

More About Partnerships in Parks

by Kathy Pilcher

State Park Ranger I, Anza-Barrego Desert State Park

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Partnerships in Parks. The theme of this year's CSPRA/PRAC Workshop held March 7-10 in Riverside seemed more

appropriate than ever as resource agencies have had to look for ways to stretch thinning budgets further during troubled economic times. Never have Cooperating Associations, volunteering and partnerships between agencies seemed more important. Looking around at this conference it was easy to see the theme in action. Attending were members of county, regional and state parks along with representatives of the federal government and private sectors. Those offering workshops also spanned the entire spectrum of backgrounds and all had interesting viewpoints to offer.

The theme of partnerships was evident throughout all the sessions I attended. Joy Wolf of SeaWorld gave us tips on interpreting to children. She may come from the world of commercial science, but her enthusiasm was contagious and her ideas thoroughly adaptable to campfire and Junior Ranger programs, as well as other presentations many rangers take into public schools. Dr. Gary Bell came to us from The Nature Conservancy and told us not only about his organization's abilities but also their dreams and goals of preserving whole ecosystems by acquiring and adjoining parcels of habitat. His prime example was the Santa Rosa Plateau in Southern California—an area that requires the cooperation of local land owners plus no less than four government agencies, ranging from the U.S. Forest Service to California Department of Fish & Game, California Department of Forestry & Fire Protection and Riverside County agencies. Much of the acreage held in that trust was made possible through purchase by Metropolitan Water District of Southern California for mitigation of a new reservoir project nearby. It was an amazing example of public and private partnerships in the management of natural areas.

Another instance of partnerships was illustrated by Liam Davis of the California Department of Fish & Game. He is one of a few Associate Biologists charged with implementing the brand new Natural Community Conservation Planning Program. The effort to preserve some of the last few remaining patches of coastal sage scrub in Southern California (habitat of the California Gnatcatcher and many other rare, threatened

and endangered plants and animals), will require the cooperation of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, State and County Departments of Parks and Recreation and a myriad of private agencies, not to mention the ever eager land of "developers." In uphill battles it is always good to have the combined efforts of many to make the whole team stronger.

Admittedly I was drawn to the Resources track for a good portion of my stay at the workshop due to the kind of park I work in and because of the personal interest in habitat preservation. Although the multi-agency park partnerships are well developed in that area and are fascinating to hear about—there is little doubt there is increasing cooperation in the interpretive and operations areas. "Necessity is the mother of invention." It was probably someone who worked for parks who first said that!

The "Mountain Lions in Parks" panel discussion was one of the most informative and best discussions I have ever attended. This despite the fact that I work in a district where several cougar incidents have occurred and I had already heard so much. Each of the six panel members had something pertinent to say and I learned much more about mountain lions. Everything from behaviors to litigation perspectives to the new protocol DPR is designing. Again I was watching partnerships at work. Several people from different fields combing their expertise to come up with a plan to handle mountain lion incidents. In time it is likely that all park districts will have an increase in wild animal/park visitor encounters as human populations and suburbs expand and habitats are squeezed. Written protocol to guide us will be a comfort but in the meantime it seems that the name of the game is education and informing the public in whatever ways we can be effective. Human behavior will play a big role in the welfare of wildlife. Visitors need to understand that wilderness carries some risks and that wild animals that become dangerous to humans cannot simply be moved somewhere else or removed to a zoo. The idea of having to destroy a wild creature creates an uproar with the public and a burden on rangers' hearts. Hopefully we can be ready and ahead of the game when the time comes again, as it surely will.

Story continues on page 2.

From the President's Desk

By Bob Donohue

I am beginning to count down my term as president of PRAC by the number of president's messages left. During college, term papers were not my strong suit due to my lack of enthusiasm for writing. Fortunately the president's messages are about things I have strong feelings for so they are easier to do. Still, Thank God, I only have a few left.

