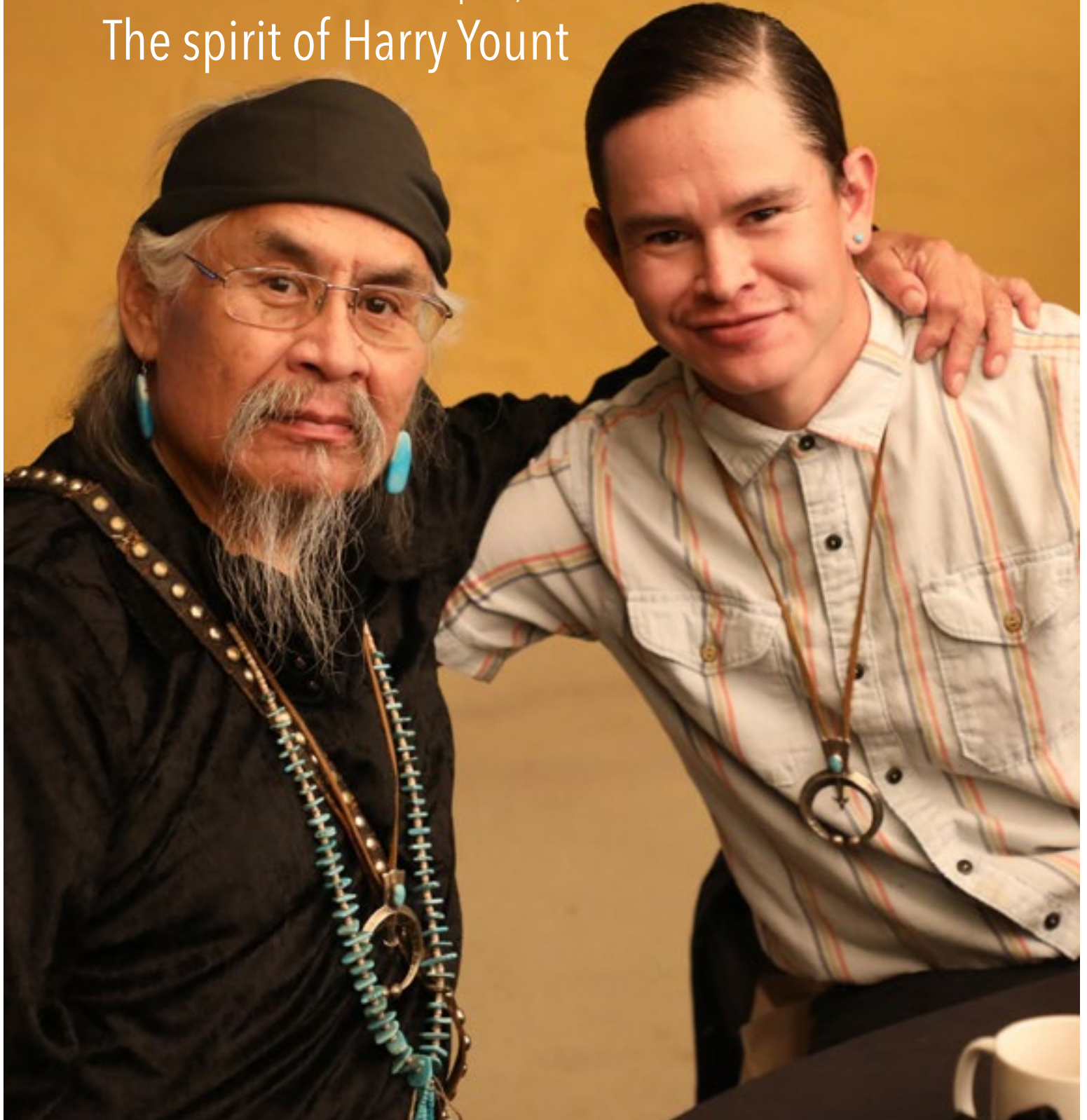


The Journal of the Association of National Park Rangers

RANGER

Stewards for parks, visitors & each other

The spirit of Harry Yount



Vol. 39, No. 1 | Winter 2023

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2023

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On the cover: William P. Yazzie and his son Justin, celebrate at a reception during Ranger Rendezvous 45 after the elder Yazzie received the Harry Yount Lifetime Achievement Award. Yazzie's sons Justin and Jeremy followed in his footsteps and also are now park rangers. Photo: Andy Hall

YOU'LL SEE THIS ISSUE OF *RANGER* MAGAZINE IS PACKED WITH ALL THINGS Ranger Rendezvous. And that's because everyone was so excited to finally be back in person that there is so much to share with both those who were present and those not able to make it.

From this editor's point of view, Ranger Rendezvous 45 in Tucson was a huge success. From the opening night reception and the education programs, to the hospitality suite socialization and informational speakers, I came away from Ranger Rendezvous with a much deeper understanding of the ANPR mission. But don't take my word for it — after all, this was just my first of what I hope to be many Ranger Rendezvous in the future.

Butch Farabee, ANPR's first president, has been attending Ranger Rendezvous since they first started, and here's what he had to say:

"This most recent Ranger Rendezvous in Tucson was exceptional. What can I say except 'thank you.' I have been to at least 37 of them and this was among the top two or three, if not higher. What does not get appreciated enough is that the RRs brings old, dear friends together in a truly meaningful, wonderful way. This RR especially did just that for me. So, thank you."

The conversations that you may have heard during Ranger Rendezvous have given rise to a new feature in our *Ranger* pages: the introduction of "And there I was..." This quarterly story will highlight exceptionally risky, bold, and maybe even not-so-bright-in-retrospect experiences of rangers as part of their normal day-to-day work. Our first dispatch is from ANPR member Rob Arnberger, an abridged version of a particularly high-stress situation he encountered at Buffalo National River. It's a must-read. Check it out on pages 10 and 11, or read the unabridged version on our members-only site (www.anpr.org/members)

Ranger Rendezvous also brought change, as nominations were accepted and contested for five open seats on the board. For the first time in many years, the competition was stiff. ANPR welcomes these new members to its board and bids farewell to Paul Anderson, who led the organization as president for the past three years. Rick Mossman, who spent the past year as president-elect, is now at the helm. Many thanks to those who served, and to those about to serve. Read more on pages 8-9.

The winter issue of *Ranger* magazine marks the annual publication of our Life Century Club list. Those who contribute to ANPR's long-term future "level up" by earmarking funds to ANPR's investment account. We also send a sincere thank-you to those who donate to our general fund, or funds to such specific accounts as the Rick Gale Fund and the Rick Smith Honorary International Fund. Your donations also help fund the Bill Supernaugh Scholarship Fund, which honors longtime ANPR supporter Supernaugh, and brings new rangers to the Ranger Rendezvous to network and grow in their careers. This is all inside our pages, so keep reading!

In turn for your generous support, *Ranger* strives to give you content you want, and information you need. The best way to do that is by letting us know what matters to you! We welcome all story ideas and encourage our readers to get involved. After all, you are the ones in the field, watching the issues facing national parks today. Your expertise can start a discussion that initiates change. So, please send those story ideas our way — especially your own "And there I was." We are only a phone call or email away.

— Melissa DeVaughn
Ranger magazine editor

RANGER

THE JOURNAL OF THE ASSOCIATION OF NATIONAL PARK RANGERS
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In meeting these purposes, the Association provides education and other training to develop and/or improve the knowledge and skills of park professionals and those interested in the stewardship of national parks; provides a forum for discussion of common concerns of all employees; and provides information to the public.

The membership of ANPR is comprised of individuals who are entrusted with and committed to the care, study, explanation and/or protection of those natural, cultural and recreational resources included in the National Park System, and persons who support these efforts.

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FINAL DEADLINES

Spring issue Jan. 31
Summer issue April 30
Fall issue July 30
Winter issue Nov. 15



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Carrying the torch for ANPR, and you

President's message

— Rick Mossman

I AM HONORED AND HUMBLLED TO BE YOUR NEW president of ANPR. Paul Anderson and the board have set a very bold strategic plan that we will carry forward, with three objectives to push and help the NPS provide all NPS employees with better

- Hiring practices
- Affordable housing
- Training

What a Ranger Rendezvous! After two years without an in-person Rendezvous, it was great to have one – and a big one at that, with more than 150 people in attendance. The entire group participating in the side-step dance with Harry Yount Lifetime Achievement Award winner William Yazzie will be forever etched in our minds. It reminded all of us we are one spirit to protect and preserve Mother Earth. The Rendezvous was, as it always is, a great place to renew friendships and make new ones. The ANPR staff did a great job putting it together.

One of the issues that became clear during our membership workshops was that we need to increase and diversify membership. We need to market ANPR within the NPS. Most employees, I believe, still don't know we exist, and we need to impress that the three initiatives we are working on are for all employees in all disciplines. We need to let employees know they can have a voice through us to the NPS rather than just a voice at work.

I know many of you out there, but for those I don't let me tell you a bit about myself. It may sound corny, but I had wanted to be a National Park Ranger since I was 7 years old on a family vacation to Yellowstone National Park from the flatlands of Kansas. I got to live my dream. I received my B.S. in wildlife biology from Kansas State University and started working summers in college at the "new" Buffalo National River. I spent more than 36 years as an interpreter and visitor and resource protection ranger working at BUFF, PEFO, FOTH, BAND, GRCA, WRST/ GLBA, YELL, WICA/JECA, and FOLA. After retiring in 2012, I directed the NPS Seasonal Park Ranger Law Enforcement Academy in Colorado and then on to the directorship of the NPS Seasonal Academy at Skagit Valley College, Wash., where I am now. Here I'm training future rangers (not just cops). I have been involved with ANPR for many years and was on the board of directors as the Alaska representative in the early '90s. I have always been a strong supporter of the organization.

