

Hooked on Fishing, Not on Drugs

by Steve Hogue

For a number years now, Chico's Bidwell Park has been used for the annual "Hooked on Fishing, Not on Drugs" fishing event. This years event took place in May. Trucks from a commercial fish farm typically dump 11,000 pounds of catfish into Bidwell Park's Horseshoe Lake the day before the event. Because the lake is reserved especially for the event, rangers and event staff make special patrols along the banks to deter would-be adult fish thieves who just cannot help themselves from such easy pickins'.

On the day of the event, thousands of area children under the age of 14 and their parents arrived to Horseshoe Lake to try their luck at catching dinner (but with 11,000 pounds of fish in a small lake, who needs luck?). Fathers were in full force to pass down their knowledge of angling to their children. For those children who did not have poles of their own, the Chico Bass Club provided 500 loaner poles which they also helped to rig and maintain. Members of the Chico Rotary Club were on hand to provide any additional needed help to children. Fraternity members from CSU Chico helped to clean the kids' catches. Several portable swimming pools were erected and filled with 800 pounds of catfish for children ages 1-5 to fish from (called the mini-anglers tank area), courtesy of the Department of Fish and Game. To make the event even more exciting for the older children, 400 "bonus cats," which weigh between 8 and 12 pounds each, were added to the lake.

To help turn the event into an educational experience as well, several of the catfish were netted and placed in tanks for the children to learn about the fish as well as how the lake supports the fish and other critters.

Due to the fact that so many fish were dumped into the lake, children were able to return for the following few weeks to try their hand at catching more fish. City ordinance dictates that any fish caught by those 14 years of age or older must release their catches. So again, rangers made special patrols along the banks of the lake to check on catches and listen to all sorts of excuses for possessing fishes in violation of the ordinance ("But honestly ranger, I didn't see any of the huge signs which were impossible for me not to see as I arrived which stated that I had to release my fish!"; "But I saw some other people keeping fish from here last week"; and "But earlier today the other ranger told me I could keep all the fish I wanted to, and he also said that I could have this huge campfire and drive my truck off road right up to the lake so I could unload all of my gear and.....")

The only draw back to the event is the amount of trash, including hooks and fishing line, left behind by anglers. The staff from Hooked on Fishing perform several cleanups following the event but the anglers continue to fish after the cleanups have ended. The trash removal is worth the thousands of enjoyable experiences that the event makes possible.

A Shout Out

by Lee Hickinbotham Jr.

I would like to give a shout out to the rangers with Monterey County Parks at Lake San Antonio. Recently my wife competed in the Wildflower Triathlon held annually at Lake San Antonio. It was a camper and ranger nightmare. Triathletes were 6,000 strong in numbers and just about all of them were camping in the lake campgrounds. There were hundreds and possibly a thousand tents crammed into the area. The average space between tents was about 10-inches and privacy was something foreign that weekend.

This is the type of event that could cause a ranger to be a little on the edgy side. However the rangers at Lake San Antonio had a smile on their face and greeted spectators and athletes alike with the attitude that seemed as if it was just an another day on the job. So off goes my hat to the rangers of Monterey County Parks for a job well done in a friendly and professional way.

If you have had a pleasant experience or know of an agency that deserves a shout out. Please write about it or send me an email to me and I will give the shout out.

From the President's Desk

Greetings Fellow PRAC Members,

I hope everyone is having a good summer. I find it hard to believe it is July already. I am looking forward to the fall. As many of you learned at the conference in San Diego, Doug Bryce is resigning as Executive Manager for PRAC after over 22 years of dedicated service. Doug has done a lot for the organization and he will be hard to replace. Doug's resignation will be effective January 1, 2003. We are recruiting for a new Executive Manager to start late this fall. The details of the position are enclosed with this newsletter. (See page 5.) If you would like more information or would like to apply, please contact me.

The 2003 Parks Conference is coming together nicely thanks to the hard work of a joint PRAC/CSPRA planning committee. Be sure to mark your calendars, the conference will be held at South Lake Tahoe, March 31st through April 2nd, 2003. The 2003 Conference will be one of the best conferences ever and one you will not want to miss. It is not too late for you to volunteer to help with conference planning. The next conference planning meeting will be held at Prairie City OHV Park on Tuesday, July 30th at 10:00 a.m.

