

# The Signpost

January-February, 2015



## Calendar of Upcoming Events 2015

- January 1<sup>st</sup>** Dues renewal and Membership Drive
- January 5<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup>** Western Section of The Wildlife Society Presents The 46<sup>th</sup> Natural Resources Communication Workshop 2015  
<http://www.calranger.org/services/training.html>
- January 8<sup>th</sup>** California Tree Failure Report Program Annual Workshop Nor Cal  
<http://www.wcisa.net/meetings/meetingdisplay.aspx?MeetingID=5549>
- January 15<sup>th</sup>** Board Conference Call 7:30
- January 30<sup>th</sup>** Mail Notices for Non Renewing Members
- January 31<sup>st</sup>** Office Managers Annual Report
- February 13<sup>th</sup>** Drop Day for Non Renewing Members
- February 15<sup>th</sup>** Deadline for *Signpost* Articles March Edition
- February 20<sup>th</sup>** California Tree Failure Report Program Annual Workshop So Cal  
<http://www.wcisa.net/meetings/meetingdisplay.aspx?MeetingID=5555>
- March 2<sup>nd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup>** CSPRA / PRAC Parks Conference San Diego  
<http://www.calranger.org/services/training.html>
- March 3<sup>rd</sup>** Annual Membership Meeting at Conference in San Diego



# How PRAC Started in 1976

by Thomas “Smitty” Smith & Raleigh Young

The year was 1976. There were eight people in attendance at a special meeting called by Raleigh Young and Bill Lawrence to discuss the development of a professional park ranger association for parks in the Bay Area.

Raleigh and then SCC park ranger Bill Lawrence had discussed such an organization for several years. At the time of the first meeting Bill was a ranger with San Mateo County. The meeting was held in Raleigh’s front yard in Steven’s Creek Park, a unit of the Santa Clara County Department of Parks and Recreation and Raleigh’s wife Suzanna fed us all pizza. Beside Raleigh and Bill, there was Tom Smith from West Valley College, Dave Laquerc, a National Park Service seasonal, Jerry Lawrence of Palo Alto, Ron McCall and John Henry of California State Parks, and Walter Cacace of the City of Santa Cruz Water Department.

The subject at the meeting was supposed to be centered upon the Bay Area but after the talks began the need was obviously there to get the whole state involved. A few months prior to this meeting West Valley College had begun an in-service training program for rangers in California. There were 60 participants at the training from all over California. At coffee breaks informal discussions had taken place that there was no organization in California that represented park rangers on a local, regional, county and statewide level.

The California Park and Recreation Society and the National Park and Recreation Association had little to offer an “on the ground,” field level park employee. The organizations were mostly recreation and urban park people and all were supervisors. Park Rangers from regional, county, and federal agencies like the Corps of Engineers, had no professional voice in the state and training for rangers was almost non-existent. Raleigh and Bill’s meeting was timely.

The two State Park Rangers who were invited because both belonged to the California State Park Rangers Association (CSPRA). We needed their guidance in where to start. PRAC also had to have a template to get started. Ron McCall had CSPRA’s Constitution and Bylaws as a guideline. PRAC’s Constitution and Bylaws were developed at later meetings.

At the end of the meeting in Raleigh’s yard, officers were “elected” by the group. They were the following:

- Acting President, Jerry Lawrence, City of Palo Alto
- Acting Vice-President and Conference Chair, Tom Smith, West Valley College
- Acting Secretary, Walter Cacace, City of Santa Cruz Water Department.

At the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of PRAC, Walt Cacace revealed that he still had copies of those minutes. The first conference in 1977 was held in San Mateo with about 50 people attending. The guest speaker at the banquet get together was Yosemite Chief Ranger Bill Wendt. There were some people outside of the Bay Area but most were local.

I do remember the discussion over who should qualify to belong to such an organization. We finally discovered that the job in many agencies was so diverse that it should be “any uniformed employee.”

