



## FINANCIAL PLANNING Workshop Coming This Fall

In this day and age, you are kidding yourself if you plan on retiring on your retirement plan alone. (Unless you like sleeping on a park bench.) Rangers are not at the top of the highest paid careers but if budgeted correctly, you too can have a comfortable retirement, or college fund or new house or whatever you use money for.

Jamie Fleming is a certified financial planner who is familiar with budgeting a civil service employee's salary. A former cop who knows how to speak to people rather than at them, she will share the basics and then some of getting your finances together. This is not a sales pitch and the sign up fee will benefit PRAC.

The date has been set for Wednesday, September 20th, 1995 at 1700 hrs. For directions to the Griffith Park Ranger Auditorium, please call dispatch at (213) 665-5949 or 665-5189. For other questions, contact Kelly Byrne at (310) 548-7496.

For pre-registration: send a check or money order and how many will be attending and mail to PRAC, PO Box 292010, Sacramento, CA 95829 attn: Region 4 Workshop. The price is \$10.00 per PRAC member before September 1. You can become a member by sending in an additional check (see the back of the *Signpost*). After September 1, the price for registration and for non-PRAC members is \$15.00. All checks should be made out to Park Ranger Association of California. PRAC polo shirts will be on sale at the Workshop for \$22.00. All proceeds will benefit PRAC.

See You On The 20th Of September!

# PICNIC



## Region 2

### Bar-B-Que

Mark your calendars for Thursday September 28th. PRAC is sponsoring a bar-b-que at Vasona County Park in Los Gatos from 3:00pm till dark.

We will have good food, friends, volleyball, frisbee, and anything else you want to bring. PRAC will provide the burgers, hot dogs, and sodas. Bring something to share. The cost is \$5.00.

If you join PRAC or renew an expired membership at the bar-b-que you can eat for free. Your membership will be good for the rest of 1995 and all of 1996. Call Ken Miller at (408) 866-1240 to RSVP before September 21.

Hope to see you there!

## PORAC/LDF Update

The PRAC Board of Directors has been looking at the possibility of PRAC becoming affiliated with the Peace Officers Research Association of California and the Legal Defense Fund. The benefits are many but they come at a financial cost.

The major stumbling block to PRAC becoming affiliated is setting up a payment system to PORAC. The members cost is very roughly \$25.00 per month which would need to be paid each month. A member would have to check with their agency and see if they could set up payroll deduction to PRAC for the PORAC fees.

Before the Board works any more on the affiliation we want to know if there are enough PRAC members who are willing and able to set up payroll deduction for PORAC. Please read the enclosed information and return the survey.

# From the President's Desk

We are midway through the summer season, the busy time for most of us. I know how difficult it can be to think of things besides all those visitors running through your park lands and open spaces. But I am going to ask anyway.

First, I would like to encourage any and all interested members to think about running in the up-coming election. Directors seats in Region 2 and Region 4 will be open for interested members. As a former Nominations Committee Chairperson I had the opportunity to speak with many members who felt they were not qualified to run for office for various reasons. Really, all you need to run is a regular membership in one of the two open regions, **enthusiasm**, a willingness to work towards improving the park ranger profession, and some time for a few board meetings and phone calls. (All right, it's not quite that easy, but I'm pretty close.)

If you are interested in running for office or know someone who would make a great director, **please call** either Doug Bryce or any other member of the board.

Also coming up is PRAC's 20th anniversary. The 1996 annual conference in Ventura coming up in March would be wonderful time to commemorate this achievement and the board would like to set up a committee to help plan the celebration. Tom Smith, one of PRAC's founding fathers, has already offered to work on the 20th Anniversary Celebration Committee. If any one else is interested in helping **please contact Doug Bryce** or me to let us know.

The PRAC Board has also been busy with a few issues before our state legislature. PRAC formally lent it's support for Assembly Bill 787 to amend the California Penal Code allowing agencies to establish reserve park ranger programs with peace officer authority. PRAC is also looking into joining CSPRA to oppose a Senate bill that would allow sport hunting of mountain lions, including sport hunting on state, local and federal park lands.

I hope the summer season is going well for all of you, and I hope to hear from some of you about all the exciting things coming up this fall.

*Pam Helmke*

## Wanted: Ranger Exemplary We Need You!

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

Ranger Exemplary, does that title sound like you? Then give Pam Hemke a call (she is PRAC's President) and put your name in the ring for Region 4 Director of PRAC.

Why Ranger Exemplary? Why not? I must admit that I really don't consider myself an exemplary Ranger (sometimes maybe but not all the time), but I do consider PRAC an exemplary organization that tries really hard to help the Park Ranger. The position of Regional Director is not a high profile job and the salary is nothing to brag about but there are several advantages.

