

The Journal of the Association of National Park Rangers

RANGER

Stewards for parks, visitors & each other

Exploring Florida's best at Ranger Rendezvous 46



Vol. 39, No. 4 | Fall 2023

Contents

Fall
2023

Ranger Rendezvous 46: Focus on wellness, support

Editor's
notes

— Melissa DeVaughn

- 3**
President's message
- 4**
The future of ANPR: Are we still relevant?
- 5**
IRF honors Gordon Miller
- 6**
Royal Caribbean Cruise Lines & ANPR:
Enrichment speaker program flourishes
- 8**
So There I Was : When the President visits,
it's all hands on deck
- 10**
Ranger Rendezvous 46 focuses on
employee wellness and support
- 12**
Ranger Rendezvous 46 schedule of events
- 13**
Ranger Rendezvous 46 registration
- 14**
World Ranger Day honors the fallen
- 15**
World Ranger Day 2023 Roll of Honour
- 16**
Who's the best photographer? The votes
will determine the winners
- 18**
Interpretation: Making connections
- 19**
In Print, Donor List & Kudos
- 20**
Protection: Leadership and trust
- 22**
Cultural Resources: Preserving AAPI history
- 23**
Administration: Uncertainty is certain

ON THE COVER: Park rangers have a broad skill set! Here a ranger from Dry Tortugas National Park dives amid the coral. Dry Tortugas is one of 11 National Park Service units in Florida, where this year's Ranger Rendezvous also will take place. While not close enough to Dry Tortugas, Rendezvous will include field trips to two other nearby NPS units. Photo: National Park Service

THIS QUARTER'S EDITION OF RANGER MAGAZINE IS DEVOTED MOSTLY TO OUR yearly Ranger Rendezvous, this year hosted in Jacksonville, in the Sunshine State of Florida! Who is ready for that sunshine?

In the pages ahead, look for the RR46 logo, at right, to identify stories associated with this year's programming, including special sessions and pre-Rendezvous trainings for those looking to broaden their professional skills.

Back again this year is Ranger Rendezvous' photo contest — it's always a lot of fun to uncover the artistic talents of our membership. There will be two field trips, as well as a golf outing for those who prefer to hit the greens.

Also in this issue of the magazine, we offer a brief summary of efforts among our ANPR board and members to examine how we can remain relevant and improve our ability to meet the needs of our members. ANPR is working diligently to represent park employees across its range of disciplines. Our membership growth initiative aims to serve you, our members, for years to come. See Page 4 for more.

See you all in October!

— Melissa DeVaughn
Ranger magazine editor



Letters to the editor

As stewards, we are the keepers of accurate history

I was somewhat glad to see the writer's letter in the summer edition of *Ranger* magazine ("Keep politics out of *Ranger* magazine," Vol. 39, No. 3). Even though I had different conclusions, it showed engagement and that is part of what ANPR asks on behalf of the organization and our continuing mission to steward the national parks and visitors.

I am always glad and grateful to see the skilled work and generosity of Alan Spears in his columns in our journal, his workshops at Rendezvous, and his participation in our membership and working for the national parks. His spring column was a call to duty. As the governor of Florida and others have made free speech ("don't say gay"), access to books, education, and discussion more limited, less accurate and more biased, it challenges those of us who are trying to do something better.

Spears's column engaged us by pointing out that many visitor/citizens are being deprived of an accurate understanding of history and culture outside the boundaries of our park units, and as stewards of cultural resources we needed to do a better job telling a true and balanced story on our watch. We are the keepers of the buildings, the landscapes where things happened, the events, and histories, and we are responsible for preserving those cultural resources and having them accurately experienced and understood now and by future generations. A lot of people "enjoy" the national park system, but we have not been put here simply to run a playground.

Please listen to and learn from Spears, even if you don't completely agree; he wants us to have an accurate and productive learning process regarding our history and other cultural resources. He wants our society to foster complex critical thinking and not be one that is limited by unfounded censorship and misinformation.

— Ed Rizzotto, ANPR member

Do you have an opinion you want to share? Ranger magazine welcomes all respectful input and feedback. Please limit letters to no more than 250 words, and send to mdevaughn@anpr.org.

RANGER

THE JOURNAL OF THE ASSOCIATION OF NATIONAL PARK RANGERS
Vol. 39, No. 4 Fall 2023

Ranger (ISSN 1074-0678) is a quarterly publication of the Association of National Park Rangers, an organization created to communicate for, about and with National Park Service employees of all disciplines; to promote and enhance the professions, spirit and mission of National Park Service employees; to support management and the perpetuation of the National Park Service and the National Park System; and to provide a forum for professional enrichment.

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.

ANPR business address is 12675 N. Sunrise Shadow Drive, Marana, AZ 85658, anpr.org. Members receive *Ranger* as part of their membership dues. See the website or *Ranger* for membership/subscription details.

FINAL DEADLINES

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



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Officers

President Rick Mossman, RETI
Secretary Demmy Vigil, RETI
Treasurer Meg Weesner, RETI

Board Members

Education & Training Tom Banks, EDUC
Fundraising Activities Wendy Lauritzen, RETI
Internal Communications Elsa Hansen, CEBR
Membership Services Shannon Wilson, RETI
Professional Issues Emily Johnson, AKRO
Seasonal Perspectives Troy Hunt, EDUC
Strategic Planning Jonathan Shafer, ZION
Government Affairs Mike Pflaum, RETI

Staff

Executive Director Bill Wade, RETI
Business Manager Melissa DeVaughn
Ranger magazine editor Melissa DeVaughn

Professional Ranger section

Cultural Resources Alan Spears, NPCA
Protection Kevin Moses, SHEN
In Print Rick Smith, RETI
Administration Marin Karraker, SEAZ
Interpretation Gary Bremen, RETI

Copyright © 2023. All rights reserved. Articles and images in this publication are the sole property of ANPR and *Ranger* magazine, except where otherwise indicated. Republication in whole or part is not allowed without written permission.

A moment of silence for our honored rangers

President's message

— Rick Mossman

AS I WRITE THIS COLUMN IT IS JULY 31, 2023 – World Ranger Day! I'm sitting at Point Reyes National Seashore (PORE) on a beautiful sunny afternoon, representing ANPR at the World Ranger Day celebration at the Ken Patrick Visitor Center. ANPR members Jeff Ohlfs and Mike Lynch and the Point Reyes staff organized this event, which drew more than 100 park rangers representing 28 California agencies from tribal, city, county, regional, state and national parks. What a glorious day to celebrate the work of rangers. We honored a fallen California State park ranger, and three awards were given by the California Park Ranger Association to deserving rangers for unselfish acts of bravery. We dedicated the new memorial to NPS Park Ranger Ken Patrick, murdered in the line of duty at Point Reyes 50 years ago this week. His widow, Tommie Lee, was in attendance.



As I listened and reflected, and as those of you on Facebook have heard from me before, I thought: The fight for the environment, national parks, wildlife, and wild places will never end. There will always be those who want to sell, develop, destroy, and exploit these places in the name of progress and greed.

So, we as rangers must continue to protect, to fight, and to preserve these areas we all love. To paraphrase what was said at the International Ranger Federation meeting in 2016, "Today we are not individual rangers from individual countries and individual parks. Today we are all rangers protecting one place: "TERRA (Earth) NATIONAL PARK."

As is my personal tradition on this day, tonight I will find a quiet place in a nearby park (on this night, it will be Point Reyes), open two beers, and make a toast. One for the rangers we lost last year (148 worldwide), my brothers and sisters who died for what we all as rangers believe in, R.I.P.

The other beer is for me, to toast all you rangers of the world fighting the good fight, working in the noblest mission in the world, to save these wild places and tis inhabitants. Keep up the great work! (And read more about this year's World Ranger Day celebration, on pages 14-15 of this magazine).

Remember, a thousand years from now, nobody will remember the names of presidents, failed leaders, CEOs, generals, or forgotten wars. But the success of civilization will be judged on how much of the original earth we saved. Carry on. Rangers are the best people on earth!

— Rick Mossman,
ANPR president

Where do we go from here?

Amid dwindling membership, ANPR grapples with a path forward



THE ASSOCIATION OF NATIONAL PARK RANGERS HAS BEEN BRINGING together like-minded NPS professionals since 1977, when a group of rangers and technicians met in Jackson, Wyo., for a social visit that resulted in the establishment of what we know today as ANPR.

Now, approaching 50 years later, the Association of National Park Rangers is at a crossroads. With a dwindling membership and increasing reliance on a small but generous population of donors, it is getting harder to accomplish the goals set forth back in 1977. Since 2018, the number of annual members has decreased by nearly 19 percent, and that number is slowly climbing.

“In the past this organization tackled many NPS issues and testified before Congress successfully numerous times,” said ANPR President Rick Mossman. “With the advent of the Retired Employees Coalition, ANPR is focusing more on employee issues. We are not just an organization of protection rangers or interpretive rangers but also resource, maintenance, and administrative folks. I consider them all rangers. We have to figure out a way to get more disciplines involved.”

To help consider the best path forward, ANPR established a membership growth committee consisting of board members, ANPR Lifetime members, and annual members, which has been meeting regularly since the beginning of the year. Membership decline in professional organizations is happening nationally, and not just a problem unique to ANPR. The goal of the growth committee is to determine if there is a way to fix it. But first it asked – and encourages members to do the same – this question: Why does, or should, ANPR exist?

“The growth committee has developed a full array of alternatives with relevant supporting data,” said Bill Wade, ANPR’s executive director and committee chair. “It’s now up to the membership to give the Board of Directors some guidance on how to proceed.”

In August, the committee released a draft report outlining several alternatives for the future of ANPR. But it needs – and wants – member input on its findings. **Extended sessions will be held 10:30 a.m.-12 p.m., and 1:15-2:10 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 21, during Ranger Rendezvous 46 for members to weigh in on the future of this association.** More details will be made available during the meeting, but in an overview of findings from its draft report, the following alternatives are being considered.

ALTERNATIVE 1: TAKE “NO ACTION”

This alternative involves “doing nothing.” No specific additional actions would be taken to increase membership beyond what comes up during normal business activities by the ANPR Board of Directors or its committees.



The ANPR class of presidents adorns the dais at the 2022 Ranger Rendezvous in Tucson. Photo: Andy Hall

ALTERNATIVE 2: TAKE ACTIONS WITHIN THE EXISTING STRUCTURE AND GOVERNANCE

This alternative falls under what is considered “adaptive change,” or small, incremental adjustments that can be made to adapt to periodic business challenges. These changes can fine-tune existing processes, products, and organizational culture, and don’t fundamentally change the organization. While a safe move (and with many of these options already tried in the past), adaptive changes are generally “low risk,” but frequently lead to “low reward” results.

