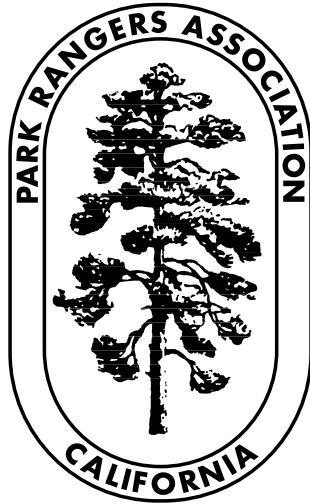


The Signpost

May - June, 2009



2009 California Parks Conference in Closing

by Sara Girard, Park Ranger, Region 5

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as the 2009 California Parks Conference PRAC co-chair. A giant thank you goes to my partner CSPRA co-chair, Nick Franco. An immediate meeting of the minds, Nick and I were able to communicate and problem solve with a moments notice. The committees that formed and the volunteers that stepped up allowed the conference to present professional training sessions as well as a comfortable venue for peer interaction.

The 2010 California Parks Conference is in the planning stages and I would encourage everyone to get involved. If you can serve on a committee or have ideas or experience to share, as you know, anything you do helps. You can contact your region director to get information about being involved in the conference.



The Department of Fish and Game offers free fishing days each year to encourage the public to give fishing a try.

No license is needed on these days.

Free Fishing days for 2009 are July 4th and September 7th.

For more information go to:

www.dfg.ca.gov/licensing/fishing/freefishdays.html

Region 6 Updates

by Marie D. Fong

Region 6 has had the pleasure of hosting two trainings so far this year. These well attended trainings would not have been possible without the help of some wonderful presentors: Joanne Murphy and Sali Underwood of the Nevada Archaeological Site Stewardship Program and Park Ranger Jerry Buzzard.

On Wednesday February 25, 2009 archaeologist, Sali Underwood, Nevada state site stewardship coordinator, gave an overview presentation introducing the Nevada Program. This is an award winning program: the Nevada Archaeological Site Stewardship Program. It was fantastic to be introduced to a program that provides volunteers to help manage sensitive sites especially at a time where our staffing resources are declining and often the use in these areas is increasing.

The mission of the State of Nevada Archaeological Site Steward Program (NASSP) is to teach the people of Nevada about the importance of protecting archaeological resources. The program encourages volunteers to become active in the stewardship of archaeological and paleontological sites through partnerships with land managers and land owners. The Program trains volunteers

in site condition analysis and requires volunteer stewards to visit their assigned sites on a regular basis. The site condition assessments generated facilitate the land owner's responsibility to protect and preserve archaeological and paleontological sites throughout Nevada.

Park Ranger Jerry Buzzard hosted an entertaining introduction to Leave No Trace promoting skills and ethics that support low impact use of our wild lands and natural areas. He focused on incorporating LNT principles into our hiking and backpacking outings and even our front country use of parks and other public places; offering ideas on how we, as Rangers, can help visitors understand the importance of preservation for future generations. Jerry Buzzard, currently a LNT master educator, has been a Park Ranger with Washoe County Parks for 19 years where part of his job is to teach environmental awareness to park visitors.

Thank you again to these presenters for taking the time to educate and inspire new programs and more efficient methods of park management.

Nature Quote

"There is a way that nature speaks, that land speaks. Most of the time we are simply not patient enough, quiet enough, to pay attention to the story."

Linda Hogan, Native American poet, storyteller, environmentalist and writer.

Every day is Earth Day.

Author Unknown

Mutual Aid

by Sara Girard, Park Ranger

On the morning of April 5th a yearling gray whale was reported dead and located in the surf zone at Sunset Beach. At approximately 2 tons, this moving object created a public safety hazard and US Ocean Safety quickly posted a lifeguard on duty to keep the public out of harms way. WesCom; responsible for Orange County Parks dispatch, was notified the park ranger would be on scene and remain the lead contact during this event. Marine biologists from NOAA and LA County Natural History department of Marine and Wildlife Fisheries were contacted and tissue samples were collected for study. Due to low tide it was determined that the carcass would be moved the following day.

The morning of April 6th found the carcass free floating approximately 300 yards off shore. Orange County Sheriff's Department Harbor Patrol division provided two vessels to perform the long distance tow. The City of Seal Beach Lifeguard department made a jet ski and operator available for the transport of a US Ocean Safety lifeguard for close quarters attachment of the tow rope. At approximately 10:30 am the carcass of the gray whale was taken to open ocean where it was disposed of naturally.

Communication is the key in mutual aid events. Professional courtesy assures cooperation for future endeavors.



**Park Rangers Association of California
Board Officers 2009**

President

DAVE Updike
(310) 858-7272 EXT. 123
FAX: (310) 858-7212
E-Mail: president@CalRanger.org

Region 1 Director

KEN WONG
(510) 206-0803
E-Mail: region1@CalRanger.org

Region 2 Director

BRIAN CHRISTIANSEN
Cell: (408) 307-7533
E-Mail: region2@CalRanger.org

Region 3 Director

DAVID MOSKAT
(916) 875-6672
Cell: (916) 342-0105
E-Mail: region3@CalRanger.org

Region 4 Director

DAVE STERLING
(562) 570-1765
FAX: (562) 570-1134
E-Mail: region4@CalRanger.org

Region 5 Director

SARA GIRARD
(949) 923-2252
FAX: (949) 509-6685
E-Mail: region5@CalRanger.org

Region 6 Director

MARIE D. FONG
Cell: (775) 813-3629
FAX: (775) 828-6614
E-Mail: region6@CalRanger.org

Past President

LEE HICKINBOTHAM JR
(408) 483-0174
FAX: (408) 354-8623
E-Mail: pastpresident@CalRanger.org

The Signpost Editor

DAVID BROOKS
(831) 336-2948
FAX: (831) 335-1178
E-Mail: newsletter@CalRanger.org

Scholarship

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

Executive Manager

BETSY ANDERSON
(707) 884-3949
FAX: (707) 884-1945
E-Mail: office@CalRanger.org

WebMaster

JEFF PRICE
(805) 278-9201
E-Mail: webmaster@CalRanger.org

The *Signpost* is published by THE PARK RANGERS ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA (PRAC). THE ASSOCIATION MAILING ADDRESS IS P.O. BOX 1533, STEWARTS POINT, CA, 95480.

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 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.

Email:
prangerd@ix.netcom.com

Membership Application

NAME _____		
ADDRESS _____		
CITY _____	STATE _____	ZIP _____
PHONE _____		
HOME _____	WORK _____	
Email Address _____		
Employer or School _____		
Job Classification or Major _____		

Park Rangers Association of California
P. O. Box 153
Stewarts Point, CA 95480-0153

First Class

Voting Membership

REGULAR.....\$50 _____
RETIRED.....\$35 _____

Non-voting Membership

AGENCY:
(1-24 PERSONS-6 MAILINGS)..... \$100 _____
25 PERSONS-12 MAILINGS)..... \$150 _____
STUDENT.....\$20 _____
ASSOCIATE.....\$35 _____
SUPPORTING..... \$100 _____

Park Rangers Association of California
P.O. Box 153, STEWARTS POINT, CA 95480