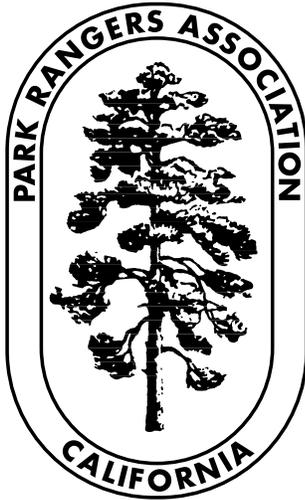


# The Signpost

July - August, 2009



## Share Your Experiences

by Ranger Sara Girard

I recently enjoyed a wonderful backpacking trip to Grand Canyon National Park. One of the most enjoyable parts of the adventure was sharing time with several of the interpretive/education rangers at the park. We had great discussions about sister parks. What we edify at a facility, be it a world famous National Park or a local famous Regional Park, is meant to give the same message. What we as rangers do in the management of the resource and the education of the guest is provide a sanctuary for all. Remember the great stories, remember the little stories, share them.

### **Change in the Signpost.....**

**From the Oval Office in the Double Wide**

I would like to inform all members that the Park Rangers Association of California will **no longer be mailing the *Signpost*** as a hard copy out on a regular basis. In our General Membership meeting last March, the membership voted (and it was unanimous) to discontinue mailing out hard copies of the *Signpost* and switch to the electronic version. This change will result in approximately a \$2,000.00 per year savings. If you are unable to receive large emails or are currently without internet you may sign up on an individual basis and one can be mailed to the address of your choice. These requests can be made to Betsy Anderson [office@calranger.org](mailto:office@calranger.org). There will also be a link on the PRAC website: [calranger.org](http://calranger.org) to download a copy for your reading pleasures. I would like to thank **everyone** for your understanding in this matter.

**David Updike**

PRAC President

*(Editor Note: There will be one other issue of the Signpost printed and mailed to all members. Beginning with the November-December issue, the Signpost will only be mailed to those that contact the Executive Manager Betsy Anderson at [office@calranger.org](mailto:office@calranger.org).)*

## **From the Oval Office in the Double Wide**

### **Fraud Against PRAC? Not on our watch!!!**

Betsy Anderson, Executive Manager of PRAC, received the monthly B of A statement for the PRAC account and noticed there was approximately \$7,000 that had been drawn out of the account, via electronic funds withdrawal. The withdrawals were made by two different companies she had never heard of. She contacted the bank and notified them immediately of fraudulent activity.

A small portion of the of the money was able to be returned within 24 hrs, but the majority had to be held off pending an investigation by the bank fraud department, as it needed to be reported within 24 hours...a requirement which had not been met, since the info was noticed in a monthly statement.

After the Bank's own initial investigation, the bank indicated that we would probably not be able to have the money returned and would have to pursue the issue ourselves. Betsy Anderson, PRAC, was able to track down contact info for "the company", and speak to an individual. Through further checking, she was able to determine that her signature had been lifted off of a check that she issued, as a refund for overpayment for merchandise, to the person she spoke to at the "the company".

Betsy Anderson contacted the bank, and shared the Fraud info. She also indicated that the bank should never have accepted the fraudulent signature to set up the fund transfers, as, by policy, an original signature is required.

The bank responded by saying they would take the information and do a further investigation, and would reimburse PRAC for the stolen amount.

Had Betsy Anderson, Executive Manager of PRAC, not been as diligent in reviewing statements or in doing all the extra legwork, which should have been done by the bank's fraud department, PRAC would have lost the majority of the money that was transferred out of the account.

I would personally like to thank both our Treasurer David Sterling and our Executive Manager Betsy Anderson for the hard work and dedication displayed time and time again.

**David Updike**

PRAC President

# Region 5 Summer Gathering

July 31 World Ranger Day

[www.thingreenline.org](http://www.thingreenline.org)

by Sara Girard

It's that time again, S'mores and a movie. I would like to invite everyone to gather at O'Neill Regional Park in Trabuco Canyon to celebrate World Ranger Day. You are welcome to bring a snack, a meal, come early and hike. Once the sun sets, we will enjoy the sounds of the evening, good company and a movie around the campfire. I will provide the s'mores, a movie and a campfire story or two. Movie time: DARK. See you there! For more information contact me at [region5@CalRanger.org](mailto:region5@CalRanger.org).



