

## Region 2 Training

by Jeff Gaffney

The Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation Department has generously donated their staff and training facilities to PRAC. I have put together a training seminar with Don Rocha, Santa Clara County's resource coordinator. Don has vast experience in feral pig management and is going to share some ideas, his experiences, and show us hands on what has worked the best. Don has also invited John Nores a warden with the California Department of Fish and Game. They will share how agencies can work together and in particular how important it is to work with DFG when it comes to feral pig management. Don will also speak briefly on GPS and how it can be easily used to map resource "hot spots" or "cold spots" and the periodic changes.

I have also gotten Morgan "The Bat Lady" Venable to speak about the misconceptions of bats and how to protect and provide habitat for them. I will set up the training somewhere in Santa Clara County (probably close to Hwy. 101) and it will be on Tuesday 04/13/99 at 0900 am. This will be an 8 hour training and lunch will be provided. If there are questions you can call me at 408-779-3634. A flyer will be sent out with all of the details once I have them worked out.

### Opportunity Knocks

There are exciting new changes happening with Santa Clara County seasonal rangers. All of the details have not been worked out yet, but if you were ever interested in being a seasonal park ranger now is the time to apply. If you are interested call (408) 358-3741 or me at (408) 779-3634.

## PRAC Workshop Thanks

by John Havicon

I would like to thank all of you who showed up for the workshop, Obtaining Voluntary Compliance, with Bob Donahue. 55 people showed up for the workshop which is twice as many than I anticipated. Next time I will get a larger room! We all seemed to fair well, inspite of the crowded room and received some well needed information. Thanks Bob, for taking the time to present this program to us. I have already had a chance to practice what I learned on some park visitors and it helped.

## Greetings From Region 1

by Mike Chiesa

Hello, my name is Mike Chiesa and I am the newly elected Region 1 Director. I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself to the members. I am very excited to have been elected to this position and I look forward to working with you, the members, during my term. I am a Park Ranger for Sonoma County Regional Parks, on the north Sonoma Coast. I have 10 years of generalist park experience with different agencies.

We all know that PRAC is an outstanding organization that represents all aspects of the park profession. I am very interested in hearing from the members any workshops, specialized training, or social events they would be interested in attending in Region 1. I have some ideas myself and will be looking for lots of new ones. I would like to be able to offer a variety of different events throughout my term that interest all members.

I know many of you and look forward to working with and meeting many more of you. I would like to try to increase membership and get more members to become involved with PRAC events. There is a lot that can be done but it will take participation and teamwork. Anybody who has any ideas or suggestions for anything, please do not hesitate to contact me.

The 1999 California Parks Conference is upon us and it should be a great one. I have had the pleasure to serve on the planning committee as the Public Safety Track Chair. I have been working hard with the rest of the planning team over the last several months to bring you a top-notch conference. I do encourage all that can attend, to attend as it is a great event to learn a lot, network with other park professionals of all levels from all over the state, and most importantly, have a whole lot of fun. This years events will last for 4 days with many training opportunities, field trips, and social events. The conference will be in San Rafael on March 8-11<sup>th</sup>. I hope to see you there.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve you on the Board of Directors.

# From the President's Favorite Shade Tree

by Russ Hauck

I'll start with a disclaimer. This article reflects an opinion of mine. The opinion represented here does not necessarily represent the opinion of the Association or its members. It is not based on fact. It is not based on research. It is purely and simply based on my observations and the conclusions I have drawn there from. If you disagree with the article (although I don't think there are a lot out there who will) I won't be offended. After all, you too are entitled to your own opinion.

Park Ranger programs should be under the administration of Parks Departments. Park Ranger programs that are placed under Police Departments or Convention and Visitor Services Bureaus are not as successful, are less productive, and/or don't always obtain the best results for the agency or the park-using public.

Let's start with police departments. There are certainly advantages for Park Rangers to work for police departments. Money, comparatively speaking, appears to be limitless. The Glendale Police Department's budget for its Reserve (volunteer) program is three times the size of the entire park ranger budget, excluding salaries. Second, there is such a strong support structure. They have detectives for follow-up, a training bureau, a records bureau, a fully staffed garage, a purchasing office, etc. Have you found that the one who suggests the training in your agency is suddenly put in charge of it? There are of course, other advantages.

