



The Coalition Weekly Report Wednesday, August 5, 2020

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Incidents

Yosemite NP

Hiker Seriously Injured After Off-Trail Travel at Bridalveil Fall

On the afternoon of July 21st, the park received a 911 cell phone call from a bystander near the base of Bridalveil Fall. The caller reported that someone had slipped and fallen in the rocks, hit his head, and was unconscious and bleeding from the ear. Emergency responders found the subject, a man in his 60s, off the trail on a boulder next to a branch of Bridalveil Creek.

Family members explained that, as a group, they had left the Valley Loop trail and scrambled up the Bridalveil Creek bed. The subject lost his footing and slipped, fell about three feet, hit the left side of his head and his left shoulder, and ended up unconscious, facedown with his head submerged in the creek. Family members pulled him out of the water and he regained consciousness within one to two minutes.

Although he did not regain full alertness and orientation, with help from his family who at times “buddy” carried him, he was able to make his way downhill next to the creek. A few minutes’ hiking time from the trail, the group descended onto a large boulder with steep drop-offs, which is where the search and rescue team members found them.

The initial medical assessment indicated a suspected skull fracture and left clavicle fracture. The man was stabilized, packaged into a litter, and carried out. The litter extraction was risky for the rescue team, who, even wearing approach shoes with sticky rubber soles, were slipping on the polished dry granite. The rescue also included one belay of the litter through technical terrain. The man was transported by ambulance to El Capitan Meadow and transferred to an awaiting air ambulance, which flew him to an area trauma center.

For the past decade, hiking and scrambling off-trail is the third leading cause of accidental fatalities in Yosemite (after water-related deaths and climbing fatalities). The area at the base of Bridalveil Fall is particularly treacherous – the falling water has polished the boulders and rocks to a surface as smooth as a granite countertop and the terrain is incredibly steep and has big drop-offs. From 2014 to 2019, 23 off-trail SAR incidents occurred in this area, seven of which were life-threatening, including one person who was paralyzed and another who did not survive his injuries.

Most of the area at the base of Bridalveil Fall, including the traditional viewing platform and the treacherous boulder field above it, are closed due to construction. This incident occurred near, but outside of, the closed area. Every day, dozens of visitors are going around or over signed fencing into the closed area and off trail, endangering themselves and the trail crew workers who are actively rebuilding rock walls and trails and who at times are felling trees or operating heavy equipment.

Source: [Yosemite Search and Rescue \(YOSAR\)](#).

Glen Canyon NRA Man Killed In Late Night Boating Accident

Ryan Hall, 46, was killed in a boating accident on Lake Powell early on the morning of Wednesday, July 29th. His body was recovered several hours later by the park's dive team.

Hall was with a group of people camping at a houseboat at the lake shoreline in the Warm Creek area. A member of the group called in a report of a boating crash and a missing person at about 1:20 a.m. Hall had taken a wave boat out on the lake and had hit a rock, causing it to flip (a wave boat transforms a jet ski into a power boat).

Rangers began a search for him at sunrise. Hall's body was recovered by the park's dive team in 12 feet of water. The Kane County Sheriff's Office, National Park Service, Utah State Parks, and Utah State Medical Examiner's Office are working together to investigate the crash.

Source: Carter Williams, [KSL News](#).

Glacier NP Search Underway For Missing Hiker

Search efforts have begun for Barry J. Tragen, a 68-year-old Columbia Falls resident.

Tragen's vehicle was found parked at Kintla Lake on Wednesday, July 22nd. A search was begun by rangers on July 25th after Tragen failed to return and is continuing. It is being conducted in conjunction with Flathead County Search and Rescue and Flathead County K9 teams.

Tragen is five feet, ten inches tall and approximately 220 pounds with gray hair and hazel colored eyes. Anyone who may have information or was in the area and saw an individual that fits Tragen's description is encouraged to contact the park's tip line at 406-888-7077.

Source: [KPAX News](#).

Rocky Mountain NP Unroped Climber Falls To His Death On Longs Peak

A 26-year-old man died last Thursday morning on Longs Peak.

A climbing group witnessed an unroped climber in another group fall while on Broadway Ledge near Fields Chimney on the east face of Longs Peak. He fell between 600 and 800 feet.