PRAC has been working on developing closer relations with other organizations. In an effort to enhance communications between CSPRA and PRAC, the 2 organizations have agreed to do a board member exchange and invite a member from each others board to attend each others board meetings. PRAC and CSPRA will also be holding a joint board meeting every other board meeting. This will be a chance for both boards to get together and discuss common goals and concerns. It is hoped that this increased communication and involvement with each others organizations will help strengthen the relationship between the 2 organizations and enable us to accomplish more through teamwork. PRAC and CSPRA pull together each year to hold successful conferences, there is no reason we can't continue to work together on other issues throughout the year. PRAC and CSPRA have also joined the Americans for National Parks Coalition. This organization is trying to obtain much needed funding for National Parks. Our involvement with this organization is to show support for National Parks. There are no membership fees for the coalition that PRAC will be paying. To learn more about Americans for National Parks, visit their web site at www.americansfornationalparks.org.

The Standards and Training Committee is working on implementing PRAC's recommended training standards. We are seeking instructors in the various disciplines that the PRAC training standards entail. If you are an instructor in one of the subject areas and are interested in instructing classes for PRAC members, please contact Lee Hickinbotham or Walt Young. An application/challenge procedure is also being implemented for those who feel they already satisfy the learning domains and would like to apply for PRAC certificates. Look for further information on the work of the Standards and Training Committee in this newsletter.

In other news, AB1935 appears to not be going anywhere. It was suppose to go to committee hearing in April but the author canceled the hearing. The bill has not been pulled but the author appears to not want to carry the bill forward. I haven't heard anything else on the issue but I will keep you posted on any developments. We will have to wait until the Assembly reconvenes to see if anything else happens with this issue.

That's all I have to report for now. I hope the rest of your summer goes well. Remember that PRAC is your organization and is only as good as the members strive to make it. Stay involved with the organization and recruit your friends and co-workers to join too so they don't miss out on anything. And hey, lets be careful out there!

Mike Chiesa

Confidential

Park Rangers Association of California
Instructor Resume

Date _____

SSN _____

Personal Information

Name _____ Occupation _____

Employer _____ Address _____

City _____ State _____ Contact Telephone (____) _____

Length of Service _____ Position/Rank _____

Education

Highest degree obtained _____ College/University _____

Major _____ Post Certificates _____

California Teaching Credential _____ Yes _____ No _____

Experience

Instructor Training _____

Prior teaching experience _____

Specialized experience/training relative to teaching assignment _____

Course Desiring to Teach: _____

Have you ever completed this course as a student? Yes _____ No _____

Experience teaching this course: _____

Subjects included as part of this course: _____

Instructor Candidates

Please submit this resume and copies of training documents to:

PRAC: Standards & Training Committee
P.O. Box 292010, Sacramento, CA 95829-2010

Standards and Training update

by Lee Hickinbotham Jr.

After 2 1/2 long years of surveys, votes and updates, the Standards and Training Committee is ready to start offering workshops that will enable all of you to fulfill the requirements to become PRAC certified as a *generalist ranger*. We need instructors in the various areas of law enforcement, fire/ems, interpretation, resource management and maintenance. Remember that this organization relies on involvement from its' membership. If you are interested in being an instructor we have included an instructors application in this newsletter. (See above.)

PRAC is also ready to start accepting transcripts, letters from approved trainings and documentation showing that you have met the criteria to be PRAC certified as a *generalist ranger*. If you have completed the allotted hours required in one or more of the five areas, please contact your region director for the proper paper work.

Be the first in your region to be PRAC certified.

Note: Region directors information is located on the back page of the newsletter.

Tricks of The Trade; Dead Batteries and Slim-Jims

by John Havicon

Here you are, patrolling the parking lot of one of your parks, when you see that familiar sight of a park visitor waving at you, to get your attention. You already know what they want. Another stranded car. "I left my lights on and now my battery is dead"; "I locked my keys in the car"; "My car remote alarm is wet and the alarm wont stop." The simple solution, (and maybe the only solution for many of us), is to call for a tow truck. You make the call and find out they will be there in 45-minutes. That's great! The park closes in 30-minutes and everyone knows 45-minutes really means 1-hour and 45-minutes. You drive around the park and do small chores, while waiting for the tow truck to arrive. Pretty soon your nearing the end of your shift. The long wait continues and your visitor now knows about the local history of the area along with the flora and fauna, because you literally have a captive audience.

