

Resource Management Committee by George Struble

Resource management is one of the biggest issues facing park managers today. As development continues resources are squeezed to nothing and even sometimes completely sold. PRAC has been instrumental in fostering the networking between agencies to combat resource management issues. PRAC needs to form a resource management committee to better serve the agencies by providing a more formal medium of communication.

I am looking for help from members to form the Resource Management Committee. The committee will develop a program for resource management involving articles for the *Signpost*, workshops, and sessions for the annual conference. The Committee will also work on establishing statewide professional standards for park rangers. We will select a meeting site that is the most geographically convenient for interested members. At the initial meeting, we will select a committee chair to foster the progress of the committees activities.

By forming a Resource Management Committee PRAC will be able to increase its effectiveness in the area of resource management. This can be achieved through articles in the *Signpost* and holding statewide training as well as localized training. The Committee will also attempt to develop minimum training standards for park rangers in the area of resource management.

Interested members please contact me by e-mail: CALpinepig@aol.com or call me at (818) 548-3795

Region 5 Training

by Lori Hynes, Region 5

The Interpretive Committee has been working on some training ideas and is pleased to announce a **free** training opportunity for any Park & Recreation staff member or volunteer.

The San Diego Park & Recreation Department~Coastal Division is hosting this one and a half day workshop entitled: **Coastal Wetlands & Estuary Resources and Interpretive Methods Workshop**. You will learn about coastal wetlands, estuary resources, its biota and functioning systems from California's top ecologists. Also, professional interpreters will discuss the principles and practical applications of interpretation methods, visitor center interpretation and interpreting to children.

We look forward to seeing you there!

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Coastal Wetlands & Estuary Resources – Interpretive Methods Workshop

When: October 7, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
& October 8, 8 a.m to 12 p.m.

Where: Mission Bay Park , San Diego.

Registration is required in advance by **September 10, 1999**.

All registration will be through Sr. Ranger Henry Mendibles of the Coastal Division. You may call in your registration information to him at: 619-581-7602 or fax info to: 619-581-9984.

Please provide the following registration information:

**name, telephone number, address,
agency and job title.**

October 7th: A box lunch will be provided, please advise if you require a vegetarian lunch or not.

October 8th: (Option) Guided Field trips to Famosa Slough, Mariners Pt. Least Tern Nesting Site and Kendall Frost Preserve. (limited to the first 30 registrants) or Interpretive Methods Training. Please advise your preference.

Note: After the field trips fill up, registrants will be automatically signed up for the Interpretive Methods Training. Registrants will receive a confirmation and directions in the mail.

Feel free to contact me if you have any additional questions or concerns. (See back page for contact information.)

From the President's Favorite Shade Tree

by Russ Hauck

I was having a conversation with a couple of members a while back about the *Signpost*. They were questioning the accuracy of some of the articles that appear in the publication. I decided to use my space to expound a bit.

Since the days of Johann Gutenberg, the printed word has shaped and re-shaped the world in which we live. We are entertained, educated and informed by what we read in books, magazines, newspapers, pamphlets, fliers, etc. We can read fact or fiction, poetry or prose, politics or satire, Christianity or profanity, Astrology to Zoology, etc. Because we live in the greatest nation on the planet, we are free to write about whatever we choose, speaking to whatever it is that we feel.

When printed material is created, it is reviewed by editors, publishers, proofreaders, typesetters, office assistants, etc. Depending on the publication, information is checked and re-checked for authenticity and accuracy (with the exception of most major newspapers).

The *Signpost* is the official publication of the Park Rangers Association of California. The material contained therein is submitted by the membership. The information is not reviewed for accuracy or content, it is merely edited for space. The *editor*, David Brooks, is not compensated for his efforts. He does it out of the goodness of his heart and as a payback to the profession to which he belongs (thanks David).

The *Signpost* is a product of the members, by the members and for the members. Therefore, everything contained on its buff-colored pages is an opinion. It is not presented as fact; it is presented as an expression of a belief. When you read something in the *Signpost*, understand that what you are reading has not been checked for authenticity and accuracy. Our deadlines and the timeliness of the subject matter would be greatly affected if that were done. Our staff (i.e. David with some assistance from his wife Patty and Doug Bryce) certainly would not continue to work without compensation if they had to authenticate everything printed. They would have to be paid because they would no longer have time to work for a living!