As the only [fourteener](#) in the park, Longs Peak is a popular but dangerous destination for both experienced and novice climbers.

At least 69 people have died on Longs Peak in the past century. This death is the third on the peak in three years. In 2018, Jens "Jay" Yambert, 60, died instantly after a 200-foot tumbling fall. In May 2019, the body of Ryan Albert was recovered after the 30-year-old went missing in October 2018 while trying to summit the peak.

Source: Kevin Lytle, [Fort Collins Coloradoan](#).

Delaware Water Gap NRA Park Records Fifth Drowning Of Summer In Delaware River

A man drowned last Saturday in the Delaware River near the Coppermine parking area on Old Mine Road – the fifth drowning in the park this summer. Details are not available. The four previous drownings occurred at different sites along the river:

- July 26th – The body of a 30-year-old New Jersey man was found floating just above the I-80 bridge. He'd been with one of several large groups of people in the Karamac area that afternoon. The site off Old Mine Road is not a designated swimming or picnicking area.
- June 21st – A 20-year-old man died June after trying to swim across the river at Milford Beach.
- July 18th – A 51-year-old slipped out of an inner tube and drowned
- July 20th – A 31-year-old man drowned while swimming at Bushkill Access.

None of the victims wore a life jacket.

“The river current is strong and swift, despite calm appearances in some areas, and the depth can change suddenly, often going from knee-deep to over-your-head in a single step,” said the park’s chief ranger. “Wearing a life jacket at all times is a simple thing that everyone can do to ensure a fun and safe day on, and in, the river.”

Source: Kurt Bresswein, Easton [Express-Times](#).

Zion NP Vandals Paint Outcroppings Blue

The park suffered a particularly egregious act of vandalism last month – unknown persons painted vivid blue blocks in the Kolob Terrace area of the park, spurring an investigation into who's responsible.

Rangers spotted the blocks on July 8th while on patrol on the Kolob Terrace Road. The paint had been heavily applied and was still wet. The rangers, thinking they might be able to capture photos of the perpetrator, came back two days later to install cameras in the area, but by then the blocks had been removed.

"The thinking now is that it is most likely for a mold/texture for someone doing concrete work or maybe metal work, but we don't know that for a fact," said a park spokesperson. "The thinking is they peeled it off as sheets and then perhaps took it back to their construction site to use as a texture, maybe for decorative concrete work. But that's just speculation."

The vandals painted six bright blue squares, each approximately three feet by three feet, on the sandstone a mile south of the Wildcat Trailhead. Just a few "blobs" of paint were left behind by the individuals. You can see pictures of the blue squares in the article below.

If you have information that could help identify those responsible, please contact the park. This information could help investigators. Callers don't have to identify who they are but are asked to share what they know so rangers can prevent this from happening in the future. Information can be provided via the Park Service's tip line: (888) 653-0009.

Source: Kurt Repanshek, [National Parks Traveler](#).

Cape Hatteras NS Man Drowns After Getting Caught In Rip Current

On July 12th, a 65-year-old Pennsylvania man died in the Atlantic Ocean off a beach on Ocracoke Island.

Rangers received a call at 11:15 a.m. regarding a swimmer who had been missing for approximately 15 minutes near the Pony Pen beach. A responding ranger spotted the man, face down in the water, approximately 60 yards from the beach. A park lifeguard brought him to shore.

Rangers and Hyde County Emergency Medical Services administered CPR, but were unsuccessful in their efforts.

A large rip current was spotted at the site where the swimmer went missing. A moderate risk of rip currents was forecast for all Outer Banks beaches that day. A moderate risk of rip currents means that “wind and/or wave conditions support stronger or more frequent rip currents. Only experienced surf swimmers should enter the surf on moderate risk days.”

Source: Mike Barber, [National Park Service](#).

Shenandoah NP Teen Dies In Fall On Whiteoak Canyon Trail

A teenager died late last month after slipping on wet rocks and falling 40 feet from the upper waterfalls on Whiteoak Canyon Trail.

A recent graduate of Fauquier County High School, 18-year-old Esgar Gutierrez Covarrubias lost his life while hiking with a friend on July 18th. The friend was injured when he fell while trying to traverse the side of the falls to reach him. The incident was reported to park dispatch at 7:15 p.m. that evening.