One advantage is you will gain tons of knowledge through networking on a state wide basis. I use to think this was no big deal and that all it took was a couple of phone calls. But in attending conferences, board meetings and workshops I've met a lot of people that when I do call them up on the phone the response is always very generous. This connection has helped my agency in the City of Los Angeles as we petition for the right to carry firearms as Peace Officers.

You will also gain experience for the old resume on

working for a state wide non-profit professional association. The job of Regional Director really doesn't take that much time and if your agency supports you, all the work can be done while you're on duty.

The position that needs filling is currently in Region 4. This area covers the counties of Inyo, Kern, Kings, Los Angeles, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Tulare and Ventura. There are approximately 30 members in this region so one challenge for the director is recruitment. The easy part for the new Director is that I'm going to stay active in PRAC. and assist in the upcoming conference so I would be more than willing to assist the new director with anything that needs doing. Why don't I stay on as director? I would like to but I'm finding my off duty time is working on lobbying efforts for improvements within my own agency. I feel I would be more helpful to PRAC in helping a new Director rather than shoulder it alone for another two years.

If you have questions about the position please call myself, Pam or Doug Bryce using the numbers on the back of the *Signpost*.

# Attitude on Enforcement

by Russ Hauck

With the recent unfortunate incident of a homicide in one of our parks came the cry of more enforcement by park rangers. In a city that has 32 parks and 6,000 acres of open space and three park ranger positions, two of which are currently vacant (I'm so tired of the "Lone Ranger" jokes I could burn my mask), I grow weary of the constant tug-of-war that pulls at our profession.

While we are frequently chastised as the "eyes and ears of the police department," and directed to "observe and report," and labelled with such unflattering titles as "wannabe," we are equally as frequently blamed for not doing enough to stop crime in the parks. Further, that does not relieve us of the responsibility to be able to identify a bird in flight 4,000 feet overhead when asked by a hiker, or a lizard described by a first grader that he saw last summer.

We are in a profession that is currently undergoing great change. Police Officers and Firefighters have already experienced changes in their respective professions. In the 1950's a policeman walked a foot beat, rattled doorknobs, pinched petty thieves, and broke up bar fights. If he encountered anything more significant, he called a Sergeant. Firemen fought fires. Today police officers are charged with instantaneously assessing the difference between a clumsy child and child abuse, being the referee in a domestic dispute, and constantly walking the fine line between necessary force and violation of civil rights. Firefighters tally 80 percent of their responses on medical aid situations and must be educated on new hazardous materials as quickly as industry creates them.

Our profession is currently in the middle of a dynamic phase. In the 1950's a park ranger was viewed as a caretaker of the environment, and seen as "interpreting our heritage." Today we have rangers that are strictly resource management, other strictly interpretation, some strictly law enforcement, and many that are combinations of these and other duties. We struggle to find our niche, but are increasingly asked to do more law enforcement.

As we continue to be pressed into service in an enforcement capacity, we must do some pressing of our own. We must press the fact that in order to do enforcement we need certain realizations. Realizations that include equipment, authority, and equality. There are successful examples of this everywhere: San Jose rangers will soon be wearing body armor; Rancho Simi rangers will soon be armed; Sacramento County rangers are pursuing POST agency status; Glendale and Long Beach rangers successfully amended the Penal Code to make Reserve Park Rangers equal to reserve police officers and reserve deputy sheriffs; numerous agencies are pursuing peace officer status.

While our bosses try to downplay our enforcement role to their bosses, "eyes and ears" and "observe and report" are pretty worthless options when you flip on the spotlight and see a 211 in progress. While being viewed as spe-

cialized law enforcement may be unsettling to some, it certainly has a place, and is increasingly becoming the trend. As such, we continue to fight our respective political battles.

But more important than all of this is the attitude that we must take toward enforcement. We can't continuously minimize our enforcement role. We have to maximize everything else. We have to accept enforcement as a necessary part of the job, but we have to spend our time highlighting the many, many good things that we do. If you've ever had someone thank you after you've issued them a citation, or heard a voice on the telephone perk up when you call to find out how they are feeling after you assisted them from their fall on the trail, or seen a child's eyes light up when she holds a gopher snake for the first time, you know exactly what I mean.

Enforcement is a necessary part of the job. But just as today's police officers still pinch petty thieves, and firefighters still fight fires, we must continue to take care of the many wonderful creations that are placed in our charge. It is truly possible to enforce the law while upholding a tradition image and fostering an appreciation for the environment. Very few visitors to Yosemite National Park realize that nestled in the valley between El Capitan and Half Dome is a 22-bed jail.

