

CLEAR TEXT:
WASO Ranger Activities'
Electronic Newsletter

March 4, 1994

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. Short submissions for the last four sections of the report - Field Notes; Park Exchange; Vacancies, Register Openings and Details; and Calendar - are welcome and encouraged.

Next issue: March 18, 1994
Submission deadline: March 16, 1994

MOUNTAINEERING MANAGEMENT COST RECOVERY

The Service is seeking comments on the new policy designed to increase safety and defray the cost of mountaineering operations on Mount McKinley and Mount Foraker in Denali. The proposed policy, which was developed with input from mountaineers and other park visitors, is to be implemented for the 1995 climbing season. Its objective is to prevent accidents and reduce the need for expensive rescues. The main components are as follows:

* Pre-registration will be required 60 days in advance of the beginning of the climb.

* Education programs will be expanded. These will include the translation of the mountaineering booklet into six languages, starting a voice mail telephone system capable of providing information in several languages, and more active participation in domestic and foreign mountaineering and climbing conferences (a third of Denali's climbers are from outside the U.S.).

* A \$200 per person fee will be collected to offset the cost of managing mountaineering activities on the two mountains. The fee will apply only to those two popular and challenging peaks. The fee will help offset the cost of positioning acclimatized rescue personnel and staffing the 14,000-foot camp, operating the high-altitude helicopter, and rescuing climbers.

Written comments on the proposal are being accepted by the Service from March 1st to April 15th. Comments should be addressed to Superintendent, Box 9M, Denali National Park and Preserve, Alaska 99755. Public testimony on the proposal will be taken at meetings in Fairbanks, Talkeetna, Anchorage and Seattle during the week of March 27th.

36 CFR REVIEW

A task group has been established to review 36 CFR Part 2 regulations. They are basing their initial review on the comments provided to WASO Ranger Activities in May, 1992. The group has had one meeting and has another scheduled for later this month. The group plans to have a draft ready for Servicewide review this summer. Anyone with additional comments, concerns or

sections of Part 2 that they feel need to be reviewed should contact Bruce McKeeman, chief ranger at Voyageurs. He can be reached via cc:Mail or phone (218=283-9821).

ANTI-LOOTING CONFERENCE

Conservation Environment Historic Preservation (CEHP), Inc., a Washington-based archeology support group, will be holding an anti-looting conference in conjunction with other interested organizations this coming September at a location that has not yet been determined.

As a leader in the field of ARPA investigations, the NPS will be offered invitations to the conference. Bob Marriott has been nominated as the chairman of the work group on law enforcement activities having to do with ARPA and anti-looting initiatives. He will be contacting all law enforcement organizations and will invite a number of people to join his work group and share information and ideas. If you're interested in attending, please contact him so you can be placed on a mailing list. Bob's on cc:Mail by name, or can be called at 202-208-4206.

UNIFORM COMMITTEE MEETING

Although the following report on the uniform committee meeting was transmitted to all park uniform program administrators last week, we've been asked to retransmit important program information in CLEAR TEXT.

The Servicewide uniform committee, which is comprised of the ten regional uniform coordinators and two representatives from field maintenance divisions, met during the last week of January, primarily to review pending uniform recommendations. We looked at about 50 recommendations (the number depended on how you counted them) over the course of three days. Most were accepted, but several were not. Regional uniform coordinators will be advising people from their regions who made recommendations as to our final decisions.

The following actions will be undertaken over the next year or so. Please keep in mind that NO changes can be made at present because the current contract is in its final year and we are in the midst of soliciting and reviewing proposals for the coming contract. It will therefore likely take some time before we can attain all these objectives. Also keep in mind that most of these are not locked in; they are subject to the findings of needs assessments and wear tests, pricing, fabric availability, vendor availability and other considerations. In any case, we will be examining the following actions:

- * Work with the contractor to identify a source for long-sleeve and short-sleeve service dress and twill shirts from 100% wrinkle-free cotton or a blend with a high percentage of cotton (to augment existing shirts).
- * Seek a broad-brimmed dark green washable hat with a strap and vents that can be used by employees wearing the Class A Field and Work and Class B uniforms in areas where skin protection is critical, but the Class A stetson or Class B western hat are inappropriate.
- * Conduct a Servicewide needs assessment to determine whether or not winter gloves, rain slickers, wool jackets and/or lightweight jackets and pants are needed, and, if so, determine what specs or models are recommended.
- * Work with contractor on redesign of current work jacket, which some consider either too restrictive and/or short and too warm in some working

conditions (needs assessment may be conducted in conjunction with above).