When rangers arrived on scene, CPR was already being performed on the teen by bystanders and was continued by park staff until he was pronounced dead. The second teen was removed from the scene via a wheeled litter and transported to Page Memorial Hospital in Luray with non-life-threatening injuries.

Numerous rangers responded, including two ALS providers and the park’s entire 27-member SAR team.

Source: Allison Brophy, [Fredericksburg Free Lance-Star](#).

National Park System Follow-ups On Previously Reported Incidents

Below are short follow-ups on incidents previously reported in this newsletter.

- *Gettysburg NMP* – The right wing demonstration at the Soldiers National Cemetery on July 4th was followed on July 18th by a counter gathering under permit by a group of Civil War historians and friends led by former Gettysburg seasonal ranger and current Civil War historian Jennifer Murray. It was held at Meade’s Headquarters and about 40 people attended. After the event concluded, Murray said some of the demonstrators then walked north into the Soldiers’ National Cemetery to pay respects to the Union dead. In the cemetery, Murray said a National Park Service ranger informed her that her group had violated their First Amendment permit by leaving their designated “corral” area and by displaying signs in the cemetery (Murray says their signs were rolled up – unlike their predecessors, who covered cemetery walls with Trump banners and Confederate flags). Shortly thereafter, Murray and about 300 others sent a letter to the park protesting their eviction (the article has a link to the letter). Source: Charles Stangor, [Gettysburg Connection](#).
- *Death Valley NP* – On July 31, 2019, a Navy Super Hornet jet crashed near Rainbow Canyon in Death Valley National Park, killing the pilot and injuring several visitors who were viewing the aircraft training at low altitudes through the canyon. Over the last year, park and Navy officials have worked together to pay tribute to the pilot, Lieutenant Commander Charles Z. Walker, and remove debris from the area near the Father Crowley Vista Point. Last month, the park installed a new exhibit overlooking Rainbow Canyon to educate visitors on the military aircraft training history in the area. Rainbow Canyon, commonly called Star Wars Canyon, is part of the R-2508 Complex which the military has utilized since 1930s. The California Desert Protection Act, which expanded Death Valley National Park, called for continuation of military overflights. The park continues to play an important role in training pilots and equipment. Source: [Sierra Sun Times](#).

National Fire Situation

National Interagency Fire Center National Preparedness Level Upgraded To PL 4

The national preparedness level remains at PL 4, the next to highest level. The action was taken due to numerous geographic areas experiencing large fires, an anticipation of increased fire activity based on the weather forecast, and the limited availability of some firefighting resources.

More than 11,400 firefighters and support personnel are assigned to wildfires across the country. Forty-eight large fires have burned 235,441 acres in 11 states. Ten new large fires were reported Monday in Arizona, California, Colorado, Montana, Nevada, and Texas.

Park And Park-Related Fires

- *Lava Beds NM* – The park remains closed due to the proximity of the Caldwell Fire, part of the July Complex, which has burned over 81,000 acres. Complex fires have collectively burned more than 83,000 acres. The fires are 97% contained. Almost 1,000 firefighters and overhead have been committed to the complex. For more information, go to the relevant [InciWeb web page](#).
- *Olympic NP* – A fire broke out just north of East Beach Road near Lake Crescent last Wednesday afternoon. The fire was estimated to be 65 acres in size on Thursday. It is burning on the south facing slope of the lake and is being pushed uphill by heavy winds. The park says heavy smoke and single trees on fire may be visible in the next few days as a warm weather pattern moves into the area. The fire was likely started by an arsonist. The Western Washington Type 3 IMT is overseeing suppression operations. East Beach Road is closed from Highway 101 to Log Cabin Resort. The resort is still operating but day use recreation sites along East Beach Road in Olympic National Park are closed at this time. Source: [KOMO News](#).