## INVESTMENT WORKSHOP

GUEST SPEAKER: Jamie L. Fleming  
Financial Services Consultant

Date: Sept. 28th, 1995  
Time: 1700 hrs  
Place: Griffith Park  
Ranger Auditorium

An informational workbook is provided to all attendees. Don't miss out on this opportunity to start planning for your financial security!

**DID YOU KNOW YOUR PENSION AND RETIREMENT SAVINGS MAKE UP LESS THAN 20% OF YOUR TOTAL RETIREMENT INCOME?**

Attend a two hour workshop that will answer your retirement and investment concerns. This workshop is provided to all P.R.A.C. members for \$10 and before September 1st. Non-P.R.A.C. members and after September 1st is \$15. See article for details as all proceeds benefit P.R.A.C..

# Legal Update Park Codes

## "Laws Designated to Protect Parks"

The California Legislature has created numerous laws that are specifically designed to protect public parks an open space areas. Did you know that private and public parks must provide adequate restrooms facilities for peak use? or if wood preservatives are applied to park playground equipment, state funding must be returned?

Can you believe that selling drugs in a park could bring twice the sentence as robbing a 7-11 store and shooting at the clerk?

These are just a few of the California laws specifically designed to protect parks, their staff, and park user.

The state legislature has provided these laws as tools to continue to make parks a special place in society. As park professionals we need to take advantage of this special legislation by:

- gaining a working knowledge of these codes
- using these laws as park management tools
- becoming a legal (park) information source for other related vocations (judges, prosecutors, police)

If we don't become the experts on park matters, who will?

It is not an easy task to obtain these park code sections. Specific references to "Parks" exist in almost all the legal codes in California, but seldom appear in the index or table of contents. Because of this very few people, park professionals or others (judges, prosecutors, police) are familiar with or even know of existence of these laws.

Over the years I have accumulated a working list of park related codes, and most recently completed a computer search of codes that will assist park managers (rangers) in the operations of their parks. If you think this information would be useful and would like a 25 page copy of the specific parks codes located in the Penal, Vehicle and Health and Safety Code, send \$3.50 to cover printing and mailing to:

Michael Quane, PO Box 3, New Almaden, CA 95042

## Open Space Ranger

### Marin County is Hiring!

As we go to press, rumor has it that Marin County has two Open Space Ranger positions available. The job should be posted in late August or early September.

For more information, contact Marin County Personnel Office at (415) 499-6104. Marin County 24-Hour Job Listing (415) 472-2999.

**The Signpost**

## Job Hotline is On-line

PRAC has new member service, the Job Hotline and it is now up and available. Just dial the regular 800 number listed on the back of every *Signpost* (800) 994-2530. You will hear a list of options. Just follow the instructions. That is all there is to it.

Well, not quite. In order to list jobs on this Hotline, we need to know about the jobs that are available. If you know of any jobs or expect to have openings don't forget this service. Just contact Doug Bryce at the same 800 number.

## City of Los Angeles Is Hiring, Finally!

by Kelly Byrne

It has taken a long time coming but the city of Los Angeles is finally hiring Park Rangers. Summer time is coming and a few more bodies can certainly help, not that the hiring will be done for the summer of '95 but I'll settle for summer of '96. Park Rangers will be Peace Officers under Penal Code 830.31b and will also receive training in firefighting and environmental education.

If you have been reading the *Signpost* articles from the Region 4 Director the past year then you realize some of the challenges working for a large city. Heck, unless you have been asleep the past year you probably think of Los Angeles as the disaster capital (L.A. has four seasons: floods, fires, riots and earthquakes) that presents new problems for a Park Ranger. So unless you like challenges, don't apply.

Contrary to popular belief, L.A. does have rural areas. The city also has beaches, mountains, museums, senior centers, urban and suburban parks. There is a diversity of culture in the city of Los Angeles that is second to none. This is the main reason I love L.A.. If you like looking at people who all look like their from the same family, don't apply. L.A. is rich in culture and anyone who tries to tell you different is quite ignorant about L.A.

The main reason people would want to work in L.A. is where else can you ski (snowboarding is my choice), and surf all in the same day. Or go hiking and see an off Broadway play all in the same day. Or watch movies being made and be paid \$25 an hour for off-duty rate (another of my favorite reasons to work in L.A.). Think about it, the move may be for you.

**For more information on the City of Los Angeles  
Park Ranger position call the Personnel  
Department at (213) 847-9760.**

# Smitty's Book Report

David always catches me up short. I had not yet finished my next book for the *Signpost* when I got his letter reminding me that it was time. As a former student, maybe he is getting even? I saw a coffee cup this weekend that had a statement on it that read, "So many books, so little time." How true. I still have at least five more books to read out of the seven that I received for my birthday. Mostly "recreational reading" about the Civil War. Deadlines remind me of my college days. Ya, I can remember those days. I'm not that old! I did finish reading the book I wanted to tell you about. It was an interesting one, although a little repetitious at times. It is another book that was mentioned at the conference last March. Compiled and edited by Thomas Blackburn and Kat Anderson, it is a book about the management of lands by the Native Americans of California. The title; *Before the Wilderness, Environmental Management by Native Californians*. It is an edited book that contains the work of several authors, and it is also one that would be a great book for the library of a park interpreter or resource manager. It should probably be on your shelf.