ALTERNATIVE 3: MODIFY ANPR’S NAME, PURPOSES, STRUCTURE

This alternative would be considered “transformational change,” typically much more expansive in scope than adaptive changes. Transformational change often refers to a dramatic evolution of some basic structure of the business itself – its strategy, culture, organization, physical structure, or processes. Transformational change can be “high risk,” but sometimes lead to “high reward” results.

ALTERNATIVE 4: MERGE WITH A LIKE-MINDED ORGANIZATION

ANPR recognizes that there may be “leverage and power” resulting from a merger that could result in more influence and results related to the issues about which it considers important.

ALTERNATIVE 5: DISSOLVE ANPR AND DISTRIBUTE THE ASSETS ACCORDING TO THE BYLAWS

This would spell the end of an era for ANPR and its original spirit and intent.

All the alternatives require commitment, and the answers aren’t easy to implement or simple to decide. Is ANPR satisfied to essentially conduct “business as usual,” nibbling away at the margins of trying to increase membership and representation for our organizational purposes? Or does our Association want to attempt some bold or revolutionary changes to grow? And if neither of those options is viable, we must consider: Has ANPR outlived its value, in terms of benefit vs. cost/effort, and is it time to merge with another willing organization or dissolve the Association?

Please join us at our membership meetings 10:30 a.m.-12 p.m., and 1:15-2:10 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 21 to be part of this very important discussion.

IRF names Lifetime Achievement Award after founder Gordon Miller

THE INTERNATIONAL RANGER FEDERATION HAS APPROVED renaming one of its awards to be the Gordon Miller IRF Lifetime Achievement Award. ANPR proposed the renaming in a resolution that was approved in July, not long after the memorial service for Miller, who died in May.

Gordon was known to many in ANPR as one of three founders of the IRF and an occasional guest at Ranger Rendezvous. He was a ranger at Peak District National Park near Manchester, England, and was active in the Countryside Management Association (England and Wales). Along with Rick Gale from ANPR and Bob Reid of the Scottish Countryside Ranger Association, Miller founded the IRF to be a federation of ranger associations from countries around the world. Gordon was the first president of IRF, serving from 1992 to 1997. He continued to attend all World Ranger Congresses and to participate actively in executive and service functions of the IRF, which now has close to 100 member associations.

It was largely Gordon's vision that resulted in creating the federation. He was referred to as the world's first "global" ranger, and traveled extensively to meet rangers in other nations. Naming



Gordon Miller was a ranger at Peak District National Park in England and was instrumental in the founding and growth of the International Ranger Federation in 1992. Photo: Colin Dilcock

the IRF Lifetime Achievement Award after Gordon will honor his commitment to recognizing the work of rangers all over the world.

— By *Meg Weesner*, ANPR Life Member since 1986,
ANPR International Liaison

Floating
around without
direction?



Hawaii, USA

Your Natural Resource
for Financial Services

Enjoy the member difference at Interior Federal Credit Union and learn how we **save our members up to \$2500 a year!** Membership is open to all ANPR employees, volunteers, and their family members.

Scan the code on the right to apply OR visit **INTERIORFCU.ORG** and click on the **MEMBERSHIP** icon for details and to apply.



Federally Insured by NCUA

The sea & me

By Wendy Lauritzen,
ANPR Board Member for Fund Raising

Royal Caribbean Cruises' *Quantum of the Seas* docks in Southeast Alaska in the summer of 2022. The author, Wendy Lauritzen, was an enrichment speaker on two Alaska cruises. Photo: Wendy Lauritzen

Royal Caribbean Cruise Lines and ANPR partner to provide enrichment speakers in exchange for free passage on cruises to Alaska

UNEXPECTED OPPORTUNITIES AROSE IN 2022
WHEN the Association of National Park Rangers announced that ANPR members were eligible to serve as special speakers during Royal Caribbean Cruise Line departures to Alaska. This special, cooperative arrangement between RCCL and ANPR provides “enrichment speakers” who provide educational and entertaining presentations that offer guests more information on the history, culture, flora and fauna of Alaska. RCCL, in return, offers free passage and a chance to spread the word about all ANPR offers.

The Royal Caribbean Cruise Line program is now in its second year, with multiple ANPR members taking part – some of them for the second time this year.

In 2022 – and since I already had adventure plans that had been both COVID-delayed or long planned along the West Coast – I decided that adding an additional diversion to Alaska seemed logical. After committee review of the proposed programs I would be presenting, I did back-to-back trips, first on the *Ovation of the Seas* and the second on the *Quantum of the Seas*. The routes were slightly different, and a monster storm hitting Sitka and Skagway changed the route even more on the second trip. But it was all good.

NOT YOUR AVERAGE INTERPRETIVE PROGRAM

I encourage all ANPR members to become an enrichment speaker, as it expands the experiences from typical ranger and interpretive programs. The interpretive skill is quite different than what NPS employees normally encounter in their day-to-day interactions. First, the customers/visitors did not take this trip specifically to hear your presentation; it is merely an enhancement for their time on the ship at sea or when others are on their on-shore excursions. Second, the various locations of where you present your program leads to its own unique challenges. Third, you may have an active audience

from whom you have no opening to receive feedback. These ships hold about 4,000 customers and 1,500 staff, so you are literally among a sea of people.

Both the *Ovation* and the *Quantum* were identical as far as layout and space, but each ship has its own personality. The *Quantum* had, in 2022, the only legally blind cruise director working for RCCL. He was great. Programs were given in the Two70 Theater, which has a glass wall overlooking the ocean but also is open to the Two70 Café that sits at top of the theater with seating for people to eat their meals. Being scheduled for a noon presentation looked like good timing, but when asked, no one was there to hear the program. Also, be prepared for whale or dolphin sightings to interrupt your presentations!

The Royal Theatre is huge and has balcony seating as well, so your audience can be much more scattered, or they just walk in looking for a place to sit while waiting for others. Both theaters have a massive overhead projector screen to which your laptop can connect. Spectators watched this rather than looking at the presenter (me) because it is easier to see.

Additionally, all programs are live feed broadcasts to the individual staterooms on the ship. Therefore, the people who may be your real audience could be sitting in their rooms. That removes any visual feedback to audience interest or understanding to which you can adjust your presentation. If your program is designed for feedback as part of the delivery, be prepared for such a void, and come with ideas for how to fill it.

IT'S NOT ALL WORK AND NO PLAY

In my free time, I spent a lot of it at the spa. Having done several weeks of adventure travel before embarking on the *Ovation*, I headed to the spa open house. As I was bent over limping down the stairs, a man in a white lab coat approached me and said, “You need me.”



‘ Being able to go on an Alaska cruise, and bringing a friend, for free, is a great benefit of being an ANPR member. The audiences are appreciative of the three enrichment lectures that we give. It’s a way to do environmental outreach to a receptive group. And, the rest of the time, you get to have a fun vacation and participate in all the offerings that the cruise experience gives.’

—Tom Banks, ANPR Board Member for Education and Training, and RCCL enrichment speaker

ANPR Board Member for Education and Training Tom Banks has presented on multiple RCCL Alaska cruises. Here, he is presenting a program featuring bears in Alaska. Photo: Tom Banks

Indeed, I did! He was the ship’s acupuncturist. The results amaze me to this day. With the first treatment, I began to have great relief in my ankles and lower back. I signed up for 10 treatments. By the third treatment, relief to years of chronic pain was gone. The difference was so profound that I became a believer. So much so, the first hour of the first day on the *Quantum of the Seas*, I went straight to the spa and signed up for 10 more acupuncture and cupping treatments. I had also learned from my first cruise to get to the spa orientation session on the first day when fewer passengers know they are doing a prize drawing. I won the top prize of \$250 credit at the spa. Yep, I used that up right away!

On the heels of that lucky win, I decided to find out what the “snowball drawing” was all about when I got on the *Quantum of the Seas*. I had heard of it but never bothered to look into it when I was on the *Ovation*. The snowball drawing was held in the Casino Royale. I didn’t win on that drawing, but I did win a jackpot that requires W-2 issuance.

PLAN YOUR 2024 CRUISE NOW

I can’t promise you will be as lucky in your prize drawings, but I can promise that the enrichment speaker opportunity will broaden your skills while providing a great vacation with a guest. There is an application process (see the sidebar at right). The opportunity allows us as ANPR members to spread the word about who we are and what we do. It also gives us a chance to share our career knowledge with those who may be curious.

Become a 2024 enrichment presenter

Speaker Kevin McCormack will present “The Royal Caribbean Cruise Program” 1:15-2:10 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 19 during Ranger Rendezvous 46. To qualify to be an “Enrichment Presenter” on an RCCL trip:



- Submit a 100-word summary bio.
- Submit a brief resume and the names of at least two references who could vouch for your character and speaking abilities.
- Submit a brief (no more than half-page for each presentation) outline, for the three presentations that you envision giving. **NOTE: All presentations must be related to Alaska.**
- Submit a cover letter describing why you are interested in this opportunity, and how your work or volunteer experience has prepared you for this responsibility.
- From the list of cruises, include your preferred cruise date, and at least one alternate date. (Note: 2024 departure dates were not available as of press time, but should be by Ranger Rendezvous 46. The booking process with RCCL must start at least 60 days prior to the sail date, so plan accordingly).
- If you aren’t a member already, you must become a member of ANPR at the time of the booking (go to <https://anpr.org/join/>).

Please submit all items to bwade@anpr.org and our committee will review them for approval or for additional information. Members may apply for more than one cruise, even for back-to-back cruises. We will assist you with the RCCL booking process.

The First Family in Acadia

By Sheridan Steele

LATE ONE DAY AS I WAS PREPARING TO leave the office, my phone rang, and the caller said he was with the White House. This got my attention, especially since it did not sound like a prank call. He introduced himself as the director of the White House Advance Office and said the president and first family were considering coming to Acadia for an outdoor recreation three-day weekend. He wanted to know what kind of things they could do, so I described the hiking, biking, boating, and other possibilities. Evidently, he thought those would appeal to the family and said he would come the next day for a quick tour.

When he arrived, he came with a representative of the First Lady's Office and a senior person with the Secret Service. We took a tour of the park, and I pointed out various options for the Obamas to enjoy. He asked for three recommendations for short hikes and three suggestions for bike rides.