## Good Home Wanted

This 5,600 slide file can go to any agency that wants it. Just cover the shipping cost and it is yours.

If interested contact Jeff Ohlfs at 760-413-8218 or [deserttraveler2@roadrunner.com](mailto:deserttraveler2@roadrunner.com)

## Nature Quote

When I go I leave no trace.

The beauty of the country is becoming a part of me.

Now the aspen trunks are tall and white in the moonlight.

A wind croons in the pines,

The mountain sleeps.

**Everett Ruess (1914-1934, remains found 2009)**

a bold teenage adventurer, artist, and writer



Sierra Slopes by Everett Ruess

# Region 6 Updates

by Marie D. Fong

Thanks to all who participated in Park Ranger John Keesee's book drive. Here is an update on the success of his program:

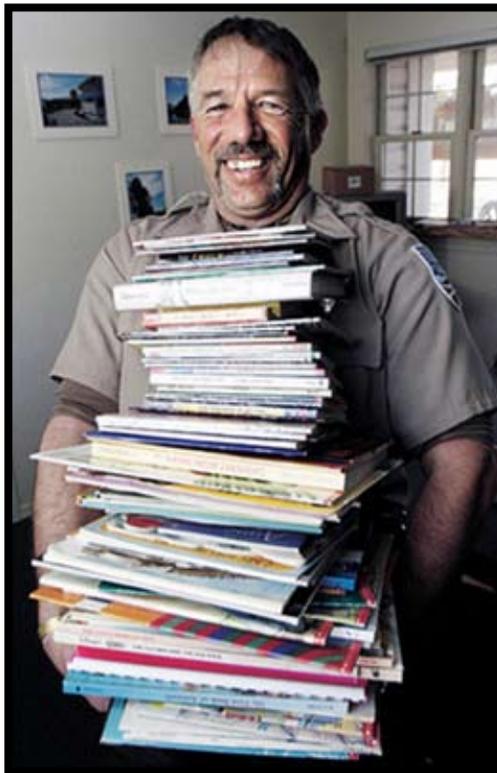
In a community-wide effort, the Washoe County Regional Parks and Open Space Rangers have been collecting new and gently used books for Sun Valley Elementary School over the past few weeks. Washoe County Park Ranger John Keesee estimates residents have donated 1,200 books for the Sun Valley Elementary School book drive. Surplus books will go to other schools, Keesee said.

"Our goal initially was: if we get 200 books, we're doing OK," Park Ranger and book drive organizer John Keesee said. "But the community really jumped in on this." The drive, which officially began on February 21, allowed community members to drop off elementary age appropriate books to the various regional parks in the area, including Lazy 5, North Valleys, Rancho San Rafael, Bartley Ranch, Galena Creek and Bowers Mansion Regional Parks. With help from local community organizations like the Kiwanis Club and businesses like the Little Waldorf Saloon, the drive led Keesee to believe that the books can be spread around to several elementary schools that have yet to be identified. "We have a huge surplus here," Keesee said, explaining that Sun Valley Elementary would more than likely be taking a couple hundred books. "We're doing really well. We have nowhere to store all of these books." Keesee, mentioning that he and his family are avid readers, said he originally got the idea for a book drive as the rangers were preparing for their annual reading week at Sun Valley Elementary School toward the end of April.

"We're invited to come out to read to classes for the week," Keesee said. "And I just thought it would be neat to do a book drive for them." Books

donated will be allocated at Sun Valley Elementary School's discretion, some going to the library directly, others to classroom collections and some to individual students. "It would be great if these kids could take these books home for the summer and practice reading and enjoy them," Keesee said. "Anything we can do for them, helps us." The influx of books will be greatly appreciated, Sun Valley Elementary School librarian Janice Cankey said, as certain reading age levels are needed, specifically fourth grade and above. Washoe County library coordinator Ellen Fockler said that while book donations are not generally depended upon for school libraries, they are always welcome. "Book budgets at school libraries have been under duress for a long time, especially at the elementary level," Fockler said. "And some of our elementary schools do not have a regular library book budget." Explaining that since the county runs on a site-based budget management system, where each school principal is given a certain budget that is later allocated out, the library needs vary from school to school, Fockler said. One of the biggest problems facing school libraries in terms of books is updating book collections. "You need a library that is stocked every year with current books," Fockler said. "Science books, space books, those things need to be updated." Keesee, not wanting to see any student have to go without a book, said he is pleased with the success of the book drive and is hoping to make it an annual practice. "I'm hoping with this donation, it will help pump new blood, new ink into their library," he said.

