

The Journal of the Association of National Park Rangers

RANGER

Stewards for parks, visitors & each other

Honoring Betty Reid Soskin: An NPS treasure



Vol. 40, No. 3 | Summer 2024

Contents

Summer
2024

ANPR directory is here! Now, let's reconnect!

Editor's
notes

— Melissa DeVaughn

- 3 President's message
- 4 Then & Now: How a professor reconnected with her profession
- 6 Welcome to the Family: New members
- 7 Spring Fundraiser was a success!
- 8 So There I Was: Not your average day
- 10 Ranger Rendezvous 47 coming together
- 11 Super Raffle 2024 offers great prizes
- 12 Ranger Rendezvous 47 schedule
- 13 Don't forget the RR 47 photo contest!
- 14 Chasing History: The Merrie Trippers
- 16 Betty Reid Soskin: an honorary life member
- 17 Interpretation: Rangers saving the planet
- 18 Administration: All about the Public Land Corps hiring authority
- 19 The Republic of Molossia's park system
- 20 Protection: Why vacancies are no good
- 22 Cultural Resources: Remembering Freedom Summer
- 23 In Print: Two-for-one summer reviews

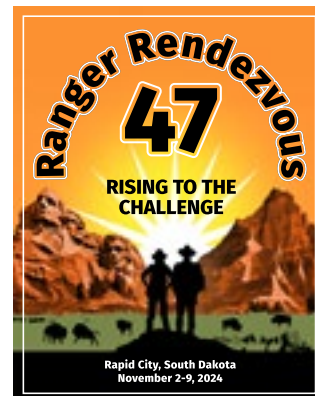
ON THE COVER: Ranger Betty Reid Soskin at Rosie The Riveter/WWII Home Front National Historical Park. Soskin has been bestowed an ANPR honorary life membership. See the story, Page 16. Photo: NPS / Luther Bailey

AS THIS YEAR'S RANGER RENDEZVOUS FAST APPROACHES, IT'S EVEN more likely that you might be inclined to reconnect with those past colleagues and parks from your past. After all, the Ranger Rendezvous is, if anything, a big reunion of like-minded people who get to come together for camaraderie and inspiration. (If you want to get even more inspired, check out our Ranger Rendezvous coverage, on pages 10-13 of the magazine).

One of the other ways ANPR is helping our members reconnect is with our new online membership directory, located on the members-only side of the website. We have spent the past 18 months soliciting your buy-in to add yourself to the directory, and we now have a growing fraction of our membership connected.

Just think: Your experience at Park "X" could help a new-career ranger find a job there. Your advice about Park "Y" may help sway a relocation decision for an aspiring ranger. Or you may just be visiting Denver, for instance, and want to catch up with members in the area. Your ability to find each other keeps us connected, not just as park professionals retired and current, but also as humans.

Now we need the rest of you! Please take a moment to log onto your members-only side of the website (www.anpr.org/members) and scroll down to the Member Directory. It looks like this:



You can search by name, park, or city to find friends old and new. And, while you're at it, encourage them to attend this year's Ranger Rendezvous, Nov. 2-9, 2024 in Rapid City, S.D. This year's event promises to be one of the best yet.

See you there!

— Melissa DeVaughn,
Ranger magazine editor

RANGER

THE JOURNAL OF THE ASSOCIATION OF NATIONAL PARK RANGERS

Vol. 40, No. 3

Summer 2024

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. 30
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	Rick Harwell, VIP

Board Members

Education & Training	Rae Emerson, RETI
Fundraising Activities	Wendy Lauritzen, RETI
Internal Communications	Greta Ketchner, UPDE
Membership Services	Shannon Wilson, RETI
Professional Issues	Max Farley, FOPU
Seasonal Perspectives	Troy Hunt, EDUC
Strategic Planning	Lauren DeGennaro, ZION
Government Affairs	Mike Pflaum, RETI

Staff

Executive Director	Bill Wade, RETI
Business Manager	Melissa DeVaughn
<i>Ranger</i> 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 © 2024. 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.

Two opportunities for rangers to share ideas

President's message

— Rick Mossman

HOPE YOU ARE GOING TO HAVE A WONDERFUL SUMMER SEASON with much travel and fun. At the time of this writing, we are still in the midst of our spring fundraising campaign. I hope you all read the article in the last issue about the Museum of the National Park Ranger and the work being done to rehabilitate it in Yellowstone National Park. This has been ANPR's project for more than 30 years and we need to keep it going. It's our history and important!

In this issue is information about the upcoming Rendezvous in Rapid City, S.D. There are great speakers, field trips and other things planned, so it should be very informational and fun. Along with that, don't forget to get your Super Raffle tickets. You do not have to be at the Rendezvous to win. But there are some great items such as handmade quilts, an eight-day Grand Canyon Rafting trip, an Arnberger ranger carving, and more.