Resource Commitment Trend

Category	July 21	July 28	August 4
Area Command Teams	0	0	0
NIMO Teams	1	1	1
Type 1 Teams	3	3	1
Type 2 Teams	2	4	8
Crews	152	203	278
Engines	396	657	906
Helicopters	53	71	113
Total FF/Overhead	5,759	9,520	12,747

Fires/Acreage

Category	2010-2019 Ave	2020 Total	Difference
United States: YTD Fires	36,224	32,563	- 3,661
United States: YTD Acres	4,019,727	2,190,681	- 1,829,046

Sources: [NICC Incident Management Situation Report](#); [National Interagency Fire Center](#); [IMSR Archives](#); [InciWeb Incident Information System](#).

Congressional Actions

Reports on legislation, upcoming hearings and new public laws of relevance to the national parks, prepared by Don Hellmann, former assistant director, legislative and Congressional affairs for the National Park Service.

New Public Laws

Nothing to report.

Senate Actions

July 28 – The Senate agreed to [S. Res. 660](#), honoring and commemorating the life and legacy of Representative John Lewis.

July 28 – The Committee on Energy and Natural Resources held a hearing to examine the development and deployment of large-scale carbon dioxide management technologies in the United States, including technological and natural carbon removal, carbon utilization, and carbon storage, after receiving testimony from Steven E. Winberg, Assistant Secretary of Energy for Fossil Energy; and public witnesses.

July 28 – The Committee on Finance held a hearing to examine protecting the reliability of the United States medical supply chain during the COVID-19 pandemic, after receiving testimony from Soraya Correa, Chief Procurement Officer, Thomas F. Overacker, Executive Director, Cargo and Conveyance Security, Customs and Border Protection, and Steve Francis, Assistant Director for Global Trade Investigations Division, and Director of the National Intellectual Property Rights Coordination Center, Homeland Security Investigations, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, all of the Department of Homeland Security.

July 28 – The Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Subcommittee on Regulatory Affairs and Federal Management held a hearing to examine modernizing telework, focusing on a review of private sector telework policies during the COVID-19 pandemic, after receiving testimony from public witnesses. There were no witnesses from federal agencies at the hearing.

July 29 – The Committee on Environment and Public Works held a hearing to examine lessons learned from remote working during COVID-19, focusing on if the government can maximize use of leased space, after receiving testimony from public witnesses. There were no witnesses from federal agencies at the hearing.

July 29 – The Committee on Indian Affairs approved, among other bills, [S. 2165](#), to enhance protections of Native American tangible cultural heritage.

July 30 – The Senate confirmed the nomination of Derek Kan, of California, to be Deputy Director of the Office of Management and Budget, by a vote of 71 yeas to 21 nays.

July 31 – The House agreed to [H. Res. 1072](#), electing certain Members to certain standing committees of the House of Representatives. Among others, Rep. Stauber (R-MN-8) was elected to the Committee on Natural Resources.

House Actions

July 27 – The House passed [S. 2163](#), to establish the Commission on the Social Status of Black Men and Boys, and to study and make recommendations to address social problems affecting Black men and boys. The bill passed by a vote of 368 yeas to 1 nay. The bill now goes to the president to be signed into law.

July 28 – The Committee on Natural Resources held a hearing entitled “Unanswered Questions About the US Park Police's June 1 Attack on Peaceful Protesters at Lafayette Square”. Testimony was heard

from Gregory T. Monahan, Acting Chief, U.S. Park Police, National Park Service, Department of the Interior; and Adam D. DeMarco, Major, District of Columbia National Guard, U.S. National Guard.

July 28 – The Select Committee on the Climate Crisis held a hearing entitled “Solving the Climate Crisis: Building a Vibrant and Just Clean Energy Economy”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses. There were no witnesses from federal agencies at the hearing.

July 29 – The House passed [H.R. 7575](#), the “Water Resources Development Act of 2020”, to provide for improvements to the rivers and harbors of the United States, and to provide for the conservation and development of water and related resources. This is the biennial legislation passed by Congress to provide authority to the Army Corps of Engineers to carry out water resources development projects and studies. Of interest to NPS are:

- Sec. 307, to increase the authorization of appropriations for the Chesapeake Bay Environmental Restoration and Protection Program.
- Sec. 308, to increase the authorization of appropriations for the Upper Mississippi River System Environmental Management Program.
- Sec. 321, to clarify that the Corps is directed to carry out the Everglades Agricultural Area modification (authorized in WRDA 2018) as part of the ongoing Central Everglades Planning Project.
- Sec. 401(5), to authorize additional work on the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (FL), and the Anacostia Watershed Restoration (MD), among other projects.