An interesting upshot is that not long afterward, when I was President of PRAC, I sent the PRAC and CSPRA Constitution and Bylaws to Yellowstone to NPS Ranger Roger Rudolph. He was the secretary of a new organization being developed for federal rangers, to later become the Association of National Park Rangers. CSPRA had become the “mother” of another new park Ranger organization.

**Editors Note:** This piece was a collaboration of efforts from Smitty, Raleigh as well as others to tell the story of the beginning of PRAC. We welcome more stories that tell the history of PRAC.

We are still looking for “landscape” format park photos from members—especially of their local units—to use on subsequent revisions. These images (along with a park location) may be sent directly to [webmaster@calranger.org](mailto:webmaster@calranger.org) These will be used for telling more history of PRAC

The PRAC website has been re-designed for a better look by Pat Boyle and Jeff Price. (<http://www.calranger.org>) We hope you will find it easier to navigate.

# World Parks Congress by Jeff Ohlfs

Six thousand park supporters gathered in Sydney, Australia at the 6<sup>th</sup> World Parks Congress in early November. Jeff Ohlfs represented IRF, PLEA, CSPRA, PRAC, and ANPR at the gathering, which attracted delegates from 170 nations.

The International Ranger Federation had their largest delegation ever—more than 70 rangers, who were quite visible with their Patagonia-donated “uniform” shirts and the International Ranger Station prominently located in the exhibit pavilion. There has been great interest in the World Ranger Congress that ANPR will be hosting in 2016.

For the first time, the IRF (in partnership with The Thin Green Line Foundation) presented three awards during the closing ceremony—the Young Conservationist Award, the IRF Lifetime Achievement Award, and the Dr. Jane Goodall Hope and Inspiration Ranger Award.

The Congress is organized every 10 years by the IUCN (International Union for the Conservation of Nature) to share knowledge and set the agenda for the conservation of protected areas for the next decade. The Promise of Sydney includes the need to “protect the protectors,” the rangers who are essential to conservation work.



## Thanks for the Opportunity!

I just wanted to take a moment to say “Thank YOU!!!!” It has been a true privilege to be part of this organization and to serve you and the public. We truly are public servants in the deepest sense. I can not think of a single part of my job that is not related to public service in some way shape or form. My time serving on the board brought this theme back to me again and again. The bonds and friends I made have made me feel even more accountable to those which I serve. My weakness for y’all was in providing more training opportunities for us as a group. The Annual Conferences are a great opportunity for us to network, find solutions to common problems, and to get some much needed training. I hope y’all take part in this event and I look forward to seeing you in San Diego in March. Richard and Candi are putting together an awesome event for us. Never hesitate to let us (PRAC) know how to serve you better. It takes a great group of individuals to make a great organization. And y’all are truly a great group of talented individuals.

Thank you for letting me serve you,

**Patrick Boyle**

**From the Bedside Table of Patrick Boyle**

# **Born to Run: A Hidden Tribe, Super Athletes, and the Greatest Race the World Has Never Seen**

**by Christopher McDougall**

Ever wonder why all those folks are running through your park? Ever think they must be crazy, or what in the world are they thinking? Some are all decked out in fancy expensive shoes and running apparel, while others are out in a pair of faded running shorts and a worn out pair of running shoes. Some folks look like they are struggling and about to have a heart attack, while others just glide along effortlessly even chatting it up as they put on the miles. Why do we run?

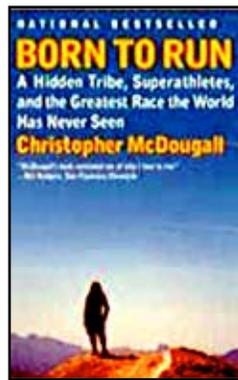
This book weaves its tale around a hidden tribe, and some interesting ultra-long distance endurance runners, culminating in 50 mile race between them all. It also goes into the science of running and some of the genetic modifications that help answer the age old question why we humans run. It then throws a wrench into everything we thought we knew about the sport of running. It delves into our evolutionary background as to why we developed large heads and butts with a skinny body frame, sacrificing physical strength for brain power? Why did we survive when it looked like the Neanderthals would be the dominate species across the planet?