Many of us carry a quick solution in our vehicle: jumper cables, Slim Jims, tow ropes. They are great tools to help, but if you don't know how to use them, they won't do any good. Over the years of rescuing these stranded visitors, I have learned some little tricks to using some of these tools that I thought I would share with you. Make sure you follow you agencies protocols. Some departments do not allow you to even jump-start a car. Some may require the visitor to sign a release, just in case some damage occurs.

Jump-Starting Cars

Bring your vehicle close enough for the cables to reach but never allow the two vehicles to touch.

Remember most sets of jumper cables have two colors. The red colored clamps connect to the positive terminal of the batteries. The black clamps connect to the negative or ground.

Turn your engine off before connecting cables. After they are connected, turn off all of your car accessories, (heater; radio; A/C, lights, etc.), and turn the engine on.

Connect the clamps to your car first. Red to your terminal, then to the dead battery's terminal. Next connect the black to your battery's negative terminal. Don't connect the other black clamp directly to dead battery, (there is a chance of hydrogen gas build-up around the battery, which may cause fire or explosion), instead attach it to the frame, bumper or engine block.

Some cars will start up right away, while others may need to charge up about 10-minutes.

After the cars starts, remove the cables remove the cables in the reverse sequence that you installed them, (starting with the black cable from the discharged car).

Many car manuals have excellent instruction for jumping batteries. Read your manual occasionally for a refresher.

Locked doors

Slim Jims will work on most cars, however many slide locks are next to impossible. There are slide lock tools but it takes some practice to be proficient at it.

If you have an instruction book, use it. The book can give you specific information about the car your attempting to open, whether you need to push down or pull up and how much you need to bend the Slim Jim towards you or away from you.

Always attempt to open the passengers side of the vehicle, never the driver's side. If you manage to catch a wire and disconnect something, it's better to have the problem happen on the passenger's side.

Be careful of wedges. They can help you maneuver the tool but too much pressure can break the window. If that happens reach in, grab the keys and proudly give them to the owner.

Your attempts should be toward the outside lock. (Where the key goes in.) Many try to reach for the locking mechanism toward the front of the door. This rarely works and this is where all of the wiring is for those power windows and locks. Stay away from it!

Before inserting the Slim Jim, take the Slim Jim to the outside of the door. Take the cut area of the Slim Jim and place that at the outside door lock. (Where the key goes in.) Measure from that point to the edge of the window frame. That is as deep as you need to go with your Slim Jim.

You may have to bend your Slim Jim with an arch to reach the mechanism either toward you or away from you. Not a sharp bend but a gradual arch.

Watch the inside door lock. If you can see it wiggle, your close and its a matter of pushing up, down, forward or backward to unlock it. If you can't see the lock while using the Slim Jim, have another person watch the lock and let you know when it wiggles.

Beware of cars with side airbags. Slim Jims may be able to puncture them. This should not be a problem if you are keeping the Slim Jim in line with the outside door lock and not in the middle or front of the door.

Coat hangers still occasionally work and give the owner something to do while they are waiting for a tow truck.

Continued on page 6

Executive Manager Wanted

PRAC is seeking an executive manager
Earn extra money and be part of a team of park professionals

Duties include:

- Process membership applications, update when needed.
- Maintain mailing lists, mail new member packets, and dues renewal notices.
- Prepare mailing of the *Signpost*, ballots, and special mailings to members.
- Maintain minutes, correspondence, and report files.
- Order, store and distribute sales, business, and archival materials.
- Deposit income, pay bills, and maintain financial records.
- Prepare IRS 990EZ with Schedule B.
- Prepare Franchise Tax Board Form 199.
- Prepare Secretary of State bi-annual report.
- Provide office space for a fax line, voice mail, and e-mail address.
- Must have own computer
- Mail Scholarship Applications to student members, mail applications to Colleges & Universities who have Park Management or Ranger programs.
- Maintain Ranger Directory, solicit updates to the Directory on an annual basis

*If you are interested in being part of a winning team send resume to Mike Chiesa (PRAC President) at: mchiesa@mcn.org or phone (707) 565-1234, ext. 99462 **Applications close 9-01-02***

Time to Recruit

by Lee Hickinbotham Jr.

Every year PRAC looks for ways to increase its membership. We currently have approximately 200 members, give or take. Why do we need to increase our membership?

