



1998 Conference Wrap-Up San Luis Obispo by Sandy Ferreira

This year's conference was a big success thanks to the endless hours of planning and coordination by the conference planning team as well as the students who were recruited by Bill Hendricks at Cal Poly. Everyone did a tremendous job! As part of the conference planning team, I'd like to extend a "special thank you" to each and everyone of you. The conference was well attended. It was good to see old friends, meet new ones, network and attend the diverse breakout sessions that the conference had to offer.

This year we had 15 vendors and exhibitors participate who were set up both inside and outside the conference. We had a very successful Silent Auction that raised more than \$ 2200.00! There was something offered for everyone. The off site special events included a Golf Tournament, Pistol Shoot, a field trip to La Purisima Mission, a hike along the ocean to see a Lighthouse and lastly an enchanting evening tour to see Hearst Castle in all its splendor. All of the field trips and special events were sold out and very well received. Everyone whom I spoke with said they really had a good time and enjoyed themselves.

Wednesday's evening banquet and Master of Ceremonies was hosted by Huell Howser of California's Gold television series. He was charming, witty and proud to be included as part of our program. Next year's conference will be held in San Rafael March 8-11, 1999 at the Wyndham Garden Hotel in beautiful Marin County. If you are interested in working on the conference planning committee, we would like to talk to you. Please contact any of your representatives with either PRAC or CSPRA. It is a lot of work....but it is also very rewarding. See you next year in San Rafael.

For Your Health: Bio...Barriers

by George Struble

There is a safety concern that is often overlooked in the field by rangers. It is an oversight that can take years off your life or at the very least cause health problems in the future. The problem I'm talking about is cursory searches.

Rangers often contact people in the field that have poor personal hygiene. The leather gloves come out of the pocket and go on the hands. After the search is complete the gloves go back in the pocket until the next search. I do not know of a ranger that sanitizes the gloves after each use.

The worst method is that no gloves are used at all. There are many communicable diseases that can be transferred in many different ways. By not protecting the hands with a barrier such as a glove, the hands can be vulnerable to infectious sores, bodily secretions, absorption of drugs and other harmful germs. Hands having even small abrasions lose that amount of protection skin provides allowing transmission of disease from host to victim.

We have all responded to the injury accidents where the gloves go on before we exit the unit (size does not matter). How prepared are we when it is "just a homeless person." The same care needs to be exercised with all contacts we undertake.

How can this problem be resolved?

The same care taken at an injury accident scene should be taken during pat down searches. The leather gloves used for pat downs should only be used to look good driving the unit to the scene. They should then be replaced by disposable rubber gloves. The rubber gloves are then thrown away in a safe manner after each contact. Also carry an instant hand sanitizer for use after public contacts. Simple precautions like this will protect you and your loved ones from the diseases out there.

*Dear Folks: If your area code has recently changed or is about to change, please notify the Executive Manager. (800) 994-2530
From the Editor. Thanks!*

From the President's Favorite Shade Tree

by Russ Hauck

What a terrific conference! I had a wonderful time and learned a lot (see related article, this issue).

Congratulations to those who received awards. Donna Pozzi was given an Honorary Lifetime Membership to PRAC, Pam Helmke was presented with a Past President's plaque and a Professional Citation Award, Ken Miller was honored with a Professional Citation Award, and David Brooks received the first ever Founder's Award. All of these were much deserved.

Many thanks to the PRAC members on the conference planning team. Pam Helmke put together the Resource Management track, Raleigh Young and Tom Smith did the Maintenance track, Bill Hendricks handled the Interpretive track and along with his students provided the much needed local muscles and brains, Doug Tait took care of logistics, Nora O'Donnell did a masterful job with the silent auction and on-site registration, Sandy Ferreira once again did a fabulous job with vendors as well as conference printing needs, and Doug & Carol Bryce handled pre-registration and all the other assorted conference paperwork. Many other PRAC folks also helped in many different ways. Needless to say, each one of these folks had a monumental task, as we had over 300 conference participants when all was said and done. It was really rewarding to see the session rooms filled to capacity and then some. Many thanks to the presenters as well. Thank you all for sharing your time and talents.

As always, the best part of the conference for me is seeing old friends and making new ones. I was lucky enough to be present for a truly magical moment that is the type of thing that you could find in a Hollywood screenplay.

