



## Does That Seem Weird To You?

by Jeff Gaffney

David Brooks (our very dedicated *Signpost* editor) passed along the request for some tips on how to deal with poachers of resources. I remembered an incident that I was involved in and I was not sure what I had stumbled onto. I was able to make a criminal case (after some thought) with the help of our local warden. I had all I needed to make the case. I just needed a little push from Warden John Nores. The following is pretty much the way it happened. Though at the time it didn't seem like much, it was just a matter of crossing the T's and dotting the I's. It turned out to be a good case that I almost didn't follow up on.

While on patrol I saw Bill Smith driving a 1960 Chevy pick-up. Smith was driving northbound very slowly, about 15–20 mph and was intermittently hitting his brakes. The posted speed is 45 mph and often traffic exceeds that speed. He was also swerving towards the field area and then back towards the road. Smith was straddling the fog line. Smith appeared to be looking for something and was not paying attention to the road.

Based on recent training that I had while attending a Park Ranger Association of California conference in Ventura, I suspected that Smith was hunting for snakes or that he was sick and unable to drive. The training I received was given by state Fish & Game warden Marty Markham and was designed to help park rangers better identify poachers and illegal fish and game activity. (This is pretty much the way it was included in my report.)

I stopped Smith northbound on Park Drive. I asked him why he was driving so slowly. Smith stated "I'm looking for snakes." I asked him if he needed a permit or license to do that, he said "Yeah, I should have a fishing or hunting license." I asked him if he had one and he said no. I asked Smith how he would catch the snakes. He said that he would use his hands and stick them (the snakes) in a bag he had on the front seat of the pick-up. (The black bag was visible to me.) He said that he was looking for Gopher Snakes and especially Mountain Kingsnakes. I noted the information on my notepad and continued on patrol.

I bumped into Warden Nores in court after this incident and talked to him about it. I told him I wasn't sure if the suspect was actually doing anything wrong. Warden Nores had dealt with Smith before. He had arrested him for Fish and Game violations and illegally breeding snakes among other things. Warden Nores explained that based on my training and experience and Smith's statements we could make a case. We went to the Deputy District Attorney who prosecuted the case without question. We were able to make the conviction a month later based on these simple facts, my training, and the confidence I got by talking to the warden. The name has been changed to protect the guilty (I don't know why). The guilty got three years probation and cannot fish or hunt for five years.

If there is a moral to my story it would be that it can't hurt to take notes and to share information. If you think something seems weird it probably is and your spider senses are tingling because the weird thing is illegal. You don't always have to take immediate action in the field if you take good notes and follow up later. Don't be afraid to ask questions! You'll be amazed by the answers and the honesty of the answers. I hope somebody can learn from my mistakes and help to protect our resources.

## From the President's Desk

### Dear PRAC members,

I want to thank you for giving me the honor to serve as your president. I will do my best for you and the organization. I am deeply committed to this organization and to the careers of Park Rangers. Most of you know that I love my job as a Park Ranger and can't imagine a more perfect position to have. I hope as president, I can reflect that same spirit to all of you.

I believe strongly that for an organization to have a good relationship with its members, it needs to develop good communications between them and also work as a team. So this is what I would like to do and I'm going to need your help to do it. Ever since I have joined PRAC, (about ten years ago), members have been wanting someone to establish standards of training for the Park Ranger. Standards that describe minimum skills and knowledge that an agency could require when searching for positions, maintaining training of their current staff or when establishing a "new" Park Ranger program. These standards also could be helpful for students seeking to be a Park Ranger and learning what skills they need to obtain.

Our organization has maintained committees just for that purpose. The Fire Suppression/EMS committee, the Interpretation committee, the Resource Maintenance and Management committee, the Law Enforcement committee and the Standards and Training committee. These committees were set up not only to establish standards for the Park Ranger field but also an area that we could pool our resources on each of these subjects and provide a base, where we could provide information or organize training.

This is where I need your help. We need your expertise to help us organize this. We have some great chairpersons to head up each of these committees but we need your input. If you have a specialty in one or more of these, please join. We are mainly looking for your input and most of this can be done via mail or email. If you are interested, contact the chairperson of that committee, Doug Bryce or me. We will be discussing and organizing these committees at the conference during the annual meeting. I am looking forward to meeting all of you there. Please take a moment and say "Hi."