I offered my ideas, complete with trail length and estimated times of the hikes or rides. As they departed, he said they would discuss these ideas with the President and get back to me. Two days later, he called again to say that a larger advance group would arrive the next day for a closer look and for planning the details of a possible visit. This certainly implied they were coming. Of course, secrecy was important, and we were told not to share information with anyone who did not need to know.

The advance team, mostly Secret Service and White House press office folks, wanted to look at each of my recommendations, which meant we took bike rides on all three of the sections of carriage road that I suggested. Next were hikes on three trails. They took notes and discussed potential security issues. One question that arose involved weight allowances on the historic carriage road bridges. The



Superintendent Sheridan Steele and wife, Barb, greet then-President Barack Obama the family on Cadillac Mountain summit in Acadia National Park. The trip required multiple Secret Service visits and a "mum's the word" directive to park staff. Photo: Sheridan Steele

heavy armored presidential limo (called "the Beast") would follow the family as they rode bikes on the carriage roads. The highly secure vehicle would need to be close-by in case it was needed in an emergency. Since our dump trucks often used the bridges for routine maintenance projects, Acadia's engineer calculated the weight of one of our dump trucks filled with gravel was about 50,000 pounds. This information satisfied the Secret Service since it indicated there would be no problem for the armored limousine to drive over the bridges.

As we hiked the short (1.8-mile loop) Ship Harbor Trail with the team, we noticed a large dead tree leaning over the trail. The leader asked me if I could get it removed. "No problem," I said. I radioed Gary Stellpflug, our trails foreman, and told him of the tree and asked if he could get it down and removed. He said he would assign

As we hiked the short (1.8-mile loop) Ship Harbor Trail with the team, we noticed a large dead tree leaning over the trail. The leader asked me if I could get it removed. "No problem," I said. I radioed Gary Stellpflug, our trails foreman, and told him of the tree and asked if he could get it down and removed. He said he would assign a crew to remove it next week, so I asked a little more emphatically. Could he do it today? Without any more explanation he said, "I will take care of it personally."

Hear more stories from Sheridan Steele

Sheridan Steele was superintendent of Acadia National Park from 2003 to 2015. He is a retired ANPR member. This excerpt is from his book "From Bear Dens to the Oval Office: True Stories From My 38 Years Managing National Parks."

This year, Steele will be a guest presenter at Ranger Rendezvous 46 in Jacksonville, Fla.

He will present "From Bear Dens to the Oval Office," and share more stories from his years in service to the National Park Service. The breakout session will be held 2:20-3:15 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 21.

For more details on this year's Ranger Rendezvous, flip to Page 10.



a crew to remove it next week, so I asked a little more emphatically. Could he do it today? Without any more explanation he said, "I will take care of it personally."

That trail turned out to be the one the Obamas walked from the trailhead to the rocky coastline for the wonderful salt air and great ocean views. A few people were enjoying the rocky coast where the trail ends when the first family arrived, but the Secret Service decided other visitors would not be a threat since they would not have known of the president's plans or schedule.

The surprised hikers were allowed to remain at a safe distance as the family approached.

Among those few people were Gary and his wife who "happened" to be walking that particular trail that day. No need to speculate how he figured the president might be in that area.

As the park superintendent, I was to be the official greeter, along with my wife, Barb, on top of Cadillac Mountain, the first presidential stop in the park. The first family would take a short walk around the summit to enjoy the spectacular views of Frenchman Bay, the Porcupine Islands, and the surrounding mountains. The only problem was heavy fog that morning, but it was breaking up. As we waited, the Secret Service agent in charge gave my wife a large lapel pin to wear that would indicate she had been cleared to be close to the president. Since I was in uniform and easily recognizable, I did not need a pin. Barb returned from a quick trip to the restroom and suddenly exclaimed she had lost her pin. When she said she would see the agent about another one, I knew that would not go over well. His strong reaction was "you had better find it," and she did. Paul Crowley, our staff person cleaning restrooms, had found it, fortunately.

The security plan was to keep the president's destinations secret until the last minute to avoid crowds forming and increasing the security risk. In this case, rangers were instructed to block the entrance to Cadillac Summit 90 minutes before the family would arrive to prevent other visitors from going up. Then those visitors at the top would naturally leave after they saw the views without knowing the president was coming. This worked fine for about an hour, and then a few people noticed there were no more cars arriving and most of the parking lot was empty, an unusual occurrence for Acadia in June. On a hunch, some of these folks decided to stay. A few minutes before the motorcade arrived, the Secret Service used a wand to check each remaining person for a weapon and had them stand off to one side. Bomb-sniffing dogs went around each vehicle left in the lot. To the amazement of the small crowd, when the Obamas arrived, the president walked over to them and said hello, before returning to where Barb and I stood ready to welcome them to Acadia National Park.

Fortunately, the fog disappeared almost magically shortly before the family's arrival on top. After greeting them and posing for a quick photo, we walked around the summit path and the president remarked about the great beauty of Acadia and Maine. He said to me, "Wow, this would be a tough place to work."



**IMAGE
AUTHORITY™**

Proudly
Outfitting
National Park
Rangers for
over 40 years



**THE LEADER IN
CUSTOM UNIFORM PROGRAMS**

imageauthority.com

©2023 Image Authority, a brand of Workwear Outfitters, LLC 23-9831

Down to the wire



Ranger Rendezvous 46 offers ANPR members a chance to learn, network, reconnect & relax

WITH LESS THAN TWO MONTHS BEFORE THE START OF **RANGER RENDEZVOUS 46**, ANPR organizers are working on the final touches of what it hopes to be an educational yet relaxing time to recommit as members, and park professionals. This year's theme, "Employee Wellness, Employee Support," is self-explanatory. If one thing is clear from our membership, it is that working in the rangers profession — no matter the discipline — is hard. Whether your career is in maintenance, administration, law enforcement, education, or interpretation, the challenges are similar. The National Park Service is doing more with less, and those in its service are feeling the brunt.

So this year, we celebrate you, the park professional out there grinding away to make your corner of the world better. Ranger Rendezvous 46 offers participants a chance to attend four days worth of sessions — or just reconnect with former colleagues who are back for a reunion. In fact, the real magic of Rendezvous often happens by the barstool at the hotel, or poolside among new and retired professionals. This networking opportunity is a rare chance to make connections that not only can help you in your career, but also provide lifelong friends.

THIRD TIME IS THE CHARM

The Southbank Hotel Jacksonville Riverwalk in Jacksonville, Fla., has been awaiting ANPR members since 2020, when Ranger Rendezvous 43 was postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

In fact, the real magic of Rendezvous often happens by the barstool at the hotel, or poolside among new and retired professionals. This networking opportunity is a rare chance to make connections that not only can help you in your career, but also provide lifelong friends.

Organizers tried again to hold the Rendezvous in Jacksonville in 2021, but a spike in COVID-19 cases in the area, as well as limitations on NPS travel, necessitated another postponement. Then in 2022, Rendezvous finally launched again in the pre-scheduled destination of Tucson.

This year, it is finally back to Florida, where planners are scheduling a week's worth of activities. Training sessions will be held Tuesday and Wednesday, Oct. 17 and 18; the ANPR Board of Directors also will meet on the 18th. The full program will run Thursday, Oct. 19- through Sunday, Oct. 22, although Friday, Oct. 20, is set aside for field trips and personal experiences. Field trips will be planned to Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve (including Fort Caroline National Memorial and the Kingsley Plantation) and to Castillo de San Marcos National Monument and historic St. Augustine.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE

Audrey Peterman, president and co-founder of Earthwise Productions, Inc., an environmental consulting and publishing firm focused on connecting the public lands system and the American public.

- **Frank Lands**, NPS Deputy Director, Operations, will speak on "The View From the Director's Office."

- **Mike Reynolds**, NPS Deputy Director, Congressional and External Relations, has been invited and is tentatively confirmed.

- Associate Director **Mike Caldwell** is confirmed.

- The director of the **Federal Law Enforcement Training Center** has been invited to discuss hiring and training of NPS Law Enforcement Rangers.

- **John de Graaf**, the director of the acclaimed documentary, "Stewart Udall – The Politics of Beauty," has confirmed attendance and will be presenting the film.

- **Jean Pierre Jobogo**, a ranger in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, plans to attend and talk about "rangering" in the DRC.

There will be additional sessions on hiring, housing, and training — the three priorities related to this year's theme, which is "Employee Wellness; Employee Support."

AN UPDATE ON TRAINING COURSES

The originally scheduled **National Association of Interpretation Certified Interpretive Guide Course** has been canceled due to lack of enrollment by the course registration deadline. But there will be

two days of training that ANPR members may still sign up for, provided enough had signed up by the Sept. 1 deadline.

- **Initial Response Incident Commander** – 16 hours (\$50, ANPR membership required)
- **Introduction to NPS /Fun Lite Course** – Eight hours (\$25, ANPR membership required)
- **Personal Financial Planning** – Four hours (Free, ANPR membership required)
- **Strategies for Effective Communications** – Four hours (Free, ANPR membership required)

NETWORKING AND SOCIAL TIME

Receptions are planned, along with vendors, NPS trivia night, and, of course, the traditional Ranger Rendezvous hospitality room. There is also enough down time to explore the Jacksonville area. Visit Jacksonville, the local travel organization for the area, has created a custom website for ANPR members, at <https://www.visitjacksonville.com/anpr2023/>.

The site provides recommendations on things to do, restaurants, and events happening in the area during the week of the Rendezvous. Click the link, or scan the QR code at right.



REGISTRATION IS OPEN

Registration opened June 1. Go to Page 13 for more details on pricing and lodging.

Fun “Jax” Facts

- First, you’ll hear a lot of the locals call their city “Jax.”
- Jax boasts the largest urban park system in the nation, four times the size of the island of Manhattan. Its 80,000 acres includes two national parks, seven state parks, and more than 400 city parks.
- Jacksonville has more than 840 square miles, making it the largest city by landmass in the continental or contiguous U.S.
- Jax is Florida’s youngest city with an average age of 36; the state of Florida average age is 42.
- Jacksonville has more shoreline (1,100 miles) than any other city in Florida, as well as 22 miles of beaches!
- Jacksonville was named for General Andrew Jackson, the first military governor of Florida who, incidentally, never visited Jacksonville.
- The first Technicolor film, “The Gulf Between,” was filmed in Jacksonville in 1917.
- The Florida Theatre opened in 1927 and is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The theatre was home to one of Elvis Presley’s first indoor concerts in 1956. A local judge sat through the performance to ensure Presley’s body movements weren’t too suggestive.
- The oldest, continuously operating community theater in the country is Theatre Jacksonville, in operation since 1919.

