

The

YELLOWSTONE

News



November 18, 1994

NPS Employee Newsletter

Next Deadline: November 28

Smith Bids Farewell

Thanks to all of you for the advice and counsel you have given me during the last 7 weeks and for the patience you showed as I tried to understand the complexity of the issues that the staff of Yellowstone faces. As I have told some of you, this has been an unbelievably nostalgic revisit of the park for me. Much has changed since I worked for 11 summers here as a seasonal ranger. What hasn't changed is the significance of park resources and the dedication of park employees toward preserving and protecting the cultural and natural values for which Yellowstone was established. Now that I am no longer an NPS employee, just a regular American taxpayer, I want you all to know how proud I am of the work you do on our behalf.

We are entering the holiday season now, a magic time of year. Kathy and I wish you and your families the happiest of holidays. I am convinced that you and Mike will work together to make 1995 a memorable one. Good luck and God speed.

Rick Smith

Awards Presented

Acting Superintendent Rick Smith presented 10-year length of service awards to Diana Schall from Procurement and Ken Schall from the Plumbing Shop. Skip Meehan was presented with a Level V Performance Award. Congratulations to all!

Yellowstone Begins Horse Breeding Program

The next time you're in the Stephen's Creek area stop by the corrals and ask to see Yellowstone's newest arrival. "Stephen's Creek Blue", was born in April and is the first of many new colts and fillies that will become a part of Yellowstone's own horse breeding operation. In the early 1960s, Yellowstone raised most of their own saddle horses until it became cost effective to purchase them locally or at auction.

Recently, park management has been asked why Yellowstone has decided to start raising their own stock. To answer these concerns the park has written a letter to interested parties explaining why Yellowstone has had to consider alternatives to purchasing saddle horses for park operations.

The letter explains that during the past five years, market prices for good saddle horses have risen dramatically, while the availability of quality horses has diminished. Leasing horses has been considered; however, the quality and quantity of horses available for lease is either unsatisfactory or cost prohibitive. The horses that the park could afford under a lease agreement are generally marginal for park operations, would require extensive retraining, and have proven to be a liability to the safety of park employees.

In the past, the park staff has had to put purchased stock through an extensive training and evaluation program before the animals could be used in park operations. Park management believes that the park can raise and develop better saddle horses at lower cost to the government than they can currently buy. Wally Wines, Yellowstone's Horse Handler Supervisor believes that the "price Yellowstone has been paying for saddle horses is too high and now ranges from \$1,500 to \$1,800." This does not include the time and retraining effort it takes to prepare these animals for their duties in the Yellowstone backcountry.

Park horse-handlers will have more control over the temperament and conformation of young horses and, as a result, will have better horses to work with in the training program. "When we can raise our own stock, it should take three to four years to train them for lighter duties and at about five years old they should be ready to be ridden by the rangers and other staff." said Wines. At this age they are now ready to assume their full duties and are trained to handle the rigorous backcountry trails and packing responsibilities they are subjected to on a regular basis.

The Chief Ranger's Office has extended the opportunity to park employees to lend a hand in naming the new horses. Employees can submit names to the Chief Ranger's Office for consideration and become involved in Yellowstone's newest equine project.

Barbee Hails From Alaska....

Maybe the hardest thing Carol and I ever did was drive down the road (misty-eyed) through the arch and head north. Yellowstone has been such a big part of our lives for nearly 12 years. We shook off our second thoughts and headed for another amazing place. Of course, we miss Yellowstone; yet most of all, we miss you, those who we know well and those who we wish we had known better. You are the ones who give Yellowstone that essential ingredient. It's been nearly two months since we enjoyed that wonderful send-off. For those of you who could come, it was a great party, and we wanted to especially thank those who helped put it all together.

Jean and Jan, Marsha and Cheryl - our compliments on the planning, staging, etc. Tom Tankersley and Paul Schullery - the scripts were masterpieces and put me in a much deserved "perspective." John Good, if you want to start a new career, try emceeing; and Eleanor, when you're weary of Federal Highway projects, consider plying your decorative/artistic talents. Dan Krapf can take up logo design. Mother

Joy Perius, your babysitting service made it all possible for the moms and dads. Virgil Hall, Carol has your Virgil-crafted arrowhead displayed proudly on the wall. John Varley, my "flattering" Time cover is carefully displayed in a dark corner. And, oh yes - you historic characters, Debbie and Bill Young, Lee Whittlesey, Rich Jehle, Tom Roberts, and Norm Bishop, consider opening up a dinner theater. Jim Peaco could sell videos.

Colonel Mernin should be pleased to know that arctic explorer Roger Siglin has inspected the low-tech stove you gave us. He has approved and is considering getting one for his 3,000-mile transarctic crossing this spring.

This, of course, is just our way of saying thank you all from the bottom of our hearts for everything.

Our very best wishes always,

Bob and Carol Barbee

Personnel News

by Mary Heller, Personnel Office

Seasonals Go Permanent

After working seasonally the last two summers, **Daniel Diefenbach** has accepted a permanent Motor Vehicle Operator position at Old Faithful. Congratulations, Daniel!

Those of you who have come to know **Carrie Taylor** from her seasonal work in Concessions the last couple of years, and in her many volunteer capacities, will be pleased to know she has accepted a permanent appointment as a Communications Technician. Best of luck in your new position, Carrie!

Open Season Begins

Open season for both the Health and Thrift Savings Plans has begun. These seasons will close December 12 and January 31, respectively. Now would be a good time to evaluate your selections in each and decide if any changes need to be made. Call Rosanne Riley in the Personnel Office for information.