### Committee Chairpersons

(Phone numbers are on back page)

#### Interpretation Committee

Lori Hynes;

Email—Luvknines16@aol.com

#### Resource Maintenance and Management

Ken Miller;

Email—OZMILLER@compuserve.com

#### Law Enforcement

Jeff Gaffney;

Email—ucjake@ix.netcom.com

#### Fire Suppression/EMS

Walt Young;

Email—young@smmc.ca.gov

#### Standards and Training

Mike Chiesa;

Email—mchiesa@mcn.org

#### President

John Havicon;

Email—onbelay@innercite.com

## Standards and Training Committee to Form Seeking Members by Mike Chiesa

PRAC is forming a Standards and Training Committee. The purpose of this committee will be to coordinate with PRAC's other committees and work to establish professional training standards for the association and the ranger profession. A committee member from the Interpretation, Resource Maintenance and Management, Law Enforcement, and Fire Suppression/EMS Committees will serve on this committee in addition to any other interested members.

I will be forming this committee and I am seeking any and all interested members to participate. The time commitment is minimal but the rewards can be great. This is

your chance to get involved and have an impact on the future of the profession and PRAC. Participation from park employees from different park agencies and with different duties from throughout the state would help represent the diversity of the profession.

If you or somebody you know is interested in participating in this committee please do not hesitate to contact me. Any current member is eligible to participate. You may contact me by phone, (707) 847-3245, e-mail, mchiesa@mcn.org, or fax (707) 785-3741.

I look forward to hearing from you and working with you on forming professional standards.

# Poaching

by Lori Hynes

Many, if not all of us, in the Parks profession have dealt with poaching at some level. Whether you work at the mountains, desert, city, ocean or lakes, your territory is vulnerable to this widespread crime. We are charged with the responsibility of protecting the fish & wildlife within our respective jurisdictions. Regardless of the tools we are provided (or lack thereof), we can make a difference in preserving the species through enhancing our level of awareness and improving our approach.

With the appropriate license, collection of certain species in California is legal. There are specific regulations governing collections and enthusiasts usually respect the animals and diligently obey the laws. As with game fish, birds, and mammals, many species have specific seasons and possession or "bag" limits. The problem lies with the small minority of people who choose to abuse the rules designed to protect these animals.

By definition, poaching is the unlawful killing or capture of any fish or wildlife. In law, poaching is not theft. Poaching is the unlawful taking or killing of game, whereas theft is the dishonest taking of property belonging to another. Wild animals at liberty are powerless; they can be poached but not stolen.

Poaching is a crime far more widespread than the average person thinks. It is not only the shameful pile of African elephant tusks that we see photographs of. It is the fish, crustaceans, mammals, birds, reptiles and amphibians that we see, protect, respect and interpret everyday.

In addition to the crime, the poachers method of take is totally unsound to the ecosystem. Pry bars and rock hammers are used to split apart crevasses in rocks, resulting in the permanent destruction of habitat. Snares, spears and firearms are used in other cases. Nonetheless, poachers will knowingly alter the animals natural habitat for their own financial or egotistical benefit.

Furthermore, Park Rangers need to be aware of the involvement of poachers in other forms of crime; notably burglary and theft from houses, farms and gardens in the countryside. People are prepared to travel long distances to commit these offenses which adds to the difficulty of subsequent detection.

Many people still perceive a poacher as a one-for-the-pot man taking a rabbit to feed his starving family. It is an image which markedly affects the enthusiasm of the law enforcers, the public and punishments awarded in the courts. The reality is very different. The lone poacher is a rarity. Poachers often work in sizable groups, counting on the intimidation of numbers to prevent their arrest, and taking game to a considerable value. Greater penalties can be imposed if five or more people are acting together.

Park Rangers can take a proactive approach by considering the following:

Always remember to seek proper compensation in a successful poaching prosecution. The Park Ranger, as a witness, should be ready to explain and quantify the real expense involved, and emphasize the detrimental effect of the offense. Any threats or intimidation should also be brought out in the evidence.

Get to know the Game Wardens in your area. Your visit should be welcomed as providing support for a fellow professional with a difficult job to do and seen as an opportunity to share and exchange useful information.