— Provided by Visit Jacksonville

Pilot Rock®

PARK • STREET • CAMP SITE PRODUCTS

Across our different product lines we offer hundreds of choices in style, size, features, materials and colors.

Commercial quality products able to withstand years of use and exposure.

Made in the USA since 1959.

RJ Thomas Mfg. Co., Inc.
Cherokee, Iowa
800-762-5002
www.pilotrock.com
customerservice@rjthomas.com



Ranger Rendezvous 46 program schedule

Employee wellness, employee support

Tuesday, October 17

- 8 a.m.-5 p.m.: Training: Initial Response Incident Commander, Day 1
- 8 a.m.-12 p.m.: Training: Personal Finance Management
- 1:15 p.m.-5 p.m.: Training: Communication Skills

Wednesday, October 18

- 8 a.m.-5 p.m.: Training: Initial Response Incident Commander, Day 2
- 8 a.m.-5 p.m.: Training: NPS Basics/Fun Lite
- 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m.: Board of Directors meeting (open to all members)
- 2-6 p.m.: Registration opens: Atrium foyer
- 7-8:30 p.m.: Trivia Night
- 7:30-?: Hospitality Suite open

Thursday, October 19

- 6:30-7:45 a.m.: Breakfast with board of directors for first-time RR attendees
- 7:45-8 a.m.: Announcements
- 8-10 a.m.: Welcome addresses by ANPR president, area superintendents, Jacksonville mayor, regional director
- 10-10:30 a.m.: Beverage break
- 10:30-11:15 a.m.: General session: "Keynote speaker Audrey Peterman on "Public Lands & Rangers: the Glue that Holds America Together?"
- 11:15 a.m.-Noon: General Session: NPS Deputy Director, Operations, Frank Lands
- Noon-1:15 p.m.: Lunch
- 1:15-2:10 p.m.: Breakout sessions:
 - Butch Farabee and Dave Lattimore, "History of Special Events Teams and Incident Management Teams"
 - Jim Miculka, "Empowering Volunteers as Program Leads"
 - Kevin McCormack, "The Royal Caribbean Cruises program"
- 2:20-3:15 p.m.: Breakout sessions
 - "John Garder: From Law to Implementation: A discussion of Recent NPS Funding Successes"
 - "Ana Nader: Florida Manatee Conservation"
 - "Somba Byombo Ghislain: Nature Conservation vs. Armed Conflict, DRC Case"
- 3:15-3:45 p.m.: Beverage break and raffle
- 3:45-4:30 p.m.: General session:
 - Speaker Mike Caldwell, associate director, Park Planning, Facilities and Lands
- 4:30-5:15 p.m.: General session:
 - Speaker Claudia Blakely, HR specialist
- 6-7:30 p.m.: President's Reception, Anchor Room
- 7:30-9 p.m.: Special program: "Stories and Songs of the National Parks: Gary Bremen and Grant Livingston
- 7:30-?: Hospitality Suite open



NOTE: Ranger Rendezvous planning is still underway. This preliminary schedule will be continually updated and available online closer to the event.

Friday, October 20

- 7:30-8 a.m.: Announcements and raffle
- 8-9:30 a.m.: General session
 - Panel: "Status of NPS Law Enforcement"
- 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m.: Field trips, golf tourney, personal time
- 6:30-?: Hospitality suite open
- 7:30-8:30: Special Program TBA

Saturday, October 21

- 7:45-8:15 a.m.: Announcements and raffle
- 8:15-9 a.m.: General session: "The NPS Climate Change Response Plan," with speaker Larry Perez
- 9-10 a.m.: General session: "NPS Uniform Panel," Chris Jentz and Ramie Lynch
- 10-10:30 a.m.: Beverage break and raffle
- 10:30-12 p.m.: Membership Meeting, board reports
- Noon-1:15 p.m.: Lunch
- 1:15-2:10 p.m.: Breakout sessions
 - Membership Meeting subgroups
 - Membership Meeting subgroups
 - Membership Meeting subgroups
- 2:20-3:15 p.m.: Breakout sessions
 - "From Bear Dens to the Oval Office," by Sheridan Steele
 - "Mastering Resiliency" by Donald Forgione
 - "Achievements that Contributed to Save the Congolese Heritage," by Jean Pierre Jobogo
- 3:15-3:45 p.m.: Beverage break and raffle
- 3:45-5:30 p.m.: John de Graaf Documentary Film: "Stewart Udall, the Politics of Beauty"
- 6:30-10 p.m.: Campfire Awards Event / Reception / Dance and Entertainment
- 10 p.m.-?: Hospitality suite open



The Seven Creeks State Recreation Area in Jacksonville is a popular outdoor destination for locals. Photo: Jason Milton

Ranger Rendezvous 46 Registration information

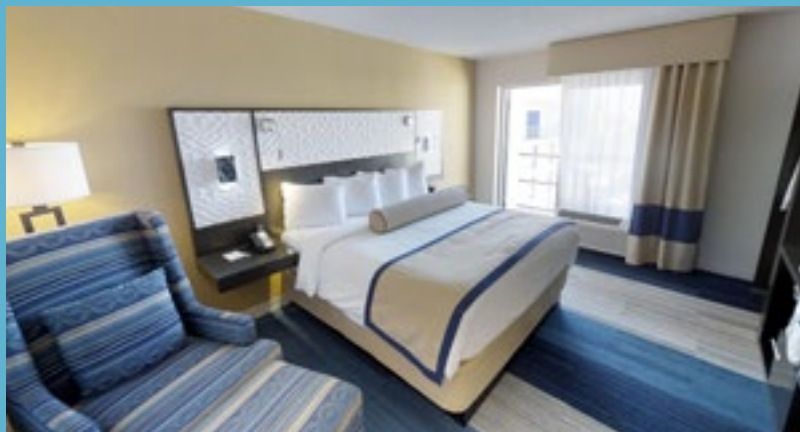
HOW TO REGISTER: Visit <https://www.anpr.org/rendezvous/46> to register online. Registration is open through the day of the event. On-site registration for the main program is available; on-site registration for trainings is available on a space-available basis.

WHEN: Oct. 17-22, 2023

WHERE: Southbank Hotel Jacksonville Riverwalk, Jacksonville, Fla.

HOW MUCH: Ranging from \$45 for one-day student attendance to \$150 for the entire event (if registering before the early bird discount). Join ANPR to receive a member discount.

LODGING INFORMATION: Single/double room rate is \$118 plus tax, which includes free breakfast daily. Information about the hotel is available at <https://www.marriott.com/en-us/hotels/jaxdo-southbank-hotel-jacksonville-riverwalk/> and reservations at the discounted rate can be made at <https://www.marriott.com/event-reservations/reservation-link.mi?id=1684869763808&key=GRP&app=resvlink>



A typical king room at the Southbank Hotel Jacksonville Riverwalk. Discount rates are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Photo: Southbank Hotel

Sunday, October 22

7:45-8:15 a.m.: Announcements and raffle

8:15-9 a.m.: General session: "Telling Our Nation's Stories in Today's Political Environment," by David Vela

9-10 a.m.: Membership meeting

10-10:30 a.m.: Beverage break and raffle

10:30-11:15 a.m.: Breakout sessions

- "Personal Leadership," by Bill Pierce
- "Being the Face of the NPS Can Be Stressful: Tips on Making it Easier," Jonathan Shafer
- Session #3 TBA

11:15 a.m.-Noon: Keynote speaker: Mike Reynolds, NPS deputy director, invitation RSVP pending

Noon-1:15 p.m.: Lunch

1:15-2:10 p.m.: Breakout sessions

- "Ranger Research: the Final Report," by Christina Burton
- Panel Mexico City: "The Civilians at the Epicenter of Modern U.S. Response to Domestic and International Disasters"
- "The View From Where I Sit," by Shannon Wilson

2:20-3:15 p.m.: Keynote Speaker David Vela: "Caring for the Caretakers: Emotional Wellness in the NPS"

3:15-3:30 p.m.: Beverage break and raffle

3:30-4:15 p.m.: General session: TBA

4:15-4:30 p.m.: General session Closing

6 p.m.-?: Hospitality suite open



The Kingsley Plantation is part of Timucuan Ecological & Historic Preserve, which is one of the offered field trips on Oct. 20, 2023. Photo: Katie Mitura



A day to reflect

By Jeff Ohlfs
and Jamie Richards

World Ranger Day honors the fallen, and also highlights 30x30 global initiative

ON JULY 31, 2023, ANPR MEMBERS WERE AMONG MORE than 155 public and rangers representing 20 different agencies and eight associations gathered at Point Reyes National Seashore to commemorate World Ranger Day. Among those in attendance included a special delegation from Point Reyes' sister park, Kolkheti National Park, in the Republic of Georgia.

Established by the International Ranger Federation (IRF), World Ranger Day (WRD) has been celebrated on July 31 every year since 2006. World Ranger Day was created to both celebrate the ranger profession around the globe and the critical work rangers do to protect treasured natural resources and cultural heritages. It is also a day to honor and remember our fallen peers who either lost their lives or were seriously injured in the line of duty over the past year. This year we honored the memory of 148 rangers from 39 countries who were killed in the line of duty (from June 2022 to May 2023). A moment of silence was observed for our fallen peers.

The IRF program theme was the 30x30 global initiative: where 30 percent of the world's terrestrial and inland water areas are effectively conserved by 2030. Emphasis was placed on the fact that the initiative suffers from a shortage of rangers to meet the 30x30 target.

This year's commemoration ceremony was particularly special, as we gathered to honor the memory of Point Reyes National Seashore Ranger Ken Patrick and Mitchell Caverns State Natural Preserve Ranger Richard Schnurr. Both were killed in the line of duty 50 years ago. The Patrick family was in attendance and unveiled a monument dedicated to Ranger Patrick at the Ken Patrick Visitor Center.

ANPR Life Member Jeff Ohlfs served as the

event MC, and the program included the presentation of the colors by the NPS Honor Guard. Point Reyes Superintendent Craig Kenkel offered welcome remarks, followed by the keynote address by NPS Deputy Director Frank Lands. A bagpiper played "Amazing Grace," and flag presentations were made to the Patrick and Schnurr families. There was also a presentation of a World Ranger Day resolution from the Marin County Board of Supervisors and Medal of Valor & Award of Honor presentations made by the Park Rangers Association of California.

Additional activities included Junior Ranger activities, the National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration kids table, opportunities to meet with Point Reyes National Seashore mounted rangers, and a multi-agency ranger vehicle display. The event concluded with a group photo and Kolkheti National Park Director David Grigolia cutting the celebration cake. This event was supported by the Ranger Foundation, the California State Park Rangers Association, the California State Park Anniversary Committee, and the Point Reyes National Seashore Association.