Christopher started with a simple question of why does my foot hurt? As he struggled with the concept of never running again he became intrigued by those folks who ran hundreds of miles a week and did not get hurt. He researched all

the science behind the development of the running shoe and our human bodies, as he strove to answer the question why do we run? Why do we like to go barefoot? Why are we now running barefoot? He asks has the development of our brains and our need for efficiency pushed away the genetics of running to where we now consider it unhealthy to run? He heard about the Leadfoot 100 mile race in Colorado, and a mysterious tribe that outran everyone in nothing but a pair of sandals and flowing robes. From there he went in search of these folks and a crazy American who joined their culture and running style. It all comes together in a great race with all these characters in the copper canyons of Mexico.

Even if you do not like running, this is a great story about running and evolution. It will also make you look at us runners in a different light. Maybe we are all not so crazy.... Even so, I do not see any 50 or 100 mile races in my future. I still like to curl up by the fire with a good book like this one. Of course one can only read so long before I have to lace up my running or hiking shoes and take to the trail. After all, millions of years of evolution can not be wrong. We were born to run.

Hope you get a chance to do a little reading by the fire this winter and maybe get in a couple of good runs in the rain.



*A country will have authority and influence because of moral factors, not its military strength; because it can be humble and not blatant and arrogant; because our people and our country want to serve others and not dominate others. And a nation without morality will soon lose its influence around the world.*

**Jimmy Carter**

*Our Endangered Values*

# Volunteers, Couldn't Do It Without Them

**Shane Romain, Region 3  
Senior Park Ranger, City of Chico**

2014 was a year of challenges and change. The park and ranger staff was reduced significantly, the City nearly went bankrupt, transient activity was like never before, and the City Manager resigned. It was a year to think creatively and ask for help! Chico's Park Watch volunteers were ready to meet the challenge.

Park Watch volunteers work for the benefit of the visitors, wildlife and trails of Chico's parks and greenways. They act as ambassadors to the parks by providing visitors with information and advising park staff about damage, hazards, vandalism and any other concerns they encounter while in the park. The problem I was finding was that the volunteers would report the problems but there was not enough staff to respond. The Park Watch program needed to adapt to the changes in the city as well.

The challenge put to the Park Watch membership was as they witnessed things in the park that needed attention, instead of merely reporting it, think of a simple way to address it. At the next monthly Park Watch meeting, the ideas started to flow.

The information kiosks throughout the park were looking shabby. The rangers did not have the time to keep up on the maintenance and change out of info. The idea of adopting a bulletin board came about. The Park Watchers who adopted the bulletin boards made them look better than they had in years. Some looked so good in fact, I felt they needed special recognition. The Park Watcher of the Month program was born.

Every month the membership nominates a Park Watch volunteer that they think should become Park Watcher of the month. At the monthly meeting, the advisory committee takes a vote and the monthly honoree is chosen. Twice a year those that have been named Park Watcher of the month will be publically recognized by the Bidwell Park and Playground Commission.

Over the years the Park Watch program has had ups and downs and has gone through some chang-

es. The most recent changes of monthly recognition have had a very positive effect. The rangers put on a yearly volunteer recognition BBQ. The BBQ is great but year-round acknowledgement and thanks to volunteers goes a lot further.

If your agency is interested in starting a similar program or has one in place, I would like to hear from you. ([region3@calranger.org](mailto:region3@calranger.org)) I would be happy to supply any information that would help start a program or compare notes with an existing program. The City of Chico Park Watch volunteers have been very helpful to both the visitors of the parks and to park staff. With our limited resources these volunteers have proved to be a very valuable asset to helping keep our parks clean, safe and fun places to visit.



