

CLEAR TEXT:
WASO Ranger Activities'
Electronic Newsletter

June 4, 1993

CHIEF RANGERS' COMMENTS

These are busy days in Ranger Activities. The new administration is getting in gear, and we've been very busy providing briefings on issues, responding to requests for information, and initiating or supporting new projects. Because of this, we're a little light on news this issue. We should have more for you on several matters - including 6(c) benefits and Ranger Futures - by the next time CLEAR TEXT comes out.

Thanks for bearing with us...

FY 94 EMPLOYEE DEVELOPMENT REQUESTS

Ranger Activities has submitted its reply to Employee Development's call for FY 94 training requests. The following seven courses are listed in priority order:

- * Wilderness Management Correspondence Course - Funding to allow 25 wilderness managers to take Colorado State University's highly regarded wilderness management correspondence course.
- * Resource Protection - An 80-hour course which would focus on environmental crimes, ARPA, paleontological resources, and wildlife and plant poaching.
- * Advanced Position Management for Protection Managers - A 40-hour course to instruct protection and interpretation managers on 6(c) claims, Ranger Futures, the FLEPRA pay study and related issues affecting position management in the protection function.
- * Managing the Protection Function - Continuation of the current, well-received 40-hour course focusing on all aspects of protection management, including law enforcement, fire, EMS, physical security, concession, aviation, CISD, fees, and cultural and natural resource management.
- * Special Park Uses Instructors' Workshop - A 40-hour course for instructors on all aspects of special park uses, including First Amendment and Native American rights, special events, commercial filming, drafting and processing rights-of-way, fees, and cost recovery.
- * Wilderness Management for Managers - A 40-hour course which would instruct wilderness managers in laws and practices pertaining to wilderness management.
- * NPS Health and Fitness Coordinators' Training - A 40-hour course on implementing and managing physical fitness programs.

FLETC REPRESENTATIVE

Tom Cherry has been appointed as acting agency representative for the National Park Service at FLETC, effective June 2nd. Tom will remain in this position until a selection is made and a new agency representative arrives at the center.

NOTES FROM THE PARKS

Lowell

The park completed the 1992-93 DARE program for Lowell schools in January. This year, 206 fifth grade students from seven classes graduated from the program. This figure compares favorably with last year's graduating class of 204. Rangers Patrick Carnahan and Timothy-John Donovan presented the DARE programs. Plans are underway to present a DARE summer camp during August of this year. This is the first attempt in the nation at presenting the DARE program in condensed, one-week versions. Two summer camps are planned. Each will target 200 high-risk Lowell area fourth graders. Content of the camp programs will include the core DARE curriculum, safety issues, environmental awareness, self-esteem, and team building activities. The camps are a cooperative venture by a number of groups, including the NPS, Massachusetts National Guard, Massachusetts Governor's Alliance Against Drugs, Massachusetts State Police, Massachusetts DARE Officers' Association, Lowell Police and the city of Lowell. If you'd like more information on this program, contact either Patrick Carnahan or Timothy-John Donovan at Lowell (508-459-1049).

Voyageurs

Four members of the Russian fire management team visited the park on May 26th and 27th - Yevgenii Shuktamov, deputy head of the National Forest Center in Moscow; Vadim Melker, deputy head of the Western Ural Fire Center in Perm; Alexei Shchedrin, chief of the Segezha subdivision of the Northwestern Forest Fire Center in Petozavodsk; and Nikolay Beliaev, forest specialist in the Vologda Regional Administration and team interpreter. The group was accompanied by Superior NF FMO Rick Lasko. Steve Jakala, the park's FMO, provided a two-day orientation to the park's prescribed fire burns, study plots, and mobile fire weather station. Differences and similarities in wildfire, prescribed fire, and prescribed management fire were discussed.

The Russians are organized much as we are, with a central coordination center in Moscow (similar to NIFCC) and regional coordination centers throughout the country. They rely totally on smokejumpers, rappellers, and heavy lift helicopters with water buckets. Their smokejumper operations are comparable to BLM smokejumpers in that they jump square ram-air parachutes with small stabilizing chutes that are opened by static lines. Over the past few years, the Russians have begun to test air tankers and are very interested in water bombers similar to the Canadian CL-215, which can scoop water from lakes.

The Russians were very interested in the monitoring of fire effects and fire behavior predictions. It was difficult for them to comprehend natural fire and management ignited fires, since all fires are suppressed in Russia. During further discussions, however, they did say that fires are not suppressed in some areas because of economics. In the north central portion of Siberia, fires are allowed to burn because it is not considered to be commercial forest land and there are very few settlements.

A couple of other interesting notes:

- * Member of the Russian fire organization can retire at age 60. Smokejumpers can retire after 17 years if they've jumped all those years.
- * The Russian fire prevention symbol is a moose, a.k.a. "Smokey the Moose."
- * The Russians have a vaccine to prevent Lyme disease. Workers in areas where it occurs are required to get shots each year.

Grand Canyon

On May 7th, 16-year-old Manuel Norman, Jr., was recognized by the NPS, the Coconino County Sheriffs Department and the Grand Canyon Public Safety Officers Association at his home in Texas for his actions during the Danny Horning incident last summer. On June 26th, Horning took Norman and three of his family members hostage at gunpoint in a busy parking area at the South Rim. He said that he planned to take the family and two other people hostage for a later ransom exchange, and specifically threatened to shoot Norman with a .44 caliber revolver if he made any attempt to flee. Norman saw ranger Don Miller's marked unit on patrol in the area, waited for Horning to look away, then ran and flagged Miller down. Norman's escape led to the pursuit that resulted in all of Horning's hostages being freed unharmed and in the manhunt that eventually resulted in his capture. Miller and deputy Jim Coffey, who was also present during the attempt to kidnap Norman's family, presented the awards - letters recognizing his courage and valor from both the park's superintendent and the county sheriff, a plaque, and numerous other items. The ceremony was hosted by the police department in his home town.

Grand Canyon/Wupatki

On May 3rd and 4th, rangers from the two parks ran the Arizona Special Olympics torch 80 miles from Grand Canyon's east entrance to Interstate 40. The torch run started in northern Arizona at the Glen Canyon Dam and was carried about 400 miles to Phoenix by officers from several jurisdictions. Rangers picked up the torch from Navajo police department officers at Desert View and handed it off to Coconino deputies in Williams. Rangers Ronnie Gibson and Bill Hudson coordinated the Grand Canyon/Wupatki leg of the eighth annual run; over 30 rangers from the two parks participated. Runners braved 30 mile per hour headwinds during much of the event. The NPS contingent raised over \$1,500 in pledges for Special Olympics. The torch run is a nationwide event and had an Arizona goal of raising \$200,000.

VACANCIES AND OPM REGISTER OPENINGS

No submissions this week.

QUESTIONS?

Is there something you'd like to know about that we can answer? Let us know and we'll publish the question and answer in an upcoming edition of Clear Text. Please be sure to specify that the question is for response in this newsletter, as questions also come in via cc:Mail which are for individual staff member response. If you've got a question that needs answering, it's likely that other rangers will also be interested in the reply.

Clear Text is the bi-weekly electronic newsletter of the Ranger Activities Division in WASO. It is distributed via cc:Mail to all ranger training and operations centers (FLETC, HOAL, STMA, NIFC), regional office ranger divisions, park chief rangers, and other interested parties. If you would like to get it but don't currently receive it, please advise Ranger Activities via a short cc:Mail message. Any office may receive it, including districts and subdistricts within a park. PLEASE pass it along to others in your division and park.

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