But there are glaring disadvantages. The most obvious is that rangers are viewed by police departments as left-handed, red-headed step-children. This is true of ranger programs that don't work for police departments as well, but when this situation occurs while you are working there. It takes a tremendous toll on morale. This phenomenon is exaggerated when equality comes into play. Rangers are denied POST certificates even though they are working for a POST agency and they have equal training. Rangers are paid less even though the only factor that determines whether a

ranger or an officer is dispatched to handle a 415 gang fight is on which side of an invisible line the bad guys are standing. Safety retirement fits here as well.

Personnel selection becomes a concern. Police Departments overseeing armed, peace officer park rangers hire either people who can't get hired on as a regular cop, or people who are just getting started in the law enforcement field and this is their first job. This creates a situation where those who are not qualified won't leave and those who are qualified leave as soon as they can get a higher paying police officer job creating a turnover problem. Either way, the agency and the public it serves suffer. Rangers who work for Police Departments in a civilian capacity are just not that effective. They function as eyes and ears for the police department and are limited to a role of being an extension of the 911 system.

The final argument is that police departments have a limited focus: they concentrate on the bad guys. Rarely will they go out of their way to do the little things that park rangers historically have done that have earned us our positive reputation.

Let's move on to Convention and Visitor Services Bureaus which are revenue driven. They know the economic power of their clientele and nurture them accordingly. Rangers are encouraged to overlook minor offenses in order to keep the guests happy. Our role absolutely includes providing a positive setting and doing what we can to facilitate a quality park experience. But it also must include the capability of taking action on a situation that is or could be detrimental to the park or the public. We can't have our hands tied by the power of the almighty dollar. We must be given the opportunity to do what is prudent, which may not always follow the thinking that the customer is always right.

Parks Departments need to be in control of their affairs, including the direction of those who safeguard their properties. They are charged with providing a safe and well-maintained recreational environment. Having a staff of park rangers who

share the same basic philosophy as that of the department puts everyone on the same page. Park Rangers historically have a concern for the environment and genuinely like to deal with people. They don't mind going out of their way to do the things necessary to get the work done, and the most often exercised phrase from their job description is other duties as assigned.

While these same characteristics are shared by rangers working for Convention and Visitor Services Bureaus, Parks Departments are often at the opposite end of the revenue spectrum trying to make the most out of what they have. They understand the financial implications associated with misuse and abuse of park facilities and are therefore more likely to support the efforts of the rangers to penalize the offending parties with appropriate sanctions.

The basic philosophy of the Park Ranger profession remains unchanged. Our primary purpose is to protect parks from people, people from parks, and people from people. The tools we have at our disposal to achieve these goals are education, information, interpretation and when necessary, incarceration. The key to our success comes in the ability to access any of these tools as we see fit. Police Departments and Convention and Visitor Services Bureaus may try to skew our approach to more align with their philosophies. Parks Departments allow us more latitude in selecting what we see as the best choice.

Parks Departments offer their share of frustrations, too. Administrators who have come up through the recreation or maintenance ranks don't always fully understand the issues facing a Ranger in the performance of his or her duty. But they generally share a concern for the environment and like to deal with people, which is why they chose this field. In my estimation, this lends itself to working toward a common goal of providing a quality product and encouraging consumers of that product to take full advantage of it within the bounds of appropriate behavior.

## Junior Ranger Stickers

PRAC has printed a supply of Junior Ranger Stickers for you to use in your Junior Ranger programs. They are a 2.5-inch, seven point star with black printing on gold foil. They have the Seal of the State of California in the middle with the words Junior Park Ranger across the top with the word California underneath. They will sell for \$5.00 per hundred to our members and \$50.00 per 1,000 to agencies.