July 29 – The House agreed to [H. Res. 1046](#), supporting the designation of August 2020 as National Women's Suffrage Month.

July 29 – The Committee on Natural Resources approved, among other bills, the following:

- [H.R. 3682](#), to provide for greater consultation between the Federal Government and the governing bodies of land grant-mercedes (a community land grant issued under the laws or customs of Spain or Mexico that received a patent from the United States or has been recognized under State law) and acequias (a waterway in the State recognized as an acequia or a community ditch under State or Federal law, including the diversions, storage facilities, and easements of such waterway) in New Mexico and to provide for a process for recognition of the historic-traditional boundaries of land grant-mercedes.
- [H.R. 3879](#), to modify the procedures for issuing special recreation permits for certain public land units.
- [H.R. 5040](#), to direct the Director of the Bureau of Land Management to study the effects of drone incursions on wildfire suppression,
- [H.R. 7489](#), to authorize the National Park Service to convey lands to Virginia and the District of Columbia for purposes of transportation and recreation for the so-called Long Bridge project (a railroad, bicycle and pedestrian access project across the Potomac River).

July 29 – The Committee on Oversight and Reform held a hearing entitled “Counting Every Person: Safeguarding the 2020 Census Against the Trump Administration's Unconstitutional Attacks”. Testimony was heard from Steven Dillingham, Director, U.S. Census Bureau, Department of Commerce; and public witnesses.

July 31 – The House observed a moment of silence in remembrance of the over 150,000 Americans who have passed away a result of the COVID-19 virus.

July 31 – The Committee on Oversight and Reform Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Crisis held a hearing entitled “The Urgent Need for a National Plan to Contain the Coronavirus”. Testimony was heard from the following Department of Health and Human Services officials: Anthony S. Fauci, M.D., Director, National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, National Institutes of Health; Admiral Brett P. Giroir, M.D., Assistant Secretary for Health; and Robert R. Redfield, M.D., Director, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

National Park Service

Around The Parks

Park reports are in alphabetical order. Included are proposals in the works for new areas or changes in designation for current NPS units.

- *Acadia NP* – Ownership of Bass Harbor Head Light on Mount Desert Island has been transferred from the U.S. Coast Guard to the park, a move that should lead to improved public access as well as greater public education about the site’s historical significance. The transfer includes five historic buildings on two acres of land. Until now, public access to the lighthouse, located in Bass Harbor, was restricted, but the park said it will develop plans to improve access and enjoyment of the historic landmark. Bass Harbor Head Light was built in 1858 and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. With an estimated 180,000 annual visitors, the lighthouse is already the fifth most popular destination in Acadia National Park, behind only Cadillac Mountain, Jordan Pond, Sand Beach and Thunder Hole. Source: Dennis Hoey, [Portland Press Herald](#).
- *Chattahoochee River NRA* – A group of public and private organizations have proposed creating a 100-mile continuous public space along the Chattahoochee River from Buford Dam to Chattahoochee Bend State Park, traveling through seven counties and connecting 19 cities including Sandy Springs and Buckhead with public trails, parks and related amenities. About 48 miles of the trail will be through the park. The Trust for Public Land took the lead in the Chattahoochee RiverLands project, which the study said would create an uninterrupted public trail that would have up to 44 tributary trails linking cities and neighborhoods to the river from 25 trailheads. More than 100 miles of water trails could be reached from 43 water access points according to the proposal, released on July 20th. The study can be downloaded [at this link](#). Source: Bob Pepalis, [Reporter Newspapers](#).
- *C&O Canal NHP* – In April 1835, a new canal boat called the *Lady Washington* entered the Chesapeake & Ohio Canal at Dam No. 5 and descended about six miles to the boat basin at Williamsport, Maryland. Now, 185 years after the *Lady Washington* made headlines and nine years after the C&O Canal in Georgetown last had a boat, craftsmen are building a new one for the legendary body of water that helped define an era. Once finished, the 18-ton craft will still be pulled by mules, as were canal boats of old, but will be outfitted with small electric motors for trips when the mules are not required. Instead of oak and pine, the bulk of the boat is being built of lightweight panels of high-density, polyurethane foam reinforced with layers of fiberglass. It’s so light that the boat will require ballasts of about 12,000 pounds of lead ingots to keep its battery-powered motors submerged in the water. Final assembly and “sea trials” are scheduled for the fall, and the boat is expected to make its canal debut early next year. Source: Michael Ruane, [Washington Post](#).
- *Death Valley NP* – The July/August issue of *Weatherwise*, a magazine on meteorology and climate, has a feature on the surprisingly complex problems of accurately recording potentially record high temperatures and comparing them with one another. It also discusses candidates for the hottest temperature ever recorded on earth. Despite some questions on how the temperature was taken, the World Meteorological Organization has determined that the 134 degrees recorded in Death Valley continues to hold the record. The article also mentions that an egg will begin to cook in a frying pan at 158 degrees – a not uncommon ground temperature in the park – and leads many visitors to see if they can fry an egg on a surface at that temperature or higher. Notes the author: “Death Valley National Park rangers are now pleading with tourists to please stop the practice, as they are leaving omelet-like messes throughout the park.” Source: *Weatherwise*.
- *Great Smoky Mountains NP* – The park is proposing a mountain bike trail system within the Foothill Parkway Section 8D corridor in Wears Valley. The proposed project is needed because