Please keep this in mind when relying on the information contained herein. I would advise against walking into your boss office and slapping a copy of the *Signpost* on his or her desk and uttering something to the effect of "It says right here that you are required to provide me with such-and-such." While we ask and expect that members submit accurate information, independent verification is necessary before proceeding.

I think the *Signpost* is a really fine publication. I would encourage each of you to submit an article periodically. The deadlines are printed on the back page. There is nothing wrong with a publication comprised of opinions. After all, most case law is nothing more than that anyway.

Letters To The Editor

The following appeared in the San Francisco Examiner on July 18, 1999

<http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?file=/examiner/archive/1999/07/18/EDITORIAL10025.dtl>

Republicans in Sacramento engineered decline of state parks

High praise for Eric Brazil's "State of parks" article (Metro section, July 11). I'd like to go into more detail as to why our state parks are in dire need of help. As a state park ranger from 1970 to 1996, I speak from a credible level of experience.

Mainly during the Wilson years, but not discounting the Deukmejian era, prison budgets took priority over park budgets. Year after year, the state park budget was cut, vacancies were not filled and facilities and trails were left in disrepair.

It's estimated that deferred maintenance costs for state parks today are \$1 billion, all because the Republicans wouldn't support a "livable wage" for park operations.

Just as in the scenario of our state's educational system, California went from jewel of the nation's state park systems with affordable fees, well-maintained facilities and outdoor education programs to near the bottom of the list with high camping and day-use fees, fewer nature programs and facilities ill-maintained and falling apart.

Some GOP legislators have fought to eliminate parks from general fund money. It's on the record: Republicans through the legislative process, tight purse-strings, take-aways and management decisions have not supported our state park system. Many think parks are a luxury. Several are right now trying to rally the GOP to not support park bond measures.

There are 70 unfilled ranger positions today. How can one say vacant ranger positions save the state money when, by the absence of staff, our parks go unpatrolled and unprotected? It's no wonder that park staffers are optimistic these days with a new governor and parks director who are putting their money where their mouths are in support of state parks. Bill Krumbein Santa Rosa

Poison Control Center

A Good Number To Have

by John Havicon

For decades, there have been many poison centers in California, each with its own phone number and individual way of providing service for a small area.

In 1997, a new system for providing uniform poison services for the entire state was developed. The University of California San Francisco, School of Pharmacy provides administrative services for the California Poison Control System (CPCS). The CPCS combined the services of four existing poison centers: the Sacramento Division located at the University of California, Davis, Medical Center; the San Francisco Division located at San Francisco General Hospital; the Fresno Division located at Valley Children's Hospital; and the San Diego Division located at the University of California, San Diego, Medical Center.

Trained health care professionals, who have many years of valuable experience handling poison cases, staff all answering sites. The sites use identical telephones, computers, computer programs and databases, recording systems and automatic call distribution systems. They use uniform protocols and guidelines and have identical health education materials. The result is uniform quality poison information for the entire state.

A single toll-free 800 number is now available to all areas of the state. By calling **1-800-876-4766** anywhere in California, you can obtain emergency information on:

- Swallowing poison
- Eye or skin irritation from toxic substances
- Inhalation of noxious fumes or vapors
- Animal, insect, snake and spider bites
- Food or mushroom poisoning
- Drug reactions
- Attempted suicides or drug overdoses
- Pet poisoning exposures

This is a good number to make sure your dispatcher has on her rolodex and a good number for you just for information, (and no, it doesn't need to be an emergency to call). Our department has also found them very useful in helping identify those unknown pills or capsules found on people or in camps. With a good description of the pill (size, color, engraved numbers, etc.), they can usually identify it and tell you whether it is a controlled substance or just an over the counter tablet.

Call: 1-800-876-4766 anytime, anyplace in California for the California Poison Control System

Safe Working: Hantavirus On the Increase

Going to clean out your warehouse or storage shed? Maybe your just going to move some equipment around. Maybe you have an old abandoned building in your park that you routinely check. Well here's something to think about! According the Centers of Disease Control, Hantavirus, that little airborne disease from mouse droppings is on the rise.

According to CDC, the Arizona, Colorado and New Mexico had eight confirmed and suspected cases of Hantavirus pulmonary syndrome, (HPS), from January to May of 1999. This area has been averaging about two cases each year. The rest of the western states, including California's two confirmed cases totaled 7.

