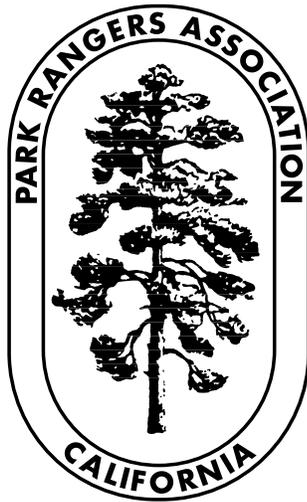


The Signpost

September - October, 2009



“Sierra Autumn” Fall Photo Exhibit

**We want to see your best fall photos at
Bartley Ranch this October!**

Bartley Ranch Regional Park, a Washoe County Regional Park located in Reno, Nevada, will be presenting a photographic exhibit within the Western Heritage Interpretive Center, October 1st through October 31st 2009. The “Sierra Autumn” exhibit photos displayed will reflect autumnal images in and around the Sierra Nevada.

The exhibit, in its fourteenth year, is free to the public and we anticipate several thousand to attend. We are looking for photographers to enter two framed, wired, and ready-to-hang photos that best represent their views of “Sierra Autumn.” There is no fee for submitting your work. There will be a “People’s Choice Award,” as voted by visitors to the exhibit, and an “Artist’s Choice Award,” as voted by participating artists.

If you are interested in participating in the exhibit please contact Park Ranger Marie D. Fong at 775.828.6612, mfong@washoecounty.us or write to Bartley Ranch Regional Park 6000 Bartley Ranch Road Reno, NV 89511

Orange County Parks & Santa Ana College has just opened enrollment for the Park Ranger Academy

The Park Ranger Academy is designed to meet the requirements for being a Park Ranger in many cities and counties within the State of California. The academy will provide training on a variety of topics including: the floral and fauna of Southern California, National Association for Interpretation, Tactical Communication, CPR and First Aid for the Professional Responder, Park Ranger Fire Training, Animal Behavior and Handling, Off Highway Vehicle Operations and a full PC 832-A Post certified course. If you are looking for a career as an unarmed Park Ranger or are interested in becoming a Park Ranger Reserve this is where to start. The Academy is being presented in partnership with Santa Ana College and the Orange County Parks Department. The Academy is 207 hours in length and will begin Sept. 9, 2009 and conclude with a graduation ceremony on December 16, 2009.

Fees:	\$171.00 Tuition \$121 (includes health fees for non-sponsored students) & Material fee \$50 Due to final State Budget restraints, fees are subject to change without prior notice
Units:	4.0 (Credit/No Credit)
Class Dates:	September 9, 2009 - December 16, 2009
Days & Times:	Tuesdays 1800 - 2200 hours Thursdays 1800 - 2200 hours Saturdays 0800 - 1700 hours
To Register:	Please call the CJA office for more information on how to register (714) 566-9200

Ranger Baby Hat Trick

a.k.a. Don't Drink the Water in Region 6 unless you expect the unexpected

by Marie D. Fong

It all started last summer at a monthly Ranger meeting of Washoe County's six full-time and two seasonal Park Rangers. Sitting outside under a picnic shelter, discussing the fall/winter programming schedules Ranger Rochelle Pope broke the news that she was expecting with her first. Everyone was surprised and congratulatory.

After the joyous clamor calmed, as the meeting began to return to the agenda, Ranger Angela dropped the news that she too was expecting her first. Again rounds of congratulations and even more elated shock at finding out she was due the same month as Rochelle! Again much excitement and a longer break from the agenda.

Then as the meeting headed back on track Ranger Marie Fong announced that she too was expecting her first during the same month as Rangers Rochelle and Angela! The only three women of Washoe County's Ranger ranks were pregnant and due within a month of each other. The rest of the ranks were shocked and not quite sure they weren't at the receiving end of a practical joke.

But as March approached wagers were placed on due dates, sexes, and names. Uniforms bulged to hilarious proportions! Mid-March was full of excitement and expectation for the entire de-

partment. Then on St. Patrick's Day the chaos began...