The Wilderness Act of 1964 says that, "man is a visitor and shall not remain." After reading this book, you will feel, like I do now, that wilderness is something that was created by humans, not by nature. It points out that the landscape that first greeted Euro-Americans when they arrived to this country, was one that was already a "managed" landscape, not one that was "untouched." It was managed by a knowledgeable native people so that the land could provide them food, clothing, shelter, tools, and fuel. Wilderness, as we know it today, only came about when the Indian's use of controlled fire was halted by the Spanish. Euro-American Man has always been a visitor to "wilderness." Native Americans have always been a part of wilderness.

A large portion of this text describes the techniques that were used with fire. Literally all Indian tribes in California used fire as a management tool. The book can become a resource text because it tells **when** the Indian burned, what they burned, for what purpose, and what the results were when fire was used at the proper time.

The book contains the ways in which the Indian managed oaks and pines for their acorn and nut crops, as well as how they used fire to produce good basket material. It describes, in detail, how the Native Americans harvested the wood for bow staves from Juniper trees without killing the trees. There is also a chapter on the Ritual Management of Salmonid Fish. Of course, fire was used to drive deer and elk into traps, and to open the forests to make hunting easier.

I obtained the book from a local bookstore for \$31.50. They had to order it for me. It did come within a six week period, however. I am willing to loan it to someone, if they are interested. I say this, tongue in cheek, because there are two things you never loan to people; your spouse and any of your books! Pick the book up. Have your agency buy it for your park office library. **You have one of those, don't you?**

Blackburn, T.C, Anderson, K., et al, "Before the Wilderness, Environmental Management by Native Californians," Ballena Press, Menlo Park CA, 1993.

**Be Professional. Increase Your Knowledge. Read!**  
Smitty, 74632,1257@compuserve.com

## Penal Code Amended to Include Reserve Park Rangers

by Russ Hauck

Governor Wilson recently signed into law Assembly Bill 787 amending section 630.6 of the Penal Code to include Reserve Park Rangers. The legislation carried an urgency clause and become effective immediately. This change will allow park ranger agencies to use volunteers with peace officer authority to supplement paid rangers.

Staff from Glendale and Long Beach Park Rangers worked diligently to promote the legislation which was endorsed by the Park Rangers Association of California. Assemblywoman Juanita MacDonald from Carson sponsored the bill.

A reserve park ranger program can offer a broad band of opportunities. It creates an option for us to bolster our

workforce as park budgets continue to be squeezed. It also allows us to provide additional services that we have never before been able to provide due to staff limitations.

There have been many changes associated with reserve peace officers in recent years, and many more changes are due to be implemented in the next eighteen months. Through this legislation, I have become a scholar of the Penal Code and the POST Administrative Policy Manual on issues relative to reserves.

I would be happy to share the information/knowledge that I acquired through my research. If you have any questions, please feel free to call at (818) 548-3795.

**PARK RANGERS ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA**

**Board Officers  
1995**

**President**

Pam Helmke  
(408) 277-4539  
Fax (408) 277-3241

**PLEA Liaison**

Don Watstein  
(805) 584-4445  
Fax (805) 526-7648

**Region 1 Director**

Chris Bramham  
(415) 4996-405  
Fax (415) 499-7192

**Past President**

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

**Region 2 Director**

Ken Miller  
(415) 691-2165

**"The Signpost" &  
"Cal Ranger" Editor**

David Brooks  
(408) 336-2948  
FAX (By Arrangement)

**Region 3 Director**

Dave Sloan  
(916) 774-5100  
Fax (916) 773-5595

**Scholarship**

Bill Hendricks  
(805) 756-1246  
Fax (805) 756-1402

**Region 4 Director**

Kelly Byrne  
(213) 665-5188

**Office Manager**

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

**Region 5 Director**

Paul Pettit  
(909) 940-5644  
Fax (909) 657-8496

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.

DavidB8480@aol.com  
CompuServe: 76516,3440  
eWorld:DavidB69543

**Membership Application**

name \_\_\_\_\_

address \_\_\_\_\_

city \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_ zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
home \_\_\_\_\_ work \_\_\_\_\_

Employer or School \_\_\_\_\_

Job Classification or Major \_\_\_\_\_

**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

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**