This first annual drive was so successful that the department now has about 1,200 used children's books available for any local youth groups and schools that need them. Thanks again to the Regional Parks and Open Space rangers and the generosity of visitors to county parks.



Park Ranger John Keesee

[HTTP://WWW.CALRANGER.ORG](http://www.calranger.org)

Excerpts from:  
*Sparks Tribune / Debra Reid*  
**THE SIGNPOST**

## **A Whale of a Good Time!**

**Thursday, July 30, 2009 at Ventura Harbor**

It's Blue Whale season! PRAC Region 4 invites you to join your fellow rangers, and park professionals in search of Blue and Humpback whales, seals, sea lions, dolphins, and a host of other marine life on an all day Whale watching trip around the Channel Islands. This trip usually (conditions permitting) includes an excursion around Santa Cruz and Anacapa Islands.

The group rates are \$59 adults, \$47 children 12-years and under, \$57 adults 55+. Boat departs at 9:00 am and returns by approximately 5:00 pm.

For information or to sign up, please contact Dave Sterling (562-712-2993. Or [region4@calranger.org](mailto:region4@calranger.org)) by Friday, July 10 (reservations must be made by that time through Dave in order to get the group rate).

Island Packers will be the tour operator. [www.islandpackers.com](http://www.islandpackers.com)

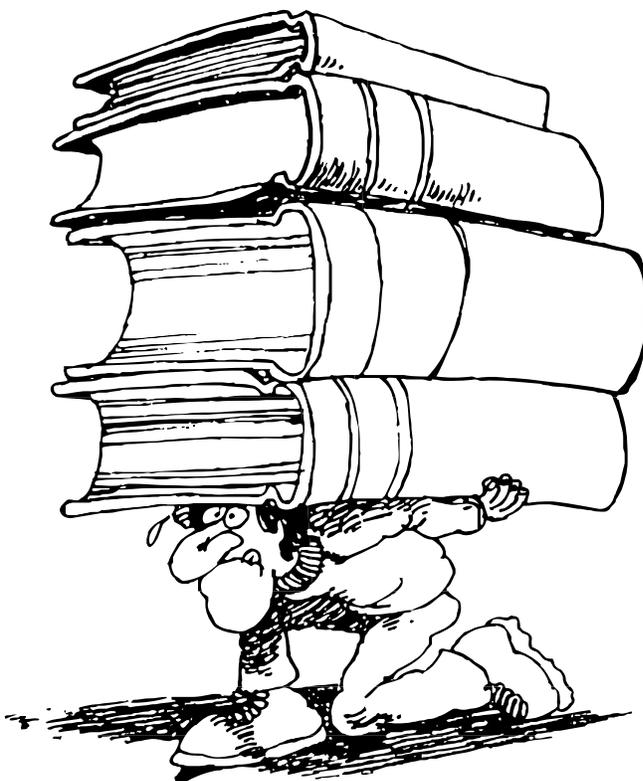
## **PRAC Scholarship**

**by Marie D. Fong**

I would like to remind all members that the Park Rangers Association of California offers two \$500.00 scholarships, the Thomas Smith and the Bill Orr Scholarships, each year to its members. PRAC begins accepting Student Scholarships applications February 1<sup>st</sup>; all applications and supporting materials must be received prior to September 31, 2009.

This is an excellent opportunity that some full-time, professional Rangers might not need, but as some of us have very large seasonal staffs and volunteers who are comprised of aspiring college students. This is a great opportunity to share with them. Students who are members of PRAC, enrolled in a program of study in parks and recreation management, resource management, forestry or a related field and enrolled in 6.1 semester units or the equivalent, during the Fall Semester are eligible for consideration.

To view eligibility and selection guidelines, and to download the application form, log-in to the members-only section at [calranger.org](http://calranger.org). For more information contact me at [region6@CalRanger.org](mailto:region6@CalRanger.org) or any other Board member.



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**Submission deadlines ARE THE LAST day of JANUARY, MARCH, MAY, JULY, SEPTEMBER, AND NOVEMBER.**

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25 PERSONS-12 MAILINGS)..... \$150 \_\_\_\_\_  
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