## Jobs on The Internet

Our Job Hot Line is now on our Web Site. You can continue to call (800) 994-2530 for the latest in job opportunities. (The latest job added to the phone message is the first job you will hear. So when you hear a job you have heard previously you can hang up knowing you've heard all of the new messages.) Our Job Line is also printed on the Web Site. The PRAC Home page is: ><http://home.earthlink.net/~dugbryce/PRAC.html><

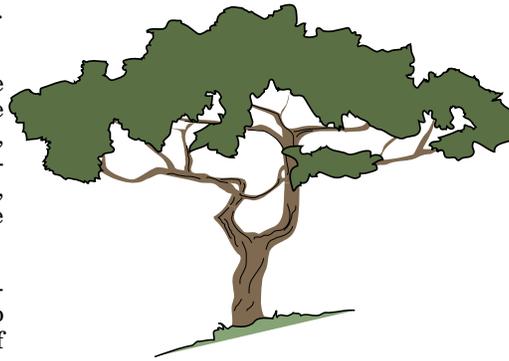
# Have a Big Tree to measure?

## Here is how

Do you have a monster tree, or one that you think is close to it? Do you know that there is a champion tree resource? Someone that keeps track of all the large trees in America? American Forests magazine publishes a supplement each year called the National Register of Big Trees. This publication is updated each year and includes not only the national register of 850 species, but includes a breakdown, by state, as to where each tree is located. If you do have a large tree in one of your parks and would like to see if it should be listed, you need to follow the instructions below:

1. Correct name of the species or variety. Only U.S. or native plants are eligible.
2. Measure the circumference of the tree in inches four and one half feet above the ground. If there is a fork at this point, measure the smallest circumference below the fork. If it branches below 4 1/2 feet, measure the largest fork above the branching.
3. Vertical height of the tree to the nearest foot. The most reliable tool for this job is either an abney level or a clinometer. If

you do not have access to either tool, you can measure it by the stick method. Hold the stick at its base vertically at arms length making sure its length above your hand equals the distance from your hand to your eye. Walk backward from the tree making sure you are level with the trees base. Stop when the stick above your hand appears to be the same length as the tree. Measure how far you are from the tree and that measurement in feet, is the height of the tree. With a clinometer, or abney, you need to take three measurements. The first is to measure



100 feet from the base of the tree to where you are standing. With the clinometer, measure from eye level on the tree (0 percent grade) to the top of the tree. Then take another measurement from 0 percent level to the bottom of the tree. The readings in degrees are added together thus giving you the height of the tree.

4. Average the crown to the nearest foot. Measure the largest spread of the crown and the narrowest and divide by 2.
5. Location of the tree
6. Date measured and by whom.
7. Name and address of owner.
8. Clear photograph and the date taken.
9. Description of the trees physical condition.
10. Name and address of the nominator.

Mail all the above to:

National Register of Big Trees  
American Forests  
P.O. Box 2000  
Washington, D.C. 20013

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## AIDS and the Workplace

by George Struble

When you say the word AIDS today many people still think of a disease that inflicts mostly homosexual males and drug abusers. However, statistics show that the greatest percentage of people contracting the HIV virus is heterosexual females, especially minorities. Park Rangers as emergency care providers will inherently care for people with the HIV virus and not know that they are infected. Yet, how many times has a ranger jumped out of the patrol vehicle at the scene of an injury without even a set of latex gloves? Rangers need to be prepared in the field and out.

Eight years ago I would not have thought twice about rendering first aid to anyone in the field gloved or not. My attitude changed after finding out that my Grandfather had contracted the HIV virus while receiving a blood transfusion during open-heart surgery. Discovering that he contracted the virus, my Grandmother was also tested and the results were also positive. They chose not to tell family or friends about the disease because they were afraid people would shut them out. Once the family was told of the infections, we certainly did change our attitudes. These people weren't homosexuals or drug addicts; they were the people we loved for

so many years, our family. Six years ago my Grandfather died in severe pain from the very drugs that had helped extend his life. My Grandmother died just after this past Christmas. She was in severe pain for the last six months of her life and it was hard to watch her in such pain. Even harder was to see such a strong person being over come by a disease with such negative stereotypes attached to it. Seeing my Grandfather and then my Grandmother die from AIDS got me thinking about treatment of potentially infected persons in and out of the field.