Several of us were sitting around the breakfast table on the last day of the conference when a PRAC ranger reminisced about a family vacation he had taken to a particular state park when he was seven years old where he took part in the Junior Ranger program. He said the experience he had is what made him decide to become a Park Ranger. A CSPRA ranger that was sitting with us asked what year that had been because he had worked at that state park. With some quick calculations, the PRAC ranger determined that it was 1979. The CSPRA ranger said he was at that park during that time. The PRAC ranger said that he still had the junior ranger card that he had received and in fact had it back in his room in a file folder.

He left to retrieve it and upon his return, he showed it to the CSPRA ranger whose initials were on the card. After almost twenty years, two people's lives had come full circle. A ranger had made such an impression on a child that he chose a career based on his experience and now the two of them were sitting around the same breakfast table. Think about this the next time you present an interpretive program. You are shaping the future of this planet more that you realize.

Thank you all for a wonderful conference. I look forward to seeing everyone again next March.

Maintenance Option

With PRAC Still Open

Although not many maintenance field level people appeared at the conference, the maintenance sessions were well attended. We would like to thank all those that helped make those a success. Particularly the people at Mid Peninsula for trailering their trail machines all the way to San Luis Obispo. We still intend to have a maintenance column or two in each issue of the *Signpost*. After all, it is a lot of what most of us do out there. Raleigh Young and I still intend on pressing the issue about a new maintenance organization. The interest was just too great to let it all drop. Thanks to PRAC, we will continue to use the *Signpost* as the avenue of communication.

Stand by for further details.

Smitty

Wanted!

Park Ranger Trainee

\$1974-\$2402/mo

Plus Excellent Benefits

Sonoma County's Regional Parks Department has immediate vacancies for Park Ranger Trainees. This excellent entry-level opening provides incumbents with an opportunity to receive comprehensive classroom and on-the-job training in park management, operations and maintenance. The most qualified candidates will possess a combination of academic coursework in park management, forestry, natural resources management or a closely related field **and** some experience in park management, operations or maintenance. **Requires** a valid CA driver's license, and ability to pass a substantial background investigation, including criminal history check and a psychological evaluation. **Final filing deadline is 5:00 p.m., May 26, 1998.** Contact Sonoma County Personnel for a complete job description and application materials at (707) 527-2331. EEO

Pride And Teamwork For The Community

by Sandy Ferreira

I would like to share with you an outstanding program that the City of Fremont Police Department offers for the community. Recently, I enrolled in Fremont PD's "Citizen's Academy." It is conducted by the Community Relations Section. What the Academy offers to the community is a personal look into the policies and procedures of the Fremont Police Department. During the eleven week Citizen's Academy, citizens will cover topics which include Selection and Training, Criminal Law, Internal Affairs, Patrol Operations, Communications, Special Investigations, Community Relations, and Firearms Safety.

The course objectives are to increase citizen understanding of police services, to provide a forum for questions and input for the department, to increase understanding of law enforce-

ment procedures and to provide an opportunity for closer contact between the police and the public.

What I like about the Academy is classes are taught by members of the Fremont Police Department. You get the opportunity to meet and develop a rapport with the administrators, senior patrol officers and civilian employees. As a Park Ranger and employee of the City Of Fremont, we work closely with the police depart-



ment. This has been a great opportunity to get an inside personal view of how the department works and the types of services offered to the community. So far, we have learned how to take and lift "latent" fingerprints in the Crime Lab. We will have participated in SWAT and Hostage Negotiations, learn about polygraphs, learn about their Bicycle Program, High Risk Stops, get to participate in a "ride a long" with an officer, Critical Stress Incidents, Narcotics Enforcement, Special Police Investigations and Range Training. On this last detail, we get to go to the firing range and learn to shoot all the weapons that police officers use. These are just some of the topics covered in the eleven week Citizen Academy. At the closure, academy graduates are honored in a graduation ceremony with the City Manager, Police Chief and Police Command Staff.