recreational access and opportunities are currently limited along unfinished sections of the Foothills Parkway, including Section 8D, though recreation development in the valley is part of the park's GMP. Comments on the proposal are being taken through August 19th at the following link. Source: Dana Soehn, [Great Smoky Mountains NP](#).

- *Point Reyes NS* – Limantour Road has been closed to traffic until further notice due to hazardous conditions. The road has been undergoing work expected to last through September, but a contractor doing excavation last week discovered a fissure in the roadbed that could fail and cause a landslide, prompting the closure. Source: [Bay City News](#).
- *Saint Genevieve NHP* – The state of Missouri has passed legislation permitting its state parks director to turn historic properties over to the NPS to add to the new park. The conveyance will likely include the Green Tree Tavern, also known as the Janis Ziegler House. Built in 1790-91, it is considered by most experts to be the oldest surviving building in Missouri. Always privately owned until the past decade, it was given to the state of Missouri in 2017 and has been overseen by the Missouri Parks Department since then. It's also likely that the DeLassus-Kern House, west of town on Highway 61, will eventually join the Green Tree as an NPS possession. Source: Mark Evans, [Saint Genevieve Herald](#).
- *Yellowstone NP* – Here's a disturbing trend: The park reports that more people than usual are swimming and soaking in prohibited waters and has admonished them to refrain from doing so on Facebook. "This summer, we have had a surge in visitors wading in waters that are closed for their own safety and the protection of unique park resources," a park spokesperson said. "Yellowstone is not a safe place for swimming or soaking because of frigid lakes, swift rivers, and scalding or worse hydrothermal waters." Nearly two dozen people have died in hot springs at Yellowstone over the years. Source: Maddie Capron, [Miami Herald](#).

Opinions

Opinions, op-eds, letters and articles expressing specific opinions about issues pertaining to the national parks or national park system.

- "[Remove Dominion's James River Power Towers](#)," *Virginian Pilot*. Opinion piece by Joy Oakes, senior director in the Mid-Atlantic region for the National Parks Conservation Association. It concerns what Oakes calls "the illegally approved massive transmission line across the historic James River at Jamestown," part of Colonial NHP. Although most people feel that approval of the line is a done deal, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit has determined that the Corps of Engineers unlawfully issued a permit to Dominion Energy in violation of NEPA. "The fight is far from over. Dominion, the Corps and all who care about the James River and Jamestown still have a chance to right this wrong...The fight to protect the James River's historic character from Dominion's indifference is a fight between David and Goliath. This challenge can seem insurmountable — but I also know that sometimes David prevails. The James River landscape is sacred ground, a piece of land and expanse of water of enormous value to our nation. In troubled times, our country has sought and found hope in places like Jamestown. We must each do our part, stand firm and save the James."