Seven people were honored as Park Watch Volunteer of the Month for the months of May through November during the November meeting of the Bidwell Park and Playground Commission. With Senior Ranger Shane Romain (rear) are (left to right) Edgar Ovalee, Sharon Stern, Elaina McReynolds, Jean Andrews, Carla Moreno and Mike Preimesberger. Linda Gilmore was absent for the photo. Park Watchers act as ambassadors of the park by providing visitors with information and advising park staff about damage, hazards, vandalism, and any concerns they encounter while in the park. The organization celebrated its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year.

# Legal Update

**Deputy District Attorney (Ret.) Robert Phillips, San Diego County**

**Penal Code 69; Resisting an Executive Officer:**

**People v. Bernal (Dec. 20, 2013) 222 Cal.App.4th 512**

**Rule:** Penal Code 69 is violated merely by a suspect's forceful or violent resistance to the officer's attempts to perform his duty. The force or violence need not be directed towards the officer.

**Facts:** Defendant, who belonged to Escondido's Westside street gang, committed a strong-arm robbery on September 21, 2011, and a residential burglary on November 30. Between these two offenses, on October 13, he and two companions were contacted by two Escondido P.D. police officers while on one of Escondido's bike paths at about 11:30 p.m. Officers Michael Duong and Russell Whitaker were on bicycle patrol on the bike path in an area claimed by the Diablos street gang; a rival to the Westside gang. The bike path was closed after dark and was subject to a gang injunction. As Officers Duong and Whitaker approached the subjects, one of them tried to dump a steak knife he had in his pocket. Officer Duong secured the knife and handcuffed that subject. Officer Whitaker contacted defendant and patted him down for weapons, recovering an axe from his front waistband. After removing the axe, Officer Whitaker attempted to handcuff defendant by standing behind him and holding onto his left hand as he retrieved his handcuffs from his belt. As the officer attempted to put the handcuffs on, defendant pushed the officer in the chest and started to run. Officer Whitaker dropped the handcuffs and grabbed defendant around his waist with both hands. Defendant dragged Officer Whittaker with him as he ran, jerking his hips a couple times back and forth, attempting to shake off the officer's hold.

Defendant dragged Officer Whittaker about eight or ten yards down the bike path until they both fell to the ground. Officer Duong caught up with them and helped handcuff defendant. Officer Whittaker, who was wearing shorts, suffered bruised and scraped knees in the altercation. After being arrested on November 30, for the subsequent residential burglary case, defendant was charged in state court with a pile of offenses including P.C. 69 from the above described

October 13<sup>th</sup> resisting arrest offense. A jury convicted him of five of those charges including the P.C. 69. He appealed from his 11 year, 8 month prison sentence.

**Held:** The Fourth District Court of Appeal (Div. 1) affirmed. On appeal, defendant argued that

his P.C. 69 conviction should be reversed because there was no evidence that he'd used force or violence "against or on" Officer Whitaker when he attempted to escape from him. Penal Code 69 provides, in pertinent part, that; "Every person who (1) attempts, by means of any threat or violence, to deter or prevent an executive officer from performing any duty imposed upon such officer of the law, or (2) who knowing resists, by the use of force or violence, such officer, in the performance of his duty, is punishable . . . (as a felony)." (Parenthesis, numbers, and italics added) The statute thus provides two theories under which a person can be prosecuted. Defendant was prosecuted under the second provision, highlighted by italics above. Looking at the elements of this offense, the Court noted that there is no requirement that a person use force or violence "against or on" an executive officer. The statute requires only that the defendant "knowingly resists" the officer by the use of force or violence. It is this forceful resistance of an officer by itself that gives rise to a violation of P.C. 69, without the necessity that the prosecution prove that the force or violence was directed towards the officer. In this case, defendant forcefully attempted to flee from Officer Whittaker as the officer tried to handcuff him. Upon pushing away from the officer, defendant forcefully jerked his hips from side to side in an attempt to break Officer Whittaker's grip on him. This is all that is required to violate 69. Defendant was therefore properly convicted of this offense.

