

The Signpost

January - February, 2010



Adventure Day **by Ranger Sara Girard**

Putting together a special event is a true team effort. The entire park staff get involved with ideas and skills to make it a wonderful day for the public to enjoy. Planning, invitations, confirmations and set-up, each person does their part. Bringing back an ole time favorite is exciting.

Hayrides, stories, games, exhibitors, food and hikes will present visitors with the adventure that is Caspers Wilderness Park. Everyone is welcome. Saturday March 13, 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Entry fee \$5.00. Looking for a getaway? Camp with us overnight. For more information about Caspers Wilderness Park and Adventure Day go to OCParks.com



“Reminders of the Trade”

by Kenneth Wong – Region 1

In recent light of the four police officers killed in Washington State at a coffee shop and a Pittsburgh, PA, police officer killed while waiting for back up at a shooting call (November and December 2009), we should be mindful of our safety as uniformed personnel/staff working within the diversity of our jurisdictions.

One may say how does this apply to me? “I’m not a cop, I’m just a ranger.” I say to you, though our members’ duties varies from naturalist, maintenance, to law enforcement ranger, we all wear uniforms and provide some level of public safety which places us in certain situations that require direct planning in how we address those situations.

Though there are many safety guidelines presented, various sources may or may not be applicable to us due to job functions.

The following are just a few considerations we should think of:

- Approach every contact/assignment with officer safety in mind
- Guard against complacency and overconfidence regarding stops, calls and investigation
- Maintain a position of advantage
- Maintain alertness and awareness
- Heed danger signs
- Be mentally prepared
- Never assume a call is a “false alarm”
- Maintain good communication with colleagues
- Knowledge of assignments
- Prepare for “worst case scenarios”
- Establish a plan of action.
- Consider alternative actions
- Maintain skills
- Maintain good physical and mental condition. Take advantage of recurrent training offered, to maintain skills and overcome complacency.
- Stay current on improvement in equipment, tactics and techniques
- Always be aware of suspect’s hands
- Use handcuffs when appropriate
- Conduct proper and thorough searches
- In every situation, identify items that would provide adequate cover if needed
- Be ready to use, and/or move to cover when necessary
- Ask for backup when necessary
- If assistance is requested, wait for that assistance to arrive before abandoning cover or taking action
- Use available communication systems to transmit appropriate and accurate safety and tactical information
- Understand the limitations of your communications equipment
- Be aware of distance, positioning and surroundings
- Identify, plan, then move to positions of advantage
- Avoid abandoning a safe location or rushing into a potentially dangerous area
- Utilize proper safety equipment. Maintain care and maintenance of equipment.

Our number #1 goal is to come home safely to our family.

Stay Safe.

The International Ranger Federation Declaration

by Park Ranger Marie D. Fong

As PRAC moves forward to joining the ranks of the International Ranger Federation (IRF) it is encouraging to review the work year's World Ranger Congress. The World Ranger Congress has been held every two to three years since IRF was established in 1992. This Sixth World Ranger Congress was held in Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia, November 2–7, 2009. The issues that were addressed included:

- ranger role in climate change and fire management;
- training models;
- spiritual and cultural values of protected areas;
- working conditions of rangers.

The following Declaration was the result of many Ranger delegates working together to address challenges are facing the profession today. It is at once sobering and bolstering, motivating and discouraging, to see such challenges to those of us who are honored to work protecting our small corner of the globe. While reading through the Santa Cruz Declaration it is clear that unity and personal dedication is crucial to the success of resource protection on a global level.

SANTA CRUZ DECLARATION

We, the delegates gathered in Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia, in the 6th World Ranger Congress, November 2009, and representing the rangers from 43 countries on six continents, consider:

1. That the founding principles committed to in the Zakopane Declaration in the 1st World Ranger Congress, support this declaration issued from Santa Cruz;
2. That despite the efforts made to try to change the difficult living and working conditions of rangers in the world, rangers in many countries still do not see the minimum and necessary changes in benefits asked for;
3. That in any country where rangers face difficult working conditions, there is often a correlation between this and an absence or weakness of appropriate institutional support and/or legal recognition;
4. That many rangers in these conditions may also be subjected to serious impacts on their health, family life, and professional career that may not meet legal requirements or basic human rights;
5. That the omission of these rights directly affects their management effectiveness, making it impossible to work and manage for protected areas;
6. That the strength of independent ranger associations is fundamental for the stability and protection of the system of protected areas;
7. That many rangers are victims of persecution and violence at work, facing situations of extreme danger in the field, often paying with their lives;
8. That despite these difficult conditions in many parts of the world, rangers continue to perform their responsibilities and be motivated by their solidarity and their deep commitment to their jobs, their spirit of professional service against often great odds, and by maintaining a sense of belonging to the world's protected areas;
9. That the impacts of climate change, unless addressed immediately by governments around the world and its citizens, will lead to the inexorable decline of global protected areas and their values;
10. That the Dependents Fund originated in the 3rd World Ranger Congress in South Africa 2000, attending to the humanitarian needs of the families of rangers killed is acknowledged.