Establish lines of communications and rendezvous points with other Rangers/Officers supplying estate maps with areas coded so as not to reveal locations to poachers and thieves equipped with scanners.

Encourage farm workers and residents to be on the lookout and to report suspicious vehicles or activity.

Using the grapevine to let poachers know you are equipped with night vision equipment, radios, mobile phones and alarms— even if you do not have this equipment yet!

Encouraging the local media to publish poaching cases. If the poacher lives in the next county it may be worth a phone call to his local paper.

Post this information on a public bulletin board: Department of Fish and Games CalTIP hotline at: 1-888-DFG-CALTIP. The CalTIP line operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week and you may remain anonymous.

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## Midpeninsula Rangers Discover Methamphetamine Lab

by Ken Miller

While investigating a series of fence cutting incidents at a District gate two MROSD rangers found an active methamphetamine lab on adjacent private property just a few hundred yards from District property. When the first drug lab evidence was found the Los Gatos Police Department was requested. The Los Gatos Police, The State Bureau of Narcotics Enforcement, and the Santa Clara County Specialized Enforcement Team investigated and found 50 pounds of drugs with an estimated \$1 million street value. This incident is another case of "this stuff really does happen." Be aware and be safe.

# Ticked Off

## Learn how to protect yourself from Lyme disease.

by Renee Freemon

reprinted from *Gardener* July/August 1999

**L**yme disease isn't just a threat lurking in the woods—it can also be a danger right in your own backyard. How concerned should you be about the disease? Should you use a tick repellent or take advantage of the new vaccine? Here's what you need to know.

**Basic Facts:** Lyme disease is an infection caused by the bacteria *Borrelia burdoferi*, which is transmitted to humans by deer ticks and their close relatives. It's most prevalent in the Northeast (from Massachusetts to Maryland), Wisconsin and Minnesota, and the West Coast (particularly northern California). Peak tick season begins in early spring and continues to late fall. Tom Forschner, executive director of the Lyme Disease Foundation, says, "The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reports some 16,000 cases a year, but this is only a tenth or twentieth of what is out there."

Dr. Kathy Orloski, an epidemiologist with the CDC, says studies they've conducted reveal that a high percentage of people get bitten by ticks while working in their yards. She explains that most ticks are found in unmaintained wooded areas adjacent to residential properties and says cases are most common in coastal areas, although recently they've been spreading farther inland.

If a person is infected with Lyme disease, a rash may appear within one day or one month, and may or may not be the bull's-eye rash commonly associated with Lyme disease. It can be accompanied by flu-like symptoms, such as headache, fever, muscle/joint pain, unusual fatigue, or loss of appetite. If caught early, Lyme disease can be successfully treated with antibiotics, but if left untreated it can lead to arthritis and nervous-system problems.

If you find a tick on your body, pull it straight out with tweezers, as close as possible to the head of the tick. Mark your calendar, and contact your doctor if symptoms occur. Pregnant women should contact their physician immediately.



*When they infect humans, ticks are about the size of poppy seed..*

**Prevention methods:** Recently the FDA approved LYMERix, a new vaccine for people aged 15 to 70. It requires an initial injection, another one month later, and a third after 12 months. Clinical trials showed this schedule protected 90 percent of those subjects younger than 65. The American Lyme Disease Foundation says people should consider receiving the vaccine if they live in Lyme disease endemic regions, or are involved in a high risk occupation.

It's also wise to use tried-and-true prevention methods: wear light-colored clothing (pants and long-sleeve shirts), tuck your pants into your socks, wear rubber boots, and conduct a full body check when you go indoors. Use tick repellent if there is a local infestation of ticks.

### Tick Repellents:

Clothing treatments that contain permethrin are very effective at killing ticks that come into contact with the treated fabric—look for Permanone, Duranon, or similar products. One application can last through several washings and up to two weeks. (These are not for use on skin.)

Insect repellents that contain Deet also provided protection from ticks. Although there have been some adverse effects reported (especially in children) from excessive application of Deet, the EPA recognizes it as a safe and effective repellent. Follow label instructions, and don't apply to young children's hand (which will likely end up in their mouths).