The Hantavirus host is the Deer Mouse. The Hantavirus infection can occur after inhaling infectious aerosols from rodent saliva, feces or urine. People typically become sick within two weeks after breathing the infected particles. HPS typically begins as a headache, fever and myalgia, (muscle pain), soon followed by pulmonary edema, which often leads to severe respiratory compromise.

What should you do if you have a mouse infested area?

Here are some recommendations from CDC:

- First air out the space before cleaning it.
- If you see rodent droppings, try not to disturb it.
- You can spray all excreta, nesting and other materials with a household disinfectant or 10% bleach solution, then clean up and seal in bags and dispose.
- Avoid sweeping, vacuuming or stirring dust until the area is thoroughly wet with disinfectant.
- Wear rubber gloves; disinfect gloves before removal, and wash hands afterwards.
- In areas where plague occurs, spray insecticide on trapped rodents and nesting materials to prevent fleas from abandoning rodents to find new hosts.

For your park visitors and campers:

- Avoid feeding or handling rodent, even if they appear to be friendly.
- Do not disturb rodent droppings or camp or sleep near burrows or areas where trash is present.

For further information on this or any other wildlife diseases, please contact me, John Havicon, 916-875-6672; email onbelay@innercite.com. You can also contact CDC's Hantavirus Hotline - 877-232-3322.

2000 Conference Planning Update

To participate in the planning for this conference contact Conference Co-Chair Doug Bryce at: pkrgrac@earthlink.net.

We have had two meetings so far and currently have about 25 people committed to planning the conference. Committee assignments have been made and the planning for the tracks is actually ahead of schedule.

The group is excited about the possibilities available in the LA area for speakers, tours, and activities. The hardest decisions are going to be deciding what we can't do because of time.

Persons involved in this effort include: (PRAC 9, CSPRA 8 & 9 non-members.)

John Arbogast—City of L A
Doug Bryce—Sacramento
Kelly Byrne—City of L A
Jerry Case—City of Los Angeles
Suzanne Goode—Angeles District
Russ Guiney—Angeles District
Russ Hauck—Glendale
Geary Hund—Los LagosBruce Kniola—Conejo
Amy Leftridge—Mountains Rec & Cons Authority
Bill Lutton—Glendale
Nancy Mendez—Angeles
Steven H. Neal—City of Long beach
Cara O'Brien—Angeles
Frank Padilla, Jr.—Angeles
Dan Preece—People for Parks

Rich Rozelle—Angeles
Mikal Sandoval—Pacific Palisades
Rebecca Schoenberger—West Valley College
Randy Sederquist—Angeles District
Charles Shorts—City of L A
George Struble—Glendale
Bill Verdery—Angeles
Anne Waisgerber—City of L A
Walt Young, Jr.—Mountains Rec & Cons Authority

We also have a fund-raising committee that we hope will be a permanent self perpetuating committee. It consists of Sandy Ferriera, Bud Getty, Dorene Clement and two new members yet to be chosen.

If you have ideas about tours, activities or all-day workshops get them to us immediately.

Our next Planning meeting will be held Wednesday, September 8 from 1:30 to 4:00 at the:

Van Nuys Airtel Plaza Hotel
7277 Valjean Avenue
Van Nuys, CA 91406-3425
(818) 997-7676

If you have any input or suggestions please contact Doug Bryce at:

P.O. Box 292010
Sacramento, CA 95829-2010
(800) 994-2530
Fax (916) 387-1179
e-Mail: pkrgrac@earthlink.net

Natural Resources Communication Workshop

The Natural Resources Communication Workshop will be held at California State University, Chico from **January 10-14, 2000**. The week-long workshop is designed to help natural resource workers more effectively communicate with the general public through personal presentations using good visual aids—especially 35mm slides and computer-generated images. Since many of the problems in natural resources management are people-oriented, more effective communication can significantly improve many management programs.

The hands-on workshop is practical-oriented and enhances participants' communication skills in planning, preparing, presenting, and evaluating presentations. A variety of topics are covered including selecting communication strategies for specific audiences, creating graphics (including computer graphics), and handling equipment problems. A special session entitled "Verbal Victories" provides hints for handling difficult, or even hostile, audiences.