Another conference has come and gone. I enjoyed myself immensely this year. The facilities were good and the hospitality was great. Fortunately few outdoor activities were planned for the first couple of days because the weather was less than Chamber of Commerce type. Not many people improved their tans while at the conference. Indoors though, some of the best sessions I have attended were being conducted. Almost every session I went to left me with information I could bring back and use in my situation. I was also impressed with the quality of speakers this year. My sincere thanks to the conference committee for an exceptional effort.

This year was also special for me because I had the opportunity to present two Professional Citation awards and one Honorary Member award. One of the Professional Citation awards was long overdue but I am thankful that I was the one that got to make the presentation. David Brooks has been editor of the *Signpost* for what must seem like forever to him. Through his hard work the *Signpost* has evolved into a professional publication. I personally want to thank him for making me sound somewhat intelligent through his expert editorial processes. Congratulation David!

The other Professional Citation award went to another deserving, unselfish member of PRAC. Pam Helmke has served on numerous committees, and worked very hard on several conferences including being a presenter at the Yosemite conference. She has always been around when something needs to be done. She is a tremendous asset to PRAC and the ranger profession as a whole. Both recipients are the epitome of PRAC rangers. Thanks to both of you.

Finally, it was a privilege and an honor to bestow our Honorary Membership plaque to Dan Dustin. Mr. Dustin has been a professor at San Diego State, given talks and lectures all over the United States and recently was presented with the National Literary award. Kelly Byrne, Region 4 director, was a student of Mr. Dustin's and she has nothing but high praise for his talent. Much of his writings have found their way into curriculums around the state. He has been a guiding force for many people entering the ranger profession. I enjoyed my conversations with Dan and it is very easy to see why he is so highly respected in the Park and Recreation field.

It was indeed an honor to have the opportunity to present each of these awards. Congratulations to all!!

More About Partnerships

(Continued from page 1.)

Huell Howser, the producer and host the PBS TV series "California's Gold" was this year's Keynote Speaker and offered a whole new aspect of partnerships. I confess I had never heard of the man until that day (it is hard to believe that cable television has not yet invaded every corner of California). We thought we had great jobs, but here is a guy who has designed a job that allows him to

travel throughout California and explore the little known and wonderful places, and then let everyone else in on them (that is, everyone with cable who watches PBS). And he likes us! He wants to show off California State Parks and bring back the golden age of tourism. Apparently the public loves the man and the show as Mr. Howser claims the response to his program is 99%+ positive. He certainly had his Riverside audience smiling and I think he left slightly overwhelmed by all the ideas given to him for future programs in various parks.

Park Partnerships 1994

by Patty Walker

Nervous as a jumpy cat in a garbage gondola, I got on the airplane to fly to Riverside. I wanted to attend the California State Park Rangers/ Park Rangers Association of California Conference in Riverside. Past events and conferences have been worthwhile—would this one be worth the long trip?

I arrived at Ontario Airport only to see fellow rangers boarding the hotel shuttle bus. We all piled in and got to the hotel at the same time as more rangers lined up to check into the hotel. After unpacking, we went on a search (and rescue, have you eaten airline food?) for lunch.

Conference sessions started immediately after lunch on a high energy note that kept going throughout the conference. Topics included the changing California plant patterns with reference to drought and fires, the Nature Conservancy Partnerships and easy Astronomy. Tuesday opened with a great speaker; Huell Howser, host of the popular TV series California's Gold on PBS. The panel discussion following was about mountain lions in parks heavily used by people. The story told by one ranger of a lion who had to be killed because of an attack on a small child kept everyones attention. The biologist and the attorney also on the panel discussed the incident and the protocol involved.

From that point, the choices became more difficult as I wanted to hear all the talks! Fortunately, I was able to trade notes with some friends back and forth. Two talks were about horses and bikes in parks and on trails. Horse patrollers were represented by the California State Horsemen's Association and the Los Angeles City Parks and Recreation Dept. The following session was about how to set up a bike patrol unit and what they were effective for. Both had advantages in crowd situations, pursuit and friendly public contact.

