

The Signpost

March-April, 1995



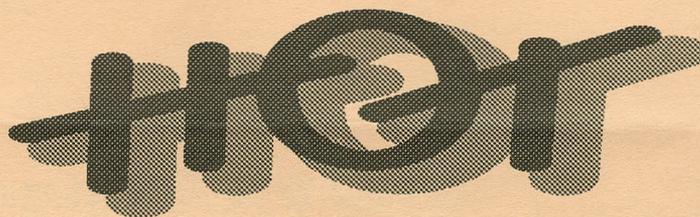
Low Angle Rescue Training

On Thursday April 20, PRAC and West Valley College will be sponsoring Low Angle Rescue Training. The training will be held at Sanborn County Park in Saratoga (south San Francisco Bay area) and will go from 8:30 am to 5:00 pm.

Course topics will include patient packaging, equipment, and raising and lowering systems. Bring lunch, water, and outdoor clothes as this will be a field oriented training. The fee is \$45 for PRAC members and \$55 for non-members.

Bring a harness and climbing helmet if you have them. An information packet will be sent out after you pre-register. Class size is limited to twenty so register soon.

The deadline for pre-registration is April 6. Give Ken Miller a call at (408) 866-1240 if you have any questions. See you there!



General Meeting

Come and Learn About PORAC and the Legal Defense Fund

by Kelly Byrne, Region IV Director

March is almost here and that means time for the annual conference. There are many workshops, displays and meetings to attend but at this time I must put a plug in for the PRAC General Meeting.

Attending meetings are not that exciting and I am not promising live entertainment. However, I am promising a chance to vote on the coverage that PRAC will sign up for through the Peace Officers Research Association of California (PORAC) and Legal Defense Fund (LDF). Just before the end of 1994, PRAC members were asked if they would like to be able to obtain insurance for legal representation that they were not getting through their own associations. The response was a resounding yes so PRAC will try to come through for its dues paying members.

At the General Meeting on Wednesday, March 8 at 10:00 AM, Doug Bryce, PRAC's Office Manager, will explain the system that will allow PRAC to subscribe to PORAC and LDF. If you have more questions regarding PORAC and LDF, we will cover all the basic information needed as the majority of your regional directors have first hand knowledge of the coverage that PORAC and LDF offers.

I hope to see you at the General Meeting and if you can, bring another Park Ranger with you and introduce them to PRAC. The Park Ranger Association of California remains the best professional networking system that exists. See you at the conference!

From the President's Desk

Apathy: *n*; "lack of emotion or feeling; lack of interest in things generally found exciting, interesting or moving; indifference" (from the American Heritage Dictionary).

Apathy has had a profound effect on park systems across our state. Many local and state bond issues have failed in recent years, primarily due to voter apathy. This loss of support from the public we serve has caused a decrease in service, deferred maintenance, delayed land acquisition and even job loss for some members.

Apathy has also had a profound effect on our association. In the recent elections only five members stepped forward to run for office. Most candidates ran unopposed. Of some 130 voting members, only 38 of you chose to return your ballots. Like our park systems, PRAC cannot continue if its members are apathetic. As members of PRAC you can do something to change this trend. **Participate!!!** PRAC offers its members a lot of good reasons to become excited, active and interested. Each district offers new training opportunities, there are social events, and of course there is the joint conference each spring.

Bring some new challenges into your life. Do something to help break out of the bond of apathy. Attend a workshop. Introduce someone in your agency to PRAC. Run for office. How about helping your district director organize a social event? None of these things take a great deal of time, but the returns will be enormous.

If we, as park professionals, can fall victim to apathy how can we expect the public to avoid the same trap? Become more aware and active, share your enthusiasm with others. Enthusiasm is contagious, who knows, maybe it will even spread to the voters we serve. You never know.

Pam Helmke

Wreck Chasing

By Ken Miller

How would you like to experience the outdoors in a new way? Do you like history, aviation, strenuous hiking, map and compass reading, and visiting very remote areas? Are you also a little morbid? Maybe you heard about an old plane crash up in the mountains through word of mouth or you just found some wreckage out exploring. You have just been touched by the wreck chasing bug.

Ninety-nine point nine-nine percent of the time aircraft fly without incident. The point zero-one percent that don't make it are the ones that people are interested in. Planes have been crashing ever since the Wright brothers first flew at Kitty Hawk. The combination of mountains and populated areas have ensured that California has more than its share of wreck sites. The lands that the wrecks are located in have sometimes been designated as parklands due to a desire to preserve remote areas.