Truckee River District Park Ranger Marie Fong and husband Bill became the proud parents of daughter Keira Jade (6 lbs. 4oz., 18 inches long) at 11:30 a.m. on St. Patrick's Day, March 17 at Renown Medical Center.

That same afternoon, Pah Rah District Park Ranger Rochelle Pope, along with husband Skip, checked into Renown. At 1:39 a.m. the next morning, Wednesday, March 18, Ranger Rochelle gave birth to their son, Wyatt Alexander (8lbs. 4oz., 20.25 inches long).

The same day the Ranger Rochelle and Skip arrived at Renown, Seasonal Truckee River District Park Ranger Angela Hamilton and husband Sam were checking into St. Mary's. At 6:00 a.m. on Thursday, March 19, Angela gave birth to daughter Brighton Hamilton. She was 6 lbs. 4 oz. and 19 inches long.

By Thursday evening all three County Park Rangers had become new mothers, all within three days of each other. All the babies are well, and the three families are enjoying their new lives together. Pretty soon there will be three little Junior Rangers running around Region 6.

Naturalist/Naturalist Aide

\$4,250/month + benefits.

There three current vacancies; one 9 month, full-time, and two 12 month, full-time. There is also a full-time, temporary vacancy, with no benefits (if interested, please apply *immediately*).

Under general supervision, to represent the EBRPD, educate the public and to protect the resources, to research, develop and conduct interpretive programs for school groups and the general public in the fields of environmental education, natural and cultural history and resource protection. Prepares and gives out-of-District talks and presentations

on natural science/cultural subjects. Coordinates, or assists the Supervising Naturalist in coordinating district special commemorative days and events.

Requires Bachelor's degree plus more than 2 years of recent field experience in comprehensive interpretive work.

Apply to: East Bay Regional Park District, HR Division, 2950 Peralta Oaks Ct., Oakland, CA 94605-0381. Phone: 510/544-2154 or www.ebparks.org. **Closing date:** September 17, 2009, 5:00 p.m. District Application & Supplemental Statement Required/EOE

Summer Together

by Park Ranger Sara Girard

Our summer campfire program was sparsely attended. No worries, the information exchanged was priceless! Two veteran rangers with two newly hired rangers, it could not have made for a better outing. To the surprise of the younger rangers, the stories of hula hoops and fun videos at campfire programs during a campground full Saturday evening was held in awe. This inspiring evening will never be forgotten and has bonded rangers in our common goal.

Campfire Games

by Jackson Barker

Okay...it's been a long, long time since I was a boy scout. When I was one, we had many campfires while out for summer camps and jamborees and even when just our troop was on a weekend camping trip. One "game" I do remember was a variation on the classroom demonstration of whispering a word, phrase, or sentence and passing it around to see how it changes when it gets back to the starting point. The more participants the more likely the result will be different.

One in particular I remember was billed as "an old indian saying" and the words were "ohwa tagoo siam;" which if you say it enough and quickly then becomes "oh what a goose I am." Typically, you would give this phrase to one person and have them pass it by whispering it to the person on their left....passing it around in

a clockwise fashion until it reaches the person seated to the right of the starting point. That person would then say the words out loud. If it's totally unrecognizable (and it could be) then you have each person repeat what they heard until finally someone recognizes the English words. It's mostly a joke on everyone.

"Ghost stories" were always my favorite campfire activity. Queen Elizabeth visited Canada in 1959 and the Canadian Boy Scouts (B.S.C.?) had a medallion made up with her likeness and an admonition on the back which said "secretly transfer me to your left hand pocket each day after you have completed your good deed." I forget what I traded for that medallion....a neckerchief, jackknife, or keeper...but I still have it....I'll bet that Canadian boy scout doesn't still have whatever it was we swapped! Fond memories of campfires past...

