



2000 Parks Conference

by **Kim Baker**

Reprinted from the CSPRA Newsletter

The conference committee meet in Van Nuys on September 8th. The meeting was very inspiring and we all left looking forward to the 2000 conference!

The committee is a mix of qualified park professionals from the greater Los Angeles area. Most all of the track sessions, field trips and trainings have been scheduled already. Although Van Nuys doesn't have quite the allure of Ventura or San Luis Obispo, the quality and diversity of park experiences in the area is indisputable. The most challenging task presented to the conference committee seems to be deciding what **not** to include in this year's offerings.

Tuesday, March 8th is the first day of the conference. Ironically, it is also election day, and the park bond will be on the ballot. I hope that we will all be celebrating with the California Parks Foundation at the reception that evening as early election results come in! For those who would like to continue celebrating, a bus tour of Hollywood and the Hollywood sign is planned for later in the evening.

An evening reception and visit to the Gene Autry museum is planned for Wednesday. Friday's additional training opportunities include an 8 hour P.O.S.T. certified program at the museum of tolerance, a 3 hour program on using magic in your interpretive programs, or an all day visit to the Indian Museum in Antelope Valley and an evening program and camp out at Red Rock Canyon State Park. There is also the additional option of a training on exotic plant removal and a camp out at Malibu Creek State Park for those who would like to stay over Friday night.

Hotel room rates are very reasonable, and the rooms are large and recently remodeled. Facilities are available this year to set up a child-care program if there is enough demand. More details to come in the next few months.

Registration packets will be sent to all PRAC members in December, or you can find registration information on the web site.

Overall, we were very impressed with the offerings available this year, and hope to see you in Van Nuys!

BBQ Wrap-up

by **Ken Miller**

The Region Two bar-b-que at Almaden Lake Park was a success with about 15 people attending. I say about 15 because I ended up leaving in the middle of it. I'll explain later. San Jose, Fremont, Livermore, Santa Clara County, and Midpeninsula rangers were there. Everyone's favorite insect, the yellow jacket, made things a little interesting at the start. Pam Helmke and I counted sixty of them in the picnic area even before we started to unload the food. A quick switch to Plan-B relocated the picnic to the park corporation yard. We made everyone use their investigative skills to find us.

I fired up the grill and started to cook. Just as things were getting ready to eat I said a quick goodbye and made my exit. My work's employee bar-b-que had been rescheduled to the same night so I was needed in two places at once. Thanks to Pam Helmke for taking over as host and to Jane Lawson for taking everything home for me on short notice. It sounds as if the bar-b-que went till dark and that is always a good sign. Everyone deserves credit for making it a success. If we missed you this year hopefully we'll see you next.

From the President's Favorite Shade Tree

by Russ Hauck

Plans for the 2000 conference continue to take shape. We are leaps and bounds ahead of where we have been in planning previous conferences. The one area that continues to elude us is keynote speakers. We have invited several people to speak, but I have discovered that the bigger the fish, the harder they are to land. Most big name speakers won't commit beyond 30-60 days in advance of an event. That doesn't do us any good from an advertising standpoint. Rest assured that we will have some outstanding speakers for the keynote addresses.

The track sessions are nearly completely planned with some wonderful topics and presenters. There are some exciting outings scheduled: Tuesday, the gathering day will offer a trip to the Getty Museum, whale watching, and a bird walk in a wildlife sanctuary, as well as the traditional golf tourney and pistol shoot. Tuesday evening, after the welcoming reception, we will load on a bus for a trip to fabulous Hollywood, which will include stops at Manns Chinese Theatre, the Walk of Fame, and the world-famous Hollywood sign. Wednesday evenings outing is still taking shape, but will attempt to rival those of recent conferences (Hearst Castle and the San Francisco Bay Cruise). Fridays optional trainings will include a program at the Museum of Tolerance, using magic in your interpretive programs, a resource-management oriented visit to Malibu Creek State Park, which will include an optional overnight campout and campfire program, and an interpretation oriented visit to Red Rock Canyon State Park, also offering a campout and campfire program.