As I have always said with all my employees and students, I have an open door. Please contact me with issues or questions, I want to hear from the field. rmossman@anpr.org.

We would love you to get involved in ANPR. As my favorite Mark Twain quote goes:

Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things you didn't do than by the ones you did. So throw off the bowlines. Sail away from the safer harbor. Catch the trade winds in your sails. Explore. Dream. Discover.

— Rick Mossman
ANPR President



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The Harry Yount Lifetime Achievement Award



William P. Yazzie, right, listens as his son-in-law Shaun Martin reads an acceptance speech on his behalf. Yazzie and Thelma Schrank were honored with the Harry Yount Lifetime Achievement Award during Ranger Rendezvous 2022 in Tucson. The bronze bust of Harry Yount, their award, is shown in the foreground. Photo: Andy Hall

William Yazzie, Thelma Schrank join elite class of rangering professionals

By Melissa DeVaughn

One OF THE MOST MEMORABLE NIGHTS of Ranger Rendezvous 45 in Tucson happened Oct. 29, 2022, shortly after William Yazzie received the Harry Yount Lifetime Achievement Award.

The retired Navajo national park ranger accepted the honor flanked by his family – including two sons who are also park rangers – and a packed audience of ANPR members and supporters.

Though limited by health challenges, Yazzie attended the ceremony and celebrated by leaping and clicking his heels together when he stood before the audience. The words Yazzie spoke – through his son-in-law Shaun Martin – said it all about being a park ranger:

I was 6 years old the first time my mother and father brought me to Mesa Verde National Park. My father made jewelry, my mother wove rugs in front of the visitor center. We dressed traditionally and people from all over the world would watch, see and listen to them. ... I always wanted to be a park ranger; when I was little, I wished they would have had small uniforms, but it wasn't until 1988 that I finally became a park ranger; that was the greatest thing. I was happy and so proud.

Yazzie and fellow retired Alaska National Park Service ranger Thelma Schrank joined the Harry Yount Lifetime Achievement ranks as the ninth and 10th recipients to be recognized since the award's inception in the early 1990s. Their careers epitomize the values recognized in the award, named for the man generally regarded as the first park ranger. Harry Yount patrolled Yellowstone National Park in the 1880s as the park's gamekeeper and defined, for his time, what it meant to be a ranger. The Yount award recognizes its recipients for what they have contributed to the service, to rangers, and to "rangering" throughout the whole of their career and beyond. Recipients are those who have served as role models and provided consistent leadership to the service and the ranger profession.

"The Harry Yount Lifetime Achievement Award is not limited to those rangers whom have served in multiple parks or Washington, D.C., during their careers," said outgoing ANPR President Paul Anderson. "It is wonderful to recognize these two individuals who have made important and significant lifetime achievements on the front line in their parks."

Schrank, whose ailing health prevented her from attending the event in person, joined the event via teleconference, while a group

of fellow colleagues and supporters took the stage to accept on her behalf.

Anderson read the citation recognizing Schrank for her 35 years of work in the Slana Ranger Station in the Nabesna District of Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve.

"Ranger Thelma Schrank is one of the rare exceptions of a ranger who dedicated her career to one park, ensuring that "Her Park" received the highest level of ranger services as possible," he read.

He continued:

Thelma began her career in a meager wall tent along the Nabesna road, lived through the first ranger station being burned down by arson, and finally moving to the ranger station at Slana. She was the first "local hire" made by the first superintendent and, as it turns out, the best choice he could have ever made! While not a traditional "field ranger," Thelma did more traditional rangership from her office in Slana than many rangers will do in a lifetime. Her dedication to the new park combined with her knowledge of the people and the area made her indispensable to every superintendent, chief ranger, and district ranger that passed through "her park." Thelma used to joke with her friends and family when there was a change in leadership, that it was time to "train" another one, and that joke was absolutely true. Without Thelma's advice and guidance, many park operations and plans would have failed, and some misunderstood decisions could have resulted in disastrous outcomes.



Thelma Schrank, right, is shown with fellow Wrangell-St. Elias ranger Bev Goad in front of the Slana Ranger Station in 2010. Schrank received the Harry Yount Lifetime Achievement Award during Ranger Rendezvous 2022 in Tucson. She was unable to be present and accepted her award via teleconference. Photo: NPS

HARRY YOUNT HALL OF FAME

Richard T. "Rick" Gale – White House gala (1994)

John H. "Jack" Davis – Re-dedication Ceremony marking the 75th Anniversary of Grand Canyon National Park (1994)

James M. "Jim" Brady – White House, Oval Office (1997)

Charles R. "Butch" Farabee – ANPR Ranger Rendezvous, Snow King Resort, Jackson, Wyo. (2000)

Walter D. "Walt" Dabney – National Association of State Park Directors meeting, Semiahmoo, Wash. (2005)

Richard "Dick" Martin – ANPR Ranger Rendezvous, LaFonda Hotel, Santa Fe, N.M. (2007)

William J. "Bill" Halainen – ANPR special ceremony, Yellowstone National Park. (2021)

John M. "Jack" Morehead – ANPR special ceremony, Yellowstone National Park. (2021)

Thelma Schrank – ANPR Ranger Rendezvous, Westward Look Resort, Tucson, Ariz. (2022)

William P. Yazzie – ANPR Ranger Rendezvous, Westward Look Resort, Tucson, Ariz. (2022)

Schrank was a constant in an ever-changing staff makeup in Wrangell-St. Elias. Throughout her career, she worked with seven superintendents, six chief rangers, and several acting chiefs. She served 11 district rangers.

"When a new district ranger was to be hired, one of the criteria used in selection was how they would get along with Thelma, knowing it would be key to their success, if not their survival," Anderson read, a comment that was met with laughter and acknowledging head-nods all around.

Yazzie's citation recognized his dedication to the mission of the National Park Service "and furthering the education and science of 'rangership' over his career at Canyon de Chelly National Monu-

ment patrolling the canyons of Del Muerto and De Chelly."

"He shared his wisdom and cultural identity through his Ranger profession. He knows how the Navajo people react to various sensitive issues and religious beliefs. He understands the needs of a 'cleansing ceremony' and 'the rites of passage.' At the same time, he adapted to Anglo beliefs. He has played Santa Claus for children at various Navajo schools and events. His personality of having fun and laughter pervades his soul."

Yazzie also worked with the Interpretive and Education Division to develop summer programs that provided the public with an understanding of Navajo culture. Additionally, he managed Canyon de Chelly wildland firefighter crews.

"Throughout his career and beyond, William P. Yazzie has demonstrated consistent and sustained leadership," Anderson read. "He is a role model for the NPS, Navajo Nation, and the ranger profession."

Before the evening concluded, Yazzie stood, and with the help of his family, commanded all in attendance to hold hands in a room-encompassing circle, and dance in celebration. The words he had spoken through his son-in-law earlier in the evening lived in the dance:

"We live our life within these mountains. Thank you for being here in the beauty of nature. With the mountains, the water, the plants, the birds, the animals, the insects, the bugs, the butterflies. The birds – hawks, golden eagle; the animals – bears buffalo deer, elk, big animals, and human. All in the world and part of the earth and world that we see. Harry Yount was the first national park ranger. What I just described is what he would see as he was looking out over the park. That's what I see about being a park ranger. That's how I see it. I am a park ranger – I always have been, and I always will be. .. Thank you for being here. Thank you for the recognition."

In remembrance

Morehead epitomized the art & science of rangering

Jack Morehead (Sept. 4, 1932 - Dec. 11, 2022)

IF THERE IS A “RANGER’S RANGER-EMERITUS,” JACK MOREHEAD IS it. He was a flat hat, green-and-grey-wearing National Park Service park ranger, through and through. There is little “rangering” the NPS has to offer that he did not do – and do well. Jack served in 14 NPS areas in at least 18 positions. Beginning on a trail crew in Rocky Mountain in 1951, he retired 44 years later as a regional director in Alaska. He had impeccable credibility when speaking “Ranger.”

Jack received more prestigious, high-level Department of the Interior (DOI) and NPS awards than anyone we know. The list includes:

- the Secretary of the Interior’s Stewardship Award,
- the DOI’s Unit Award for Search and Rescue,
- the DOI’s Meritorious Service Award,
- the DOI’s Distinguished Service Award,
- the National Parks Conservation Association’s highest recognition, the Steven T. Mather Award;
- and in 2021, the Harry Yount Lifetime Achievement Award, from the Association of National Park Rangers.

These recognitions are for Jack’s key leadership as one of the service’s most senior park managers. He served as superintendent of Isle Royale, Everglades, and Yosemite national parks; as NPS associate director of operations, which included Ranger Activities; and as regional director in Alaska. You do not garner such accolades and rise to such a respected level without a strong professional foundation, much of it rangering.

Jack also was a fire guard at Glacier National Park, a field ranger in Yosemite and Colorado National Monument, and district ranger in three intense ranger-skill parks: Lake Mead NRA, and Mount Rainier and Grand Teton NPs. He was an instructor of Park Ranger Skills at the Albright Training Center, fostering the rich heritage of field rangers. For three years, he served as chief ranger and assistant superintendent at Glen Canyon NRA. And then, in the aftermath of the infamous “Yosemite Riot” in 1970, Jack was brought into Yosemite as chief ranger the following year. He oversaw the service’s most demanding ranger operation for three years. Ensuring park and visitor values, he pioneered the service’s philosophy of “lowest level of law enforcement necessary.” He reached out to the local Yosemite climbers, recruiting them for search and rescue. Ultimately, YOSAR became one of the world’s elite mountain rescue teams.