Planning for California's World Ranger Day 2024 is already underway. Consider attending next year's celebration at East Bay Regional Park District in Oakland.

Above, a group photo of those gathered for World Ranger Day at Point Reyes National Seashore. At left, an NPS Honor Guard American flag folding ceremony held during the event.

Photos by Anela Kopshever





WORLD RANGER DAY 2023

ROLL OF HONOUR

Recognising Ranger Deaths in the Line of Duty Causes of Death - June 2022 to May 2023

THIN GREEN LINE
Rangers protecting nature



ANIMAL ATTACKS

(27 deaths)

Any death of a ranger due to attack from wild animals.

Burundi	Niyonzima Schadrack	Hippo attack
Malawi	Pemphero Tambala	Killed by elephant
Malawi	Isaac Katunga	Trampled by elephants
Malawi	Ivano Banda	Killed by buffalo
South Africa	Kabelo Mashao	Cored by elephant
Tanzania	Taliko Olesalel Marau	Buffalo attack
Zambia	Langson Mapulanga	Attacked by elephants
Zambia	Happy Kasonde	Attacked by elephant
India	Budhram Rotiya	Killed by elephant
India	Jasbin Salkar Aind	Trampled by elephant
India	Kishore Kumar	Elephant attack
India	M. Murugan	Trampled by elephant
India	T. Kalpur Hussain	Elephant attack
India	Sarat Ghadel	Trampled by elephant
India	Mahadeva Swamy	Trampled by elephant
India	Shakthivel	Trampled/gored by elephant
India	Noushad	Trampled by elephant
India	Pradip Borah	Wild elephant attack
India	Lakshmi Naryana	Trampled by elephant
India	Jaroop Singh Saini	Snake bite
India	Bomma	Trampled by elephant
Malaysia	Joe Fred Lansou	Cored by pygmy elephant
Sri Lanka	Ishara Madusanka Wanasooriya	Trampled by elephant
Sri Lanka	Thushara Meththananda	Trampled by elephant
Sri Lanka	Praboda Wijekoon	Trampled by elephant
Thailand	Arthit Phiewngam	Elephant attack
Thailand	Somphop Sri-Ngam	Elephant attack

Uganda	Charles Okawa	Died in firefight with poachers
Zambia	Stanley Ng'andwe	Shot by poachers
India	Bidyaa Singh Lehte	Killed by timber mafia truck
India	Srinivasa Rao	Stabbed to death by tribals
India	Bimal Kumar Jena	Shot by poacher
Iran	Mohammad Farahmand	Shot by illegal hunters
Iran	Reza Bahrapour	Shot dead outside court
Iran	Boroumand Najafi	Shot by timber smugglers
Pakistan	Mushtaq Ahmad Shaheed	Shot by poacher
Thailand	Thanongdej Sunthornworachan	Shot by vehicle smugglers
Thailand	Suwan Muenthong	Killed in ranger station
Thailand	Anantasak Seethon	Stabbed to death by intruder
Vietnam	Le Viet Huong	Car hit with small arms fire
Ukraine	Sergei Piev	Killed by shrapnel
Ukraine	Vladimir Dmitrenko	Shot by snake eagle poachers
Turkey	Mehmet Ali Koşar	Ambushed
Brazil	Janildo Oliveira Guajajara	Deliberately run over
Brazil	Jael Carlos Miranda	



DEATH IN SERVICE

(17 deaths)

Any line-of-duty incident or illness resulting in death related to working conditions.

Burkina Faso	Allidou Alexis Kiy	Went missing on patrol
Burkina Faso	Idrissa Belemoussou	Went missing on patrol
Cote d'Ivoire	Ballo Vanoumahon	Died from head injury
Mozambique	Fernando Mavunbi Salimo	Cerebral malaria
Uganda	Samuel Loware	Collapsed on duty
India	Tanlu Dupit	Unexplained on-duty death
India	Subramanian	Collapsed on duty
India	Rambabu Verma	Discovered collapsed
India	Anand	Fatal epileptic attack on patrol
India	Prabin Boro	Died from respiratory problem
Malaysia	Fadli al Sah	Died from malaria
Malaysia	Muhammad Nazli bin Aji	Line of duty death
Malaysia	Rainbow bin Tabol	Sepsis from forest infection
Pakistan	Muhammad Dar	Heart attack on duty
Costa Rica	Roberto Molina Ugalde	Died following patrol
USA	Louis (Phil) Navarro	Heart attack at work
Chile	Jorge Salvo Vergara	Cardiac arrest



OCCUPATIONAL ACCIDENTS

(20 deaths)

Any death recorded due to occupational hazards such as firefighting, drownings, falls, equipment failure and other such incidents

Bhutan	Pema Tshering	Fatal fall
India	Tarun Kumar	Drowned in river
India	M.H.Chinnappa	Fell into lake
India	Mofij Ali	Drowned whilst on patrol
India	S.J.Sundares	Died 80% burns
India	Nandu Rawat	Slipped and fell into gorge
India	Dharmeswar Basumatari	Fall at anti-poaching camp
India	Chooja Siddhi	Electrocuted
India	Babu	Slipped and fell
Indonesia	Gunawan Saifulah	Struck by falling tree
Indonesia	Pak Sudirman	Struck by falling tree
Kenya	Aron Onyapindi Osere	Drowned chasing illegal loggers
Kenya	Geoffrey Matanya Tabu	Drowned chasing illegal loggers
Kenya	Daniel Ebose Ambale	Drowned chasing illegal loggers
Pakistan	Mohammad Adnan Khan	Slipped and fell into gorge
Spain	Juan Pedro de la Cruz Sagredo	Car swept away in floods
Tanzania	Mathias Abraham Mgongolwa	Drowned pursuing a poacher
Thailand	Aphinan Kongket	Cold water shock incident
USA	Collin Hagan	Killed by falling tree
Vietnam	Ha Dinh Phuong	Swept away in river



HOMICIDE

(48 deaths)

Any death of the hand of another person or persons with intent. This also includes cases if the deceased was off-duty but killed because of their ranger work.

Cameroon	Blaise Saoulhou	Shot by poachers
Cameroon	Enyang Julius Ayuk	Killed by timber traffickers
Central African Republic	Eric Rama Doungous	Ambushed by insurgents
D R Congo	Mahomet Meddy Kengu	Killed by Mai Mai
D R Congo	Benoit Hakizimana Ndamira	Killed by Mai Mai
D R Congo	Pascal Fatakanwe Tulinabo	Killed by Mai Mai
D R Congo	Alain Lukinga	Attacked by illegal miners
D R Congo	Paluku Mahamba Ovide	Hippo poaching firefight
D R Congo	Musubao Mubulya Justin	Hippo poaching firefight
D R Congo	Muhindo Kasay Nickson	Hippo poaching firefight
D R Congo	Kakule Nzonda Djiku	Convoy ambush by Mai Mai
D R Congo	Ngerageze Kamuzungu Daniel	Convoy ambush by Mai Mai
D R Congo	Paluku Kiyana	Died in Mai Mai attack
Ethiopia	Ayta Torsi	Shot in the park
Ethiopia	Atnafu Isho	Shot by poachers
Kenya	All Hamza Kimango	Killed by Al Shabaab IED
Kenya	Lodiye Ngathiki Kukmi	Killed by livestock rustlers
Malawi	Bendius Amasi	Hacked to death by poachers
Mali	Mamadou Seyba	Killed in jihadist attack
Mali	Yousouf Diarra	Killed in jihadist attack
Mali	Ousmane Tall	Killed in armed attack
Mali	Un Agent Eaux et Forets	Suspected jihadist attack
Mali	Un Garde du Forets	Suspected jihadist attack
Niger	Seyni Mamoudou	Killed by armed individuals
Niger	Mamoudou Hombo	Terrorists attacked his post
Nigeria	Yahya Halidu Balarabe	Shot dead on duty
Nigeria	Muraina Ayoola	Killed by kidnappers
South Africa	Anton Mzimba	Assassinated
South Sudan	Mario Akayak Haworu	Shot during attack
Tanzania	James Chacha Kalomba	Attacked by cattle herders



VEHICLE ACCIDENTS

(36 deaths)

Any on-duty death due to vehicle accidents or involving other forms of transportation.

Benin	Nestor Naka	Car crash on duty
Botswana	un-named	Vehicle overturned
D R Congo	Jean-Luc Sekibibi Muryekuri	Accident during duty mission
D R Congo	Théophile Janvier Sebutama	Accident during duty mission
D R Congo	Papy Akilimali Kwabo	On-duty crash
D R Congo	Ushindi Banyungu Jean	Vehicle overturned
Kenya	Mark Jenkins	Died piloting patrol plane
Kenya	Peter Jenkins	Died in above plane crash
Kenya	Amos Mutisya Rukia	Vehicle crash during firefighting
Kenya	Peter Kisilu	Work related accident
Senegal	Kéba Guèye	Motorcycle collision
Senegal	Safiatou Sané	Motorcycle collision
Tanzania	Shinini Simele Mayang'ui	Died from injuries
Tanzania	Bernard Shayo	Patrol plane crash
Tanzania	Aman Mgogollo	Patrol plane crash
Tanzania	TANAPA Ranger	Patrol plane crash
India	Manoj Kumar Srivastava	Road traffic accident
India	Naren Rabha	Railway accident
India	Bhuvan Chandra	Road traffic accident
India	Sambit Das	Knocked down
India	Jagdish Maru	On-duty-Car crash
India	Himanshu Verma	On-duty-Car crash
India	Muhammad Ashraf	Car fell into gorge
India	Kishore Lal Bahuguna	Bus overturned at checkpoint
India	Suryakant Mehra	On-duty-Car crash
India	Narendra Kumar	Motorbike accident while on duty
India	Gyaneshwar	Patrol M/cycle crash
India	Shankar Anand Bhatt	Official vehicle crashed
Iran	Mohammad Asadi	On-duty accident
Pakistan	Ijaz Ahmed	Motorbike accident while on duty
Thailand	Pongsuwan Chalona	Vehicle accident
Thailand	Parinya Boonpanya	Motorcycle collision
Thailand	Aknarin Kongkae	Motorcycle accident
Belize	Norman Williams	ATV rollover on duty
Ukraine	Serhii Salvonik	Car ran over a mine
Peru	Eddenson Yomar Tume Negrón	Lost control of vehicle

Total number of lives lost - 148 from 39 countries
(June 2022 to May 2023)

Send in submissions for ANPR photo contest

Ranger Rendezvous tradition continues

START PLANNING NOW FOR THIS YEAR'S ANNUAL **RANGER RENDEZVOUS** photo contest. Contestants must be ANPR members. Memberships will be available at Rendezvous, or go to www.anpr.org.