**Note:** Penal Code 69 is perhaps one of the most under-used statutes in the Penal Code, with P.C. 148 (a misdemeanor resisting) being preferred, and for reasons I've never fully understood. The only reason I can see is that no one (or at least, very few people) understand the difference between the two offenses. And more importantly, there seems to be a popular misconception that police officers (who qualify as "executive officers," by the way) are expected to put their bodies at risk merely because they are police officers. I still get questions whether it's true that police officers can-not be the victims of certain offenses, such as a challenge to fight or loud noise. (It's not true.) This particular case is a good step in the right direction towards changing this mindset to a more rational way of thinking



## 2015 California Parks Training – Registration Form

Activities/ Meals - 2 breakfasts, 2 lunches and dinner banquet included noted with - \* - are included with **Full Registration** – **\*Do not** include these fees in the total amount if you are a **FULL** registrant.

<b>MONDAY ACTIVITIES</b>	<i>Fee</i>	<i>Qty.</i>	<i>Amount</i>
<i>Monday Activities are off-site, and are not included with Full Registration.</i>			
California Wolf Center Tour at 3pm <b>RSVP Required!</b>	Free		
<b>Additional Activities To Be Announced!</b>			
*Parks Welcome Reception			
<i>Total:</i>			\$

<b>TUESDAY ACTIVITIES</b>	<i>Fee</i>	<i>Qty.</i>	<i>Amount</i>
*LUNCH (INCLUDED IN FULL REGISTRATION) BUFFET:	\$60.00		
Dinner and Movie at Cabrillo Lighthouse	\$50.00		
<i>Total:</i>			\$

<b>WEDNESDAY ACTIVITIES</b>	<i>Fee</i>	<i>Qty.</i>	<i>Amount</i>
*LUNCH (INCLUDED IN FULL REGISTRATION) BUFFET:	\$60.00		
*Evening Banquet (INCLUDED WITH FULL REGISTRATION) Buffet Style	\$75		
<i>Total:</i>			\$

<b>THURSDAY TRAINING AND ACTIVITIES</b>	<i>Fee</i>	<i>Qty.</i>	<i>Amount</i>
<i>(Extended Training Sessions, not included with Full Registration)</i>			
TBD			
<i>Total:</i>			\$

Basic Registration & Daily Activities (Calculate above totals)	\$
Conference T-shirt (Transfer total from other side of this form)	\$
Late Registration Fee - After February 5 <sup>th</sup> Members & Non-members, add \$25. Students, add \$25	\$
<b>At the door Registration</b> – Members & Non-member, \$300. Students, \$275. Total:	-
<b>CALIFORNIA PARKS TRAINING 2015 Grand Total:</b>	\$

### Method of Payment

\_\_\_\_\_ Full Payment Enclosed (Check or Money Order) - Payable to California Parks Training Conference (CPTC)

Bank Credit Card  Visa  MasterCard Account # \_\_\_\_\_

Digit Security Code \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

Card Holder's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**PayPal Payment to: [cptc@cspra.com](mailto:cptc@cspra.com)**

Although meals are included with Full Registration, I will not be attending Tuesday Lunch \_\_\_\_\_, Wednesday Lunch \_\_\_\_\_, Wednesday Banquet \_\_\_\_\_. My meal ticket may be given to volunteers attending the Training.

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**SUBMISSION DEADLINES ARE THE 15<sup>TH</sup> OF FEBRUARY, APRIL, JUNE, AUGUST, OCTOBER, AND DECEMBER.**

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NAME _____		
ADDRESS _____		
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EMPLOYER OR SCHOOL _____		
JOB CLASSIFICATION OR MAJOR _____		

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**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 \_\_\_\_\_

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