- * Redesign rain/wind pants to add velcro strap for wear with law enforcement equipment belts.
- * Extend size range on gaiters and make several recommended design changes.
- * Conduct a needs assessment to determine what types of shorts are needed and in what work circumstances.
- * Work with contractor to revise specifications for jeans and pants to make them roomier.
- * Conduct a needs assessment to determine the breadth of desire for 100% (or high blend) wool pants.
- * Check with areas employing boat shoes to determine if they should remain in the uniform program, and, if so, what model should be acquired.
- * Acquire low-heeled dress pumps for women's formal dress uniform.
- * Switch to an all-wool pullover sweater with backing for name tag and badge.

In addition to the above actions, we are working to resolve several current problems with uniform suppliers:

- * Dress shirt - The company that makes the current heather gray poly/cotton broadcloth formal dress shirt has notified R&R that they have suspended manufacture of that garment. No other company makes a similar shirt. We are therefore looking at alternatives. The committee endorsed seeking a white all-cotton alternative, which we are now doing.
- * Western hat - We are having serious problems in finding a vendor that will provide us with a Class B western hat in a color that is even close to the current version, which is no longer manufactured. Efforts will continue.

EMERGENCY LAW AND ORDER TRAINING

The dates and location for the training session on emergency law and order (EL&O) funding requests have been locked in. The session will be held on April 6th and 7th at Lake Mead. As noted before, the program will consist of a "tabletop" exercise which will culminate in the actual preparation of a model accounting package. Completion of this program will result in the employee being fully versed in all facets of the EL&O funding process. All regional law enforcement specialists, all regional budget officers with EL&O oversight, representatives from parks who've had difficulty with prior EL&O submissions, and ARM and SET team finance officers should attend. Training costs will be charged to benefitting accounts. For further information, contact Major Dale Dickerhoof in this office. Responses need to be in to Dale by COB, March 18th.

AVIATION AWARDS

Pete Armington, the chief ranger at Curecanti, received the Secretary's Award for Outstanding Contributions in Aviation Safety at last week's DOI aviation safety seminar. The award was presented by Claudia Schecter from the Office of the Secretary. Pete was the only DOI employee to receive the award.

Bruce Lenon of Lake Mead and Scott Evans of Voyageurs were also presented awards for accident free flying while performing duties as NPS pilots.

Our congratulations to all three of them for jobs well done!

FIRE EXHIBITS

The WASO Branch of Fire and Aviation Management and National Capital Region are preparing several exhibits pertaining to fire in conjunction with other agencies in DOI. If you have photographs or items appropriate for such exhibits, we'd like to see them. We're also interested in information on fire exhibits and interpretive programs created in parks. Please send photocopies of photos or other information to Dana Dierkes at this office or fax it to her at 202-208-5977. Materials should be clearly marked with the name of the person who sent it, his/her park's name, a phone number, and information on what the item depicts and where it originated (i.e. incident name, photographer's name). If we can use the actual photo or item, we'll give you a call. Please also ask your contacts in BLM, FWS and BIA for related material. We need to receive these items by March 31st (extended "deadline"). Any slides specifically depicting fire in a wildland/urban interface setting would be greatly appreciated. Please include the incident date and where it occurred. The slides will not be returned, but will instead be used in an S-205 ("Fire Operations in the Urban Interface") course - and possibly in an exhibit. If you have any questions, call Dana at 202-208-5573.

FIELD NOTES

Golden Gate

On Tuesday, February 22nd, the first members of the NPS fire department at the Presidio reported for duty, including an assistant fire chief, fire captains, a fire inspector, and firefighter/paramedics. Other personnel will be coming on during this month and in the beginning of April. The Service is scheduled to assume all structural fire, fire inspection and EMS services on the Presidio on April 3rd.