By increasing our membership, we are increasing our voice in park issues. We also count on our membership dues for income to help put on workshops, conferences (don't forget about the 2003 conference in South Lake Tahoe) and other events at a low cost to membership.

In an effort to recruit new members, PRAC is offering a heck of a deal. If you attended the last conference in San Diego (don't forget about the 2003 conference in South Lake Tahoe) you may have seen the new PRAC hats available in two designs and four colors (grey, khaki, black and green). We are offering one of these nice looking and comfortable hats to you free just for signing up three members.

That's all you have to do to receive one these hard to get hats. But wait that's not all, you also get to be responsible for helping our membership grow. So get your friends, coworkers, seasonal employees and even your boss to sign up and receive an awesome hat. Then you can show off your new hat at the 2003 conference in Lake Tahoe.

Life just doesn't get any better.

Applications for membership can be found on the back of the newsletter. Please include your name along with the new member.

Start Planning Now

by Lee Hickinbotham Jr.

Are you ready for the best PRAC conference ever? Are you ready to have a conference where it is actually held in an area where the mountains touch the sky and the cool air makes your lungs feel fresh and clean? Well start making plans and putting in for vacation, training, or sick time now.

This is not going to be just like all the conferences of the past. We have a team of park professionals with some new and exciting ideas. The 2003 conference planning committee has started making plans, lining up sessions, speakers, activities, fieldtrips and anything else to make this an awesome conference.

Where is the conference being held you ask? Embassy Suites Hotel in South Lake Tahoe of course! This is the place to be the last week of March 2003. This will be the conference that you will want to bring your whole family to. While you are attending the sessions and learning new things from your colleagues, your family can be enjoying all the things Lake Tahoe has to offer.

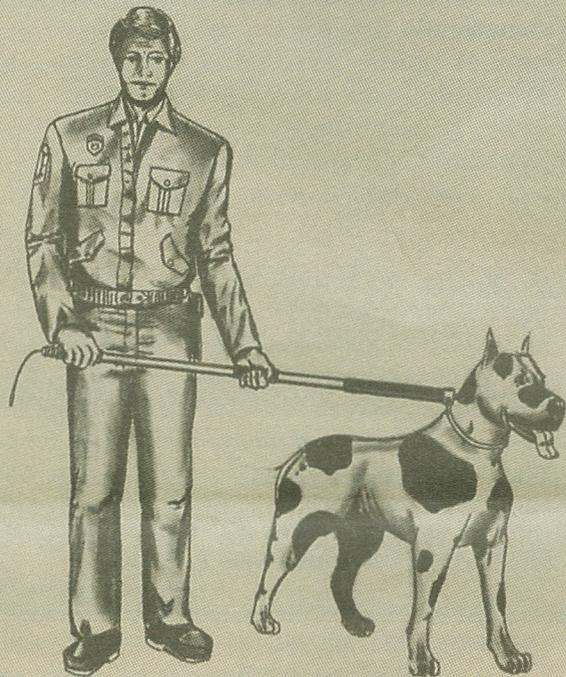
Stay at the Embassy Suites where the rooms look down into the atriums. This is where all the action will be happening. All the rooms have a living room with an adjacent bedroom. Enjoy a free breakfast every morning and if that is not enough, drink for free during happy hour. Yes, I said drink for free during happy hour!

I know what you are thinking, how can I afford something like that on a Rangers/ maintenance/ naturalist budget? The way I see it, how can you not. For those of you with doubts, you can fit about 6 possibly 7 people per room. If you don't believe me, go to the snow boarders website where the Embassy Suites Hotel is listed as the best place to stay in Tahoe. You know how cheap snow boarders can be. (It's all about the snow baby.)

So start planning now, don't delay and if you are interested in being part of the team that puts on the best conference ever, contact the board member in your region.

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Tricks of the Trade

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Wet Remote Car Alarms

I learned this little trick from a tow truck driver who said he charges about \$70.00.

Take the remote device, open and remove the batteries. Open the case, (if you can), to expose the electronics. Take a pair of pliers, (needle-nose are best) and hold the device with the pliers. Hold the device to the exhaust of your muffler for 2 to 5 minutes. Put the case and batteries back

in and presto! The alarm can be shut off and park visitors are once again happy for the sound of silence.