News From Little People's Learning Center

The winner of the handmade "Yellowstone Quilt" was **Ginny Cowan**. Many thanks to Mary Hudson and all her helpers and those who participated by buying and selling tickets. Congratulations to **Mary Hektnar** the winner of the pillowcase and a \$50 certificate to the Gardiner Food Farm for selling the most tickets.

It's See's Candy ordering time again. There will be people selling See's Candy at the booth at the Gardiner Christmas Stroll on Saturday, December 10. If you'd like to pre-order contact Deb Bahr at 344-7378 by Tuesday, Nov. 11.

Attention Birders

The date for the annual Gardiner-Mammoth Christmas Bird Count has been set for Sunday, December 18. As usual it will be a lot of fun. For more information contact Terry McEneaney at 344-2148 or 848-7942, or look for a more detailed announcement in this newsletter in early December.

For Your Health

A Message from the Safety Office

- 1) Please do not leave vehicles running unattended during the winter.
- 2) Be courteous when vehicles are running near offices so employees inside are not exposed to carbon monoxide.
- 3) Remember to shut off your vehicle while refueling as gasoline vapors could be ignited by the vehicle's engine.

The Yellowstone News is a bi-weekly newsletter for NPS employees and is published by the Public Affairs Office. To submit articles, ads, or notice of events contact:

Jan Laye, Editor, 344-2003

Happy Thanksgiving!!!

CLASSIFIED ADS

Housesitter Needed:

Having houseguests over Christmas and need some extra room? Do we have a deal for you! We're in need of a house and dog sitter December 23 through January 7. Comes with hot tub and all. Give us a call if interested. 344-7447.

Employment Opportunity:

The Yellowstone Association is looking for a full-time Membership Coordinator, and hopes to fill the position as soon as possible. The Membership Coordinator will have primary responsibility for developing and managing the Association's membership/donor program. In addition to maintaining membership records, the position is also responsible for writing, editing and producing the quarterly membership newsletter, and for planning and coordinating several member's meetings during the year. The annual salary for the position is \$20,500 plus paid holidays and vacations, a flexible benefit program and company-paid retirement plan. For a complete job description, contact Debbie Chambers at the Yellowstone Association at 307-344-2289.

For Sale:

Helitack hats are in for those interested, \$12. Christmas colors available. Call the Cache at 2187.

For Sale:

Antiques!!! Beautiful antique cupboard, oak buffet with mirror, rocking chair, and serpentine front chest of drawers--all in excellent condition. Call Judy Churchwell at 848-7290 after 5:00 p.m.

For Sale:

Fischer E-99 Touring Skis (200 cm), waxable, metal-edged, with Rottefella 3-pin bindings. Only \$150. Free boots and poles w/skis if they fit. Call Kathy M-F, 8-4 p.m. 344-5282

For Sale:

1993 Ford Taurus LX Wagon. Loaded, low miles, front-wheel drive. Priced below blue-book. Call 344-9215.

For Sale:

Tandem stroller, very good condition, \$70. Child carrier backpack, "Tough Traveler", for child up to 40 lbs. Has been used 4 times. \$100. Patagonia fleece coveralls and matching hooded fleece jacket, size 3T-green/blueberry, \$30. Sorel boots, toddler size 6, girls, \$5. Nylon baby bag with fiberfill. \$20. Fleece baby bag \$18. Call Laura-344-8814.



For Sale:

Sleeper sofa and matching chair. Good quality, structurally in excellent condition. \$225. Call 344-7788.

For Sale:

Asolo Extremes telemark boots, Men's size 6 (women's size 7 1/2) Good condition, \$190. Call Mary at 242-7523 or 344-7739

For Sale:

1992 Mercury Grand Marquis, LS, 4-Dr, V-8, Excellent shape. \$12,800. Call 858-7553 after 5 p.m.

For Sale:

Schwinn Airdyne fitness bike. Brand new condition. \$300. Call 344-7475 after 5 p.m.

For Sale:

Rossi Haute Route boots for NNN binding. Size 42 and hardly worn. \$100. Call Catherine at 344-7344.

For Sale:

1992 Bridgestone MB-4 Mountain Bike, 18" frame, good condition, \$400. A great bike for recreational rider or beginning racer. Vetta indoor bicycle windtrainer, \$35. Call Daniel Carty at 344-7758 eves or 344-2285 days.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

► Vet Visit

Veterinarian, Dr. Jim Murray, will be at the Gardiner Exxon on Friday, October 25, from 2:00 - 5:00 p.m. No appointment necessary. Housecalls available upon request. Next Visit: December 9.

► The Yellowstone Gallery invites you to its 6th Annual Christmas Open House on Friday, December 2. We will be open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. serving refreshments and helping you with your holiday shopping. Stop by to browse and see what's new at the Gallery. We offer a wide array of arts, crafts, jewelry, music, books, calendars, cards, and other gifts---many from talented resident and regional artists and craftsmen. Door prizes too! We wish all of our friends and patrons a safe and happy holiday season.

► Annual Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony

Please join Yellowstone National Park staff in celebrating the season with the Annual Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony on December 9, 1994, at 5:30 p.m. in front of the Administration Building at Mammoth Hot Springs. Special music will be provided by Jim Cole.

Following the ceremony, Santa will visit good girls and boys at the Mammoth Map Room. A special program and music before Santa's visit will be provided by Little People's Learning Center and The Snoopy School.

Cake and punch provided. Please bring hot hors d'eouerves to share. For more information, please contact the Public Affairs Office at 344-2013.