Rangers need to be prepared on and off the job. Pocket masks and latex gloves should be part of the uniform. Pocket masks are getting smaller and smaller, some even fit on a key chain. I carry two sets of latex gloves and my mask in my back pocket. There are also utility belt pouches available made just for these items. Off the job, gloves and mask should be in a convenient place in your car in case of an emergency. The new sanitary alcohol gels are a great second line of defense for disease control when immediate hand washing is unavailable. (Hands should be washed after each patient contact regards of type of injury or illness.) Check your

local American Heart Association or Red Cross for pocket mask purchases.

Another thing rangers need to do is to get baseline tested for the HIV virus. This will be extremely important if the ranger is exposed on the job. By not having a baseline test, the agency can claim the ranger was exposed before the contact and can withhold medical retirement payments as well as any other such money. All exposures to blood and/or other bodily fluids should be immediately reported to supervisors and the proper forms filled out. This is generally the ranger's responsibility. Check with your agency for specifics.

Finally, I would like to say a word about the manner in which we treat our patients. Although we must **handle** each person as if they were infected, we must not treat them with anything less than compassion and dignity. Even those who we may suspect to be in a high-risk group for contracting HIV should always be treated professionally. Doing anything other is unbecoming of the uniform and may wind up being reported. After all, those very people are someone's loved one. Wouldn't we want our family treated with that kind of respect and compassion?

# Park Rangers are Peace Officers?!?!?

**Jeff Gaffney**

This is directed to peace officer park rangers (if there is some question as to whether you are a peace officer or not please call or e-mail me and I'll try to help). Since my recent appointment to organize the law enforcement committee for PRAC I have been making calls and putting together a committee. In my conversations with people I am amazed at what cities, counties, and special districts leave their park rangers to believe as to what their authority and status is. In no way do I profess to be an attorney or legal expert. I have however collected numerous Attorney Generals opinions and Appeals/Supreme court rulings. The courts look to the Attorney General in these matters since he/she is the chief law enforcement officer in the state. I will briefly summarize what the Attorney General and the Appeals/Supreme courts have determined over the last 20 years and I will then list the reference sections at the end (they aren't the most exciting reading but they are definitive).

Previous to 1980 there was some mention in the statutes of the limitations to peace officers authority. It mostly had to do with carrying firearms or carrying them into the state capitol. Another limitation was while engaged in their duties (this limitation never was applied to park rangers). From 1980 through 1984 there was a major revamp to these statutes, the restrictive language was taken out of the peace officer references for park rangers. The only restriction that was left was an agency has the choice to arm their park rangers or not. The legislature felt that local agencies have a stake in any lawsuit that would be brought against them (involving the use of deadly force) and

therefore gave them the option of arming their park rangers.

The problems arose when agencies thought that this limited the authority and status of their park rangers. The Attorney General and Supreme courts have been very clear on this matter, the state legislature defines and regulates peace officer authority not a local government. Sections 830.31- 830.37 (park rangers are under 830.31) have been grouped together as specialized primary duty peace officers. This means they have the same authority and status as other peace officers. They just have a primary duty such as ours, protecting the park and other property of the agency and the preservation of peace therein. (In this sense they are specialized.) This does not prevent someone from making an arrest anywhere in the state in accordance with 836 of the Penal Code. There are also sections of various codes (i.e. Business and Professions 25619) that place general enforcement duties on all peace officers, B&P 25619 requires all peace officers to enforce the provisions of the Alcohol Beverage Control Act. It does not specify while in or out of uniform or on or off duty. The employer can direct a peace officers enforcement actions but can not limit them to merely local ordinances or municipal codes.

In the interest of keeping this brief I will wrap it up. Park rangers are 24-hour peace officers on-duty all of the time. They can carry concealed firearms while not working for their employer regardless of the employers policy. There has been 5 Attorney Generals opinions and two Supreme court rulings outlining this authority. Since an employer can not and does not control whether someone can carry a

gun to go hunting, the same holds true for carrying a concealed weapon. This is allowed by law for "...other duly appointed peace officers..." as stated in the Penal Code.

In contrast there were limitations placed on some peace officers. For example 830.5 of the Penal Code. They were limited to being peace officers while engaged in the performance of their duties and the legislature also wrote into the statute (830.5) who may carry firearms off-duty. No such restriction occurs in 830.31- 830.37 PC. The below referenced sections are definitive and clear on these issues. Please feel free to stop by your local law library if you want further clarification. If you want to call me with questions my number is 408-779-3634.