White Sands

On March 1st, White Sands began prohibiting the possession or consumption of alcoholic beverages and the possession of alcoholic beverage containers in the park. Such beverages were prohibited within the park from 1933 to 1978; since the restriction was lifted, alcohol-related incidents have become unmanageable and have led to a deterioration in public enjoyment of the park. The prohibition will create an environment more in tune with the purposes for which White Sands was created in 1933; that is, "to preserve the white sands and additional features of scenic, scientific and educational interest."

Big South Fork

The Service recently acquired a 9.2 acre parcel of land outside of park boundaries in McCreary County, Kentucky, from the U.S. Marshall's Service. This land contains several structures that will soon become the Kentucky District ranger station, a visitor contact facility, and a fire cache. The property was seized in 1986 by DEA when a clandestine methamphetamine lab was discovered there. The property owner was sentenced to a lengthy prison term, but the disposition of the property was challenged by his family and subsequently tied-up for years in federal court. In 1993, the property was divided in an out-of-court settlement, and the government received the tract.

Park managers had been interested in the property since it was seized. Even though the NPS had to satisfy an outstanding mortgage and pay the costs of hazardous materials surveys, the value of the property greatly exceeded these costs. The park's enabling legislation allows the acquisition of land outside of authorized boundaries for administrative purposes.

PARK EXCHANGE

WASO Ranger Activities

We have a Swintec model 8014-S typewriter that we're surveying. Anyone need one? If so, call Tina Josey at 202-208-4874.

VACANCIES, REGISTER OPENINGS AND DETAILS

No listings this issue.

DIVISIONAL TRAVEL

This Week

3/6-3/11	Spruill	Aviation management seminar, Atlanta, GA
3/7-3/9	Botti, Broyles	WRO FMO meeting, Las Vegas, NV
3/6-3/9	Zimmerman	EPS conformity workshop, Washington, DC
3/9-3/11	Zimmerman	NWCG, PFFEWT, Fort Apache, AZ
3/9-3/11	Sisto	Regional ecosystem meeting, Sacramento, CA
3/9-3/20	Farrell	WRO FMO meeting and SAFER meeting, Las Vegas, NV
3/10-3/13	Cook	Filming for NPS fire policy video, Olympia, WA

March 13 - 19

3/14-3/18	Clark	ARO prevention analysis, Anchorage/Fairbanks, AK
3/14-3/18	Zimmerman	COSW site review, Hopkins, SC
3/15-3/18	Spruill, Henry	Airspace meeting, Flagstaff, AZ

March 20 - 26

3/21-3/25	Gale	Lead instructor for AR/WR Type II incident management team training, Lake Mead, NV
3/21-3/25	Spruill	DOI aviation policy manual revision, Denver, CO
3/22-4/1	Botti	AL

March 27 - April 2

3/28-4/1	Brady, Sanders	Ranger Futures implementation teams training, Albuquerque, NM
3/29-3/31	Gale	S-520/620 steering committee, Phoenix, AZ

April 4 - April 10

4/4-4/8	Brady, Martin, RAD Staff	CANCELED: Regional chief rangers' meeting, Phoenix, AZ
---------	--------------------------	--

April 11 - April 17

4/10-4/25 Broyles Fire Management for Agency Administrators,
NARTC, Marana, AZ
4/11-15 Halainen AL

April 18 - April 24

*** No travel yet scheduled ***

April 25 - May 1

*** No travel yet scheduled ***

May 2 - May 8

5/2-5/6 Broyles NWCG training working team, Phoenix, AZ

May 9 - May 15

5/16-5/19 Broyles Southeast Region FMO meeting, Knoxville,
TN
5/23-5/27 Broyles NWCG safety and health working team, Salt
Lake City, UT

If you would like to get CLEAR TEXT 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.

Prepared by WASO Division of Ranger Activities

Telephone: Branch of R&VP - 202-208-4874
 Branch of F&A (WASO) - 202-208-5572
Telefax: Branch of R&VP - 202-208-6756
 Branch of F&A (WASO) - 202-208-5977
cc:Mail: Branch of R&VP - WASO Ranger Activities
 Branch of F&A (WASO) - WASO Fire and Aviation
SkyPager: Emergencies ONLY - 1-800-759-7243, PIN 2404843