In 1974, when NBC television created “Sierra,” its series about National Park Service rangers, Jack was tapped by NPS Director Bill Whalen to serve as technical adviser; a definite tribute to Jack’s all-around proficiency in the art and science of rangering.

As an early rock climber, he was the best the service had to offer. These skills, gained mostly on his own time, proved invaluable in his early big-cliff rescues and SAR organization, not only in Yosemite, but also in several other parks. Early on, he was a skilled downhill ski instructor; expert enough in climbing, mountaineering, and skiing, that for two years he was part of the Army’s celebrated 10th Mountain Division. In 1958, Jack became one of the service’s earliest scuba divers, in of all places, Grand



Jack Morehead is an ANPR life member and one of just 10 Harry Yount Lifetime Achievement Award winners. Photo: Butch Farabee

Junction, Colo. He nurtured a long relationship with Scripps Institute of Oceanography, helping to develop the government’s first civilian diving program.

All of this shaped Jack’s renown as both mentor and leader. His career styles were simple. Appreciate that you do not know everything, count on each of the team to do their job, and treat each member with respect and professionalism. He knew achievement relies on the success of each member. Bringing all of his ranger history and expertise, he was a hands-on manager.

He volunteered post-retirement on underwater archaeology for the service’s honored Submerged Cultural Resources Unit; developed plans for tourism and preserved area development in Jordan and the Bahamas; as well as provided much-needed assistance for projects in Death Valley and Yosemite and the Bureau of Land Management.

“Jack was an incredible man, an exceptional ranger and leader, a great husband and father, a trusted friend, and a mentor for many of us,” wrote outgoing ANPR president Paul Anderson on behalf of ANPR. “I am thankful that ANPR was able to recognize his immeasurable contributions to the art and science of rangering last year in Yellowstone. May he Rest in Peace, and may his life continue to inspire us all!”

Special thanks to ANPR friends of Jack Morehead for writing this tribute.

Super raffle & silent auction

are perennial Rendezvous favorites

With the excitement of Ranger Rendezvous 45 behind us, let's take a moment to reflect on the success this comeback event turned out to be. After two disappointing COVID-19 pandemic-induced postponements – the first in 2020, when Ranger Rendezvous shifted to an online event, and again in 2021, when regional rendezvous took place instead – the 2022 Rendezvous made up for lost time. The weather cooperated, the pandemic stilled enough for relatively safe travel, and the host of speakers, trainings and sessions kept participants busy and informed.

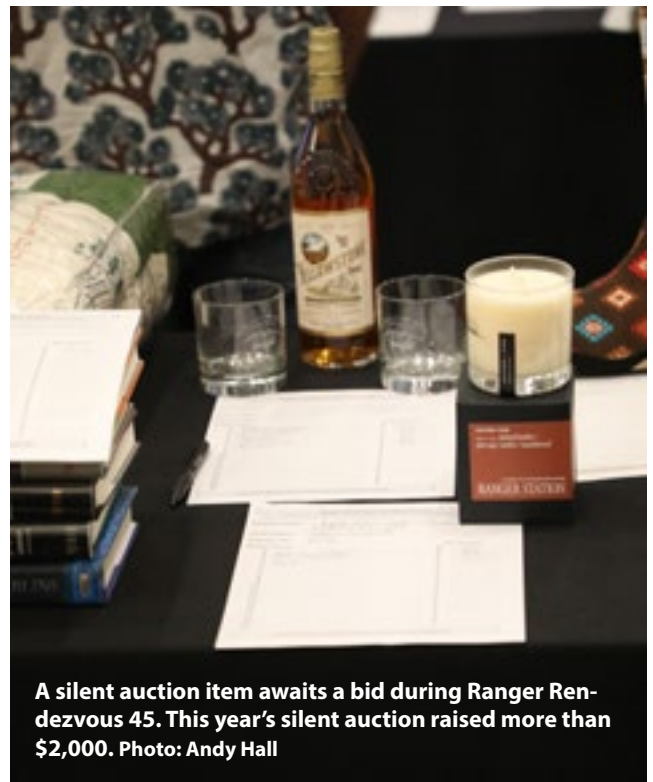
Pulling off a Rendezvous is a yearlong event that takes a committee of volunteers, countless sponsors and a long list of donors willing to help foot the bill. ANPR thanks everyone for their help in making this a year to be remembered.

Special thank-you to major sponsors and all of our donors:

- National Parks Conservation Association
- Coalition to Protect America's National Parks
- Western National Parks Association
- Interior Federal Credit Union
- Lee Werst
- Kalil Bottling Co.
- Many individual RR registrants donated additional money to support hospitality, Supernaugh scholars, awards reception and beverage breaks. We sincerely thank all of them.

The ever-popular Super Raffle and silent auctions also took place during Ranger Rendezvous. The silent auction raised more than \$2,000. The super raffle raised more than \$6,000 and offered prizes worth more than \$12,000.

It is never too late to start thinking about donations for the Ranger Rendezvous 46 Super Raffle and silent auction. The 2023 Ranger Rendezvous is set for this October in Jacksonville, Fla. Contact Bill Wade for more details, bwade@anpr.org, or check our website frequently.



Ranger Rendezvous Super Raffle

Prize	Donator	Value	Winner
Grand Canyon raft trip	Grand Canyon Expeditions	\$3,300	Demmy Vigil
Wildlife sculpture	Rob Arnberger	\$2,200	Bill Wade
Roll your own trip	ANPR	\$2,000	Emily Johnson
Camargue Horses photo print	Tony Bonanno	\$1,800	Patricia Kimball
Yellowstone cabin stay	Clair and Liz Roberts	\$1,200	Luke Carter
Lodging at RR45	Ed Rizzotto	\$500	Liz Roberts
NPS-related book collection donated by Butch Farabee, Bill Wade, Jerry Mitchell, Lyndel Meikle, Jean Muenchrath, T. W. Neal, Kevin Grange, Jordan Fisher Smith, David T. Gilbert, Mark Woods, Deb Liggett, Nevada Barr, Sean Smith, Tom Till, Russell Cahill, Rosanne McHenry, Lee Whittlesey		Unknown	Kathleen McGuire Buschbacher
Original photograph	Connie Rudd	\$250	Helen Scully
San Diego harbor cruise	Maritime Museum of San Diego	\$200	Wendy Lauritzen
NPS retiree wine	Jim Milestone	\$100	Paul Anderson
Harrison Assessment report and debrief	Bill Wade	\$500	Colleen Derber
Original photograph	Kendra Balazs	\$500	Jim Vogt
Original photographs (2)	Kendra Balazs	\$450	Rick Mossman
Buffalo Wool Co. gift certificate	Teresa and Ron Mission	\$200	Bill Wade
Multi-day field course in Denali NP	Alaska Geographic Association	\$400	Wendy Lauritzen
Bose Quiet Comfort headphones	Bose Corp.	\$329	Robert Dunnagan

Thank you, silent auction donators!

Scott Isaacson
Family of Bill Supernaugh
Elsa Hansen
Tony Bonanno
Maritime Museum of San Diego
Scott and Susan Isaacson
Nancy Ward
Western River Expeditions
Clair Roberts
Colleen Derber
Warren Bielenberg
Judy Chetwin
Bruce McKeeman
Mark Herberger
Western National Parks Association

Deb and Jay Liggett
Bob and Stacy Love
Far Flung Adventures
JT Reynolds
Marin Karraker
Deb Shea-Ohls
Destry Jarvis
Ravis Henry
Rebecca Harriett
Jeff Karraker
Eno Eagle's Nest Outfitters
Jim and Mary Hummel
Frederick Harmon
OARS

ANPR Welcomes its new board of directors

ANPR HELD ITS ANNUAL ELECTIONS IN 2022 TO FILL FIVE board member positions expiring at the end of the year. For the first time in several years, many of the available seats were actually contested – and all with well-deserving candidates.

The ANPR board thanks its outgoing board members for all they did over the past three years to further the goals of the association. Those board members include Lauren Kopplin, secretary; Rebecca Harriett, board member for government affairs; Tim Moore, board member for professional issues; and Lauren DeGennaro, board member for seasonal perspectives. A special thank-you to Jeanette Meleen, board member for fundraising activities, whose term was supposed to end at the end of 2021, but she stayed on to fill the unfilled vacancy.

At the same time, ANPR welcomes its new board members, whose positions started Jan. 1.

SECRETARY DEMMY VIGIL

Demmy retired in December 2020 as training manager of four general work groups: Visitor and Resource Protection (VRP), Office of Communications, Office of Legislative and Congressional Affairs, and International Affairs. VRP ranged from law enforcement, wilderness and firefighters to public health, risk management and Special Park Uses, for which she helped fund training and arrange training and employee development. Prior to that, she was an instructor in the NPS Fundamentals program for many years. Vigil worked at both Mather and Albright training centers. Over her 35-year career she served as deputy chief of interpretation at Grand Canyon, chief of interpretation at San Juan National Historic Park, park ranger at Bandelier and VIP at Chiricahua.

EMILY JOHNSON BOARD MEMBER FOR PROFESSIONAL ISSUES

Emily has been with NPS for 11 years, working closely with management, visitor resource protection, maintenance, resource, and administration divisions as a superintendent's executive assistant, park planner, and regional environmental compliance team member. She has additionally held multiple collateral duties in incident response, including family liaison, peer support, communications, and incident commander.

TROY HUNT BOARD MEMBER FOR SEASONAL PERSPECTIVES

Troy is a college professor, currently at Missouri Valley College, teaching students to effectively research, develop, and present information to audiences both face-to-face and in the media. During the

summers, and since 1997, he has practiced what he preaches by working as a seasonal interpretation ranger with the National Park Service. He has worked at Cedar Breaks National Monument, Badlands National Park, and Curecanti National Recreation Area. He plans to continue his seasonal rangering as long as possible. Troy was a 2022 Supernaugh Scholar.