## Case Law:

Orange County Employees Assn., Inc. V. County of Orange (1993) 14 Cal. App. 4th 575, 17 Cal. Rptr.2d 695

County of Santa Clara V. Deputy Sheriffs Assn.. (1992) 3 Cal.4th 873, 13 Cal.Rptr.2d 53; 838 P.2d 781

People V. Derby (1960) 177 Cal. App. 2d 626, 2 Cal.Rptr 401, 404

Attorney General Opinions:

63 Ops.Cal.Atty.Gen. 385, 388 (1980)

64 Ops.Cal.Atty.Gen.835-836 (1981)

65 Ops.Cal.Atty.Gen. 527-534 (1982)

70 Ops.Cal.Atty.Gen. 20 (1987)

Opinion numbers 81-714, 81-1216, and 89-505 inclusive

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## A What?

**by Geoff Sewell & Bill Burr**

Why would anyone spend so much time and effort on bats? That's a question we've been asked several times about this project. Well, gosh darn it, bats are just really cool and we wanted to invite as many as we could. We decided to build a "bat condo." We do hope to change the name eventually.

We first saw this design in a BCI (Bat Conservation International) newsletter. The department of Fish & Game in Pennsylvania had come up with the design for replacement habitat, in case the current habitat, an old church, was destroyed. Generally speaking, the "condo" is an 8-ft wide x 8-ft. long x 8-ft. tall, erected 12-feet above the ground. (Wow! I know, but we have secret motives for this big design.)

The "condo" was built to mimic the church's construction, and to accommodate Little Brown Bats, which was the residing species.

At first, we actually joked about submitting the \$2,900 "bat condo" project to our Department. As we talked more and more, identifying the benefits of the project; the data collection; the interpretive opportunities; the low cost; and the ability to complete the construction, it went from a joke, to a mission. It all started with the small nursery boxes, you know the one that everybody has in their park? Well, anyway, in one particular location in the back of Calero Park, our small nursery boxes we were getting 75-100% population increase in each season. That percentage, and the

noticeable decrease in that bat population (since the quicksilver mines were sealed) were our big motivation for submittal. The "condo" was designed for a bat population of 6,000 bats. Although we don't expect to reach that number, we have different ideas in mind.

The size of the building was big enough to create micro climates within the same environment. There are several different new designs and concepts in bat roost construction that we are going to incorporate into our construction to perhaps collect data on these new ideas. We are also going to make our own modifications to encourage species of different size bats to

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**Continued on page 7**

**The Signpost**

# Making a Home First Aid Kit

by John Havicon

How many times have you needed the supplies to handle a minor injury like a small cut, scrape or burn. Either you don't have those supplies or they are spread all over the house or bathroom! Here is a list of items that can be assembled inexpensively. When kept together you have only one place to go to retrieve the necessary tools to handle many medical emergencies at home. All of these items are available at your local pharmacy. For the kit itself, a small tote bag is recommended because it is large enough to hold all of the items listed and is easily transported. Remember to follow the same precautions with your first aid kit as you would with any medicine. Store out of the reach of children and use only products with child safety caps.

## Contents:

• Acetaminophen, Ibuprofen, and Aspirin: For headaches, pain, fever, and simple sprains or strains of the body. (Aspirin should not be used for relief of flu symptoms or given to children.)

• Ipecac Syrup and activated Charcoal: For the treatment after ingestion of certain poisons. (Use only on the advice of a poison control center or the emergency department.)

• Anti-Diarrhea medication

• Antacid

• Elastic Wraps: For wrapping wrist, ankle, knee, and elbow injuries.

• Triangular bandages: For wrapping injuries and making an arm sling.

• Scissors with Rounded tips

• Adhesive tape, 2-inch and 3-inch Roller Gauze: For bandaging wounds.

• Disposable, Instant-activating Ice Bags: For icing injuries and treating high fever.

• Antibiotic Ointment: For burns, cuts and scrapes.

• 2-inch and 4-inch gauze pads: For dressing wounds.

• Bandage Closures, 1/4 and 1-inch: For taping cut edges together.