I am hoping to continue this section of "tricks of the trade" in the *Signpost*. I don't know all of the tricks in the book, so I am counting on others to help me. If any of you seasoned rangers know little hints that you would like to share, please let me know. You can contact me at unbelay@innercite.com or 916-875-6672.

A Book to Report On

by Lee Hickinbotham Jr.

One of the best things about being a park ranger is getting paid to go on a hike. On my off time my family and I continue to go on hikes. Our hikes range from an easy mile to a 7-8 mile loop. I can only hike so far with my 6-year-old son before most of the hike ends up with him on my shoulders. A favorite destination for my family and I is Lake Tahoe. There are so many exciting and beautiful trails I just can't keep it a secret.

I wanted to share my secret locations with you and how to get to them. The book I used to find the wondrous trails that lead around the Jewell of the Sierra is titled *Day Hikes Around Lake Tahoe* by Robert Stone. It costs around \$9.00 and is small enough to fit in your pocket. The book includes driving directions to the trailheads with a map that will lead you along the hike.

In case you haven't heard the 2003 PRAC conference will be held in Lake Tahoe. So get the book, go to the conference and then go on a hike between sessions.

Remember to take the time to read and enjoy the book.

Memorial Tree Groves

by Steve Hogue

Senator Dianne Feinstein and the Hollywood Beautification Team have worked cooperatively to organize two memorial tree plantings (one in northern California and one in southern California) to honor the Californians killed in the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001. Chico residents David and Cathy Miller lost their daughter, Nicole, in the attacks. They became aware of the proposed memorial tree groves and petitioned Senator Feinstein's office to make Chico the northern California memorial location. They were successful.

On Saturday, May 4, 2002, family and friends of some of the 9/11 victims, representatives from various elected offices, and members of the public gathered at Wildwood Park in Chico to remember loved ones and fellow Californians killed in the attacks. After family members shared memories of their lost ones, two small, oak tree groves were planted on the edges of a playing field used for youth

sports. A large boulder was placed next to the first tree grove. In the near future a plaque will be attached to the boulder to memorialize the groves.

It was very touching to hear family and friends of the victims state how they claimed "ownership" of the individual trees that they planted to represent their loved ones. Some said that they intended to return to Chico in the future to view their representative tree. The Hollywood Beautification Team planted the southern California memorial tree grove on June 22, 2002 at North Hollywood Park.

Since it does not seem that many (if any) memorials have been dedicated to our fellow Californians lost on 9/11. The next time that you find yourself near either Chico or North Hollywood, take the time to stop and visit one of the memorial tree groves.

It Started with Great Planning

by Doug Bryce

This year's conference was a tremendous success. It started with great planning and ended in a great conference. We had 265 persons registered for the conference with 100+ from the local county (both figures are records). High points included: Dr. Exequiel Ezcurra, Keynote Speaker; Live Wolf presentation; Mexican Fiesta at San Diego Old Town; Rad Hatter at the reception; guitarists at Mexican Fiesta, Reception, and banquet; Coronado Islands tour; and banquet speaker, Graham Macintosh author of "Into a Desert Place."

Your Co-Chair for the Conference, Kim Duclou, was masterful at dreaming up many wonderful things to do and then single-handedly implementing them. He was the person with the ideas and contacts. He also did a great job as M.C. for the banquet.

Other PRAC members helping with the conference were Tom Ash, Director of Region 5 and Past President, John Havicon, who were very busy with the exhibitors and Silent Auction. Trisha Cates was active on the Planning Committee and worked on getting 80+ persons from San Diego City & County Parks to attend the conference. Sue Pelley coordinated the exhibitors.

CSPRA members put together most of the Track presentations, the Mexican Fiesta, and the Coronado Islands Tour.

If you missed this year's conference you missed a great one and the weather was San Diego nice.

PARK RANGERS ASSOCIATION of CALIFORNIA

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Submissions can be mailed to DAVID BROOKS, 560 HILLCREST DR., BEN LOMOND, CA, 95005. INFORMATION CAN ALSO BE SUBMITTED BY TELEPHONE AT (831) 336-2948.

Submission deadlines ARE THE LAST day of JANUARY, MARCH, May, July, SEPTEMBER, AND NOVEMBER.

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[PRANGERD@IX.NETCOM.COM](mailto:prangerd@ix.netcom.com)

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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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