MIKE PFLAUM BOARD MEMBER FOR GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

Mike, originally from southeastern Minnesota, graduated from Mankato State University with a degree in Recreation and Park Administration. He worked for more than 41 years for the National Park Service, holding positions from grades GS-3 to GS-15, serving as park superintendent at three parks, and acting superintendent at an additional three parks. He retired at the end of 2021 and has since volunteered as an adviser for the Badlands National Park Conservancy and as a group leader for Educational Travel Institute of America. His wife, Barbara, (a former seasonal park ranger) and he currently split time between residences in Rapid City, S.D., at the edge of the Black Hills and on the Keweenaw Peninsula near Lake Superior in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. They have two adult daughters (who both love parks!). Mike enjoys traveling with Barbara to explore and experience parks and other public lands throughout the U.S. and North America, as well as hiking, cross-country skiing, family gatherings/activities, and photography.

WENDY LAURITZEN BOARD MEMBER FOR FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES

Wendy began her park career directly out of high school in 1975 by volunteering with the Student Conservation Association as part of a trail crew at Rocky Mountain NP, and as an SCA visitor center assistant at Badlands NP followed by becoming a seasonal for NPS. In January 2019, she retired from her second superintendency following a 39-year career that spanned working in 16 locations for three land-management agencies within the Department of Interior. She was employed in natural, cultural, historical, city, urban, and wilderness areas, in NPS units ranging from 33 acres to more than 10 million. She helped plan for the building of two visitor centers and has worked in most disciplines, including interpretation, law enforcement, as a range conservationist, resources manager, and park management/administrator/ superintendent. She's worked closely with five Native American tribes and in consultation with 13 with a wide range of traditional practices and tribal sovereignty. She attributes ANPR for helping to guide her career, first joining in 1979.



... and bids

Farewell

to those who've served

IN WHAT MIGHT HAVE BEEN A FIRST FOR ANY **RANGER RENDEZVOUS** – or at least in the recent past – the entire board of directors convened in-person during the October 2022 annual meeting and rendezvous in Tucson. Paul Anderson, in the final months of his tenure as board president, led the board workshop and membership meeting, and presented awards for member and board excellence, as well as the coveted Harry Yount Lifetime Achievement awards.

Anderson's service on the ANPR board follows a long National Park Service career. He served as a law enforcement park ranger, and subdistrict and district ranger in Rocky Mountain, Big Bend, Grand Canyon, Shenandoah, Yosemite and Delaware Water Gap. He was assistant superintendent of Shenandoah National Park, deputy regional director for the Alaska Region, and superintendent of Denali National Park. Rick Mossman took over as ANPR president Jan. 1.

ANPR board members thank him yet again for his service:

FROM JONATHAN SHAFER, STRATEGIC PLANNING

Paul Anderson helped inspire initiative among members of ANPR at a critical time in the organization's history. Paul's term began in January 2020 just before the start of pandemic management measures that radically changed park operations and life across the United States. In response to the pandemic, Paul not only led a recruitment drive to bring nearly 100 seasonals who'd had their onboarding canceled or delayed by COVID into ANPR but also worked with board members to reorient their priorities so that they could provide meaningful services to members who were attempting to prevent the spread of COVID.

Besides guiding ANPR through a global pandemic, Paul ensured ANPR's long-term viability by working with the board's director for fundraising to recruit new members for the fundraising committee and to set up a new finance committee. The result of Paul's efforts was that ANPR went from operating at a net-deficit to operating in the black every year of his presidency.

Paul Anderson guided the board of directors methodically by scheduling annual performance work planning sessions and performance reviews. These helped board members focus their efforts so that they accomplished the highest priorities of our organization's membership and that they coordinated efforts to amplify their output. Thank you for your service and leadership, Paul!

FROM REBECCA HARRIETT, GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

Paul brought structure and focus to ANPR by establishing an organizational strategic plan with annual goals. This allowed the board to set priorities and be more proactive on issues of concern (hiring, training and housing) to the membership. Paul kept open communications with the NPS Washington office during COVID shut downs and without an NPS director, which at times was challenging. Retaining the 025 Park Ranger series, promoting better training and park housing, and helping to eliminate the mandatory aspect of the USA HIRE assessment are notable achievements under his leadership. He will be missed.



Clockwise from back left, ANPR 2022 board members Jonathan Shafer, Melissa DeVaughn (business manager), Lauren Kopplin, Rebecca Harriett, Bill Wade, Paul Anderson, Rick Mossman, Lauren DeGennaro, Elsa Hansen, Tim Moore, Shannon Wilson, Jeanette Meleen, Tom Banks. Photo: Andy Hall

FROM JEANETTE MELEEN, FUNDRAISING

During his tenure, Paul encouraged me to develop a fundraising committee to foster ideas, and he was one of the first to join. Although daunting at first, and oftentimes challenging, it was Paul's encouragement and later gratitude that kept me afloat in a board position I volunteered for but knew nothing about! Thanks, Paul!

FROM TOM BANKS, EDUCATION & TRAINING

Paul Anderson (and many of us can relate to this) has stated he is pretty sure he was "born to ranger." Even though he'd retired from a storied post as (Denali NP) park superintendent, he continues to carry much pride in the title "ranger." He introduced himself as such at the "Search and Rescue Initial Response Incident Commander" session he led at Ranger Rendezvous 45 in Tucson.

A search and rescue expert, Paul is a true leader in his profession. In a generous act of service, Paul led ANPR for three years with a business-like, little-nonsense, efficient style, ably inspiring and giving appreciation to his fellow Board members, while holding us accountable for results and expecting high standards.

Climb on/Sail on into the sunset, Paul, and please circle back and help us out occasionally, OK?

FROM LAUREN KOPPLIN, SECRETARY

Paul, thank you for your service these past several years; it was a pleasure to serve with you. I appreciate all your dedication to ANPR and I look forward to working with you again sometime.

FROM SHANNON WILSON, MEMBERSHIP SERVICES

Paul has led our organization with grace and understanding through an unprecedented time. He is always one to help when asked without hesitation. It was an honor to be able to serve on the board the last year with him.

FROM RICK MOSSMAN, INCOMING PRESIDENT

Thank you for your leadership and raising the bar for this organization. We will strive to carry on what you have started.

AND THERE I WAS ...

De-escalating an explosive situation at Buffalo National River

By Rob Arnberger

PROLOGUE

Retired ANPR member Rob Arnberger was a young ranger recently relocated to Buffalo National River during tumultuous times, as the park worked to legally acquire some 95,000 acres of private inholdings and two state parks. This would include acquisition from willing sellers, use of life-estates, condemnation, and declaration of taking actions. Most of the acquisition was from willing sellers. However, a significant portion was not. One such property owner was Emmett Slay and his son Ben, who in late February 1978 were attempting to blow up sections of their property to sell as fill for a road construction project, despite condemnation action on their property underway in the courts.

Silver Hill District Ranger Keith Whisenant quickly intervened, and with leadership of the U.S. Attorney, an order for immediate taking was filed and granted in U. S. District Court in Fort Smith, Ark. to take immediate possession of the property. It was the National Park Service who had to carry out the order, ultimately walking into a situation with potentially deadly consequences. Arnberger, by then a district ranger, led the small team of rangers and maintenance personnel who seized this property and worked through this explosive incident successfully over four days. Following is an excerpt of Arnberger's experience:

I T WAS EARLY MORNING, MARCH 8, 1978, AS I PREPARED climbing equipment for a park climbing team training session to be held in the Silver Hill District. Chief Ranger John Welch had advised me to alert anyone traveling to this training to make sure “they had their defensive equipment with them” in anticipation of a court ruling on the Slay property. By mid-morning, with the assembled rangers collecting their gear for the climbing session, the call came confirming that NPS take “immediate possession of the Slay property.” We were all redirected to go to the subject property, inform the construction team to leave the property, and then establish a security presence there until a possession protocol was worked out.

The first priority was to stop the explosion of bluff property the Slays had contracted out. After succeeding in this we would work out how the heck “the NPS would seize the property and secure it.” We decided that a show of force would cause more problems than needed and that a two-person contact team would use a more “businesslike” approach with the contractors, inform them of the court decision, and ask them to vacate the property. Keith and I formed that team. Keith was to approach the foreman of the crew and explain the situation. He was already known to the crew... and it was his district. I would stay in the background as backup, in sight and leaning on a tree with a shotgun out of sight, just in case something went south on us. If things were not going well or there was outright refusal, Keith was to take off his flat hat, wipe his brow, which



Buffalo National River was America's first national river, established in 1972 as one of the few remaining undammed rivers in the lower 48 states Photo: NPS

was my cue to leave my position, shotgun included.

We drove to the site, parked and began walking through the woods to the small group of men leaning over drill holes and gathered around a bulldozer. Keith made the approach and from a distance; I could see he was not having much luck in making a persuasive case. Sure enough, off came the hat and a full wipe of the brow. I gathered the shotgun, jogged to the bulldozer and racked in a round that caught the attention of the crew and created the needed persuasion. The foreman belligerently said, “The holes are loaded and packed with 5,000 pounds of dynamite and Pelite 76 and capped, and we were ready to blow, but you want it, it's all yours now, and good luck.” I noted a plunger with wires leading to it from the drill holes several hundred feet below us. One wire was already connected to the plunger, the other laying on the ground. The foreman yelled at his crew, went over to the plunger, disconnected the wire, gathered up the box, said they would be back for the bulldozer, jumped into several trucks, leaving Keith and me alone in the woods in the middle of a minefield with 5,000 pounds of dynamite ready to blow.