• Tweezers: To remove small splinters and ticks.

• Safety Pins: To fasten splints and bandages.

• Rubber Gloves: To protect your hands and reduce the risk of infection when treating open wounds.

• Antiseptic: For keeping wounds clean.

• Thermometer

• Sunscreen

• Cleansing Agent/soap : For cleaning wounds.

• First Aid Manual

• List of Emergency Phone Numbers

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## Suspect in National Park Ranger's murder sentenced to life in prison

by John Havicon

On January 30, 1999, Jeremiah Locust, 47, accused of gunning down a National Park Ranger was found guilty of First Degree Murder in Federal Court.

Park Ranger Joseph Kolodski, 36, was shot and killed, June 21, 1998, as he stepped out of his patrol vehicle. A second Ranger, Tony Welch was also targeted by the gunman, but escaped injury. Rangers Kolodski and Welch were investigating a

report of a man with a gun along the Blue Ridge Parkway in Tennessee. The gunman, Locust, opened fire as they arrived. Federal prosecutors contend that "Locust armed himself with a rifle after getting his car stuck in the mud and went to the parkway intent on venting his anger over some problems at home."

The prosecution announced they would not seek a death penalty charge after con-

ferring with Ranger Kolodski's family and Attorney General Janet Reno.

Our deepest sympathies goes to the Ranger Kolodski's family, friends and the National Park Rangers. A memorial web site for Ranger Kolodski has been set up for all to pay their respect. The address is: [home.earthlink.net/~bikeranger/joek.htm](http://home.earthlink.net/~bikeranger/joek.htm)

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## New Lyme Disease Vaccine Approved by FDA

by Pam Helmke, Park Ranger, City of San Jose

The Federal Drug Administration (FDA) approved a new vaccine for Lyme Disease in December of 1998. Manufactured by SmithKline Beecham Pharmaceuticals, the new vaccine called LYMERix (should be available to the public in early 1999).

The vaccine is classified as a non-infectious, recombinant vaccine which means that no substance of animal origin is used in the manufacturing process. The vaccine has been proven effective against the causative agent of Lyme Disease in North America, *Borrelia burgdorferi* (a bacteria found in the gut of infected ticks).

The vaccine is administered by intramuscular injection to the upper arm. A series of three injections is required to achieve the best results. The second injection is given one month after the first and the last injection is given 12 months after the first. The estimate cost of the vaccine is \$61.00 per injection (\$183.00 for the series).

The most frequently reported adverse reactions to the vaccine was pain and swelling at the injection site, body aches and muscle stiffness, chills, fatigue, fever and flu like symptoms.

The Center for Disease Control has not released a recommendation for LYMERix at this time. They are expecting to release their recommendations by mid-1999 and will most likely recommend that persons at risk for occupational exposure (example; park management personnel) be vaccinated.

More information about LYMERix (can be found on SmithKline Beechams web site at <http://www.sb.com/news/releases/lymerix.htm> or by calling (800) 366-8900, extension 5231.

More information on page 6

# A Different Approach

Lori Hynes

Before I begin with this tale, I want to take this opportunity to say what a pleasure it is to represent PRAC and Region 5. I look forward to meeting you at the conference, talking with you and working together toward our professions' goals. I invite you to contact me anytime. Should you have ideas, suggestions, etc. for training or want to assist in the "Interpretive Committee," I wish to hear from you!

Many, if not all of you have probably had a discussion or two with a dog owner that insists on letting their dog off the leash. It seems everyone takes a different approach to this issue. Needless to say, in my career, I have certainly had my share of sour contacts with dog owners. I have also had the opportunity to share with many dog owners my perspective as a dog owner. It's kind of like stepping out from the ranger hat and into the dog owners hat. I have found it works better than the run of the mill approach "Is that your dog? Well, it is chasing down wildlife and just ran through sensitive habitat." Unfortunately the average dog owner does not respond to that, or so I have noticed. However, they do respond to envisioning dollar signs and inconvenience to them. I do not necessarily mean a misdemeanor citation either. I mean, if you take the approach of "your dog is apt to run into hazards that will hurt him i.e. broken glass,