This year's workshop will be expanded to 5 full days (from the previous 4 1/2-day format). This new format gives participants more "hands-on" lab time for creating graphics, especially computer-generated graphics. As a special bonus, participants will receive a copy of "Effective Slide Presentations- A Practical Guide to More Powerful Pre-

sentations," a recently published book by the course instructor.

The course instructor, Dr. Jon Hooper, has taught communication workshops for more than 20 years in locations around the country. He is a Certified Wildlife Biologist and holds degrees in environmental communication and wildlife ecology.

The workshop has been sponsored by the Western Section of The Wildlife Society for 29 years. **The deadline for applications is October 29, 1999;** the course fee is \$595. Late applications are accepted (they're placed on a waiting list in case of cancellations).

Applying for the workshop is easy. On letterhead, applicants should describe: (1) their current position within their agency/organization, (2) how they would use the training, and (3) any special reasons why they feel they should be chosen as a participant. Participation is limited to 16 people.

Submit applications to: Dr. Jon K. Hooper, Dept. Recreation and Parks Management, Calif. State University, Chico, CA 95929-0560. For more information, contact Jon by calling (530) 898-5811, faxing (530) 898-6557, or e-mailing "jhooper@csuchico.edu."

Killer Bees

by George Struble

One of the most aggressive exotic insects, the Africanized Honeybee (AHB) referred to as killer bees, have now been found colonizing in southern California. They were first detected in the United States in Texas, October 1990. The bees have spread from there through New Mexico, Arizona, Nevada, and are now are a threat in southern California. The bees entered California in October 1994 quickly spreading through Imperial, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego, and Los Angeles counties. The migrating bees were first detected in Los Angeles County in January 1999 and as of April 6, 1999 swarms/colonies were detected throughout the county. Its predicted that they will continue migrating north and can spread at the rate of 200-300 miles a year. Of course movement rate depends on weather, terrain, and available resources.

Why should we be concerned about Africanized Honeybees? The greatest concern is for public safety. They are very aggressive bees and will defend their nests with a vengeance. Unlike the honeybees we are used to, these bees have been known to chase intruders over a half of a mile from the nest site and attack in such large swarms people have received between 400-600 stings. They will also keep trying to attack once the victim has found shelter. Stories of killer bees bouncing off car windows trying to get in up to 15 minutes after the person has sought shelter in the car are not unheard of. As public servants it is possible that we may be called to aid a victim of such an attack. It is vital that we have basic knowledge of these insects to protect ourselves as well as to help the victim effectively.

AHB look like the honeybees we are used to but there are subtle differences upon close examination (not recommended in the field). DNA testing is done to confirm that

the bees are Africanized Honeybees. These bees stings contain the same amount of toxins as regular honeybees. Because they swarm with more aggression they inflict more stings than their counterpart and are extremely dangerous.

Africanized Honeybees have ten times the number of guard bees to protect the hive as common honeybees. During a disturbance a small swarm will investigate and attack the intruder. Upon the first sting a pheromone is released and the hive is alerted of the attack. A larger amount of reinforcements respond from the hive to assist in the attack. The people and animals generally die as a result of not being able to get away from the attack quickly enough. Here's how to protect yourself and become an effective first aid responder.

The Does & Don'ts with AHB

1. Be observant of swarming bees and hives.
2. Local noise and strong vibrations annoy AHB hives, be careful using power tools near hives.
3. Routinely check abandoned building and other infrequently used areas for colonization.

If Attacked

1. **Run** away from the attacking bees, a fast zigzag pattern is suggested. You may have to run up to a quarter-mile or more. Don't stop!
2. Cover your face/neck with your shirt or coat to protect your airway.
3. Seek shelter from the bees in a car, building, or other enclosed area.
4. **Don't** stand still, you will be over come by bees and stand a higher chance of death.
5. Avoid using a body of water for shelter, AHB are persistent and will wait for you to come up for air.
6. After you seek shelter, remove stingers as you would with a normal bee sting by scraping them off with a credit card or other such item.
7. Seek medical attention
8. Request a vacation (you earned it)

Contact your local Vector Control District or Agricultural Dept. for information on AHB in your area and their specific reporting procedures.

Sources used for this article were Los Angeles county Agricultural Commissioner, the City of Las Vegas, and Discovery Channel Online.



Read this, and let it really sink in...

Then choose how you start your day tomorrow...

