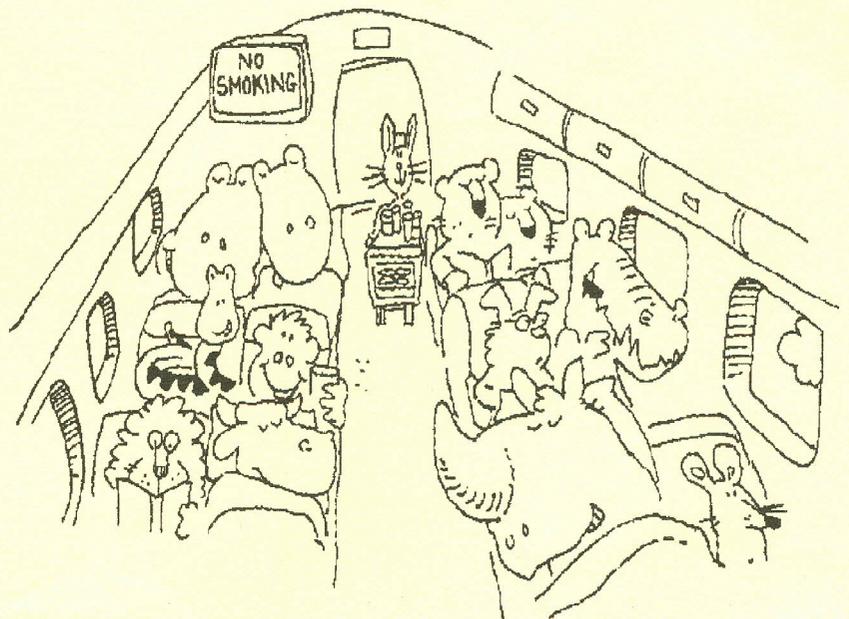
For further information, please contact Javier Perez at (408) 277-4205.

First World Ranger Con- ference by Jeff Ohlfs

For those interested in the First World Ranger Conference, the dates are May 21-27, 1995, in Zakapane, Poland. The host parks will be Tatrzanski National Park and Pieniny National Park.

Hotel Castowe's rates are set at double occupancy will be \$50.00 per person per day, including meals.

More information when it comes in.



PARK RANGERS ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA

Board Officers
1993

President

Bob Donohue
(916) 895-4972
Fax (916) 342-6921

Region 1 Director

Bill Trunick
(707) 527.2041

Region 2 Director

Carol Fredrickson
(408) 277-4045

Region 3 Director

Dave Lydick
(916) 366-2072

Region 4 Director & PLEA Liaison

Donald Watstein
(805) 584-4440
FAX (805) 526-7648

Region 5 Director

Ron Slimm
(714) 858-9366

Past President

Chris George
(714) 254-5226
FAX (714) 254-5223

"The Signpost" & "Cal Ranger" Editor

David Brooks
(408) 336-2948

Office Manager

Doug Bryce
Office (800) 994-2530
Local (916) 558-3734
Fax (916) 387-1179

The *Signpost* is published by the Park Rangers Association of California (PRAC). The Association mailing address is P.O. Box 292010, Sacramento, CA, 95829. The *Signpost* Editor is David Brooks. Articles of 1,000 words, or less are welcome. All submissions become property of PRAC and may be edited without notice.

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.

Membership Application

name _____		
address _____		
city _____	state _____	zip _____
Phone _____		
home _____	work _____	
Employer or School _____		
Job Classification or Major _____		

Park Rangers Association of California
P. O. Box 292010
Sacramento, CA 95829-2010

BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NUMBER
12
Elk Grove, CA

Voting Membership

Regular \$35 _____

Non-voting Membership

Agency:

(1-10 persons—2 mailings) \$45 _____

(11-50 persons—5 mailings) \$70 _____

(50+ persons— 10 mailings) \$90 _____

Student \$10 _____

Associate \$15 _____

Supporting \$50 _____

Park Rangers Association of California
P O Box 292010
Sacramento, CA 95829-2010
(800) 994-2530 FAX (916) 387-1179