We therefore resolve:

- To urge all governments and contractors, to ensure decent working conditions for rangers of protected areas, with salaries commensurate with their professional responsibilities, and to strengthen their capacities through training and professional development;
- To urge governments to establish clear legal authorities and recognition for the profession of protected area rangers;
- To widely repudiate all assaults against park rangers;
- To urge governments to establish and implement clear and specific policies regarding the management of protected areas and the role of the ranger;
- To send a joint statement (attached) to the United Nations Convention on Climate Change to be held in the city of Copenhagen in December 2009;
- To strengthen support to the families of rangers who have died in the line of duty, through formalizing our cooperation with The Thin Green Line Foundation (TGLF), and to explore strong strategic alliances with other organizations that support the protection of the park ranger in their lives and work; and
- To strengthen our efforts to work with ranger associations to gain increased agency recognition and support for the work of rangers.

Training in Region 6

by Park Ranger Marie D. Fong

Tahoe Rim Trail Association Presents: Certified Interpretive Guide Training

Monday, April 5th- Thursday, April 8th 2010

This training will increase your skills, and make you more confident in creating and presenting interpretive programs for trail users. Added value to this training is certification as an interpretive guide through the National Association for Interpretation, including a one year membership in the Association. The training will be conducted at the Tahoe Rim Trail Association office in Incline Village and on the Tahoe Rim Trail. Participation is limited to 15 to ensure individual attention. The fee for this four-day training is \$495.00.

As a result of this training you will:

- Learn new techniques to interpret the trail to visitors
- Identify the characteristics of interpretive audiences;
- Explain why and how interpreters need to relate to their audience;
- Convey the importance of recognizing and providing interpretation for different learning styles;
- Understand the need for audience analysis;
- Articulate the need for conducting content related research;
- Establish the relationship between tangibles, intangibles and universals;
- Synthesize information about audience and resources and they apply to programs;
- Write a presentation outline;
- Demonstrate creative ideas to incorporate into program delivery; and
- Demonstrate understanding of the guiding principles of interpretation

The Art of Interpretive Writing

Friday, April 8th

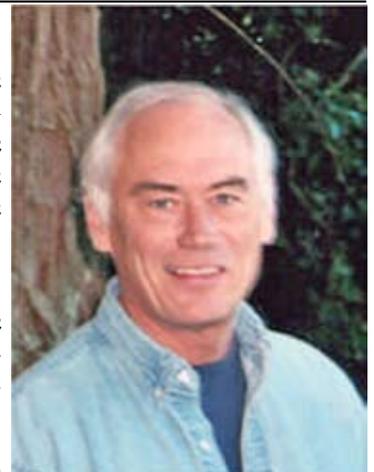
This workshop introduces you to the techniques for written interpretation. You will focus on strategies that make non-personal interpretation come close to the impact of compelling front-line interpretation. These techniques apply to your brochures, web sites, exhibits, public service announcements, books, magazine articles and other

interpretive projects. You will leave the workshop with a 42–page workbook and energized to complete your current writing projects. This training will be held at the Tahoe Rim Trail Association office in Incline Village, NV. The fee for this one day workshop is \$250.00.

Both trainings will be presented by Alan Leftridge.

Since 2002, Alan Leftridge has conducted 100 interpretive writing workshops, interpretive guide training, and visitor services seminars in North America. Dr. Leftridge became a Certified Interpretive Trainer in 2001. He is credited with 80 articles and editorials in interpretive magazines, as well as numerous texts for interpretive panels and brochures. Alan was the executive editor of *The Interpreter* magazine and *Legacy* magazine, from 1989 to 2008. He has authored four books in interpretation including, *Interpretive Writing*, *Going to Glacier*, *Glacier Day Hikes*, and *Seeley-Swan Day Hikes*.

Alan lives south of Glacier National Park in the Swan valley. Before moving to Montana, he spent 25 years teaching interpretation and environmental studies courses at Miami University, Ohio, and Humboldt State University in California. His initial training in interpretation was as a seasonal interpreter in Yellowstone National Park.



For more information, or to participate in these trainings contact: Emily-Williams, *Director of Trail Use*, emilyw@tahoerimtrail.org. (775) 298-0231

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