Nightly rate for the AirTel Plaza Hotel (the site of the Conference) is \$79, which includes a full breakfast. We are struggling mightily to keep the conference registration price below the century mark, but are finding it difficult as we have added some things this year. You will be receiving registration information around the first of the year.

In another matter, you may recall that there was some discussion in the *Signpost* a few issues back about what position the Association should take regarding legislation requiring those using the title of Park Ranger to be peace officers. I hypothesized at a recent annual meeting that by requiring those who use the title of Park Ranger to be peace officers, we could then include the title of Park Ranger in with Police officer, Firefighter and Lifeguard in section 4850 of the Labor Code, which allows for up to one years full salary in the event that one of these folks is injured on the job. One of the members said, "It will never happen." Well, wake the kids and call the neighbors because never has just arrived. Los Angeles County Park Rangers have managed to pass legislation which now includes them in that section. It is unfortunate that we could not be a part of this so that a great majority of our members could be afforded this same protection. Instead, we are left to start at square one, although at least the game board has been put in place for us.

Make your plans to attend the 2000 California Parks Conference, March 7-10, at the AirTel Plaza Hotel in Van Nuys. It promises to be another truly outstanding affair.

Thank You PRAC

Dear PRAC Scholarship Committee,

I would like to thank you for the \$300 scholarship that I have received from you. It is becoming harder and more expensive for students to continue their education. With the great efforts from associations like your own, more and more students are succeeding.

The scholarship has been put toward tuition costs at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo. Thank you once again.

Sincerely,

Chalone Rhea

Chalone Rhea

Training Opportunity

Santa Rosa Ranger Academy, 7-week law enforcement training program, approved by the Federal Government to qualify graduates for employment in National Parks.

01/10/00 to 02/23/00

03/20/00 to 05/03/00

11/06/00 to 12/30/00

Interested persons please contact;

Santa Rosa Training Center
609 Tomales Road
Petaluma, CA 94952

(707) 776-0721

National Bike Registry

An open letter to law enforcement agencies-

Over 1,000,000 bicycles are stolen annually in the United States, a large number of which are recovered by police departments but not returned to their rightful owners. Your department probably suffers from the frustration of this crime, and the problem of having a property room full of bicycles that you cannot return to their rightful owners. Your department can't reconstruct the crimes that led to the theft of the bicycles, nor locate parents of children whose bicycles are found on the street.

We seek your cooperation with all these important crime-fighting matters. Since 1984, The National Bike Registry (NBR) has been registering bikes in a national database linking law enforcement and bicycle owners, so that bikes could be returned to theft victims. Recently, Bicyclelink.com purchased the assets of NBR, infusing it with more powerful Internet technology. As a result, NBR now offer the widest and most effective registration in the United States and the world.

If you recover a bicycle with our registration labels, please contact us by phone at 800-848-BIKE or by email through www.bicyclelink.com and we will help you contact the owner. We are currently working to link out database with the standard tracking system in your state so that your officers can access our information from the department or even the squad car. There is no cost to your department. We give you a secret code to access the database, and then we do all the work to contact the bike owner.

In addition, we are very pleased to announce a new registration program, which we are launching in conjunction with the police departments in the United States. Under the terms of this program, twenty percent (20%) of the

proceeds of the registration are earmarked for donation to charitable or civic causes chosen by your department and we donate an additional 20% to a group of pre-selected organizations, including programs benefiting cycling, education, arts, and social welfare. With your help, we hope to expand these efforts.

In addition, the program offers the following benefits to your community:

- Bicycle registration available from your police department or from citizens home
- A great way to raise money for other police services
- Assistance in reducing the inventory of previously unreturnable items
- Access to the largest registration database in the world
- Easy on line registration and transfer
- Mail-in or call in option
- Links to law enforcement nationwide
- State-of-the-art registration labels
- E-mail and hard copy certificate and confirmation
- Most important, helping with the recovery of stolen bicycles and return to the proper owner as a way to solve crime.