Tuesday night the grand finale was a great barbecue at Citrus Heritage State Park. What a setting! The park was a re-creation of a 1900's citrus farm with new buildings and new plantings all provided by Sunkist growers. There was lots of meeting and greeting during the chow lines, then after the meal folks got up to dance the Texas two step!

Sessions Wednesday were even more interesting and exciting. Wildland fire safety, led by Frank Padilla, (State Fire Safety Training Officer) brought home the possibility that any of us could be involved in a fire by being first on the scene. He also shared some insights from the fall firestorms at Malibu. Filming proved to be a heated session as the rangers in the audience disagreed with some of the statements by the California State Film Commission. Malibu State Park has set up one of the rangers as a film liaison and they

discussed how their system worked using a daily monitor person.

The Resource track folks went off site to Lake Perris to continue those sessions using the lake as a subject. The Operations and Interpretation tracks continued at the hotel. We heard talks on Junior Rangers with inner-city children, facility reservation management and interpretation topics of the local areas.

I decided to see what tactical communications was about. This was most interesting and discussed effective and efficient communication skills at the outset of verbal confrontations. Tod Landers, a trainer for the L.A. Sheriff Department managed to get us to "walk in another's moccasins" for a short while to see what they were saying.

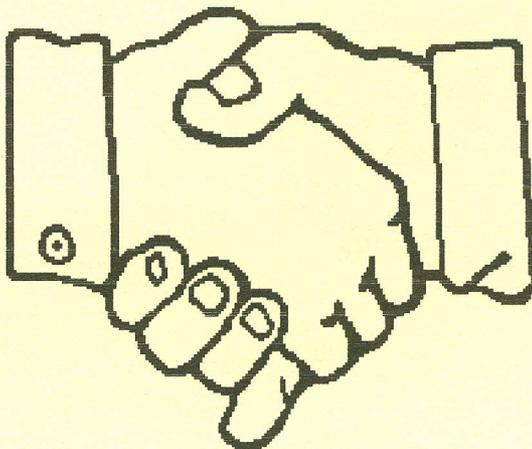
Outside all day was the patrol vehicle exhibit. This is where rangers got to show off a variety of fire, patrol and rescue units. The bike and horse patrollers were able to show their versatility in obstacle courses and the stairs. We even got gently pushed around by the horses, one just doesn't stay in their way!

Minority group use of natural lands was a great finale to the sessions. This session discussed cultural differences in the use of parks, whether the users sites were clean or not, when they came, what the users wanted in the park, and some other issues. The research was broken down by race, holidays, or other factors. Deborah Chavez, Supervisory research scientist with the USFS, ended with saying it didn't matter who the user was, their effect on the park was the same.

The evenings banquet, raffle and entertainment ended the conference very nicely. Pam Helmke got an award for all her hard work for PRAC, as did David Brooks for being the hard working editor of the *Signpost*. CSPRA handed out their awards and appointed officers. Then the raffle got hot and furious as the excitement rose for the prizes; a weekend getaway at a bed and breakfast, several choice bottles of wine, and some nice artwork about parks.

Getting back into the hotel shuttle to go to the airport the next day, I reflected on the 1994 conference. It was exciting, informative and definitely worth the long trip to get there. I brought back to work new stuff and got recharged about being a "ranger." It is such an energizer to find other people in your profession going through similar problems and creating solutions! The very best part is always seeing old friends and meeting new people in the field.

Next year the conference is in Santa Rosa and will be even better. See you there in 1995!!



Firearms; To Bear Or Not To Bear

Kelly Byrne, Director of Region 4.
Park Ranger, City of Los Angeles

Once upon a time, in a land not too far away, there lived a Park Ranger. Now the Park Ranger was a kind and gentle soul who would always stop and have a chat with young campers and be ready with a story for the nightly campfire. She/he knew Smokey the Bear personally and was (still is) a symbol of knowledge, kindness, courage and most of all—love for the great outdoors.