2023 CATEGORIES

1. Landscapes
2. Wildlife
3. Historical & Cultural Resources
4. The Human Connection
5. It's in the Details
6. Ranger Rendezvous (New category!)

GUIDELINES

All photos must be taken within a national park unit, an international protected area, or at a previous Ranger Rendezvous. Contestants may enter only one photo per category. Photos should be printed and unframed. Recommended size is 8x10 inches.

HOW TO ENTER

Write your name, location of the photo, and the category on the back of each print. Drop off photos at ANPR Rendezvous registration desk upon arrival (but no later than end of day Oct. 18). If unable to attend, photos or digital images can be sent to arrive no later than Oct. 12, 2023, to Bill Wade, 12675 N. Sunrise Shadow Drive, Marana, AZ 85658 or bwade@anpr.org.

Rendezvous attendees will vote for their favorite photos. Winners will be selected from each category, and a "Best of Show" photo will take the top spot. All winners will receive a gift card, recognition at the Rendezvous, and have their photos published in *Ranger* magazine.



The 2022 Ranger Rendezvous photo contest resulted in a tie for Best in Show. ANPR member Jeff Ohlfs took the above photo at Grand Canyon National Park. ANPR member Jamie Richards took the photo at left, at Yosemite National Park. Both shared honors as Best in Show.



DISPATCHES FROM OUR PARKS

Ranger Foundation donates helmets in the Caribbean

THIS SPRING, I HAD THE PRIVILEGE OF TAKING CLIMBING helmets donated by the Ranger Foundation to the National Park Wardens of Anguilla National Trust. The trust manages the island’s protected areas. Anguilla’s first national park, Fountain, is a sink hole cavern. The trust is in the process of developing its cave properties.

The helmets were accepted by Farah Mukhida, the trust’s executive director, who was most grateful and gave me a tour of two of their protected areas. While I was in the Caribbean, I visited with many other island rangers, including Dutch Sint Eustatius. Sint Eustatius National Parks Foundation (STENAPA) manages the protected areas on this island. I had a wonderful afternoon with STENAPA Marine Park Manager Ellie Butler, Terrestrial Park Manager Tom Cornwall, and Reforestation Manager Adam Mitchell.

In your travels I encourage everyone to visit with the local rangers whether it’s in the states or abroad.

— Jeff Ohlfs (RETI)
Ranger Foundation



Ranger Foundation representative Jeff Ohlfs meets with National Park Wardens of Anguilla National Trust Executive Director Farah Mukhida to donate climbing helmets to the trust this past April. Photo: Jeff Ohlfs

ANPR members affected by fires in Hawaii, and other natural disasters, can seek help with new relief fund

IN EARLY 2023, THE ASSOCIATION OF NATIONAL PARK RANGERS created a Natural Disaster Relief fund, in response to the increasing numbers of natural disasters occurring throughout the country, and the world — and our ANPR members, who have been affected.

The recent fires in Maui, which nearly wiped out the town of Lahaina and are responsible for the deaths of more than 100 individuals, is the most recent.

In response, ANPR is stepping up its efforts to remind members, friends, supporters, and more that we will do what we can to help. Any ANPR member in good standing is eligible to apply for and receive aid through ANPR’s Natural Disaster Assistance Fund. The amount of aid will be based on the needs of the individual. This member benefit allows any individual affected by fires, floods, mudslide, and more a chance to apply for assistance.

This is also an opportunity for all ANPR members to help grow the fund. Our ANPR members at Haleakala National Park have been impacted by the fires; let’s remind them that ANPR can help. To donate, visit www.anpr.org/donate and fill in the desired amount under “Natural Disaster Relief.”

For information on applying for Natural Disaster relief, contact ANPR Executive Director Bill Wade at bwade@anpr.org, or Board Member for Membership Services’ Shannon Wilson, swilson@anpr.org.

**NEW
IN PRINT**

•

by Judy Hart

available
Oct. 15, 2023

SCAN ME
and ENTER 09BCARD
in shopping cart to save 30%

Founding Superintendent Judy Hart’s “A National Park for Women’s Rights: The Campaign That Made It Happen” is a behind-the-scenes look at the struggles to create a women’s rights park in Seneca Falls, New York, against all odds. The book is published by Cornell University Press.

Hard copies are \$28.95, and e-books will be available for \$13.99

INTERPRETATION

Making connections: It's all about the story



WELL, I WASN'T READY FOR THAT! THE applause that interrupted me while I was speaking on a stage in a very crowded room with bright lights shining in my face was spontaneous, genuine, enthusiastic ... and entirely unexpected.

When I heard that The Moth was coming to Miami, I got tickets right away. For more than 25 years, the nonprofit has provided opportunities for ordinary people to tell their extraordinary stories, live, on a stage, without notes, and without interruption. Most Moth stories first come to light at Story Slams held in cities all over the world. The best stories might end up on The Moth Podcast or the The Moth Radio Hour on National Public Radio. Occasional Moth Mainstage shows bring the best of the best stories to live audiences.

The stories span the range of the human experience. Some are gripping for their unbelievability, like getting kidnapped in a war-torn country. Others are deeply tender and universal, like the heartbreak of unrequited love. All the stories are true and personal ... these are not the stories you grew up hearing your grandma tell. These stories happened to you. The best stories demonstrate transformation; they illustrate how the teller of the story was changed in some way.

Audiences are transformed as well. They laugh out loud, and eyes are dabbed dry. They realize that that thing they always felt guilty about feeling happens to other people too. People grow closer through shared bonds, and community is built.

I've been going to The Moth in Miami regularly since its inception in 2015. That night, I got up and told a story I never imagined I would ever tell, much less standing at a microphone in a roomful of strangers. It was the story of how I came to terms with myself as a gay man while sitting below the rim of the Grand Canyon. Afterward, people were coming up to me, shaking my hand, referencing techniques I'd used in telling the story that I thought sure nobody had noticed. It was ego boost, therapy and program audit all in one ... and I was hooked.

But the coolest thing that happened was that when I incidentally mentioned that I was a National Park Ranger at Biscayne National Park and the place erupted in applause. Trust me on this ... it was a big deal. Biscayne sits at the doorstep of Miami, one of the nation's largest cities, and its populace is notoriously fickle. New rangers are often driven to distraction by the way many treat the park's resources, and a large percentage of the half-million visitors who use the park every year have no idea they are even IN a national park because they arrive by boat and boundaries are not marked on water. Yet here in downtown Miami, in a darkened room with a nightclub-feel and a crowd that included yuppies in suits, hippies in Birkenstocks, millennials with pierced noses, oldsters with canes, and every other flavor of humanity ... **THEY CHEERED THAT I**



Ranger Liz Strom does the introductions during a Story Slam at Biscayne National Park. Retired Interpretive ranger Gary Bremen argues that our national park stories are important, but not if nobody understands the WHY behind them. Photo: Gary Bremen

WAS A PARK RANGER! Talk about reaching new audiences!

Soon, I was developing an entire program of stories about why national parks mattered. These wouldn't be stories with graphs showing increasing wolf populations or documenting troop movements on a Civil War battlefield. Those stories are important, but not if nobody understands the WHY behind them. Why should they care about a species survival? How do the causes and consequences of the Civil War impact them today? I might not be able to tell them why it should matter to them, but I sure as heck knew why it mattered to me. Would anyone care about one man's stories of visiting and working in national parks? Millions of listeners to stories on The Moth say yes ... an individual's stories do matter.

"Songs and Stories of Our National Parks" is the result of thinking about the role of stories in interpretation and in protecting the irreplaceable resources under the National Park Service's care. The program has traveled from Biscayne Bay to San Francisco Bay, from the Great Lakes to the Gulf of Mexico, and from the High Sierra to the High Desert, and now it's coming to Jacksonville!

My musical partner Grant Livingston, Florida's "Historian in Song," and I will be sharing some of the reasons we believe national parks matter in an engaging, humorous, poignant way that will resonate with anyone who has ever proudly donned the green and gray.

See you in October!

Gary Bremen retired at the end of 2022 after 36 years as a National Park Ranger. He recently visited his 273rd park: the National Park of American Samoa.

IN PRINT

Agile writer brings ranger career alive

By Rick Smith

THE TITLE OF THIS BOOK OBVIOUSLY COMES FROM THE WELL-KNOWN quote of Stephen Mather, the NPS' first director:

Though small in number, their influence is large. Many and long are the duties heaped upon their shoulders. If a trail is to be blazed, it is "send a ranger." If an animal is floundering in the snow, a ranger is sent to pull him out; if a bear is in the hotel, if a fire threatens a forest, if someone is to be saved, it is "send a ranger." If a dude wants to know the why of nature's ways, if a Sagebrusher is puzzled about road, his first thought is "ask a ranger." Everything the ranger knows, he will tell you, except about himself.

Habecker has written what I consider to be a truly accurate description of the life of a protection ranger, beginning in Gettysburg and ending in Denali. There are the chills of dangerous rescues, investigations of serious crimes, the challenges of raising a family in our parks, and working in Yosemite, certainly one of the most intense law enforcement and search-and-rescue places in our system.

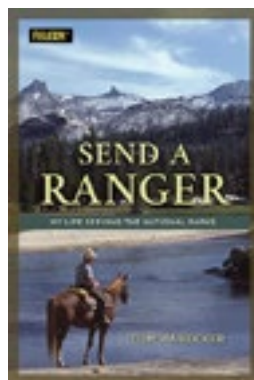
What makes the book so interesting is that Habecker evidently kept notes on most of the incidents in which he was involved. This makes the retelling vivid and accurate, unlike other books I have read where the author must rely on memory, which makes the narrative a little fuzzy. I guarantee you that there is little fuzziness in *Send a Ranger*.

Since I am familiar with Yosemite and the author and I did some time there together, I admit that the sections of the book that deal with Denali were the most fascinating for me. The author's descriptions of the winter weather there make me glad I live in Tucson. Denali is the only park I know that uses sled dogs for real work instead of serving as another interpretive attraction.

Habecker is an agile writer. The incidents he recounts in his book are logically related. He is careful to describe items and their purpose that many readers may not recognize. Much of the book is a series of vignettes as Habecker describes the incidents in which he was involved. This makes the book an easy read as the reader is not necessarily required to remember what he/she has read previously — it's on to the next incident.