rattlesnakes, traffic, syringes, (I use that for the dog owner that just isn't getting the point—however it is a reality in my neck of the woods, actually.... canyons) I am sure in your areas you can come up with many hazards to a dog that would make the point hit home to the owner and also make them think about their dogs welfare. I have seen many dog owners respond to this method and realize that I am not "out to get them," and that I am not a dog hater, rather the opposite. This seems to carry much more weight than the warm and fuzzy method that does not directly hurt their pocket book. I would like as much as everyone else to have every park patron consider the impacts on the environment first but the likeliness of that is slim. I guess we learn to compensate for that. I don't try to lay the guilt trip on. I find a balance between making a point, being tactful and genuinely concerned for their dog. OK, I admit when I create a good repour with the dog owner, I sell them on the idea of the habitat restoration efforts we have made and more warm and fuzzy environmental talk. Another good approach is to design a friendly, yet informative brochure for your Departments dog policies. If your agency has not already done this and you would like to see an example, I have designed one. (I can send you one if you contact me.) They

are instrumental in fostering good public relations and good for bulletin boards etc.

## a New Perspective

Have you ever had anyone approach you and thank you for enforcing the leash law? I have! I won't forget that moment when a parent thanked me. Their child was attacked by a dog and has since been fearful of them. The parent thanked me for letting their child enjoy the park without fearing a dog running off leash. I thought this was special then but I can appreciate it more now. That is because I have a different perspective now. Not because I was thanked but because I myself was bit by a dog while on duty last summer enforcing the leash law. It is hard to explain unless you have shared the experience of being bit. The funny thing is the dog was on a leash at the time it bit me. Maybe he was mad at having to be put on a leash or was it the uniform? One will never know. The bite could have been worse. I was lucky; I only have scars from the canine teeth as a reminder. And yes, I cited the owner while I administered first aide to myself. I know that it was nice to be thanked by that parent for doing my job but it is more important that I now understand that perspective. The shoe was put on the other foot so to speak! Another case of something good coming from something kind of...painful!

## The First Lyme Disease Vaccine

John Havicon

On December 21, 1998, LYMERix, manufactured by Smithkline Beecham Biologicals, received approval by The U.S.. Food and Drug Administration as the worlds first vaccine to prevent Lyme disease.

Lyme disease is a multi-stage disease which is transmitted to humans from animals via ticks. It has become the most common tick-borne illness in the United States with over 99,000 reported cases from 1982 to 1996. In California, the Western Black-Legged tick, Ixodes Pacificus, is the main carrier of this bacteria. Only 12% the adult Western Black-Legged ticks are infected. In coastal areas north of San Francisco, it is thought to be about 5% of the adults infected. The northeastern U.S. is still the main area where the cases are reported and between 3060% of the adults are infected.

LYMERix will be given as a series of three doses. When an infected tick bites a human vaccinated with LYMERix, the vaccine-induced antibodies are taken up by the tick and interact with the bacterium in the mid-gut of the tick, preventing transmission of the bacterium to the host.

For more information on Lyme disease, contact me, John Havicon, at (916) 676-0934 or email at onbelay@innercite.com

**More information on page 5**

## New Sales Item!!!

### Junior Ranger Badge Decals

PRAC has just purchased a supply of Junior Ranger Decals. We will sell them to our members for \$5.00/hundred or to Agencies for \$50/thousand. They are about 3" square. Send your orders to PRAC headquarters or get your agency to buy them for your Junior Ranger Program.



# Smitty's Book Report

Over the past few months I have been trying to give you some idea about what is available in the written word that could make your job better. First, it was a publication on interpretation in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, then Jon Hoopers fine book on slide presentations, and Jubenvilles text on outdoor recreation management. Now, I would like to tell you about a book that John Nicholas learned about at West Valley College the other day. It is the Student Conservation Association (SCA) trail building and maintenance manual entitled, **Lightly on the Land**. Written by Robert Birkey with many fine illustrations by Peter Lucchetti and Jenny Tempest, it is a resource book that is full of useful information that should be on every ranger or maintenance persons shelf. It is really designed for SCA crew leaders and the emphasis is really on trails and backcountry work. Everything you would want to know about constructing and maintaining trails is found in this manual. It has great sections from everything from tools to design. The other day John and I and a retired MD hiking friend of mine measured a tree in one of our county parks that we thought might be one the largest if not the largest of its kind in the world. It was a California Laurel located in Rancho San Antonio County Park. The world record is 607 points. This tree came out to 605! Bummer! Since the largest tree is in Oregon, this has to be the biggest in our state. One of the things that we had to do was