Keith and I thought we better not use our radios to alert our colleagues back at the District office that we were OK because of blasting cap problems. We drove back and met the team and devised a plan to secure the property. Luckily, one of our climbing team members was Cal Myers, Buffalo Point maintenance foreman, who had his NPS “explosive handling” certification. It was midday and we decided I would return to the blast site with Cal to assess things and devise some sort of plan. Keith would notify headquarters, and direct the other staff into some sort of tactical operation to secure the property and access to it.

Cal and I arrived in the “minefield,” driving directly on the construction road the workers used to drill the explosive holes. Radios were turned off but we were also concerned about CB radios on Highway 65. We began to assess what lay before us. We counted 134 drilled holes of which 120 were filled and packed with 2½-pound sticks of dynamite and Pelite 76, a fertilizer soaked in diesel fuel to add to the explosive force. The holes ranged from 17 feet to 21 feet deep, and about 6 to 8 inches in diameter, spread out over significant acreage on the bluff. In the distance, we could see

the Highway 65 bridge and hear traffic. About a half mile away, we could see the Slay homestead. We later learned there was a total of 4,000 pounds of dynamite and 1,250 pounds of Pelite 76.

We left the site to report to Whisenant and headquarters in Harrison. We suggested that headquarters ask the military at Pine Bluff to dispatch an Army Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) team to assist. Further, we conveyed that Cal and I were returning to the site to see if we could remove blasting caps from each explosive-filled hole to make the site “safer.” We added that removal of the explosive material would have to be through some sort of innovative process such as suctioning out the material, because “blowing up the explosive” on-site would defeat the very purpose of stopping the action.

The rest of Wednesday afternoon, Cal Myers and I crawled hole to hole removing blasting caps, cutting the connection to the main blasting wire, and trying to keep an inventory of the number of blasting caps vs. the number of holes. We lightly dug through the Pelite in each hole to trace a wire and locate a cap. Cal had made it painfully clear that if “we screwed up we would die.” It would only take a small electrical charge or static electricity “to screw us up.” We worked into early evening doing this: crawling, digging, gently handling a blasting cap, making a notation, then placing each cap in a cardboard box. Just as it seemed we were close to finishing, I heard several gunshots below us and the sounds of bullets hitting the trees overhead. I assumed the Slays had found out about what was going on and had decided to make their own explosive statement. The gunfire went off and on into the darkness and then stopped.

Cal and I left the site. Cal would return to Buffalo Point and pursue an imaginative idea he had about using a 21-foot length of 2-½ inch PVC pipe taped onto a GSA industrial-model vacuum cleaner and hose powered by an electrical generator in the back of a pickup as a possible method for sucking up the explosives from each hole. He felt it might be possible and with significantly less risk “depending on if we got all the blasting caps out.” I would coordinate with Whisenant and arrange for overnight security at the site. I would stay in the minefield throughout the night because I was so familiar with it. I was advised that Army EOD would arrive on site the next day and I was to brief them. That night was cold and miserable as I sat in my pickup truck in the middle of a minefield all by myself, with no radio communications and only an occasional gunshot now coming from the Slay homestead.

A BLUR OF ACTIVITY

The next two days were tedious but productive. The Army EOD team arrived, Cal’s vacuum contraption worked surprisingly well, and the NPS contacted the Searcy County Sheriff about the action and the gunfire coming from the Slay home. (The sheriff, not a big fan of the NPS, basically shrugged it off and wished us luck.) Additional rangers came from Pea Ridge, Hot Springs, and Lake Meredith.

To remove the dynamite, we found a packed hole, kicked on the generator, turned on the vacuum, jammed the PVC pipe into the hole, and felt the Pelite 76 entering the tube until it would jam up going into the vacuum container. Then we would withdraw the tube from the hole, reverse the vacuum suction and *voilà*, there ya go; fertilizer blown all over the ground with an “oomph,” and then a 2½ pound dynamite stick would blow out. Gather up the stick and remove it to a holding location. Hole after hole. Remember there are 134 holes. This was going to take a long time.

To see the full version of this story, visit the “And there I was” section on our members-only page, www.anpr.org/members

Meanwhile, the press began forming on the Highway 65 bridge and taking telephoto shots for various papers. The Slays were giving interviews about “being taken over by federal forces and their lands stolen.” The construction company involved

with the highway project looking to use the blown-up bluff in their construction all of a sudden “were appalled” about the “thoughtless action to destroy a beautiful Buffalo River bluff” and denied the Arkansas Highway Department had anything to do with the plan.

The EOD decided the best thing to do with the dynamite was to burn it on-site rather than remove it, which was logistically challenging. So, we found a small sinkhole in the limestone bluff and began a “burning pile,” lighting the dynamite with diesel fuel and watching it burn with black smoke clouds erupting from the sinkhole. Things were lined out in the minefield pretty well so, I headed home for rest, leaving others in charge.

OUT WITH A BANG

Saturday, March 11, 1978, seemed like it might be the day we could end this operation. After meeting and managing to de-escalate Ben Slay – who had recently returned from Wyoming with the intent of “shooting a few park rangers” – Ranger Jack Knox from Pea Ridge and I headed back to the suck-blow-burn action in the minefield. By mid-afternoon, things were wrapping up. EOD had checked each blast hole and all were empty. I had been advised that upon finishing the job we would vacate the property and let the normal condemnation process continue. The visiting ranger team was released to return home. The final pile of several hundred pounds of dynamite was burning in the sinkhole. Somehow, I had a few six-packs of beer smuggled into the site (or I brought them from home) and we all thought it would be appropriate to start our incident debriefing sitting on the tailgates, drinking beer, about 150 feet from our dynamite burn pile.

The next thing any of us knew, there was a tremendous explosion as the dynamite burn pile blew up. Most of us were blown off our tailgates, dropping beers, and belly-crawling under our vehicles. I remembered the words that Cal Myers had voiced about if “we screwed up we would die.” I knew right away that one blasting cap had eluded us, and we had indeed screwed up. As I lay under my pickup, my ears ringing, with a bruise on my shoulder from being blown off my tailgate, I started yelling for peoples’ status. It was strangely quiet as I heard hopeful replies. I rolled out from under the pickup to stare into the sky at rocks the size of basketballs still in the air starting to return to Earth. We all watched those big rocks hit the earth, and then it quieted again. Again, I rolled out from under the pickup to stare into the sky only to see baseball-sized rocks returning to Earth. Several of these hit my pickup and one went through the windshield of an Army EOD vehicle. Finally, things quieted and we ventured to our dynamite burn pile to see only a little smoke and our sinkhole now over 20 feet deep and 20 feet in diameter. Well ... it was just a small hole, compared to what losing an entire bluff would have looked like! Turned out they heard the explosion 25 miles away in Marshall, Ark. Only those of us at the site knew what happened and downplayed the incident. To the rest of the population, it was a “sonic boom” that occurred that afternoon.

We gathered up our empty beers, sprayed water on the smoky debris in the hole, cleaned the site, shook hands, loaded the vacuum cleaner, jumped in our trucks and headed home. That night I finally got some sleep.

Best in Show

by Jeff Ohlfs,
Grand Canyon NP ▼

Best in Show

by Jamie Richards, ►
Yosemite NP



Introducing **your 2022** **ANPR** photo contest winners

PHOTOGRAPHY FROM PARKS ACROSS THE COUNTRY AND THE WORLD COMPETED for top honors at Ranger Rendezvous 45 in Tucson last October. Dozens of photos were on display for public voting.

Winners from each category received a \$25 Amazon gift card, and the best overall photo received an additional \$100 gift card. This year, there was a tie for Best in Show. Many thanks to board member Liz Roberts for managing this fun annual event.

Here are your 2022 winners. Start keeping an eye out for the perfect photo to be ready to enter this fall, at Ranger Rendezvous 46 in Jacksonville, Fla. Stay tuned for details!

And the winners are...