Please see the following agreement for program details. This proposal is a win for your organization and the community, as we are work together to end the bicycle theft epidemic.

Please contact me with questions or to get started with the program, or visit our web page www.natlbike.com/policeinfo. We look forward to working with you.

Best regards,

Rob Kaplan
Director of Sales and Marketing

National Bike Registry
2855 Telegraph Ave. Ste 304,
Berkeley, CA 94705
510-665-0280, 510-665-0285 Fax
www.Bicyclelink.com
E-mail- info@Bicyclelink.com



Defibrillators Donated to Sacramento Rangers

by John Havicon

The Sacramento County Park Rangers now are carrying new important tools to assist victims of sudden cardiac arrest. Five Automatic External Defibrillators, (A.E.D's), have been donated to carry in their patrol vehicles. The Rangers are trained First Responders for the county parks and the American River Parkway. They are very often the first emergency medical units on the scene. The Rangers encounter victims of cardiac arrest primarily from drowning incidents. but have also had to perform CPR on victims of bicycle and vehicle accidents, drug overdoses and cardiac illnesses.

Time is critical. Paramedics, with their defibrillators, generally can be on scene within 7 to 15 minutes, depending on the remoteness of the location. Studies have shown that for every minute that passes without a heart beat, that victim loses 10% chance of survival, even with effective

CPR. With defibrillators, we may be able to give these victims a second chance.

The Defibrillators, (AEDs), are automatic, and easy to use, giving voice prompts on exactly what to do as soon as the device is turned on. The AED pads are placed on the victim's chest which analyzes the victim for a heart rhythm. If the AED detects a lethal rhythm, it will give the victim 3 consecutive shocks to try to start the heart beat.

The defibrillators were donated by a private donor through the Public Access Defibrillation League, (PADL), an organization dedicated to increasing public awareness of the efficacy of rapid access to defibrillation. For more information on AEDs, contact me, John Havicon at 916-875-6672 or email: onbelay@innercite.com.

Obtaining Voluntary Compliance Workshop to be held at BAEER Fair

by Mike Chiesa

PRAC will be holding an Obtaining Voluntary Compliance workshop at the BAEER (Bay Area Environmental Education Resource) Fair on Saturday, January 8, 2000 in San Rafael, CA. This workshop, taught by Bob Donahue, will help enhance your ability to tactfully enforce rules and regulations in your park. This is a unique opportunity, in that, besides attending the PRAC workshop, attendees will also have a chance to participate in the BAEER fair which has many exhibits and short workshops including wild-life curriculum, recycling and waste management resources, geology materials, local and international issues, and more topics and issues related to interpretation.

In addition to the Obtaining Voluntary Compliance workshop, PRAC will also be staffing an exhibit in the BAEER Fair and John Havicon will be holding a workshop on conducting nature hikes, open to all BAEER Fair attendees. This will be a fun-filled day with lots of opportunity for members to enhance their knowledge and abilities in their enforcement, public contact, and interpretive skills

The Obtaining Voluntary Compliance Workshop will start at 10:30 a.m. and end at 2:30 p.m. There will be breaks offered throughout to allow participants to walk the exhibit areas. The exhibit hall is open from 10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Registration Information for Obtaining Voluntary Compliance Workshop:

Date: Saturday, January 8th, 2000
Time: 10:30 a.m. 2:30 p.m.
Place: Marin Center Exhibit Hall, San Rafael, CA
Cost: \$20.00 Members*
\$30.00 Non-members*

*Prices include \$7.00 BAEER Fair admission fee.

To register send a check payable to PRAC to:

Park Rangers Association of California
P.O. Box 292010
Sacramento, CA 95829

With registration please include your name, agency, mailing address, phone number, and e-mail address if you have one.