This is an e-mail correspondence sent to Jeff Gaffney (among others)

Jerry is the kind of guy you love to hate. He is always in a good mood and always has something positive to say. When someone would ask him how he was doing, he would reply, "If I were any better, I would be twins!" He was a unique manager because he had several waiters who had followed him around from restaurant to restaurant. The reason the waiters followed Jerry was because of his attitude. He was a natural motivator. If an employee was having a bad day, Jerry was there telling the employee how to look on the positive side of the situation.

Seeing this style really made me curious, so one day I went up to Jerry and asked him, "I don't get it! You can't be a positive person all of the time. How do you do it?"

Jerry replied, "Each morning I wake up and say to myself, Jerry, you have two choices today. You can choose to be in a good mood or you can choose to be in a bad mood. I choose to be in a good mood. Each time something bad happens, I can choose to be a victim or I can choose to learn from it. I choose to learn from it. Every time someone comes to me complaining, I can choose to accept their complaining or I can point out the positive side of life. I choose the positive side of life."

"Yeah, right, it's not that easy," I protested. "Yes it is," Jerry said. "Life is all about choices. When you cut away all the junk, every situation is a choice. You choose how you react to situations. You choose how people will affect

your mood. You choose to be in a good mood or bad mood. The bottom line: It's your choice how you live life."

I reflected on what Jerry said. Soon thereafter, I left the restaurant industry to start my own business. We lost touch, but I often thought about him when I made a choice about life instead of reacting to it.

Several years later, I heard that Jerry did something you are never supposed to do in a restaurant business: he left the back door open one morning and was held up at gunpoint by three armed robbers. While trying to open the safe, his hand, shaking from nervousness, slipped off the combination. The robbers panicked and shot him. Luckily, Jerry was found relatively quickly and rushed to the local trauma center.

After 18 hours of surgery and weeks of intensive care, Jerry was released from the hospital with fragments of the bullets still in his body.

I saw Jerry about six months after the accident. When I asked him how he was, he replied, "If I were any better, I'd be twins. Wanna see my scars?"

I declined to see his wounds, but did ask him what had gone through his mind as the robbery took place. "The first thing that went through my mind was that I should have locked the back door," Jerry replied. "Then, as I lay on the floor, I remembered that I had two choices: I could choose to live or I could choose to die. I chose to live."

"Weren't you scared? Did you lose consciousness?" I asked. Jerry continued, "...The paramedics were great. They kept telling me I was going to be fine. But when they wheeled me into the ER and I saw the expressions on the faces of the doctors and nurses, I got really scared. In their eyes, I read 'he's a deadman.' I knew I needed to take action."

"What did you do?" I asked. "Well, there was a big burly nurse shouting questions at me," said Jerry. "She asked if I was allergic to anything. 'Yes,' I replied. The doctors and nurses stopped working as they waited for my reply. I took a deep breath and yelled, 'Bullets!' Over their laughter, I told them, 'I am choosing to live. Operate on me as if I am alive, not dead.'"

Jerry lived thanks to the skill of his doctors, but also because of his amazing attitude. I learned from him that every day we have the choice to live fully. Attitude, after all, is everything.

You have two choices now:

1. Discard this.
2. Forward a copy it to the people you care about.



Coyotes:

The Latest Wildlife/Human Interaction Concern?

by Ken Miller

Many different animals have been featured by the media due to their negative interactions with humans. Mountain lions have certainly received their share of attention due to incidents and the two fatalities in the State of California. A few years ago a small boy was bitten and dragged off by a coyote in one of the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space Preserves. Fortunately the boy's older brother fought off the coyote. I believe that had the brother not intervened this incident may very well have been a fatality. Based on this incident and other similar ones throughout the State I believe that the coyote deserves a lot more attention and that populations and behaviors need to be monitored to prevent similar incidents from occurring.

Here is some background information on coyote incidents that have occurred in California. Griffith Park in Los Angeles and the Lake Tahoe area have been hot spots for negative human/coyote interactions. In Griffith Park there have been over thirty incidents resulting in several people being bitten. A child was grabbed out of a seat by a coyote before the mother chased the animal away. In the Lake Tahoe area there have been incidents of coyotes chasing people and jumping onto people's picnic tables. In Palo Alto last year a woman jogger fought off a pack of coyotes that attacked her and her dogs. Finally, in 1982 a small child was attacked and killed by coyotes in a Glendale backyard.