In Sawyer's Controlled Release lotion Deet is captured inside a microscopic protein, so it's released slowly over 24 hours as the skin dissolves the protein, rather than all at once. It contains no alcohol, which increases absorption levels. Currently the label only recommends use for control of mosquitoes, but university studies have shown it works for up to 17 hour against ticks.

If you don't want to use Deet, Naturelle Ltd. offers a natural alternative with TickSafe, made from Geraniol, an alcohol derived from geraniums. One application will last for up to four hours. Unlike products containing Deet, it can be applied under clothing.

# Region 4 Director Report

by Walt Young

My first *Signpost* article as the new Region 4 Director (30 days in office) will contain more questions than answers. Questions that can only be answered by you, the PRAC members at large. By the time you read this article, we will have already held our most recent Parks Conference and many of you will have already volunteered to serve on one of the following committees. If you missed the conference, it's not too late. Here is how you can help.

**Region 4 Training Steering Committee:** I am looking for four to five members from our large geographical area to set and guide training programs within the Region. With 30 days advance notice, we can obtain POST or State Fire Marshal credit for these programs, depending on the subject matter.

**EMS/FIRE Committee:** This committee is one of the many standing committees authorized by our bylaws. At the January Board of Directors meeting, each committee was directed to report to the **Standards and Training Committee** with recommendations for statewide standards. This work needs your input. Representatives are needed from throughout the State, from diverse backgrounds and frankly, from both the Sworn and Non-sworn camps.

I promise that future *Signpost* articles will conform to the more traditional format over the next two years. In the meantime please; call, fax, write or e-mail using the provided numbers.

Can't afford the time to serve on a committee? Give call me anytime to let me know what you think. Here is how you can contact me;

Walt Young	at work	(310) 858-7272 ex 102
	by pager	(888) 562-1116
	e-mail	young@smmc.ca.gov
	at home	(310) 589-2413

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## National Park Service Ranger

### Shot and Killed

by Ken Miller

On December 12, 1999, Ranger Steve Makuakane-Jarrel was killed while investigating a vicious dog complaint at Kaloko-Honokohau National Historic Park in Hawaii. The incident began when Makuakane-Jarrel responded to a complaint about Eugen Boyce's three unleashed and vicious dogs. Boyce said that Makuakane-Jarrel used pepper spray on his dogs and that he then turned the rangers' 9mm semiautomatic pistol against him during a struggle. Makuakane-Jarrel is survived by his wife and three children. Boyce was arrested two days later after a manhunt involving the National Park Service, FBI, Hawaii County Police, and Hawaii Department of Land and Resource Officers. He is being charged with assaulting and murdering a United States Park Ranger and was being held without bail as of December 16<sup>th</sup>.

My thoughts and condolences go out to Makuakane's wife, family, and coworkers.

Related story on page 6.

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## Supreme Court

### allows police to stop those who run

by John Havicon

The Supreme Court decided that when a person flees, after seeing a Peace Officer, that person creates a reasonable suspicion and allows the Peace Officer to stop that person and investigate.

A criminal case went to the Supreme Court on appeal when Chicago courts convicted William Wardlaw in 1995 for "unlawful use of a weapo." Chicago Police pursued Wardlaw after they saw him flee at their presence. They cornered him and found a concealed loaded gun during a pat down search. Wardlaw was convicted to two years in prison but it was overturned by the Illinois Supreme Court on the basis that the Police acted on "nothing more than a hunch."

On January 11, 2000, the Federal Supreme Court ruled, by a 5 to 4 decision, that the Chicago Police did have the authority to pursue and detain Wardlaw and upheld Wardlaw's conviction.

# Park Rangers Association of California

## Board Meeting Minutes, Sacramento

January 11, 2000

### Roll Call

John Havicon President  
Russ Hauck, Past President  
Mike Chiesa, Region 1 (arrived at 10:15 due to traffic problems)  
Jeff Gaffney, Region 2  
Vacant, Region 3  
Walt Young, Region 4  
Lori Hynes, Region 5  
Doug Bryce, Executive Manager

**Officer Reports:** given for Region 1, 2, 3 (by Havicon) and 5; President and Past President. New board member Young didn't have anything to report on yet.