The symbolic Park Ranger could have easily handled any problem with a word from the wise and if needed, a raised eyebrow if the young camper (whipper-snapper was the term used for the incorrigible) was getting out of hand.

I tried that raised eyebrow and word from the wise the other day on a young whipper-snapper. The young whipper-snapper was about six feet tall, baggy pants, a bandana wrapped around his head with a baseball hat on crooked. He also had a jacket on that was four sizes too big, not to mention it was 90 degrees outside. There were five other whipper-snappers looking all the same, one had a tattoo just below his ear that said "187", maybe his I.Q. I thought. My eyebrow was raised (twitching was more like it) as I spoke quite knowledgeably. "You shouldn't be spray painting that building this hour of night, our maintenance folks will take care of any remodeling that needs to be done, go on home and enjoy the night air." It was at this point I realized that times have changed and young whipper-snappers liked to be called "gang-bangers". One of them advised me to go somewhere else and seem to quote Linda Blair from the Exorcist. It was then I noticed the gun, not a toy gun that shoots water or nerf bullets either, a real honest to

goodness gun. Although he didn't pull the trigger, I realized my love for the outdoors was not going to save my life, nor anyone else's for that matter. All I could do was turn and walk away and hope for the best.

This scene could happen anywhere in California. Granted that there is a larger chance of it happening near or in an urban area. Nevertheless, the days of a word or two doing the trick are gone. The Park Ranger of the 1990's must have something to back her/his words up. A badge is good, Peace Officer status is better. Pepper spray is good, a firearm is better. The training is vital and is available. The police admittedly can't be everywhere at once to solve all the park's problems. Most Police departments are very cooperative when it comes to assisting in training with a Ranger agency.

The Park Ranger is still the symbol of protecting the park system, but what is protecting the Park Ranger? For those administrators that don't quite understand, it's very simple to explain. **It's Safety, Stupid!** (My apologies to the Clinton administration for borrowing their motto idea.)

Firearms are now a necessary tool of the trade. Gardeners have gloves, carpenters have hard hats and Peace Officer Park Rangers should carry firearms. Liability, training and costs are all bridges that need to be crossed when attaining firearms, but if it has been done once, it can be done again. If the Ranger cannot protect her/himself, how can the Ranger protect the park and it's patrons?

Park Ranger II

Marin Municipal Water District

\$2,924-3,547/month

Three Park Ranger II positions are now open in the Environmental Resources Division. Under general supervision, participates in the patrol, protection, and maintenance activities of watershed areas; enforces District and other applicable regulations; and does related work as required. Requires knowledge of law enforcement procedure and California State Penal Code; rules, regulations and policies governing Marin Municipal Water District watershed activities; principles and practices of watershed protection and maintenance; principles and practices of fire prevention and control; principles and practices of ecology, land use and conservation; operation and maintenance of tools and power equipment commonly used on the watershed; District watershed, trail system and recreation area.

Education: Completion of 12th grade or its equivalent and four years of experience in watershed management, recreation, park or land management or a natural resource related field, of which two years have been in the performance of a full range of law enforcement duties including knowledge of use of law enforcement protective

equipment; or completion of a two-year Associates Degree or equivalent in recreation, park or land management or a natural resource related field, and two years of experience in watershed management, recreation, park or land management or a natural resource related field, one of which routinely included during the course of work the performance of a full range of law enforcement duties including knowledge and use of law enforcement protective equipment; demonstrated experience in maintenance and repair of watershed and recreation

Closing Date: Applications will be accepted on a continuous basis until a sufficient number of qualified applications have been received. Please file a completed application as soon as possible

Contact: Only properly completed District applications will be evaluated. For a complete description and application, contact Marin Municipal Water District, 220 Nellen Avenue, Corte Madera, CA 94925-1169. Phone (415) 924-4600; fax (415) 927-1575.