Helicopter Safety

by John Havicon

You are with an injured park visitor in a remote area inaccessible to vehicles. Your choices are to carry your victim out by foot or request the helicopter. Carrying the victim out may be practical in many cases. You will need to consider if you have the proper equipment to stabilize the victim; if you have enough manpower; the distance and the terrain that you have to travel. You also need to consider the "Golden Hour". A gravely injured person's best chance for survival is when he or she receives medical treatment within one to two hours of the incident. Helicopters can increase the victim's chances by providing advanced life support (A.L.S.) and a quick transport to a hospital. We discussed preparing a landing zone (L.Z.) last time. The following are tips provided by California Shock and Trauma Air Rescue (CALSTAR) on what to do when the helicopter is on scene:

- Remember the pilot is in charge of the landing.
- Secure any loose items such as clothing, sleeping bags, tents and rafts. (I have seen 10-man rafts literally picked up out of the water and blown away.)
- If there are any vehicles nearby, protect the interiors by closing windows and doors.
- Don't wear loose hats.
- Protect your eyes as it lands. The easiest way is to turn your back to the helicopter.
- Protect the patient by shielding them.
- Helicopters generally will run "hot," (with the engine on and the rotors turning), to insure a quick take-off.
- Always follow the directions of the flight crew.
- Never approach or leave a helicopter without a crew member. Approach the helicopter from the front, where the pilot can see you.
- Do not approach or leave a helicopter on ground that is higher than what it is standing on.
- The primary nurse will generally exit the helicopter and approach you and your patient and assess.
- Keep your head down and your eyes up when approaching or leaving the helicopter. Don't place your hands or any equipment higher than your head.

For further information, please contact me, John Havicon at 916-875-6672 or contact CALSTAR at 510-887-3063. CALSTAR also provides a videotape on helicopter safety and landing zones and is an excellent training tool. The tape can be obtained by calling the same number.

Ed. note: EBRPD helicopter pilots love to talk about this as well. Call Public Safety at (510) 881-1833.

CSPRA/PRAC Fund

Chile and Latvia Rangers To Ranger World Congress

by Mike Lynch

Due to the efforts of CSPRA and generosity of individual members of CSPRA and PRAC, two Rangers from Chile and one from Latvia, were provided scholarships to attend the Ranger World Congress in Costa Rica. The recipients, Bernardo Lopez and Juan Nitor from Chile and Valdis Pilats from Latvia, would not have been able to attend without these scholarships. All three expressed their great appreciation for the assistance to the California rangers who were attending the Ranger Congress. (Also,

see the letter from Valdis on the next page.)

Sponsored by the International Ranger Federation (IRF), the Ranger World Congress was a tremendous event that drew 240 rangers from 42 countries. Many rangers from developing countries were able to attend on scholarships, similar to the ones provided by California rangers. A complete report on the Ranger World Congress was done by Kevin Joe in the last edition of the CSPRA newsletter.

I want to again recognize those who made major contributions towards the scholarships. They are CSPRA, Peggy Whitehead, Vicki Araujo, Ed Dolder, Tom Smith, Mike Lynch, Jeff Price, Bud Getty and the participants at the last California Parks Conference who pitched in a total of \$500. In all, \$1,600 was raised.

Anyone interested in the IRF can contact me, Mike Lynch, at P.O. Box 3212, Auburn, CA 95604 or 530-885-4527 ext. 19 or e-mail: lynch@psyber.com.



Chile rangers (Quardaparques) and CSPRA/PRAC members at the Ranger World Congress. L-R starting in the back: Bernardo Lopez, Miles Standish, Mike Whitehead, Susan Ross, Steve Karnatz, Kevin Joe and Bud Getty (check out the T-shirt name tag). In the front row are Christina Craig, Juan Nitor and Mike Lynch.

Hats Off to The Editor

by Sandy Ferreira

Congratulations to Dave Brooks who was awarded the first Founders Award at the 1998 California Parks Conference. Dave was selected because of his hard work, tireless effort and commitment to PRAC and as Editor for the *Signpost*. Keep up the good work Dave, we appreciate your efforts.

P.S. *Patty says it was it was hard to get him there!*

Region 3 Director's Letter

Well , It was certainly great to see all you again at the conference. What a conference!! Excellent sessions and field trips, great food and a terrific tour of Hearst Castle. My heartfelt thanks to all of you that helped organize this conference, Bill Hendricks and all of his students who provided the labor and especially Nora O'Donnell, who was always there to answer all of our many questions and worked tirelessly registering us all in. I think the highlight for me was at the banquet, listening the CSPRA's honorary State Park Ranger Margaret Owings. Her words about wildlife preservation brought me back to the whole reason I chose this career. Let's do this again next year. See you at San Rafael.