**Executive Manager Repor:** Doug Bryce noted that our membership was down in 1999 by 15% and that our total money on hand at the end of 1999 was \$16,919.55—a record high for the organization. (See attachments)

**2000 Annual Meeting Committee Report:** Russ Hauck discussed the conference planning at length. He indicated that in addition to bringing a lot of details together that the conference was coming along very well except for two items. A keynote speaker and an M C for the banquet are needed.

**Election of Vice President and Secretary/Treasurer:** Motion Russ Hauck that Jeff Gaffney be appointed Vice-President and that Mike Chiesa be appointed Secretary/Treasurer.

**2001 Conference:** Site selection has been narrowed down to Sacramento, Foster City and San Jose. Doug will check each hotel and get their best offer and poll the board and CSPRA for a decision.

**Committees:** We need to get committees active. Board should give direction to committees.

Training Committee will now be called the **Standards and Training Committee**. Function of this committee will be to coordinate and establish professional training standards for the association and profession. The Committee will include a member from each of the other committees and have at least 5 members who are not officers.

The Resource Management Committee will become the **Resource Maintenance and Management Committee**. This was done to stress the care and maintenance of the cultural, natural and developed resources.

New Committee Assignments: **Fire Suppression/Emergency Medical Services Committee** will now be chaired by Walt Young. Membership and Nominating Committees will be coordinated by John Havicon.

**Minutes:** A member requested that the minutes be printed in the *Signpost*. It was decided that the minutes will be circulated to the board for accuracy and then put on the Web site and in the *Signpost*.

**Proposed Legislation:** All titled "Park Ranger" are Peace Officers. Jeff Gaffney reported on his and PORAC's activity on this. It was decided that this subject be tabled until after the Standards and Training Committee reports on their recommendations.

**Earthday 2000—April 22:** PRAC will publicize and encourage participation on the local level.

**Region 3 Director:** John reported that he had asked several people to be the Region 3 Director but had not received an affirmative reply yet. He will try to have one in place before the conference.

**Region II Barbecue:** Russ requested that Ken Miller be reimbursed \$28 for costs beyond income from the barbecue held in Region II during the fall. Unanimous agreement.

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## California State Park Ranger shoots and kills Knife Wielding Suspect

by Ken Miller

Related story on page 5.

Recently at a San Diego area State Park a suspect crashed a stolen taxi cab into the entrance station and threatened the attendant with a knife. Rangers responded to the attendants request for help and demanded that the suspect drop the knife. The suspect did not drop the knife and moved towards the ranger. The ranger shot and killed the suspect.

Both of these deadly force stories are horrible but I think that many PRAC members could have been in similar situations. Whether or not you carry a firearm at work we all can deal with vicious dog complaints and entrance station operations. Sometimes there is a fine line between a routine day and a life and death struggle. Be aware and be safe.

# Smitty's Book Report

Every once in a while, a book comes down the Pike that interests me that isn't a professional text. The book I want to tell you about is one of those. I suppose if you stretch it, you can get useful info out of a book like this. After all, you cannot get into the future without knowing the past. Most of those rangers had great work ethics and the job was certainly not eight to five. I have several books in my library that tell stories about rangers. As I gaze up at my bookshelf from my desk, I see several. **Guardians of Yellowstone**, (Dan Sholly) **Protecting Paradise** (Yosemite), **Men For the Mountains** (Canadian), **Ranger on Horseback** (Yosemite) **Guardians of Yosemite** (Yosemite in the early years) etc. I must have at least a half dozen more such books. In fact, I have one of my own, ready for the publisher, **I'm Just a Seasonal**. Maybe I'll get around to finding someone to publish it some day soon. **Take Down Flag and Feed Horses** is a "ranger book." The title comes from mundane instructions that are often given by supervisors. Usually the instructions were just the letters. In this case, TDF&FH. The book follows the everyday activities of rangers in Yellowstone in the late seventies, and concludes with a well written section on the fires of 1988. Probably the best account of those fires that I have read and I have read several.