If you would like more information or would be interested in helping please contact myself at (707) 847-3245/ e-mail, mchiesa@mcn.org or John Havicon at (916) 875-6672/ e-mail onbelay@innercite.com. You may also contact the PRAC office at 800-994-2530.

I hope to see you there!

Odds, Ends and Weekends

by Jeff Gaffney

Follow-up/Update

I would like to thank Ken Miller for putting the Region Two barbecue together. Like me, duty called him away early and he will be thanking those that had to help him with the barbecue. I glad he was able to squeeze the barbecue in.

Political

There have been many twists and turns in the political arena (as always). The latest with peace officer benefits and retirement is very interesting. The Los Angeles county park rangers have done it again and they have not included the rest of us. A few years ago the Los Angeles county park rangers passed legislation mandating POST (Peace Officers Standards and Training) training and certification for their rangers only. They have now done what was said to be impossible, they have gotten what is commonly known as 4850 disability for themselves (this bill is still contingent on another bill, AB 1387, passing). 4850 in a nutshell mandates full payment of your salary and benefits for one year in the event you are injured in the course of your duties. We now have what I perceive to be an open door for the rest of the park rangers. I will be working on a complete update and plan of action for the 2000 Parks Conference. If you have questions please e-mail or call me. I can only see good things coming from this. Also related to this is the questions I have been fielding from POST. I hope we can move forward with this development and benefit the profession as a whole.

Membership

Membership in Region Two 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.

Training

Fire ecology seems to be the training we are focusing on for Region Two. I may actually get PRAC involved in a 900 acre burn in the Santa Clara County area. I am still having trouble working out the details (like how to do the class room portion). A flyer will be forthcoming when I get it worked out.

Union

The Los Angeles park rangers were able to move forward and run their legislation as direct result of their association and the voice it provided for their members. If people are interested in developing their own association/union I am willing to provide them with any help I can. It can only help them improve their position and mobilize their members, as is evident with many unions throughout the state. No matter how small, your voice can be heard.

Miscellaneous

Anyone who may be interested in PORAC membership and all the protection and benefits it affords them should contact me. I may have found an easy way for them to obtain membership and I hope to explain this better in a future article.

Not vain the weakest, if their force unite. Homer-Illiad (9th B.C.)

Currently Planned Training Sessions

for Parks Conference 2000

Public Safety Presentations

- Drug Labs, California Bureau of Narcotics Enforcement
- Bike Demonstration, Mountain Bike Unit from the Santa Monica Mountains and Los Angeles City Parks
- Death Investigation, Los Angeles County Coroners Office
- Emergency Medicine, Back Country Packaging and Assessment, Walt Young, MRCA
- Environmental Crimes, Tod Swan, National Park Service Criminal Investigator
- Helicopter Operations, Los Angeles City Fire Department
- Urban Terrorist and Militia Groups, Federal Bureau of Investigation
- Hazardous Materials, Los Angeles Police Department
- 2000 Law Update
- Drivers License and Document Fraud, Department of Motor Vehicles

Interpretation Presentations

- Developing Great Written Materials, From Interpretive Concepts to Production. Wes Chapin, Channel Coast District, State Parks
- Roving Ranger, Your Vehicle as an Interpretive Toolbox. MRCA Rangers
- Training & Supervising Volunteers. WODOC
- Birds in the Sepulveda Basin, Putting Together an Interpretive Bird Walk, LA Parks and Audubon Society
- Ethnobotany, Chumash use of Native Plants. Jan Timbrook, Santa Barbara Natural History Museum.
- The Secret Lives of Fish. Dr. Milton Love, UCSB Marine Science
- Lust in the Dust, The Sex Lives of Insects, Dr. Art Evans, L.A. Natural History Museum.
- Annie's Dress, Mike Tucker, Gold Rush District, State Parks
- Interpreting Archaeological and Other Remote Resources, Karen Hildebrand, State Parks and Mike Baldrice, USFS

Continued on page 7

A New Look at Interpretation Standards

by Lori Hynes

I recently spoke with the Chief of Interpretation at Cabrillo National Monument in San Diego and learned that the National Park Service offers an Interpretation Certificate Program on the Web. So to let everyone in on this little secret (?) I did some Web surfing to see if this program/curriculum would benefit Rangers as a whole throughout California. I discovered that it indeed does have great relevance to our professional development even if we are not employed by NPS.