use the clinometer to measure the height of the tree. I found the correct method to do so in this manual, and tucked it away into my day pack when we went out to measure it. A very handy resource, indeed. Want to use the old chainsaw? Big chapter on that. Sharpen that pulaski? Tells you how. Restoring a trail or an area? That chapter is one of my favorites. How to restore and revegetate is right in chapter 16.

Since the book has a backcountry emphasis, I gleaned through it for familiar ideas and passages. I used to be a backcountry ranger and had some great friendships with the trail crews back there. Both the National Park Service trail people and the SCA people. I found many familiar things in this manual on trail building. Using rocks (my friend Jim Snyders forte, Jim is one of the best trail builders in the world, bar none), stringers, bridges, and best of all, how to make those trails truly lay lightly upon the land.

Add this one to your list of important documents. When John told me about it, I ordered it from Amazon.com for \$19.95 and it came in three days.

Birkey, Robert C, **Lightly on the Land, The SCA Trail and Maintenance Manual**, The Mountaineers, Seattle Washington, 1996

## Forum: PRAC's Position ?

by Bob Donohue, Past President

**In my opinion:** There is a discussion occurring at the board level of PRAC that will have a significant impact on ranger positions throughout the state. The discussion is whether to make it mandatory for agencies to make their rangers peace officers. If they don't then they cannot call their people rangers. This to me is a very risky position to take. PRAC opposed this legislation years ago when this first came up, I am still personally opposed to it today.

When a budget crisis occurs parks are usually the first and hardest hit because the powers to be see parks and their staff as luxuries rather than a necessity. Being forced to make rangers peace officers with the attendant increased costs could put many ranger programs at risk.

One only need to look at other ranger programs that were generalist rangers and made the transformation to full blown peace officers to see the risk. Roseville is a very good example. As soon as they became peace officers they were transferred from the Park Department to the Police Department. One of the rangers is now assigned to the jail due to disputed health reasons. I did not spend all that time in school and in the field to end up a jailer. Several years ago as president of this organization I was invited to do a ride along with the Long Beach Rangers. It was

a very interesting ride along but I was fascinated by the fact that they were called to so many incidents out of their parks that were not park related issues. Personally, I prefer to only deal with with park issues and choose to let the police deal with other matters.

I understand that some areas need their rangers to have more enforcement powers than others. Does that mean I am any less of a ranger because I write municipal code violations rather penal code violations?

Individuals may want to pursue this course. That is their right but before they use PRAC's name as a sponsor or in any way supporting this I would like to see a vote by the general membership. A ballot should go out to each member asking whether they support this stance or not. If the membership decides this is the course they want to take, fine. But if not, I would hope the board would listen and proceed accordingly.

PRAC was formed to benefit rangers and create and promote jobs in the ranger field. I believe the majority of us in PRAC still believe in that credo. This proposed action has the potential of killing many ranger positions throughout the state.

No matter which way you feel let your regional director know how you feel so he/she can make an informed decision.

## A What?

Continued from page 4

inhabit the same dwelling. Almost enough changes to call the design our own, but not quite. The bat house will be monitored with data loggers that we built into the construction that are periodically downloaded to a computer, where the information, (i.e.: temperature inside and out, humidity, and if money allows, light intensity) is compiled in a database that can be viewed in simple graphs. There is lots of information on bat roost construction in the more temperate regions, but there really isn't a

whole lot of data for bat roost construction in the Santa Clara Valley. One of the things we hope to do is streamline roost construction criteria specific to this area.

We will continue to do our "bat programs" in the summertime, but with better props. If anything, we are certainly having a great time with the design changes, the actual construction, and knowing that we will be upgrading the bats' style of living!

# Park Rangers Association of California

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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 (831) 336-2948.

**Submission deadlines are the last day of January, March, May, July, September, and November.**

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