International Training Conference 1994

“Liabilities and Possibilities

October 2-7, 1994

Jackson Hole, Wyoming

(Sponsored by the International Association of Law Enforcement Planners)

Tentative Highlights

- Liability considerations in developing policies, procedures, and rules
 - Strategic planning methods
 - Special Event planning
 - Building and maintaining inter-agency coalitions
 - Community Policing issues
 - The Art of Followership: Empowering yourself at work
 - Video testing for public safety: new applicants and promotions
 - Developing Mountain Bike programs
-
- Computer Lab with demo software, hardware, and shareware
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Registration:

\$250 for IALEP members—\$275 for nonmembers
\$25 late fee after September 16, 1994

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Travel:

T.H.E. Travel Consultants
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5%–10% off Delta Airline fares
Delta Airlines is the official conference air carrier

To register or to obtain additional information, please contact:

IALEP Conference 94, c/o Jackson Police Department
Box 1687, Jackson, WY 83001
Fax:(307) 739-0919
Telephone:(307) 733-1430

The Peace Officer Bill of Rights

By Ken Miller

In December PRAC sponsored training on the Peace Officer Bill of Rights (POBOR). Lieutenant Pete Oliver, who is in charge of Internal Affairs at the San Jose Police Department, gave an interesting and informative presentation. I would like to share some of the items he covered that might be useful to fellow Park Rangers

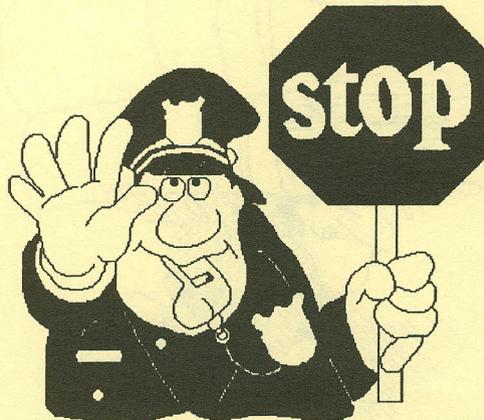
POBOR became effective in 1977 and specifies elements of procedural rights which must be accorded to “Public Safety Officers” when they are subject to investigation or discipline. The act applies to many employees classified as Peace Officers under numerous Penal Code sections. I believe that most Peace Officer Rangers in PRAC are sworn under PC 830.31b which is a covered category.

Some of the important points covered under POBOR are the following. An agency shall establish a procedure to investigate citizen complaints against officers and shall make a written description of the procedure available to the public. The officer is entitled to notification at the time the complaint is filed and to an investigation of the complaint. The officer has the right to appeal when an agency takes punitive action against him. A Miranda warning is required during an internal affairs investigation once it is “deemed” that the officer may be charged with a criminal offense. An officer may be disciplined for refusing to answer internal affairs questions after the Miranda warning is given. An officer may institute a lawsuit

alleging violations of POBOR without first exhausting administrative remedies.

The act makes four references to an officer’s privacy. A Peace Officer has an absolute right to refuse a polygraph exam. The officer has a right to maintain the privacy of his financial records. An employer may not provide the home address or photograph of an investigated officer to the media. Any space under the employer’s control (such as a locker or personal storage space) may be searched by the department, providing the officer is notified, or if the officer is present or gives consent.

An item that Lieutenant Oliver shared that I found interesting was that the officers involved in the King beating case tried to invoke POBOR when they were being investigated under federal charges. POBOR only covers State of California charges so it did not apply.



POBOR is complicated and I have only scratched the surface of its contents. Hopefully none of us will have to utilize it but we should be familiar with it. My reference was the Pocket Guide to the Public Safety Officers Procedural Bill of Rights published by the California Public Employee Relations Program. Either myself or Doug Bryce should be able to get copies of it for you at around \$5. Give me a call if you are interested.

Save Bodie

Dear Member:

I know you've heard about SAVE BODIE! before. But this letter is different. This is a special onetime appeal.