Here is what I found...

One year ago, the National Leadership Council of the National Parks Service adopted a 10 year strategy and plan for training and development of its employees. One of the defined career fields was Park Ranger.

Over 200 National Park Service employees contributed to the development of the job competency descriptions for the project. They developed a set of Universal Essential Competencies that apply to all employees in NPS. (That incidentally is easily transferable to our agencies.)

The NPS refers to this program as the Interpretive Training Curriculum. According to NPS, this is the first time, essential competencies are identified and sequenced in the manner of which it supports personal career development.

NPS requires their rangers to complete the courses (on-line) and demonstrate competency skills taught before they advance to the next competency level. This requirement assures that the interpreter will be fully qualified and certified to interpret for the public and provide professional visitor services.

The module describes national standards for all who do interpretation. It outlines required, sequential and demonstrated competencies for park rangers. A comprehensive spectrum of training delivery systems are encouraged and used.

Some of the topics include...

Prepare and present an effective interpretive talk; Pre-program planning, delivery options

Essential knowledge, skills and abilities for presenting an interpretive program; Appropriateness of talks, theme, goals, objectives

Informal Interpretation; Rationale, strategy and techniques

Visitor needs and characteristics; Communicating to a diverse audience

Interpretive Writing; Writing articles, exhibit labels, trailside markers, booklets etc.

Developing and presenting a curriculum based program; Compiling organized pre-visit packages

Interpretive media; Describes a variety of media available to interpreters

The curriculum also includes Universal Essential Competencies (geared to NPS): Mission comprehension, agency orientation, resources stewardship, fundamental values, NPS operations, communications skills, problem solving, and individual development and planning.

The performance levels identified range from: Entry Level, Developmental Level and Full performance Level. The knowledge levels consist of: Basic Knowledge, Working Knowledge and Advanced Knowledge.

So how do you get there to download the curriculum?

<http://www.nps.gov/htdocs2/interp/curriculum/intro.htm>

(By the way, it is in zip format, you must unzip it to read it.)

A Weird But True Littering Story

by Ken Miller

This story comes from the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District. A visitor complains to a ranger about some trash next to a creek on one of our preserves. The ranger investigated and found some rather interesting trash. It consisted of piles of corn meal, half a birthday cake, lots of fruits and vegetables, coins, and a hollowed out cantaloupe with a letter inside. The letter stated the items were offerings to gods to assist women in attracting men. (I'm not making this up.) The area had a sickening sweet smell that the ranger first thought was rotting fruit but she then realized it was perfume. The trash filled three large garbage bags and took quite a while to clean up. Fast forward six months. The same ranger was at the trail head near where she'd found the trash when two women walked out carrying shopping bags. This behavior was definitely a little odd but not illegal. The ranger questioned the women and they said they'd been shopping and had also been picking up trash in the preserve. Things didn't add up but there wasn't enough information to question them further. As the ladies got into their car to leave, the ranger got a whiff of a familiar smell. It was the sickly sweet perfume. The ranger hurried up the trail and found a woman setting up a similar shrine to the one that had been cleaned up earlier. The ranger was pretty upset since she'd spent a few hours cleaning up all of the "stuff" at the first site and read the woman the "riot act." The woman had to clean up the site and she was cited and released for littering. Since then there haven't been any more bizarre incidents at this preserve.