Briefly Noted

Other matters of interest pertaining to the parks and their people.

- *Biking In National Parks* – *Bicycling* magazine has published an article entitled "Here's What You Need to Know About Biking in National Parks." It consists of informative tips – checking on coronavirus closures before you go, following Leave No Trace principals, checking the NPS list on which parks allow which kinds of biking, respecting wildlife, avoiding crowds, etc. It can be found at the following link. Source: Micah Ling, [Bicycling](#).

- *Drone App Improves NPS Coverage* – A few years ago, the FAA put out an app called B4UFly that lets drone operators know when they were in areas like national parks where they can't operate. Unfortunately, it had serious shortcomings – unless the park was a “national park” it didn't appear on it. The app, however, has been greatly improved. It appears that they have all the NPS units on the map, which is updated in real time. Example: When the president recently flew to west Texas in Air Force One, the map with the app showed the FAA's temporary flight restrictions along the way. The app is free and available at the App Store. Source: Member Phil Selleck.
- *Park People – American Way*, the American Airlines magazine, has an article in which the author visits four of America's national parks “and the people who keep them precious.” The four people interviewed, with their titles and parks are: Laura Shaskey, wildlife biologist, Channel Islands; Shelton Johnson, park ranger, Yosemite; Yvette Cano, education director, Everglades; and Matt Vandzura, chief ranger, Grand Canyon. Each talks about her/his park and provides tips on visiting it. Source: [American Way](#).

The Coalition

Summary of recent developments within the Coalition, including some of the actions that CPANP took on your behalf. Links to specified documents are embedded in each entry.

- *NPS Budget* – The Coalition signed on to a letter sent to Congress asking for support of the FY21 Interior, Environment and Related Agencies Appropriations bill as part of the minibus package. We also urged members to oppose any policy riders that harm our national parks. [Text of letter](#).
- *Oil and Gas Lease Sale Webinar* – On Thursday, August 6th at 2 pm EDT, we will be holding a webinar on oil and gas lease sales. Participants will learn about the leasing process, the Coalition's advocacy efforts, and how they can become advocates and help protect our parks. The event will feature Matt Kirby, the Director of Energy and Landscape Conservation in the Southwest for NPCA, and Coalition members Mike Murray and Cordell Roy. [Details on webinar](#).

Source: Emily Thompson, Communications and Advocacy Coordinator.

Park People

NPS Alumni Passing Of Mike Coffey

Michael Coffey, 81, passed away on July 20th at his home in Fort Collins.

He is survived by his wife of 33 years, Jenness Coffey; his daughter and son-in-law, JoShell and Mustafa Koliva; his grandson Alperan Koliva of Upland, California; and his sister Patty Gross and brother-in-law Dr. Henry Gross of Peoria, Illinois.

Mike worked as a wildlife biologist for the US Forest Service and the Navajo Indian Nation before joining the National Park Service. His NPS career started at Sequoia-Kings Canyon National Park, where Mike was selected for the natural resource management trainee program. He then moved to Lake Mead National Recreation Area.

At the time of his retirement in 2006, Mike worked at the National Park Service's Natural Resource Program Center in Fort Collins, where he assisted national parks across the US with wildlife management issues, exotic animal issues, and wildlife capture techniques. He conducted numerous classes in aerial wildlife capture for various federal and state wildlife agencies.

Since his retirement on 46 acres north of Fort Collins, he enjoyed hunting, fishing and training with his three Nova Scotia duck tolling retrievers.

At Mike's request there will be no service.

Source: Member Shelley Hall.

From The Archives

This section contains incidents taken from *Morning Report* issues published during the corresponding week (approximately) 25 years ago in 1995. All entries appear in the original verb tense; "submitters" are those people who originally submitted the incident report.