John Havicon

Latvia Ranger Expresses Thanks for Scholarship

Dear Mike (Lynch),

I should like to express once again the heartiest thanks for the given opportunity to attend the Congress and to be in Costa Rica. It was a great pleasure to meet again lot of people I saw for the first time during the 1st Congress. In Zakopane I met only strangers but in San Jose already lot of friends.

After the Congress I went for volunteering to Poas Volcano NP. It also was a great experience: to see for the first time rather active volcano and to get the feel of local ranger. One thing is to be a simple park visitor, but completely another to live, at least some

days, together with local park rangers.

When I went to Costa Rica I expected to find out what really means ecotourism. I am not deceived in my hopes. I heard, I saw and I felt how ecotourism is organized in Costa Rica.

Those were my main gains. Unfortunately there were some, losses, too. When I wanted to start my trip back to home, I was not put on board for the American Airlines flight to Miami. It was explained that it is due to fact that I haven't USA Transit Visa. My objections that I have already flew via Miami also on the way to Costa Rica, also without Transit Visa, were not

taken into account. I would like to hear your comments about that situation. Did the servant of AA act legally. I had to buy another ticket for direct flight to Europe to Amsterdam, where nobody asked me about the Netherlands Transit Visa. It made me essential financial losses and I am still in debt to Mike and Keith from UK who helped with advance-money to buy the new ticket.

I am look forward to hear soon from you. My e-mail address in Riga (Faculty of Biology): pilats@lanet.lv

Cordially, Valdis Pilats THE GAUJA NATIONAL PARK Baznicas Str. 3, Sigulda LV 2150, Latvia



Scholarship recipient Latvia ranger Valdis Pilats, 2nd from left, holding Mike Lynch's book on California state park rangers. L-R are Chrisina Craig, Valdis, Mike, IRF President Gordon Miller, Susan Ross and Mike Whitehead (wearing an Argentina park ranger jacket).

The Top 10 Things I Learned at the 1998 Park Ranger Conference

by Russ Hauck

10. If I ever get in a shootout in a bowling alley, I'm a goner.
9. "They come on vacation, they leave on probation".
8. There is only one Cal Poly and it is nowhere near Pomona.
7. Huell Howser is one of the world's truly nice guys.
6. Alcohol consumption and productivity are inversely proportional (I actually learned this one over the last two conferences; I was a good boy this year).

5. Point Lobos must be a beautiful place and I hope I live to be 85 years old.
4. If you use the words "limerick" and "Nantucket" together, you are guaranteed to get a laugh.
3. I'll never be able to set foot in Burbank again.
2. The "Water Cycle Boogie" can be done by a large group with very little talent.

And the number 1 thing I learned at the 1998 Park Ranger Conference:

"It's not the size of your unit that matters, it's how you deploy it."

If some of these don't make sense to you, either:

- a.) missed a really terrific conference, or
- b.) attended the conference but were hangin' with a much less happenin' crowd.

Make your plans to attend the 1999 Park Ranger Conference March 8-11 in San Rafael.

Region 4 Round-Up

Training & BBQ

Have you ever been through the parks and wondered what you could do about the shopping carts; Have you ever been in the field and wondered what drug a person might be on; Or what drug you just pulled out of his pocket? These questions and more will be answered on May 20th.

A corporate investigator from California Shopping Cart Retrieval Corporation will give a two hour training session on all aspects of the shopping cart problems in cities today. The investigator will cover how to identify the owner of a shopping cart, what criminal codes~apply to those who possess

shopping carts, and vendors using shopping carts.

A Drug Recognition Expert (DRE) from the Burbank Police Department will give a two hour training session on the current drug trend in Southern California. He will cover how to identify drugs and how to recognize the signs/symptoms of being under the influence of drugs.

After a fun filled four hour training block all participants are invited to stay for a Barbecue immediately following the training. Plan on staying to network with other ranger agencies.