Best in Show: (tie) Jeff Ohlfs and
Jamie Richards

Landscapes: Kendra Balazs

Human Connection: Bruce
McKeeman

Wildlife: Warren Bielenberg

Historical/Cultural Resources:
Tom Banks

Park Skies: Bruce McKeeman



Historical/Cultural
by Tom Banks,
Grand Canyon NP ▶



Landscape ▲

by Kendra Balazs,
Wrangell-St. Elias NP



Human connections

by Bruce McKeeman,
◀ Dinosaur NM

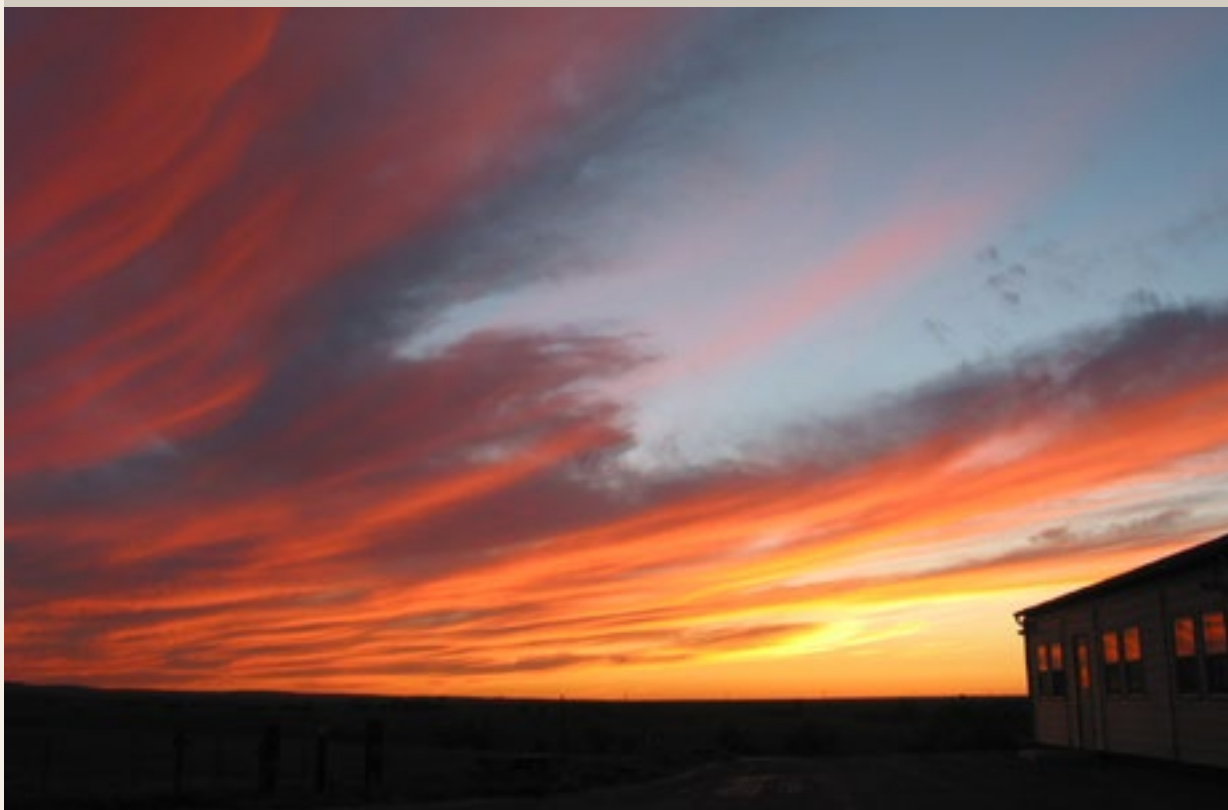


Wildlife ▲

by Warren Bielenberg,
Great Smoky Mountain NP

Park Skies

by Bruce McKeeman,
Minuteman Missile NHS ▼



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A good year for Supernaugh scholars



ANPR's 2022 Supernaugh scholars include (clockwise from back left) Lawson Nwakudo, Max Farley, Eli Teague, Troy Hunt, Kati Seramur, Jackson Lam and Ellen Centa. Photo: ANPR

Editor's note: Ranger Rendezvous supported an unprecedented seven Supernaugh scholars in 2022, a number made available after the postponement of the past two year's Rendezvous due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Since 2007, Bill Supernaugh Memorial scholarships have allowed early-career employees, NPS volunteers, students, and those new to ANPR to experience the annual Ranger Rendezvous and learn about ANPR. Bill Supernaugh was an ANPR life member, an avid supporter of the Association, and an NPS employee for more than 40 years. Scholarships are funded by the generous support of ANPR members. Any ANPR member who has not attended a Rendezvous is eligible to apply.

This year, fellow Supernaugh Scholar Troy Hunt, who works as a seasonal park ranger when he's not teaching college courses, agreed to share his thoughts on his Supernaugh Scholarship and Ranger Rendezvous experience.

By Troy Hunt

I'VE BEEN A SEASONAL PARK RANGER SINCE BILL CLINTON WAS in the White House. It began as a means of earning extra money during my summer break. It is now a job I love, and each season as I return to my classroom, I feel great loss; loss of the days spent in the beauty of our public lands, but also a loss of the comradeship I have with my fellow rangers. Discovering ANPR means my comradeship continues beyond my season, and I look forward to my copy or *Ranger* magazine to keep me connected throughout the academic year.

Ranger Rendezvous also was an unrealized goal for several years. While reading about the Rendezvous, I learned of the Supernaugh Scholar program and was intrigued. I applied, and was chosen for the program for Rendezvous 45. I was thrilled to join my fellow rangers during my off season and build new connections in the beauty of Tucson.

I'm an old hat at conferences; all academics are. While Ranger Rendezvous has similarities to most conferences, the specialization on the interests of park rangers creates a unique experience, one I recommend to all my fellow rangers. And for those of you new to the Rendezvous, I strongly recommend you apply for the Super-

naugh Scholarship.

As Supernaugh scholars, we benefited from attendance at the sessions. These sessions included hearing from fellow rangers doing great things, hearing from NPS leadership regarding the issues affecting our lives in the NPS, and elected officials who took their time to speak to us face-to-face. The knowledge and perspectives



Supernaugh Scholar Eli Teague, right, assists ANPR board member Jeanette Meleen during the daily raffle drawings. Photo: Andy Hall

gained through conference attendance is priceless.

We also helped support the operation of the conference. It takes many people to build a successful Rendezvous, and we joined in to make it all happen. Three of us facilitated the audiovisual needs of every session. Our work made sure that projectors were available for conference sessions and facilitated presenters joining us virtually who could not attend in person. Whether for the general sessions or the breakouts, we worked to assure the effective running of the event.

Scholars also supported the raffle, organizing the items posted in the multiple locations where the raffle draws occurred. This was a hefty task, requiring moving the items, keeping the tickets attached to the appropriate items throughout multiple days, and assuring the items were securely stored at the end of each day. For scholars, this meant being active well before any of the conference sessions began, and well after the sessions were done for the day.

Not that the whole experience was hard work. We also had a great time! I made some great new friends among the scholars; meeting fellow rangers from across the nation makes this experience priceless. Whether going out to dinner, taking part in trivia night, chatting with fellow rangers in the hospitality suite, bonding during the field trips, shooting the breeze between sessions, or hanging out in the hot tub at the end of the day, we all had a great time getting to know each other. Max, Lawson, Eli, Kati, Jackson and Ellen will



Supernaugh scholars Max Farley and Lawson Nwakudo chat between general sessions during Ranger Rendezvous 45. Supernaugh scholars make connections and gain valuable career insight during ANPR's annual Rendezvous, and they also provide much-appreciated assistance during the conference. Photo: Andy Hall

always be a part of my good memories of RR45, and my time as a Supernaugh scholar.

Supernaugh scholars receive free conference registration, lodging at the conference hotel, and a years' membership in ANPR. The scholarship is for first-time attendees to the Ranger Rendezvous, and scholars are invited to apply for Ranger Rendezvous 46 in Jacksonville, Fla. Details will be posted on the ANPR webpage as we get close to the conference.

Donor Recognition list

(Updated 12/15/2022)

To make a donation to ANPR, please visit www.anpr.org/donate

Mauna Loa \$750-999

- Andrew Boczar

Half Dome \$500-749

- Karen Gatewood
- Deanne Adams & Anthony Sisto

Cliff Palace \$250-499

- Emily Johnson
- Marin & Jeff Karraker
- Rick Mossman
- Michael Murray
- David Roberts
- John Townsend

Devil's Tower \$100-249

- Elvira Arnberger
- Rajeeb Das
- Colleen Derber
- Elsa Hansen
- Bob Love
- Liz Roberts
- Bill Sanders
- Shannon Wilson
- Tom Workman

Appalachian Trail \$50-99

- Tom Banks
- Jerry Case
- Russ Cahill

- Ellen Centa
- Jennifer Flynn
- Lauren Kopplin
- John Leonard
- Clair Roberts
- Sam Weddle
- Aaron Zavesky

Little Rock Central High School \$25-49

- Warren Bielenberg
- Melissa DeVaughn
- Katherine Greene
- Mark Herberger
- Bob Krumenaker

- Bruce McKeeman
- Jeff Ohlfs
- Demmy Vigil

Liberty Bell Up to \$25

- Sarah Chesnutt
- Caroline Deutsch
- Larry Hakel
- Marie Sauter
- Jonathan Shafer
- Nancy Ward

Old Faithful (monthly donations of at least \$25)

- Meg Weesner

IN PRINT

Jarvis book outlines bold new plan for NPS

By Rick Smith

MANY READERS OF *RANGER* WILL KNOW ONE OR BOTH OF the Jarvis brothers. Jon, of course, was director of the National Park Service during the Obama years. Destry, in addition to his work at NPCA, the Student Conservation Association, the Appalachian Trail Conservancy, and his own environmental consulting firm, did a stint with the NPS during the Clinton administration. They have that experience upon which to make the thesis of their proposals.

I found this book fascinating. Many of us who worked in parks or regional offices were often unaware of the outside-the-service negotiations that resulted in decisions we were asked to implement. Jon and Destry were often in the middle of these negotiations, and their descriptions are intriguing.

Take for instance, the chapter on Alaska. Even though I was the co-director of the first Ranger Alaska Task Force, sent to Alaska to establish an NPS presence in the 55 million acres of national monuments created by President Carter using the Antiquities Act, and felt I knew pretty much what was going on, there were compromises of which I was unaware. I didn't know that the chair of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee permitted Sen. Ted Stevens of Alaska to participate in committee hearings, even though he was not a member of the committee. I suspect that's how things get done instead of the sharp partisan divide we see today in American politics. I was in Everglades National Park when the Alaska National Interest Lands Act (ANILCA) passed. Destry explains it this way:

It was made possible by the most expansive and unified effort ever undertaken by the American conservation movement as well as by a highly supportive president, and a willing Congress with Democratic majorities in both the House and Senate."

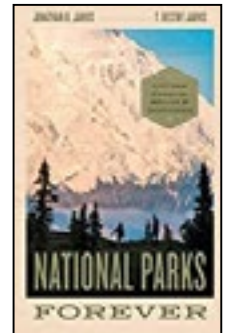
One of the principal problems facing the NPS is that every four or eight years, we turn the keys over to a new administration with its own ideas on what parks are for and what the policies should be to guide their management. Most *Ranger* readers have probably worked for four or five presidents who appoint secretaries of the Department of Interior. The most significant difference in my career was between James Watt and Cecil Andrus. Jon and Destry recall a quote from former Director Bill Whalen:

I have come to the conclusion...that the National Park Service should be removed from the jurisdiction of the Department of the Interior. The National Park Service, like the Smithsonian, has a principal mission, which is to preserve and protect the treasures of America and to interpret to the public, not only what America was, but what America is, and what America might be in the future.