- *Glen Canyon NRA* – On the morning of July 25th, a Salt Lake City family camped in a remote area of the park radioed a distress call that they might be suffering from carbon monoxide poisoning. A Halls Crossing boat patrol ranger was less than a mile away at the time and was accordingly able to respond quickly. The family had been sleeping in their cabin cruiser with the air conditioner running, and it had circulated exhaust fumes from the inboard gasoline generator into the cabin. The family's three-year-old girl was unconscious when the ranger arrived, but was revived through aggressive oxygen therapy. Her parents initially displayed only mild symptoms, but their conditions soon deteriorated to semi-consciousness. The family was taken by helicopter to the hospital in Page; the parents later had to be flown to a hyperbaric chamber in Salt Lake City for further treatment. Submitted by Chief Ranger Tomie Lee.
- *National Mall* – The new Korean War Veterans Memorial, located just south of the Reflecting Pool adjacent to the Lincoln Memorial, was officially dedicated on the afternoon of July 27th. Attending were President Clinton, South Korean President Kim Young Sam, and Vice President Gore. Over 50,000 veterans, families and friends attended the ceremonies. The heat index for the day was over 100 degrees, and over 500 people had to be treated for heat-related illnesses. Several people were taken to local hospitals for cardiac problems exacerbated by the heat. EMS inside the security area was provided primarily by NPS EMTs; additional support was provided by a variety of city and contract medical services. Because of the volume of medical cases, event organizers also called in support from a Bethesda Naval Hospital medical response team. Submitted by Ranger Anthony Mangelli.
- *Yosemite NP* – On the morning of August 3rd, investigators received a call from Utah from a Boulder, Colorado, man who said that he'd been assaulted and abducted from the Valley the previous morning. He said that he was approached by a man in civilian clothes who said he was a ranger and was placing him under arrest. The victim said that he believed the man really was a ranger because he had handcuffs and because he walked off into the bushes for a minute and appeared to call dispatch on a portable radio. In any case, the "ranger" threatened him with violence if he refused to cooperate, so the victim allowed himself to be handcuffed. The man then beat him severely about the head, neck and chest with a large flashlight, forced the victim to drive him from the park in his (the victim's) pickup truck, and made him withdraw cash from an ATM in Mariposa. The victim was able to escape when they stopped for gas in Merced, but did not call the park until he reached Utah. A search of the crime scene produced a backpack which the assailant had left behind. He is described as a white male adult, 26 or 27 years old, about 6'3" tall, and weighing around 200 pounds. He has a "white wall" hair cut with short, light brown curls on top; his eyes are hazel or blue with flecks in the iris. Investigators have determined that the suspect used three different names while staying in the park, and believe that he may be AWOL from the Army. A joint investigation involving the park, FBI, Army and several local agencies is now underway. Submitted by Chief Rangers Office.

A Closing Observation

"Most of the people who visit the parks, whether they realize it or not or whether they put it into words, are impelled to visit them because of the quest for a supreme experience. The gleam of glaciers

on a mighty mountain; the shimmering beauty of a lake indescribably blue, resting in the crater of an extinct volcano; the thunder and mist of water falling over sculptured granite cliffs; the colorful chapter in the Book of Time revealed by the strata of a mile high canyon gashed by a rushing river; the sight of strange new plants and animals living in natural adaptation to their environment and to each other; the roar of surf waging its eternal battle with the land; the silence that hangs over the ruins of the habitations of forgotten peoples; the lengthening shadows of the towering sequoias these and a thousand other vivid impressions are at the heart of the experience that national park visitors travel many miles to seek. All else that they do or that we do in the national parks is incidental. If we can remember this, we can remain true to our high calling as trustees for the greater things of America."

Newton B. Drury, Director, 1940-1951

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- Production: Steve Pittleman
- Regular Correspondents: Don Hellmann, Emily Thompson, Dennis Burnett, Rick Smith, and Duncan Morrow
- Issue Contributors: Jen Coffey, Shelley Hall, Bill Walters, Steve Pittleman, Joy Marschall, Mark Forbes

If you see something that might be of interest to Coalition members, send it to Bill Halainen at the Weekly National Park System Report: BHalainen@gmail.com. Please don't submit them via his personal email address or Facebook page.

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The *Weekly National Park System Report* is a publication of The Coalition To Protect America's National Parks. It is prepared by Coalition member Bill Halainen, former editor of the *NPS Morning Report*, and produced and disseminated by Coalition member Steve Pittleman.

The Coalition is a non-profit organization of past and current NPS employees and their allies that "studies, educates, speaks, and acts for the preservation and protection of the National Park System and mission-related programs of the National Park Service."

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