Just the Facts

- Who: PRAC
What: Training & BBQ
Where: Griffith Park Auditorium
4730 Crystal Springs Dr., Los Angeles, CA 90027
When: May 20, 1998,
Training 1-5pm, BBQ 5-7pm
Registration starts at 12:30 pm
Cost: PRAC members \$5.00,
all others \$10.00
Information:
George Struble,
Director Region 4
Glendale Park Rangers
613 E. Broadway Rm 120
Glendale, CA 91206
(818) 548-3795

Return this portion with payment to:

George Struble, Glendale Park Rangers, 613 E. Broadway Rm 120, Glendale, CA 91203

Name: _____
Organization: _____
Address: _____
City & Zip: _____
Amount Enclosed: _____

**Make check payable to: PRAC
Please register by May 5, 1998**

Smitty's Book Report

Well, if you get your *Signpost* late, it is probably my fault. I had received my floppy back from Dave, placed it on the shelf without opening it, and had to be prodded to get my article in. At least I do have a book to report on. Before I do that, I want to tell all those involved with the conference last month to take a bow. A great conference. A special one for me as well. I got to introduce our keynote speaker, Dr. Jan van Wagendonk. Jan was my first boss in Yosemite and had a big influence on me and my positive attitudes about science in parks. This leads me into the book for this report. I believe I told you about it some time ago. I had bought it at a pre-publication price of....gulp....\$67.50! Sight unseen. It is titled, **Recreation Ecology**. I actually stayed with it to the bitter end. It was interesting in places, but extremely academic. Not that good scientific documents should not be "academic." This one was overly so. I kind of hate that. I guess it doesn't hurt someone to have to sit a read with a dictionary beside them, but it does take away some of the "fun" of reading. Of course, I could increase my vocabulary. If you get the idea that my eyes glazed over after a few pages, you are correct. The book covers the impact of recreation on plants, soils, litter and organic material, water, plant roots, soils and growth, erosion, invertebrates, reptiles, birds, and mammals, large and small. It also covers the impacts of water based recreation, fish and aquatic mammals. The author, Michael Liddle was one of the first ecologists in the United Kingdom to recognize the need for research on recreational ecology, and is a Senior Lecturer, Environmental Sciences, Griffith University, Queensland, Australia. Obviously, some of his research that is mentioned in the book takes place in Europe and UK. Again, that can be useful for us here in the U.S. As I have stated before, being able to apply research done other places to our own particular parks, is one of the virtues of reading this kind of material. Since I also reviewed **Visitor Impact Management** several months ago, it was very easy to make a comparison. VIM was written in an easy and understandable style, and was only \$19.95 for two volumes. VIM should be on everybody's shelf. I am not going to throw Recreation Ecology away, however. It contains enough good material to be an excellent resource book.

Liddle, Michael **Recreation Ecology** Chapman and Hall, London, 1997 Cost now is over \$90!.....Ouch!

Interpretation for Pre-schoolers

by Ken Miller

Another conference has come and gone. Hopefully everyone learned a lot, met new people, re-connected with old friends, and had a great time. I know that I did. San Luis Obispo was a great location and the weather certainly co-operated this year compared to some past conferences. One session that I attended that really clicked for me was Interpreting for Pre-schoolers presented by Gail Berry from California State Parks. She developed her program for pre-school siblings who were too young to attend the State Park Junior Ranger programs with their older brothers and sisters. Even though Gail's program is for the State Parks all of points she made in her presentation apply to Pre-schoolers in general and can help any interpreter.

Principle #1 straight from Freeman Tilden's *Interpreting Our Heritage* is: "Interpretation addressed to children should not be a dilution of the presentation to adults, but should follow a fundamentally different approach. To be at its best it will require a separate program." Pre-schoolers have a **very short** attention span. The program should be thirty minutes or less and divided into three distinct ten minute sections. That's all the time you will get. Do a ten minute presentation using puppets and/or mounted animals. In her experience bird mounts and puppets worked well, but for animals the mounts scared the young children and she recommended using only puppets. Stress the differences between wild and domestic animals and use the puppets to represent wild animals acting naturally and not as toys. I chuckled at her mention of

not asking the children if they have any questions but I guess if you haven't opened the "story" Pandora's box you should be warned. Ask the children only specific questions to avoid the "when I did this....." stories. For the second ten minutes of the presentation do an activity such as a bug hunt with a plastic bug jar and have the children share their findings with the others.

Finally for the last ten minutes do a coloring sheet to wrap up the presentation and give the children something to take home from the presentation. Initially I thought of wishing anyone interpreting for pre-schoolers a lot of luck, but when it really comes down to it proper prior planning will allow you to succeed. A little luck never hurt either.

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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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