Those readers of *Ranger*, who like Habecker were involved in the wide range of responsibilities — law enforcement, search and rescue, emergency medicine, structural and wildland fire control, back-country patrols and the like — will find the author's descriptions accurate and interesting. Other readers will be amazed at the variety of skills that rangers like Habecker possess. I am very happy to add *Send a Ranger* to my NPS library.

Rick Smith worked in six parks, two regional offices and WASO, and ended his career as the acting superintendent of Yellowstone National Park.



"Send a Ranger: My Life Serving the National Parks," by Tom Habecker. 2023. Falcon Press

Donor Recognition list

(Updated 8/28/2023)

Denali Peak \$1,000+

- Rebecca Harriett

Cliff Palace \$250-499

- Jane Hendrick
- William Reynolds

Devil's Tower \$100-249

- Carrie Miller
- Rick Jones-Cindy Ott-Jones
- Jeff Mow
- Sheridan Steele
- Nancy Nelson
- Bruce McKeeman
- Ed Rizzotto

Appalachian Trail \$50-99

- Jay Eickenhorst
- Jan Kirwan
- Carol Hegeman
- Dennis Burnett
- Melissa DeVaughn

Liberty Bell Up to \$25

- Jonathan Shafer
- Terrence Taliferro
- Beverly Murdock
- Rebecca Jacobs
- Davrick Daniel
- Kasandra Leclair
- Greta Ketchner
- Greta Ratliff

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

- Meg Weesner

Ranger Rendezvous feature: 'Songs and Stories of our National Parks'

Gary Bremen, left, and musical partner Grant Livingston, Florida's "Historian in Song," will present "Songs and Stories of Our National Parks" 7:30 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 19, 2023, at Ranger Rendezvous 46 in Jacksonville, Fla. The program is the result of thinking about the role of stories in interpretation and in protecting the irreplaceable resources under the National Park Service's care.



Photo: Gary Bremen

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 8/28/2023)

Ed Rizzotto

PROTECTION

Leadership and trust : handing over the reins

SIMPLE FACT: TRUST IS AN ESSENTIAL ELEMENT IN ANY relationship between two or more people. This truism applies 100 percent to relationships between leaders in any organization and the units with which they're charged to lead. Early in my ranger career I was blessed to experience firsthand one of my supervisors – one of my leaders – demonstrating to me, his young recruit, how powerful a motivator it can be for a leader to trust his direct reports.

It was spring 1994, and I was returning to the Great Sand Dunes (GRSA) National Monument (since then renamed National Park & Preserve) for my second season, having fallen in love the previous year with the glorious Colorado landscape, the tough Rocky Mountain people, and the true, rugged nature of the work there. I had especially grown to cherish the work centered around the park's horse program, which I took the liberty to dub the "Great Sand Dunes Mounted Patrol." There I was: a 23-year-old kid from northern Ohio who, as a young Boy Scout, interviewed every Cleveland Metroparks and Lake Metroparks and Ohio State park ranger he'd ever met mounted upon a horse, patrolling the snowcapped Rocky Mountains and towering "tallest sand dunes in North America" on horseback! It was literally a dream come true.

The year prior I had arrived at GRSA with just enough horse experience under my belt (I'd worked on, but not completed, Horsemanship Merit Badge at Boy Scout Camp and taken a couple of equestrian college classes) to be permitted by Chief Ranger Stuart Schneider to take a quick horseback riding refresher, and then I was allowed to use the horses for short daytime trail patrols only. Before long, I was hooked on horses, and I found myself spending a lot of time at the corrals and horse barn, tending to the needs of the animals, their tack, their hay and feed mix, watering troughs, trailers, facilities such as the corrals, barn and stables, and the small "office," in which we stored all documents pertaining to the program.



Park volunteers Brent (left) and Joe, riding Lady Squeaks and Smokey (aka: Big Dopey Sarge), respectively, accompany the author on a multiday backcountry patrol to remote Sand Creek Ranger Station at Great Sand Dunes National Monument in fall 1997. Photo: Kevin Moses

My enthusiasm paid off exponentially because when the ranger who'd run the horse program in 1993 transferred to another park in 1994, Chief Ranger Schneider needed to hand over the reins, so to speak, of this vitally important collateral duty to another ranger. Stuart recognized the hard work I had invested, my zeal for the program, and the skills I had strengthened simply by spending time riding and working with the stock, and he rewarded me with an offer to run the "GRSA Mounted Patrol."

I was terrified.

Running a horse program carries with it unavoidable risk and weighty responsibilities. These animals are huge, and though they mostly respond to their handlers' commands, they remain unpredictable at times, and have the potential to injure someone if things go sideways. On top of that, the program had its own budget to




Custom Printed Junior Ranger Badge Stickers for Kids

Our custom printed badge stickers will bring a smile to a child's face. Our junior park ranger badge stickers are ideal for community events, school classroom visits or when children visit your battlefield, national park, heritage corridor, historic site, lakeshore, national monument, recreation area, scenic riverway, scenic trail or seashore. Badge stickers are printed on either shiny gold or silver foil. Customized for your location at no extra charge. Fast and reliable delivery.

Visit Our Website: www.policestickers.com
a website owned by Creative Services of New England
 1199 Main Street - P.O. Box 417 - Leicester, MA 01524-0417
Telephone: 508-892-1555

manage, I had to coordinate the annual winter pasturing situation, take the horses to the veterinarian periodically, there was all the work mentioned above pertaining to the facilities, tack, and now it would be me training that year's new personnel how to ride. And I was just a second-year seasonal! Yet, for some reason, Stuart saw promise in me, and he told me he had faith in me to run the program well.

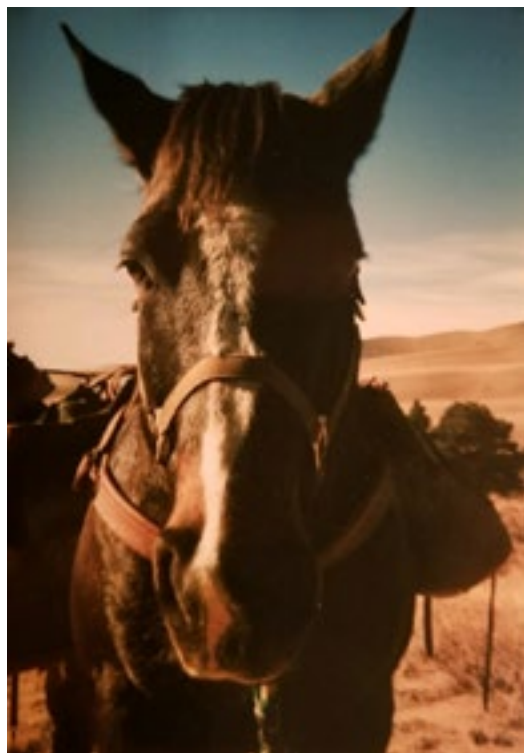
In short, my boss trusted me, and he communicated said trust by imparting in me this heavy and important responsibility. I didn't realize it at the time, but this simple act resulted in a seven-year journey for me with the Great Sand Dunes Mounted Patrol and ultimately translated into a life-changing adventure. I'm forever grateful to Stuart for believing in and trusting me with that horse patrol operation, for it not only helped me build confidence in my own abilities to both ride horses and manage something big, but also taught me the invaluable lesson that leadership often involves trusting those we lead.

Trust is a cornerstone of any team, a key building block upon which so many other teamwork dynamics rely, and without which so many pivotal team functions simply could not exist. This trust must flow upstream, downstream, and even sideways for a team to truly function well.

As a leader today, I cheerfully and automatically grant my trust to the troops I lead, and I maintain that trust unless they give me reason to not trust them. As their leader, I do not believe the opposite to be true: I do not expect that my crew automatically grants their trust to me. Rather, I believe leaders must EARN the trust of their teams, thus I strive to do all I can to earn it. To be sure, I come up short from time to time, but the belief that leaders must earn and maintain the trust of those in their charge is ever present in my psyche, which reminds me daily to work toward that end. The result will be a highly functioning team who's mastered the skills they're put in charge of, strong team cohesion, and high collective morale.

When we as leaders empower the troops we lead with responsibility, we communicate to them that we trust them to carry out the duties, the job, the mission at hand. We communicate that we have faith in their abilities. When said duties/job/mission is hazardous and involves risk – which ranger work so often does – empowering them with that trust galvanizes the knowledge in their mind that their leader values them as a skilled, vital, and trusted member of the team. In the above example, I related how running a horse patrol can be risky. In our chosen profession, we see dozens of other such opportunities to trust rangers with conducting and even overseeing similarly hazardous work:

- Boat operations—Motorboats, paddle craft, whitewater pa-



Smokey, affectionately dubbed "Big Dopey Sarge," whoops the author in a staring competition because he refuses to take another step until rewarded with some sweet mix on an overnight patrol into the Great Sand Dunes Wilderness, summer 1995.

Photo: Kevin Moses

trols, heavy ocean surf

- Chainsaw operations
- Technical rescue operations and climbing patrols
- Aviation—Trust in pilot and crew
- Vehicle operations, including 4-wheel-drive and UTV patrols
- Wildland and structural firefighting
- Control tactics training
- Firearms training
- Emergency Medical Services (EMS)
- Backcountry patrols in austere, unforgiving environments
- Snowmobile operations
- Special operations (Spec Ops), such as DUI checkpoints, anti-poaching patrols, decoy operations

This list could go on and on. The point is that we as leaders cannot do it all, and we must delegate responsibilities to our troops often. In our line of work these duties frequently involve risk, and we might find it difficult to turn over the responsibility to others; we might be tempted to do it ourselves so that we'll know it'll get done right. It's times like these that we must remind ourselves that part of our jobs as leaders involves the sacred obligation to develop those moving up the ranks behind us.

One way we can accomplish this is to let go of some of our own responsibilities and trust our team to get the job done. Sometimes we just must hand over the reins.

— Kevin Moses
Supervisory Ranger
Shenandoah National Park



Welcome to the ANPR family

Here are the newest members of the Association of National Park Rangers (updated 8/28/2023)

Ilyse Goldman	Fairlawn, NJ
Jason Hardy	Carlsbad, NM
Beverly Murdock	Santa Fe, NM
Jason Rusk	Annandale, VA
Peter Crescenti	Las Vegas, NV
Joe Davies	Clinton, WA
Davrick Daniel	Venice, FL
Kasandra Leclair	Titusville, FL
Sarah Hetrick	Estes Park, CO
Gabriel Lebeau	Fall River, MA
Brian Robinson	Cedar Hill, TX
Hailey MacArthur-Senediak	Columbus, OH
Greta Ratliff	Louisville, KY
Daniel Lamont	Chesapeake, VA

CULTURAL RESOURCES

A re-commitment to preserving Asian American history

JOSEPH PIERCE WAS 22 YEARS OLD WHEN HE JOINED THE Union Army in 1862. Like scores of other patriotic young men, he wanted to help suppress a rebellion aimed at cleaving the nation in two.

