



## Silent Auction Patrick Boyle Region 1

OK so Christmas is over and what to do with all those gifts you received that you just don't know what to do with. Well get them to the silent auction that's what. Every year at the conference the silent auction brings in some much needed funds to help with covering the cost of the conference and as seed money for the next one. You know someone in this group would think that pink bunny pajamas with the sleeper feet from your Aunt Mildred would be just the thing they need.

But seriously, even if you can not get to the conference you can still participate by getting your auction items to any of your region directors or to someone from your area or agency that might be going. Photos, books, trips, tickets to shows, sport events, all those gift cards you do not know what to do with it, local wines and dines, things specific to your agency, anything park related, I always find a couple of items that I just have to bid on.

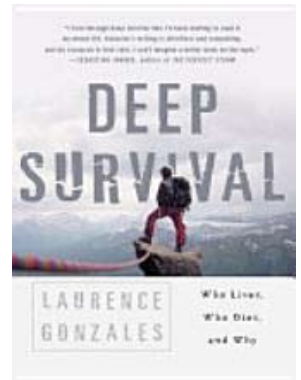
If you do not know of anyone heading to the conference give me a call and we will see what kind of magic we can bring to someone. The silent auction is a gift that gives twice ...maybe three times if your careful with how you unwrap it the first time.....

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### From the Bedside Table of Patrick Doyle

## Deep Survival: Who Lives, Who Dies, and Why

by Laurence Gonzales



I like stories of survival. Most of the accounts I've read over the years all come down to thinking your way out at some point. It is usually brains over brawn that gets you out of a tight spot. But sometimes a little muscle does not hurt. Deep Survival is not so much an account of how to survive but why your brain is either your best friend or your worst enemy. It describes why a fighter jet pilot who is getting waved off landing on an aircraft carrier with control screaming in his ear to abort, still believes he can make the landing! Even though at this point all the input is telling him there is no way he can make it. It is a technical read at times and made my brain hurt as I reached back to those Biology and Physiology classes I took all those years ago. The principles that are proposed can be used in many challenging situations by making you aware of the way your brain perceives your current predicament. For those of you who may be involved in SAR it might give you a little insight into what your missing person may be thinking. It has made me a true believer in stopping and taking the time to allow my brain to reset and actually think rather than react in certain circumstances.

Hope you get some time to do a little reading this winter.....

# Occupy Parks not Occupy Wall Street

“Let’s call it what it is.....”

**Patrick Boyle Region 1**

It seems that most of the “Occupy Movement” is centered around parks in some shape or form. For better or worse, most of us, a neighboring agency, or department has been involved in dealing with this movement. In some cases there has been a large cost involved undergoing clean up, monitoring, or removal of protesters from the green space they have chosen to occupy. Park closures and reduction in service are a true threat to the public and our quality of life. Where else are we going to go to protest as well as recreate? I came across this movement down in Mendocino County....The following was taken from Yubanet.com. As of the time for this to be sent in I have not spoken with anyone from Hendy Woods State Park.

Residents of Mendocino County’s Anderson Valley recently organized a three-day occupation of Hendy Woods State Park in an effort to save it from closure. Between 200 and 300 people gathered to occupy Hendy Woods State Park. They were protesting its closing along with 69 other state parks. Protestors had permits, paid all fees and left the park cleaner than they found it. Participants formed the Hendy Woods Community Alliance.

“The Alliance will serve to support Hendy Woods park management as it is currently run by the state, facilitate communication between the park system and the community, and create opportunities for direct community involvement in the park, should it become necessary.”

Occupy Hendy is asking other communities affected by parks closures to organize and occupy their parks. “This may look like a weekend occupation like ours, or an

indefinite occupation once the parks close,” says Occupy Hendy member Diane Sekins, “It largely depends on the community involved. We are interested in being a resource for other groups looking to save their parks.”

Any “occupy parks” movement that does not involve an area with an established campground and camping facilities puts undue pressure on the park we are charged with protecting. Day use parks and picnic areas are not meant to be used as an overnight facility. We all recognize that long term campers typically have a greater impact on the natural environment than our usual short time guests. That being said I do like the fact that the Hendy Woods movement followed the park rules with a permit and payment of their fees. Hendy Woods also has campground facilities. Many years ago my park was occupied for two weeks by a large group of forest activists using it as a base camp for their operations (protests and forest actions). Two weeks was our maximum stay limit at the time. It took a lot of patience and constant communication with everyone from the activists (protesters), law enforcement, the political powers that be, and the local community, to keep things in check and effectively attempt to manage the situation. Communication is the great equalizer in these instances. Especially in this case when trying to get the group that may be

trying to help keep your park open, to not negatively impact the park they are trying to protect and keep open. I guess I bring this up as something for all of us to be aware of as this movement attempts to identify itself and all of its complex and competing visions and forms.



This past year has been full of challenges for everyone. Sometimes it is easy to get caught up and lose sight of what really matters. While I was visiting Rocky Mountain National Park a couple years ago, I stumbled upon a bit of writing that I would like to share with you. I keep this posted by my desk and every time I need that little something to get me back on track, I take a minute and read. Without fail, I am reminded of how awesome our profession is and how thankful I am to be part of it.

Best wishes for the holidays and a happy new year!

**Shane Romain,**

Park Ranger, Region 3 Board

## **We are rangers!**

We walk the last of the wild lands, patrolling the interface between man and nature. Ours is the world of the sun and sky, cloud and storm. Ours is the world of flower and tree, rock and mountain. We rest by the waterfall and cool our feet in the deep pools of the glen.

We are rangers. We travel alone, silent caretakers of a world fast disappearing. It is not our job, rather it is our privilege, to play some small part in preserving this beauty for our children and their children beyond them. We travel alone, there are few of us, and the task which lays before us is enormous. Some say we face risk, even unnecessary risk, but in our hearts we know that it is nothing compared to the loss of the wilderness. It is nothing compared to the loss of the bear, the cougar, and the wolf. We risk all to protect that which endures beyond our individual selves, that which we love beyond all else.

We are rangers. We treat our fellow man with respect. We understand those who seek solitude in the wild places. We are teachers, to those who wish to tread for the first time on the ground made of dirt rather than concrete. We watch in delight at the smile of the visitor who first hears the bugle of the elk, the child who sees the bighorn ram, and the grandmother who reviews her life while sitting by the flowing stream.

We are rangers. We keep those who would harm the land as well as those who would harm their fellow man at bay. We care for the sick, search for the lost, assist those who cannot assist themselves. Sometimes we bring home those who would not otherwise return.

**Mark Magnuson, Chief Ranger,**

Rocky Mountain National Park

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