Working in parks has given me the outlook that life is not always fair. This outlook helps me to appreciate going out and looking for wreck sites. I first visited a wreck site on the recommendation of a co-worker who told of an airliner crash from the 1950's located in the redwoods of the Santa Cruz mountains. My friends and I first discovered a wing panel after a half day of hiking. Half an hour later we

found more metal and the four engines in another canyon. Research of newspaper clippings and accident reports showed that the plane was going to San Francisco from Honolulu in 1953. Unfortunately the crew didn't follow the proper approach and crashed just minutes before landing.

My friends and I have visited three sites in the South San Francisco Bay area and have plans to find and visit at least another five sites. Wreck chasing is a different way to

combine orienteering, aviation history, outdoor activity, and detective work. Give me a call if you are interested or if you have any information about wreck sites in your area.

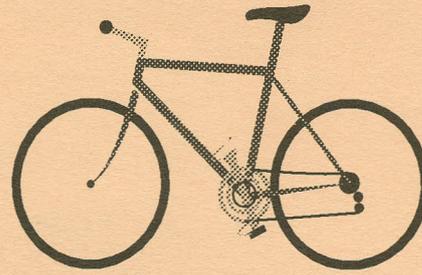


Mountain Bikes Leave Their Legacy Behind

by Tom Maloney

Throughout the history of parks, the Park Rangers have had to deal with the problem of trash. From tin cans, to glass bottles, to plastics and now a whole assortment of man-made synthetics. Most of the items found in the "old" days were common, easy to recognize and identify. Things that we all know, like containers, paper picnic supplies and an occasional sock, shoe or shirt discarded along the trails. Now, if you haven't noticed, there is a new type of debris littering our parks. This debris falls into the general category of **bike parts!**

Never has there been such a wide assortment of reflectors, caps, tubes, screws, gears, brake parts, chain-links and strange gizmos that are found on park trails today. The results of this Ranger's year-long collection and study of bike parts found in the Aliso and Wood Canyons Regional Park, in Orange County, California, is as follows:



The intention of this not-so-scientific survey is to point out that the bike riding public is directly responsible for the "Trashing" of our parks though they may not always

realize it. The prolonged effects of vibrations, jars, jiggles, jumps and crashes can coerce even the most stubborn of nuts to loosen their grip and fall off, taking with it a variety of important bike accessories.

As Rangers, we need to encourage park users to collect bike litter (even though it is not theirs!) in order to preserve our park's visual integrity. After all, we want to relish the enjoyment of escaping into semi-wild areas without a constant trail of trinkets and trash reminding us who or what went up the path before us.

So, until bicycles manufacturers make product that don't literally fall to pieces, and until bike rider start doing more pre and post ride maintenance, we will have to live with the reality of bike litter along our park trails.

As previously stated, litter of any definition can and should be collected and properly disposed of by everyone using our parks, including and especially bike rider. Collecting litter is one of the last few tasks left to modern man that does not require a college degree or the reading of an operations manual. It is a task that we should **just do!** We should do it automatically and by setting a good example teach our children and peers to do likewise.



Bike Part	Number Found
pedal reflectors	54
handle bar caps	26
washers	23
nuts	21
crank caps	19
valve stem caps	18
screws	18
misc. bike parts	17
inner-tubes	15
bolts	9
chain parts	9
brake parts	8
shifter parts	8
spoke reflectors	7
seat/front reflectors	6
water cage parts	5
bike decals	4
Total	267

HOT ITEMS FOR SALE

PRAC golf style shirts are now available for purchase. These are high quality white polo shirts with the PRAC logo printed in green.

These shirts are expected to sell out fast once they are introduced at the conference in Santa Rosa. Be sure to get your order in early. Once again PRAC does its part for the economy by offering these quality shirts for only \$22.00 (slightly more for double-x-sizes).

Also available at the conference will be PRAC pins and the 1995 edition of the Ranger Directory. Both are for sale for \$7.50 each.

All these items will be available at the Santa Rosa conference for purchase. They can also be order by calling Doug Bryce at (800) 994-2530. Remember, supply is limited on some items so order right away.

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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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Membership Application

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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 _____

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Associate \$15 _____

Supporting \$50 _____

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