Pierce served in the Nutmeg Regiment – the Connecticut 14th Volunteer Infantry – and saw combat in September 1862 at the Battle of Antietam and again in July 1863 at the Battle of Gettysburg, where his regiment helped repel Pickett’s Charge. Pierce survived the war, returning to life in Connecticut where he married and lived out the remainder of his life (one hopes) in peace.

One of the more notable aspects of Pierce’s notable life was that he was born in Canton, China, before being brought to the United States. While it is unclear how many Asian Pacific Islanders fought in the American Civil War, Pierce’s service has been documented and his promotion after Gettysburg to the rank of corporal likely makes him the highest-ranking person of Chinese descent to have served in that conflict.

Pierce’s story matters because as my friend Dr. Franklin Odo wrote in the introduction to the 2017 Asian American Pacific Islander National Historic Landmarks Theme Study, “Finding a Path Forward” the AAPI experience is “almost universally absent from our mainstream narrative.” Why?

The ongoing struggle to recraft our national narrative to be more inclusive, just, and accurate is being fought over black and white fault lines. Such an approach is both understandable given the history of people of African descent in America and myopic because our history has never been exclusively a black and white thing. The 2017 report provides us with a refreshed understanding of the rich history and contributions of various AAPI communities and with a document that was meant to help us to identify the themes, events, and places that should form the foundation of expanded AAPI preservation efforts at the federal level.

We learn (or are reminded) that during the 19th Century, Chinese workers labored on sugar plantations in Louisiana, Borax mining operations in Death Valley, and cotton fields in Mississippi. We learn (or are reminded) that the United States enacted strict exclusionist immigration policies in 1917 and 1924 barring Indians, Koreans, Japanese, Chinese, and people from South Asia from being el-

igible for immigration or naturalization. We learn (or are reminded) that in response to this blatant form of oppression members of the AAPI communities chose to fight for their civil and human rights.

Since 2017, not much progress has been made toward increasing the number of AAPI sites in the National Park System. While the designation in 2022 of the Amache National Historic Site (a Japanese American concentration camp in Colorado) was a clear victory,

it also begs the question as to whether we are capable of supporting the preservation of Japanese American history beyond the World War II incarceration experience? Imagine for a moment if the only African American experience sites managed by the National Park Service were directly related to African and Black American enslavement. There is so much more to the AAPI story.

In 1911, Clara Elizabeth Chan Lee became the first known Chinese American woman to register and then cast a vote. Chan Lee was a resident of California and founder of a Chinese American women’s self-reliance association. Through her work she advanced suffrage for all women in the United States while simultaneously addressing the empowerment and the enfranchisement of women in China. This is a story worth knowing, preserving, and celebrating.

Dr. Odo died on September 28, 2022. So, it remains for us, the living, to ensure that his vision for a more inclusive national narrative is realized. In 2017 Dr. Odo wrote that “When peoples of color, including Asian Americans and Pacific Islander Amer-

icans, are not reasonably represented, the historical narrative of the nation itself becomes skewed and biased.” The AAPI experience encompasses labor, politics, art and culture, and civil rights. It is American history.

We should recommit to making our national narrative truly representative by ensuring that the AAPI experience is represented throughout our National Park System in a manner that is just, inclusive, accurate, and inspiring. Now.

Reference for the report: Finding a Path Forward: Asian American Pacific Islander National Historic Landmarks Theme Study. Franklin Odo, Editor, National Park Service – U.S. Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C., 2017

— Alan Spears
National Parks Conservation Association



ADMINISTRATION

You can certainly count on uncertainty

EARLIER THIS SUMMER, I PARTICIPATED ON A PANEL DURING the Midwest Region's annual Administrative Officer (AO) training. Panel members came from across the service with lots of years learning and doing and teaching administrative functions in a variety of settings. Having attended similar training in the Intermountain Region several times, I knew it was a great way for folks to connect, to learn, and to discuss shared successes and struggles.

As noted in a previous article, there are so many facets to Administration (Admin), and these weeklong events are jam-packed with topics. So, while one AO might really want to talk about housing, another AO might not have that responsibility where he/she works. Still, the beauty of this kind of all-encompassing training is the opportunity to learn the skills and understand the concerns that come with each Admin component because chances are, if you move on to another Admin position at a new location, your responsibilities won't perfectly mirror those at the last park.

And that is a perfect lead-in to this month's article – the consistency (or lack thereof) within the Admin world. Please understand that I am not at all talking about the knowledge, skills, and abilities of our employees. I'm also not bashing my employer! The focus here is on the tasks we do and the guidance we receive.

Frustration is real and compounding with the ever-increasing workloads, the short turnarounds and the many due dates, the “new and improved” programs, and the inconsistencies in how we do things. Plus, like most of the NPS disciplines, we struggle with flat budgets and hiring difficulties.

Often it feels like some crazy carnival ride involving a speeding carousel where your seatbelt is locked and faceless people stand nearby throwing cream pies and flaming batons at you. You can't slow the ride down and you can't get off and you'll never reach the finish line.

Each Admin position should come with an assigned mental health advisor. I'm only half kidding here.

I will mention two pieces of our purchase charge card program that have thrown us all – employees, supervisors, and Admin – for a real loop this year.

Purchase charge card holders are now required to use an electronic service-wide log for all service/supply purchases. The phased roll-out was clunky at best. The program wasn't ready for primetime, and employees have struggled. While we were told to do away with our internal purchase logs, so many units have reinstated them *in addition to* the required service-wide one. This is certainly not efficient. Then

we were told we'd now be required to complete review and approval online (no more hard copy statements). Again, the roll-out hasn't gone well. We were given our go-live dates and then they were delayed. Supervisors were provided with instruction on how to set up their accounts, and that hasn't gone well for many. For myself, instead of being able to see the purchases for my two card holders at SEAZ, I could only see one individual at HOVE – someone I hadn't supervised since my detail ended in December. It was not made clear who to report this to and how to get it rectified. It's surely a sign of my frustration that I haven't gone back in to see if things have been fixed.

Missy Smothers played a big role in coordinating the Midwest Region's AO training this year and she took part in the aforementioned panel discussion. Talk about wearing a lot of hats – here's what her signature line looks like: *Acting Superintendent - President William Jefferson Clinton Birthplace Home NHS; Chief of Business Services /Administrative Officer - Hot Springs NP; and South Arkansas Business Management Group – WICL/HOSP/ARPO (Arkansas Post).*

Missy started her career as a seasonal in 2001, was a local hire under the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA), and considers herself to be fortunate in the career she's had thus far.

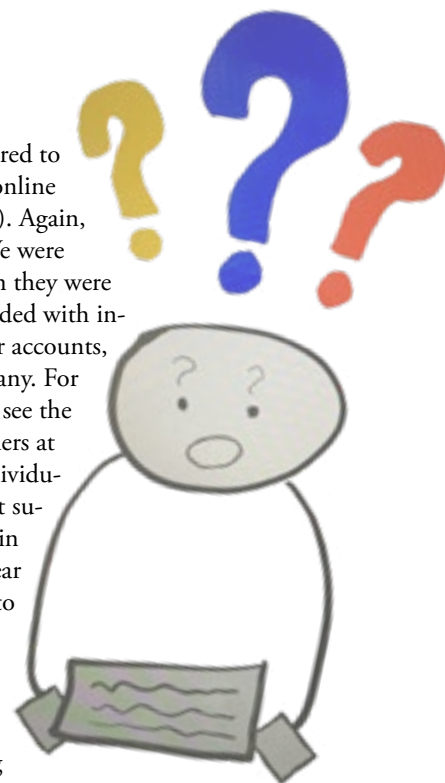
Missy has found that Admin isn't always automatically included in discussions and decisions. She notes many times inviting herself to the table and that we must “stand up for ourselves.” It's a common refrain within our ranks.

In musing on the best parts of her job, Missy quickly noted how many opportunities she's had to be involved in projects and events where her Admin perspective can be very important. She has served as a finance chief for an all-hazard team and as a planning section chief for search and rescue.

Missy's advice? Despite the challenges, if you are considering a career in Admin, give it a go! If you work in another discipline, gaining Admin experience will only add to your resume. And if you're already in Admin, volunteer for other tasks and projects where you can learn something new, build relationships, and strengthen that sense of team.

While there will always be inconsistencies and uncertainty in much of the work we do, that's part of what makes Admin work so rewarding. The opportunities to show great task/time management, to investigate and resolve issues and questions, and to provide the best in customer service lead to success not just for Admin, but for NPS units, regional offices, and WASO as a whole.

— Marin Karraker, Administrative Officer,
SEAZ Group



Acting Superintendent Missy Smothers was key to the recent Midwest Region's Administrative Officer training. Photo: Courtesy Marin Karraker



**ASSOCIATION OF
NATIONAL PARK RANGERS**

12675 N. Sunrise Shadow Drive | Marana, AZ 85658

Directory of ANPR Board Members, Task Group Leaders & Staff

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President

Rick Mossman, Retired
rmossman@anpr.org

Secretary

Demmy Vigil, Retired
dvigil@anpr.org

Treasurer

Meg Weesner, Retired
mweesner@anpr.org

Education and Training

Tom Banks, Education
tbanks@anpr.org

Fundraising Activities

Wendy Lauritzen, Retired
wlauritzen@anpr.org

Internal Communications

Elsa Hansen, Cedar Breaks NM
ehansen@anpr.org

Membership Services

Shannon Wilson, Retired
swilson@anpr.org

Professional Issues

Emily Johnson, Alaska Region
ejohnson@anpr.org

Seasonal Perspectives

Troy Hunt, Education
thunt@anpr.org

Government Affairs

Mike Pflaum, Retired
mpflaum@anpr.org

Strategic Planning

Jonathan Shafer, Zion
jshafer@anpr.org

BUSINESS OPERATIONS

Executive Director

Bill Wade, Retired
bwade@anpr.org

Business Manager / Ranger Editor/Publisher

Melissa DeVaughn
mdevaughn@anpr.org

Give
the gift of
membership

**FOR MORE INFORMATION
VISIT ANPR.ORG**