Destry and Jon sketch out what an independent National Park Service might look like:

LEADERSHIP

Like the Smithsonian, the NPS would be governed by a board of regents, with membership equally balanced between the three branches of government, plus an equal number of members from the public sector who would represent the diversity and geography of the nation. The Regents would select the director, subject to Sen-



Co-author Jon Jarvis, speaking at Ranger Rendezvous 45, on his book, "National Parks Forever: Fifty Years of Fighting and a Case for Independence," Jonathan B. Jarvis, T. Destry Jarvis. University of Chicago Press. 2022

ate confirmation. The charter of the NPS Advisory Board would be expanded to include more active oversight of NPS operations. The members of the board would be selected by the regents.

FEDERAL FUNDING

The NPS would submit a two-year budget request during the appropriations process. It would remain eligible for funding from the Land and Water Conservation Fund, Federal Highway Transportation funds, etc.

NONFEDERAL FUNDING

The independent NPS would be authorized to collect and retain all entrance, campground and other special-use fees and to invest all or a portion in interest-bearing accounts to be managed by the National Park Foundation. The Foundation would be the primary philanthropic partner of the NPS. Its members would be selected by the regents and demonstrate proven track records in conservation and historic preservation. The independent NPS would transition out the concessioners as their contracts expire and a new business side of the NPS would assume their administration.

PARTNERSHIPS

The independent NPS would be broadly authorized to enter into cooperative agreements, including a major expansion of the use of conservation and service corps such as the Student Conservation Association and others.

The last two pages of the book contain an extensive list of what the independent NPS would be and do. I urge readers of *Ranger* to buy the book to get the list. It is far too long to summarize here. As I said in the beginning, I like this book and am grateful to Jon and Destry for laying out a bold plan for an independent NPS.

I only have to think of the four years without a confirmed director to imagine how much better an independent NPS would be.

GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

ANPR monitors bills relevant to members

With the 117th (2021-2022) session of Congress winding down last fall, it is worth noting a brief summary of some of the primary bills ANPR has been supporting and tracking.

H.R. 3172 - HELPER Act would allow HUD to establish mortgage insurance programs for First Responders (firefighters, law enforcement, etc.). This bill has a companion bill in the Senate (S. 2981). Both bills have bipartisan equivalents in the House and Senate.

H.R. 521 - First Responders Fair RETIRE Act would permit disabled law enforcement officers to receive retirement benefits in the same manner as if they had not been disabled. This bill passed the House in September and has gone to the Senate (S. 129) for consideration.

H.R. 4268 Federal Retirement Fairness Act would amend the U.S. Code to provide that civilian service in a temporary position after Dec. 31, 1988, may be creditable service under the Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS), and other purposes. ANPR has linked with the National Active and Retired Federal Employees (NARFE) in supporting this legislation.

H.R. 7615 - LODGE Act was recently introduced to expand the current authority of the Department of Interior to enter into a variety of housing agreements with other federal agencies, state or local governments, tribal governments, and/or public and public organizations in providing housing for employees with priority to "field" employees. While ANPR is still researching the possible implications of this bill, we have sent a letter of general support to the subcommittee chair and partnering with NPCA.

Unless any of these bills are attached to the Appropriations bill or a possible Omnibus bill, they will likely die in committee only to be resurrected again with the incoming 118th Congress in 2023. Again, if you support any of these bills, please let your representative know. You are not violating the Hatch Act by contacting your elected member of Congress as a private citizen. ANPR will keep you posted as we move forward into a new year with the new Congress.

— Rebecca Harriett, board member for government affairs

Ranger Rendezvous silent auction winners

Warren Bielenberg: Bird book, \$35

Liz Roberts: Centennial quilt, \$120; silver/turquoise bear earrings, \$40

Lauren Kopplin: Camargue Horses photo, \$60

Clair Roberts: Leather aviator jacket, \$70

Marin Karraker: San Diego harbor cruise, \$25

Bob Love: Four historic books, \$70; 150th anniversary Yellowstone bourbon, \$70

Rajeeb Das: Cataract Canyon raft trip, \$200

Elsa Hansen: Ride in 1959 Corvette, \$10; Hand-knit Tucson wool, \$20; Stained glass ranger hat, \$90

Russ Cahill: Pine needle basket, \$50; bent shaft canoe paddle, \$40

Elvira Arnberger: Authentic National Park \$2 Bill complete collection, \$140

Rick Mossman: Mountie print, \$25

John Leonard: Welcome to Tucson basket, \$60

Jeff Karraker: Rio Grande river trip, \$100

Bruce McKeeman: NPS vintage postage, \$30

Jeff Ohlfs: Flat Hat RR45 sculpture, \$45

Demmy Vigil: Desert Dream puzzle and saguaro clay earrings, \$30

Jen Flynn: Copper/turquoise bison ornaments (Marin Karraker) \$50

Colleen Derber: Handmade wine boot & wine, \$30; "National Parks Forever," \$30; silver earrings, \$40; NPS tea gift box, \$25

Shannon Wilson: Nevada Barr hardback book set, \$10; ranger hat stained glass, \$100

Tom Banks: Handmade cutting board, \$60

Bob Krumenaker: Ranger Station candle in whiskey glass, \$25

Melissa DeV Vaughn: Eno hammock and tree straps, \$35

Nancy Ward: Basket of goodies \$20

Mark Herberger: Mata Ortiz pot, \$45

Tom Workman: NPS badge belt buckle, \$150

Aaron Zavesky: Green River raft trip, \$80



Welcome to the ANPR family

Here are the newest members of the Association of National Park Rangers (updated 12/16/2022)

Ginger L. Zierdt	Mankato MN
Stefani J. Lacy	LaVerne CA
Kendra Balazs	Phoenix AZ
James T. Reynolds	Henderson NV
Stacy Owens	House Springs MO
Michael Zwelling	Kingston NY
Barbara Moritsch	Eagle ID
Ernest A. Claybon III	Montgomery AL
Katherine Greene	Mountain View CA
Robert Cuevas	Lincoln NE
Caroline Deutsch	Louisville KY
Marshall Neeck	Grants Pass OR
Matthew Lamar	Death Valley CA
Teri Gage	Lansing IL
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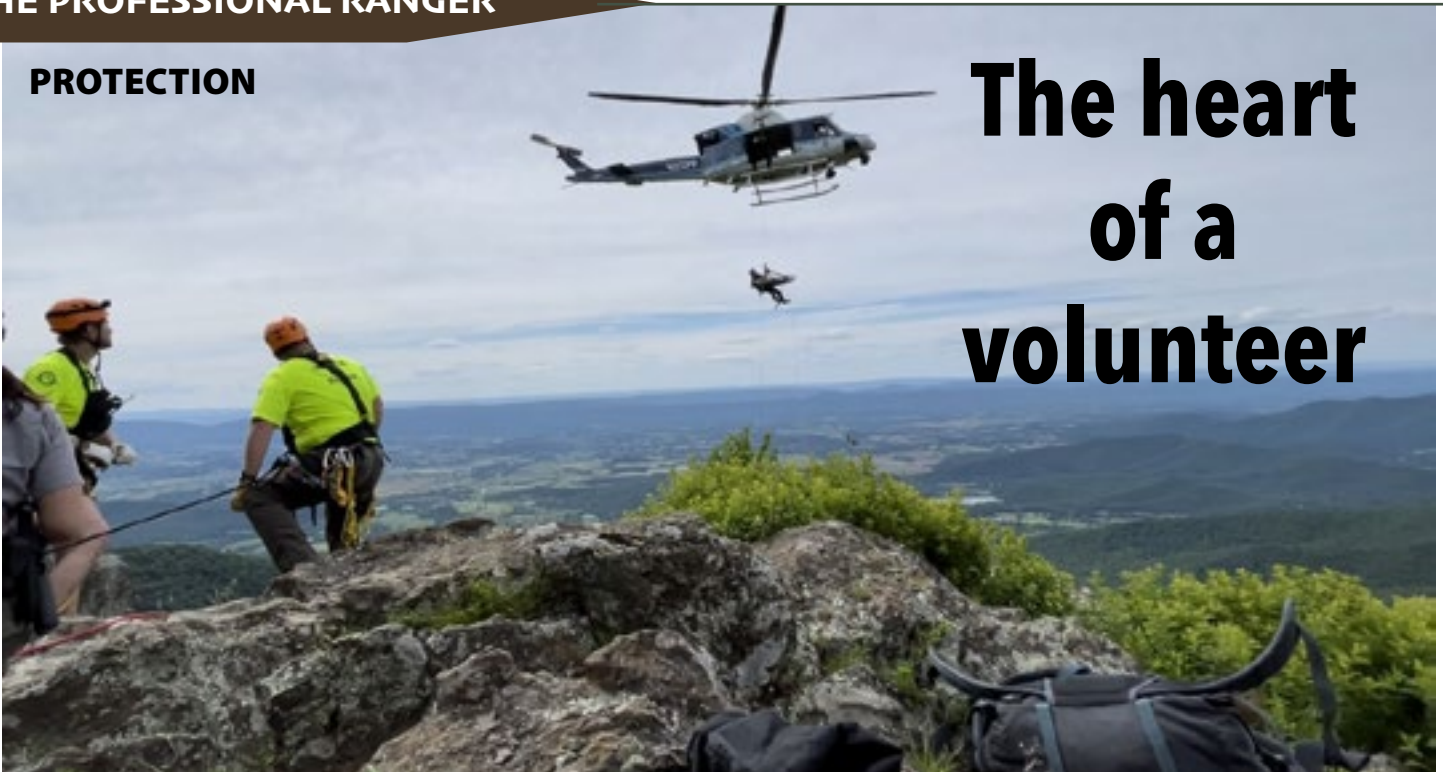
Kudos List

These people have either given someone a gift membership to ANPR or recruited a new member. Thanks for your help and support!