There are various reasons that rogue coyotes are becoming more of a public safety problem.. The population size is fifty times greater now than at the time of Christopher

Columbus. Coyotes are opportunistic, highly adaptable predators and have moved throughout North America into what was once the wolf's range. Coyotes are pack animals and use complex behavior patterns that are passed down from one generation to the next.



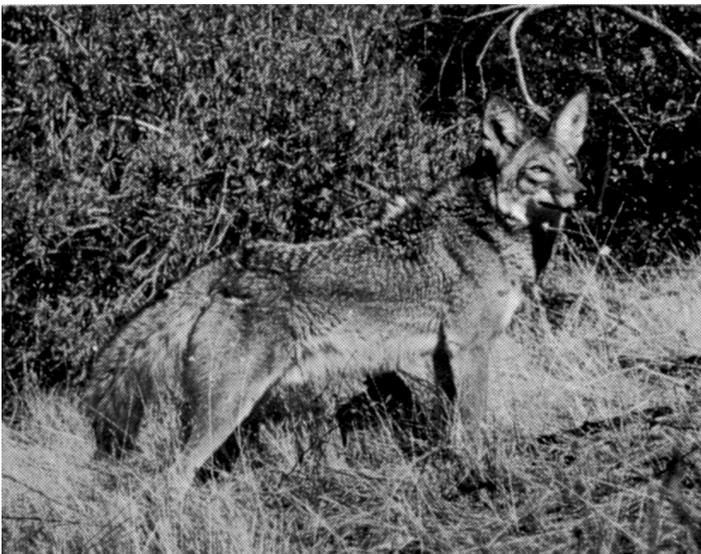
A common factor in most of these coyote incidents is that they occur in park picnic areas. The coyotes lose their fear of humans and are able to forage garbage and prey on small mammals attracted by people feeding them. It is very possible that people are even feeding the coyotes. If a coyote approaches a human it has lost its fear of humans. If the coyote has lost its fear of humans the it considers humans as another potential food source. Heartworm also plays a major role in rogue coyote behavior.

A heartworm infested coyote is no longer strong enough to hunt normally and can start to rely on human contact for sustenance. The coyotes trapped and removed following the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District's child attack had severe cases of heartworm.

What can a park professional do about coyotes? Keep informed of the latest wildlife issues in their parks. Track behavior patterns of coyote activity and determine what is within the realm of normal behavior. Is the coyote healthy? Is it foraging garbage? Are people feeding it? Is it afraid of humans? If the answer to any of these questions is yes changes will have to be made.

Just as with any other resource management issue education is a major part of managing coyote/human interactions. There is a world of difference between the public's image of "Wil E Coyote" and a highly intelligent predator.

Coyotes can and will be a serious resource problem. Keep informed, monitor coyote behavior in your parks, and make decisions based on scientific reason if negative human/coyote interactions occur.



An Officer Safety Training Tip

by John Havicon

I wanted to take a moment to share some information on a free officer safety training service available to those of you who are peace officers and have e-mail capabilities. It is called the Street Survival Newsline™ and it is available from Calibre Press, Inc.

The Street Survival Newsline™ is a free officer safety training publication that is sent out via e-mail at least twice every week to subscribers. The newsline contains important information on the latest in survival tactics, legal developments, types of weapons offenders are carrying, including disguised weapons, the latest law enforcement products and training available, current events that have an impact on law enforcement, and other information that is important to enhance our officer safety and survival.

For those of you that are not familiar with Calibre Press, Inc., it is a private firm that specializes in officer safety and survival publications and training seminars. They conduct the Street Survival™ Seminar, which is an excellent 3-day training seminar focusing on officer survival both on and off-duty and surviving critical incidents before, during, and after they occur. The seminar is held in California at least twice a year. Besides the seminar they have also published the books, Street Survival, The Tactical Edge, and Tactics for Criminal Patrol, which are all excellent officer safety training books.

I have subscribed to the Street Survival Newsline™ for over a year now and I have found it to be a valuable officer survival training resource. I know many of our agencies do not have large training budgets and it can be hard for us to get the time off to attend training classes. This is

an excellent way to receive some vital officer safety information without having to spend any money or time away from your park. All of the information may not always seem applicable to our jobs but I can always get at least one piece of information out of each issue that helps enhance my officer safety.