Many members have generously supported SAVE BODIE! in the past, providing volunteer and financial support as well as technical skills, letter writing and generally spreading the word about Bodie. Your past support is whole-heartedly appreciated. But we face a greater need than ever before, and SAVE BODIE! is turning to friends like you for help

Since the struggle to began to save this historic ghost town, we've worked on a few carefully chosen fronts: seeking more careful and detailed environmental impact reports, coalition building with other concerned organizations, and providing information to legislators, government agencies and media outlets.

As you well know, our work has become more complex. In addition to all these ongoing efforts, we have legislation pending in Congress. We need to develop a strategy for the purchase of land around Bodie in order to protect it.

Of course, all of this is expensive. Although we rely on a great many dedicated volunteers, putting in thousands of hours, our bank account is at a dangerously low level. Please help with a contribution of \$75, \$50 or even \$25, as soon as possible.

Mail donations to: SAVE BODIE!
P. O. Box 292010
Sacramento, CA 95829-2010.

Remember, Bodie is worth more than gold. With your continued support, we can SAVE BODIE!

Sincerely,

Donna Pozzi
Chair, Save Bodie! Committee

PRAC Scholarship Deadline Approaching

Are you an undergraduate student who will be enrolled in a park and recreation management or related major during the fall 1994 semester? If so, you are eligible for the 1994 PRAC scholarship. This is the fifth year a PRAC scholarship will be given to an outstanding student(s) interested in pursuing a career in the park ranger field. The scholarship will be awarded in September for the amount of \$250.00. The deadline for submitting an application is June 1, 1994. Eligibility of applicants is based on the following:

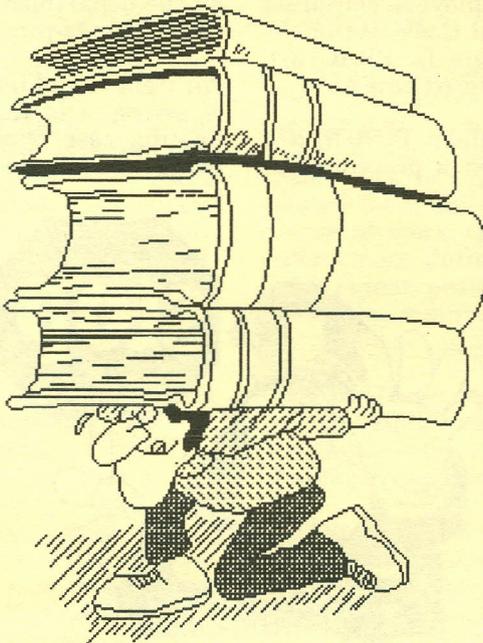
- 1) Must be a student or regular member of PRAC enrolled in a minimum of 6.1 undergraduate semester units or the equivalent during the Fall 1994 term.
- 2) Must be enrolled in a program of study in parks and recreation management, resource management, forestry or a related field.
- 3) Have a minimum 2.50 GPA for all college level course work completed or have shown significant improvement during the previous two semesters.

- 4) Submit two letters of recommendation directed to PRAC and specific to this scholarship.

Selection of a recipient(s) will be based on GPA, letters of recommendation, need and extra curricular activities. Preference will be given to applicants pursuing a career in the park ranger field. Upon selection the candidate(s) must submit an article to the *Signpost* describing need and usage of the scholarship.

Give it a try! Competition varies greatly from year to year. In the past recipients have included exceptional individuals from West Valley College, Chico State, and Santa Rosa Junior College. Let's have a few more statewide applicants!

For an application write: Doug Bryce, PRAC Executive Manager, P.O. Box 292010, Sacramento, CA 95829-2010. If you would like further information contact: Bill Hendricks, PRAC Scholarship Committee, Recreation, Tourism Management and Design Program, 5238 University of Oregon, Eugene, OR 97403-5238. (503) 346-5431.



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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

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