Smitty's Book Report

How many of you out there have been sued? How many have even had a course in legal liability? Maybe that subject needs to be addressed in a future conference, because how liable you are is a very important and serious subject. You may even have had to deal with a problem that puts you at risk almost every day. Or at least once a week. I was browsing the office mates shelves not long ago and found a good book on legal liability. So often books like this are written in language that you have trouble understanding. Legalize, I think they call it. This book isn't yet offers real examples of court cases to back up their points. Legal Liability in Recreation and Sports, is an easy to read text. It also contains some parts that may not exactly be of interest in what we do. There is a part on coaching and supervision in sports, as an example. The best section was one on park management. That section had four chapters devoted to natural parks and park management, including one on the standard of care for park managers, the recreational use of natural resources, the classification of users, and liability considerations for park managers. Those of you that have parks with playground equipment or aquatic activities will find separate sections for those, as well. The book is divided into seven parts. Foundations, intentional torts, constitutional rights, personal risk, park management, coaching and supervision in sports, and playgrounds and aquatics. It even covers handling risk recreational activities, like rock climbing. A good book. I am kind of letting you down when it comes to costs. This one came free, so I do not know how much. I suppose I could look it up on Amazon.com, but Dave did that for me the last time.

Hronek, Bruce R, Spengler, J.O. Legal Liability in Recreation and Sports, Sagamore Publishing Company, Champaign Illinois, 1997. 292 pages. (Ed. note; the book is \$44.95 and on back-order from Amazon.com)

The Definite Dozen- Leadership

My son from Tennessee gave this to me the other day and thought it might be useful to pass on. Pat Summit is the head coach of the highly successful Tennessee womens basketball team that has won several NCAA titles.

1. Respect yourself and others
2. Take full responsibility
3. Develop and demonstrate loyalty
4. Learn to be the great communicator
5. Discipline yourself so no one else has to.
6. Make hard work your passion
7. Don't just work hard, work smart
8. Put the team before yourself
9. Be a competitor
10. Change is a must
11. Make winning an attitude
12. Handle success like you handle failure

I thought there are several of the above that fit quite well with the things that I have been talking about the past few months about being an 8 - 5er.

Currently Planned Training Sessions for Parks Conference 2000

Continued from page 5

- Interpreting Diverse Cultures. Rick Moss, African American Museum & Julie Tumanait, Chumash

Resource Management Presentations

- Peninsular Bighorn Life History, Threats, Conservation, and Biology. Mark Jorgenson, Anza Borrego
- Desert State Park and Geary Hund
- Environmental Legislation. Andrew Wetzler, NRDC

Operations Track Presentations

- Environmental Hazards. Mike Takeshita, L.A. County Fire Department, Forestry Division

- Creating Incident Action Plans for Multi-Agency Prescribed Burns, Mike Takeshita, Matthew T. Vadala, Batalion Chief, Orange County Fire Authority
- Standard Emergency Management System. Anne Waisgerber, L.A. City Parks
- Emergency Facility Response. L.A. City Parks
- Burn Area Emergency Rehabilitations. Mike McCorsion, USFS
- Cultural Diversity of Los Angeles Using Undeveloped Natural Areas. Deborah J. Chavez, USFS
- International Ranger Federation. Mike Lynch, State Parks
- Dedication of Whiskeytown Dam by President John F. Kennedy, Mike Lynch, State Parks

**Park Rangers Association of California
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1999**

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Submission deadlines ARE THE LAST DAY OF JANUARY, MARCH, MAY, JULY, SEPTEMBER, AND NOVEMBER.

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Membership Application

NAME _____		
ADDRESS _____		
CITY _____	STATE _____	ZIP _____
PHONE _____		
HOME _____	WORK _____	
EMPLOYER OR SCHOOL _____		
JOB CLASSIFICATION OR MAJOR _____		

Voting Membership
REGULAR \$45 _____

Non-voting Membership
AGENCY:
(1-25 PERSONS-6 MAILINGS)..... \$75 _____
(> 25 PERSONS-12 MAILINGS)..... \$100 _____
STUDENT \$20 _____
ASSOCIATE \$35 _____
SUPPORTING \$100 _____

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