(updated 12/16/2022)

Tom Banks
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Rebecca Harriett
Rick Mossman
David Vela
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PROTECTION



The heart of a volunteer

Volunteer paramedic Mike Damkot attends to a critically injured patient as they're hoisted into U.S. Park Police helicopter, *Eagle 2*, during a rescue of a falling victim at Little Stonyman Cliffs in Shenandoah National Park, June 2022. Photo: Ranger Joanne Ensley

ON 18 APRIL 1942, LT. COL. JIMMY DOOLITTLE, WHEN speaking of the 80 brave U.S. Army Air Corps pilots who volunteered to launch a counterattack against Japan in the aftermath of Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor, was inspired to remark, "There's nothing stronger than the heart of a volunteer."

Col. Doolittle was onto something there, and his observation is applicable to a much wider group of people than just those of our U.S. Armed Forces. Volunteers contribute to countless programs worldwide, improving the overall quality of the programs. How true is this for volunteers in search and rescue?

Over the years, I have had the sincere privilege of working side by side with dozens of volunteers on numerous SAR teams across the country, and it's been my observation that Doolittle was spot-on. There is nothing these folks aren't willing to do for a cause they believe in. Volunteers give and give, and then give some more. They give their time, money, and effort every time they respond to a mission call or attend training.

But they give even more than that: They give us their passionate commitment to keeping themselves ever-ready to do their part to locate and rescue those in need. They work every bit as hard as their paid teammates and are equally skilled. They serve as instructors at team training sessions, take responsibility for team administrative functions, staff information booths at county fairs, and participate in team fund raisers.

Another intangible benefit volunteers bring to the SAR community is their collective life experience from as many different backgrounds as there are volunteers. Whether a college student on the Larimer (Colo.) County SAR team, or a licensed pharmacologist on a local team in Tennessee, every individual rescuer brings to his or her team a wealth of knowledge, skills, and abilities. After joining the team, participating in trainings, missions, and other functions,

those already experienced folks continue to grow, both individually and as part of a cohesive team unit.

The "day jobs" held by the folks on the SAR team I currently serve on span a wide spectrum: automobile mechanic, firefighters, tree farm nursery owner, radio journalist, professional photographer/writer, EMTs, nurses, retired military members, musicians, and two pastors. Each one brings to our team such knowledge! One of my favorite aspects of training with these folks is taking time to get to know them beyond the SAR environment...learn more about what makes each one of them unique and interesting as a person. The more the paid personnel on a SAR team get to know their volunteer personnel, and vice versa, the stronger the overall team will be.

That triggers an opportunity to make an important clarification: "Paid" is often synonymous with "professional." In the case of SAR team personnel, "volunteer" can also be synonymous with professional. Those of us who have SAR responsibilities as part of our paid job need to start thinking in these terms. Our volunteers are every bit as professional, in terms of skill level and conduct, as their paid counterparts. Viewing them in this light might seem like semantics, but to me it's more a matter of showing them the high degree of respect they've earned.

Remember, too... "The Titanic was built by paid engineers, the Ark was built by a volunteer."

Untold hours are donated every year to SAR teams around the world by motivated, skilled volunteers. On my present team alone, volunteers contribute over 1,000 hours in any given year. In some of the missions, we would've affected the rescue without them, but there is no argument that their skilled presence on scene made life a lot easier for everyone involved, especially the victims. In other cases though, it is fair to say that we could not have completed the mission without our volunteers, as they served in some pivotal role.

Another often overlooked benefit provided by local volunteers is their response time. Depending on the location of an individual SAR call, some of my team's volunteers arrive on scene several vital minutes before any on-duty responder. In those minutes, they're usually either busting up the trail as a hasty team or taking charge of some logistical need at the trailhead, such as interviewing the reporting party or initiating a sign-in roster.

For about half of any given year, I enjoy the privilege of working with another, different group of volunteers, this time for the purposes of planning and instructing the National Park Service's Basic Technical Rescue Training—East class, which is a weeklong, on-the-cliff, hands-on course. Again, the volunteers committed to this cause are of the highest caliber, bringing with them to the course the varied skill sets of certified climbing instructors, retired military medics, and private sector managers. If the park service only knew what a knowledge base these folks provide every year...

The bottom line with SAR volunteers is this: They give so much to us, so it's only right to give back to them. We have to take care of these generous people.

How do we as agencies—as paid professionals—take care of our volunteer professionals? I can write an entire article on this topic alone—and I intend to in an upcoming issue—but for starters, do whatever you can to make your volunteers feel valued. A little recognition goes a long way. If they attend training, print a training certificate for them; award CEUs wherever you can for those volunteers who maintain their EMT status. More ideas on this subject will be forthcoming, but suffice it to say what matters most when taking care of volunteers is ensuring that they feel like they belong to the

team and serve in a needed role.

When we place a high premium on the welfare of our volunteers, everyone benefits: Our own agency enjoys improved relations with volunteer fire departments, county SAR teams, Community Emergency Response Teams (CERTs), Explorer SAR Posts, and the greater public in general; those sister organizations gain members whose knowledge, skills, and abilities are expanded; and most importantly, the victims receive an overall, higher-quality response.

Forging and maintaining healthy relationships with fellow agencies and/or organizations is pivotal for agency SAR teams, especially in cases where a unified command approach is taken to manage an incident. It builds trust, and that is indispensable! Both in the command post and in the field, paid professionals and volunteer professionals will mesh much more effortlessly if our team has taken time before the mission to "pre-load" an investment of team-building and caring for volunteers.

When it matters, we will be able to trust each other.

In some cases, this means we'll trust our lives to them and they'll trust theirs to us...

"On belay."

— Kevin Moses
Central District Ranger,
Shenandoah National Park

*This article was previously published in *Wilderness SAR* magazine (originally titled *Park Ranger*) and reprinted with permission.



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CULTURAL RESOURCES

Interpreting Black trauma

FA BAYEZA'S PLAY "THE BALLAD OF EMMETT TILL" ENDS WITH AN artistic rendering of the 14-year-old's lynching.

Although Bayeza spares her audiences depictions of actual violence and bloodshed, the work makes a few things unavoidably clear: that on the morning of Sunday, Aug. 28, 1955, Emmett Till died a slow, tortuous death surrounded by tormentors, terrified, and like George Floyd, calling out for his mother.

The National Park Service may soon be given the responsibility for protecting the resources and interpreting the stories associated with Emmett Till and his mother Mamie Till-Mobley. With that opportunity comes an obligation to ensure that the interpretation goes well beyond legend and place. For Till's lynching fit a pattern of racist violence that was all too familiar to African Americans, violence designed to maintain a white supremacist status quo through terror and trauma.

We know about the terror (much of it). The bombing of the 16th Street Baptist Church in Birmingham in September 1963. The beating of activists in St. Augustine, Fla., who on June 24, 1964, were violently thwarted while attempting to desegregate the city's beaches. The state-sanctioned assault on nonviolent men and women marching across the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, Ala., in March 1965. The beating of Fannie Lou Hamer. The murders of Jimmie Lee Jackson, Viola Liuzzo, and Medgar Evers.

We know less about the trauma.

Our preferred way of storytelling often comports to the "long moral arch of the universe" format in which things progress from bad to better. Human ingenuity, morality, and resilience become the cornerstones of such narratives and much like a network television "Law and Order" procedural, the good guys usually prevail. Without a doubt, the resilience of the foot soldiers in the Civil Rights Movement was, and remains, awe-inspiring, but we need a deeper interpretive dive in order to get this history right.

The kidnap and murder of Emmett Till, his mother's brave decision to hold an open casket funeral for her son, and the acquittal of his killers, were the catalysts of the modern Civil Rights Movement. On Dec. 1, 1955, when Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat on that segregated city bus in Montgomery, she was thinking about Emmett. Her decisive action that fateful day launched the Montgomery Bus Boycott and the civil rights career of an until-then little-known preacher named Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

But Till's lynching also had a chilling effect on civil rights advocacy in Mississippi and elsewhere. According to author Taylor Branch in his book "Pillar of Fire," in 1963 a nine-month-long Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) voter registration drive in Hattiesburg, Miss., added just seven Black people to the voter registration rolls.

"To be a Negro in this country and to be relatively conscious is to be in a rage almost all the time."

— James Baldwin

In Greenwood, Miss., in 1963, Medgar Evers, the field secretary for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) was forced to revoke the charter for the local chapter, which had seen no activity since 1955. Branch concluded that the fear and trauma caused by the Till lynching and ongoing racial violence and intimidation had "shut Greenwood to the movement so tightly..." that not even office space could be found for civil rights organizations. The trauma caused by state-sanctioned murder and mayhem impacted movement veterans, newcomers and observers alike, for there were no sidelines in the Civil Rights Movement.

In the 1940s, '50s and '60s, any Black person attempting to register to vote, who marched in a protest to end segregation, or who was thought to have slighted a white person in any way either real or perceived was subject to violent retribution. Such violence was usually as public as it was deadly, and it sent a clear message to Black civil rights advocates and relatively conscious people of all stripes that opposition to white supremacy meant death. Interpreting the fear and trauma of the foot soldiers of the Civil Rights Movement, the impact of something unseen but so deeply and pervasively felt, is as critical a part of this history, and of getting this story right as the preservation of any courthouse, church, or bridge.

— Alan Spears

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