Nature Quote

*I speak for the trees, for the trees have no tongues...
unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot
nothing is going to get better. It's not."*

*From "The Lorax" by Theodor Geisel (Dr. Seuss),
American writer and cartoonist most widely known for his children's books*

Defining the Professional Generalist Park Ranger in 21st Century California

By Matt Cerkel

Right now in California, it seems to be a grim time to be a ranger. The problem of the budget crisis and politics are hitting many agencies hard. The problem is resulting in Park Ranger programs facing elimination or major cuts, State Parks facing closures and politics getting in the way of public safety, service and protection of our parks and open spaces. What can be done about it? Did we, the ranger profession go wrong at some point? There is no one answer to these questions. But one thing that has hurt us as a “profession” in this State is the lack of a defining definition of what a professional park ranger is.

A profession can be defined as a vocation founded upon specialized education, specialized and specific training, and expertise. The Characteristics of a Profession are:

- Specialized Body of Knowledge (Training and Education Standards)
- Set of Specific Skills (Training Standards)
- Group Mission or Identity
- Standards of Behavior and Practice

Currently, the ranger profession in California largely fails to meet the definition and characteristics of a profession. Right now even security guards have better defined professional standards in California than the park ranger profession. No wonder it is so easy for ranger programs to be marginalized by politicians and bureaucrats.

Currently, the only State recognized professional standard for the ranger profession in California is Public Resources Code (PRC) 4022 which requires rangers to be peace officers, with the exception of non-peace officer rangers that work for agencies that were using the ranger job title before January 1st, 1990 (the grandfather clause). The park ranger profession has always at its core had the law enforcement function; the first park ranger in California, Galen Clark, the “Park Guardian” at Yosemite State Park had police powers and made his first arrest in 1870. Horace Albright, one of the founding fathers of the National Park Service and the park ranger profession stated “the ranger force is the park police force” and “the ranger is primarily a policeman.” He made these statements in the 1920s. History is clear on the matter that law enforcement and peace officer duties have always been part of the park ranger profession and are not a recent or new development. Perhaps PRC 4022 needs to be amended or updated, because the way it is written now the law is ineffective and fails to standardize the park ranger profession in California. The issue of 4022 is controversial in the ranger profession, but it needs to be addressed, so the ranger profession in California can move forward. My idea on how to address 4022 would be to amend it so only peace officer rangers could use the job title “Park Ranger,” but allow other “Ranger” job titles to

be used by non-peace officer rangers. This would remove the “grandfather” clause, but at the same time allow non-peace officer ranger programs to continue. This amended version of PRC 4022 would also finally standardize the authority level of “Park Rangers” statewide as peace officers.

Looking back at the early history of park rangers it is also historically clear that most early rangers were generalists, performing law enforcement, resource management, interpretation search and rescue and wildland firefighting etc... It is this generalist park ranger we need to get back to, but with a 21st Century definition of professional training and standards. “Park Ranger Training and Standards” developed and adopted by PRAC in 2001 are a step in the right direction, but lack any legal standing. The PRAC standards should be the basis for a state codified standard on the training required to become a “Park Ranger.” It would help define the park ranger profession in California. The PRAC standards, if codified, would also help ensure the long tradition of “generalist park rangers” continues and perhaps even thrives in California in the 21st Century.

The park ranger profession is unique with the combined public safety, education and resource management duties we perform. It should be one of our greatest selling points to the politicians, the local agencies with parks and open spaces to manage, and the public we serve. They need to see they get more “bang for the buck” by having park rangers in the parks and that we are in fact “professionals” trained and certified by the state to handle the many issues that can occur in parks and open spaces.

The idea of an actual statewide standard for park ranger authority, training and education would fulfill those definitions of what a profession is. It would allow “Park Rangers” to be on even footing with other public safety professions, but still remain connected to the traditional general ranger role. Having a state standard for park rangers would ensure the “Park Ranger” title would have to be earned, which is another part of being part of a true profession. At the same time the idea as I have proposed here would allow non-peace officer ranger programs to continue to have the ranger title, just not the “Park Ranger” title. The ideas here would finally professionalize the “Park Ranger” profession in California and that is long over due.

A professional generalist park ranger would do “it all: protection, interpretation, and resource management as a peace officer, educator, firefighter, manager, interpreter, rescuer, and all-around caretaker of our parks and open spaces.” We need to professionalize as generalist park rangers to survive and hopefully thrive.

**Park Rangers Association of California
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