I don't know when I have enjoyed a book more than this one. Probably because there are a lot of people in it that I knew and knew well: some of the key characters. The author Bill Everhart spent time one Yellowstone winter with Roger Rudolph who was my first supervisor in the National Park Service and time with Tony Dean, a African-American ranger that was a valued classmate at Albright when I went there on Sabbatical leave in 1970. Roger Siglin, who was the Wawona District Ranger in Yosemite when I was the Buck Camp ranger in 1971 is mentioned often. He was the Chief Ranger of Yellowstone at the time of the book. All three of these individuals had a great positive influence on my own professional career. Unfortunately Tony fell to his death from a trail while taking a trip down in the Grand Canyon with a class when he was an instructor at Albright. Tony used to carry his ranger Stetson in his hand because it "crushed my afro!" He was a hell of a guy. One night over dinner we had a great discussion on what it was like being "black ranger" in a place like the National Park Service. I remember his comments vividly. Some of the same comments are included in this book. Roger Rudolph is now the Assistant Superintendent at Olympic. Some of my former students will remember the quote I had over the classroom door attributed to Roger that "in a park, rangers are everything to everybody." Roger Siglin is now retired and lives in Santa Fe. According to Barry Mackintosh, National Park Service Bureau Historian, "this book is the best account of the kinds of people responsible for a big national park and the challenges they face in managing it." The author, Bill Everhart, who retired after 26 years in the Park Service was an Assistant Director, and recipient of the Department of Interiors Distinguished Service Award. It is a book well worth the purchase.

You'll find yourself discovering things that you do mirrored in what they did. I certainly read about some activities that were described in the book that put me into the same been there, "done that!" Some passages brought some mist to my eyes. Memories often do, I guess.

Everhart, William C, **Take Down Flag and Feed Horses**, University of Illinois Press, 1998, 228 pages. Cost was \$18.95 plus shipping.

## This Sound Familiar?

Bernard DeVoto, a member of the National Park Advisory Committee wrote the following in an article in Harpers Magazine. "The Park Service is an impoverished child, or like a widow who scrapes or ekes out using desperate expedients in an effort to succeed. Citing the deplorable condition of roads, campgrounds, buildings and other facilities, De Voto complained that the parks were woefully understaffed, many of them operating under the same number of personnel that they had two decades ago, when fewer people visited the parks. Moreover, park personnel often lived in shameful housing-either antiques or shacks—some like a leaky or rat-ridden crate." He recommended closing some parks until they could be adequately funded. The year?.....1956!!!!

**Park Rangers Association of California  
Board Officers  
1999**

**PRESIDENT**

JOHN HAVICON  
(916) 875-6672  
FAX: (916) 875-6632  
E-Mail: ONBELAY@INNERSITE.COM

**REGION 1 DIRECTOR**

MIKE CHIESA  
(707) 847-3245  
FAX: (707) 785-3741  
E-Mail: MCHIESA@MCN.ORG

**REGION 2 DIRECTOR**

JEFF GAFFNEY  
(408) 779-3634  
E-Mail: UCJAKE@IX.NETCOM.COM

**REGION 3 DIRECTOR**

VACANT!!!!!!

**REGION 4 DIRECTOR**

WALT YOUNG  
(310) 858-7272 EX 102  
FAX: (310) 858-7212  
E-Mail: YOUNG@SMMC.CA.GOV

**REGION 5 DIRECTOR**

LORI HYNES  
(619) 527-7683  
FAX: (619) 235-5902  
E-Mail: BPR16@AOL.COM

**PAST PRESIDENT**

RUSS HAUCK  
(818) 548-3795  
FAX: (818) 548-3789  
E-Mail: RUSTYHAWK@AOL.COM

**THE SIGNPOST EDITOR**

DAVID BROOKS  
(831) 336-2948  
FAX: (By ARRANGEMENT)  
E-Mail: PRANGERD@IX.NETCOM.COM

**Scholarship**

BILL HENDRICKS  
(805) 756-1246  
FAX: (805) 756-1402

**Office Manager**

CAROL BRYCE  
Office: (800) 994-2530  
Local: (916) 558-3734  
FAX: (916) 387-1179  
E-Mail: PKRGAC@EARTHlink.NET

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.**

**EMAIL:**

PRANGERD@IX.NETCOM.COM

**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 \_\_\_\_\_

Park Rangers Association of California  
P O Box 292010  
SACRAMENTO, CA 95829-2010  
(800) 994-2530 FAX (916) 387-1179

Park Rangers Association of California  
P. O. Box 292010  
SACRAMENTO, CA 95829-2010

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