The Street Survival Newsline™ is available only to law enforcement officers. Any of you who are peace officers and have e-mail capabilities qualify to subscribe to it. For security reasons, they request that all officers who have e-mail subscribe for themselves and that you do not forward the newsline electronically. They do not mind if you print out the newsline and make copies to distribute to other officers who do not have e-mail to share the training information.

There are 2 ways to subscribe to the Street Survival Newsline™. One way is to e-mail your full name, rank, department name, address, and phone number to: Newsline@calibrepress.com. The other way is to subscribe through the Calibre Press, Inc. web site. All information they receive is kept confidential and providing your home address and phone number is not required and they do not release the list to solicitors. Once they have verified your peace officer status, you will start receiving the newsline via e-mail.

For more information on Calibre Press, Inc., the Street Survival Newsline™, or to subscribe to the newsline you may contact Calibre Press, Inc. at:

E-mail: Newsline@calibrepress.com

Web site: www.calibrepress.com

Phone: (800) 323-0037

Odds, Ends and Weekends

by Jeff Gaffney

Political

After the last *Signpost* I was contacted by Kent McNabb who showed me the error of my ways. It is better if there is no limiting language for park rangers to obtain safety retirement or having to negotiate for it. Currently in the PERS system the PERS board makes the decisions that are binding on the agency, this means with a simple request the process for safety retirement will be started. The chances are very good that most peace officer park rangers are entitled to this benefit. I am still working with PORAC on keeping an eye out for park ranger concerns. Call me with questions.

Membership

Membership in Region 2 is still rising and I hope we can get other members to renew, a few have failed to do so. If you know someone who is interested a professional organization or just has an interest in a parks management

career maybe you can convince them to join, or someone to rejoin who has forgotten to renew their membership.

Fun

Ken Miller has been gracious enough to plan a **Region 2 barbecue for Thursday, September 9th** at Almaden Lake in San Jose. Anyone with questions can contact Ken or myself.

Miscellaneous

I have been busy with our Association business and with summer in the parks, so I haven't been visiting other parks as much as I usually do. I hope things are going well for everyone. I haven't been getting any urgent messages so I'm assuming things are going well. I'm still putting some training together for the fall, anyone with input can feel free to contact me.

Smitty's Book Report

Hope everyone has had a great summer and that everyone has been safe. I have just returned from my 50th high school reunion (yeah, I'm that old), a family reunion, and a reunion of some old Purdue track teammates. Just a lot of old people. All this in hot and humid Indiana. I did get a chance to go to a local Indiana State Park that was just a mile from my brothers home to observe several restoration projects in progress. I guess I can take the trip off my income taxes, right Raleigh? I have watched this whole state park grow over the years from farmland to a nice reservoir and outdoor recreation area, and was very interested in the resource management projects that were on going on. Many wetlands have been created and some judicious use of fire, along with some enhanced native plant seeding. I even had a nice discussion with the park manager. I found him to be a real professional and an interesting guy.

Glad to get back to golden California. I did get to have a chance to read a new book that came into my hands via Paul Romero of Santa Clara County Parks while winging across America. Paul received the book from Dr. Maureen Glancey at San Jose State and thought that I might use it to update my lecture notes for this fall. Updating is something that I always do every summer, so the book came in handy. The book is a national assessment of demand and supply trends for outdoor recreation in America, and I found it very interesting. The book was put edited by H.Ken Cordell, and published by Sagamore Publishing, Champaign Illinois. It has a very strong section on the benefits of outdoor recreation. If you are someone that has a large part in outdoor recreation in America, you would have been invited to participate in this book by submitting a paper. It has a very large number of contributors on a very comprehensive list of subject matter. In a lot of respects, it is not unlike most typical introduction to outdoor recreation texts. It covers all those agencies that provide outdoor recreation activities like the National Park Service and covers very well, those activities and the direction they are going. Something all of us need to know if you are going to properly meet the challenges of the future when it comes to park management. It has a section on the demographics of parks, and the projections of outdoor recreation participation to the year 2050. All and all, a really good resource book for those who may have to defend what they do to government and to the public.

I have no idea what it costs. A quick trip to Amazon.com will give you the price, I am sure. (*Ed. note, it is 49.95 as a special order from Amazon.com*) So I cannot tell you if it is worth the price. Of course what price to do you put on information that helps to make your job easier?

H.Ken Cordell, et al, **Outdoor Recreation in American Life**, Sagamore Publishing Company, Champaign Illinois, 1999



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