Also, a reminder that the World Ranger Congress convenes in October in Hyères, France. The World Ranger Congress is very uplifting, and you meet incredible people from all over the world who have the same love for wildlife, wild places, and parks like each of us does. The contacts make for friends from all over the world, which can lead to great trips to visit them all over the world. Go to the IRF website or Facebook page to get more info. Registration and hotel costs is about 800 euros, which includes all meals, board, and the conference. In checking flight cost I have seen flights as low as \$800 to Marseille and Nice. Then it's a bus or train ride to Hyeres. You can also fly into Hyères directly.

Hope to see you there!

— Rick Mossman, *ANPR president*



ANPR Values

We are dedicated to the preservation and enhancement of a vital national park system and an effective National Park Service. The excellence that we promote is rooted in the values that we as an organization embody. These values are:

- **Loyalty.** We do not waver in our loyalty to our mission and to the long-term mission of the National Park Service. In fact, we believe that they are interrelated and interdependent. Any and all members of ANPR who embrace this loyalty — regardless of their job classifications or areas of work — are deemed to be “rangers at heart.”
- **Excellence in Professional Stewardship.** We believe that the American public and the national park system deserve the highest, most enlightened level of care and service and that these should be primarily provided by highly skilled, dedicated employee stewards.
- **Honest Communication.** We believe that honest and forthright communication of issues, needs, and information about our national parks is essential. This requires a perspective that transcends simple political agendas and overly politicized and unscientific policies.
- **Collegial Care.** As members of a professional family with shared dedication and values, we seek to support and care for each other every day, and especially in times of great risk.

Then and now: Bridging theory to practice across two seasons, 24 years apart

By J. Joy James, Recreation Management professor, Appalachian State University

IN 1998, I WORKED AS A NATIONAL PARK SERVICE (NPS) seasonal interpretive ranger at a small, remote southwest national monument with less than 60 visitors daily. While I aspired to a career with the National Park Service, I found a calling in academia training students to work in outdoor recreation. My service as a NPS park ranger, degrees in recreation resource management, and research on how people become comfortable in outdoor environments all helped me to mentor students. Let me say, I *love* my job as a professor, and the joy I get from students finding their passion in outdoor recreation is quite rewarding. However, I began to recognize I was further away from understanding the park ranger job and management of our public lands – I understood the theories, not the practice. And I was a little envious of my students working in the field. So, in 2022, for a sabbatical from my institution, I went to work as a NPS seasonal interpretive ranger at another small, remote national park in the four corners area with between 75-150 visitors daily. Returning to the field in a ground-level position provided me with the opportunity to bridge the gap between theory and practice, offering invaluable insights into the evolving landscape for park rangers.

NPS APPLICATION AND HIRING: THEN AND NOW

My dream of becoming a park ranger was delayed 10 years out of college due to a variety of reasons: I did not understand seasonal work as a pathway to a permanent job, and in the 1990s even getting a seasonal ranger job was perceived as impossible due to the fact more people applied for the jobs. At that time, there were limited resources helping people understand the NPS application process. When I did finally apply, I had been given good advice – apply for a job in a small park, as those jobs would not be in as much demand. The NPS application was a cumbersome and lengthy SF 171 application (now obsolete) that was completed with a typewriter, and the applicant could only apply to five NPS sites and then had mail in the form.

In 2022, even with my educational background and experience, the online application process proved more confusing than the 1990s. While the USA Jobs website began in 1996, it had not yet become the standard method for NPS job applications. Today, applicants can create detailed profiles on the site, complete with federal resumes and transcripts, though navigating it can be cumbersome. In 2020, my first attempt using USA Jobs ended with a “not qualified” status due to missing additional assessments, a process unfamiliar to me. Despite correcting it, I missed deadlines for positions in 2021, unable to seek assistance by phone. In its efforts to be transparent with my application, USAJobs sent multiple email notifications ranging from job submission to eligibility and referral notices. Eventually, after two to three months, emails from the NPS site-hiring manager signaled progress. Post-hiring, the paperwork

continued, including an extensive background check and the unexpected necessity of traveling over 60 miles to the nearest Federal DOI Access site for security measures. Despite technological advancements, the five-to-six-month process to get hired proved even more cumbersome in 2022 compared to 24 years prior. Moreover, it is remarkable that the application process takes six months before one can start working, especially when compared to other jobs!

PARK HOUSING THEN AND NOW: A COMPARATIVE LOOK

Despite being a relatively small NPS site, I had the fortune of fantastic housing for my first season as a NPS ranger, as the housing for this national monument had been recently built when I worked there. I shared my side of the duplex with a student conservation employee. We had separate rooms with private bathrooms! Our communal area included a kitchen and living space. The residential area was within a mile of the visitor center and close to the campground. At that time in my life, it was one of the nicest places I had ever lived. Since it is a remote park, it is important to note that phone service was not available and the mailbox was 12 miles from the park. The only computer available was at the visitor center, and I cannot recall if it had internet access, nor if I had permission to use it other than for work.

For my 2022 season, housing was in a duplex converted from a two-bedroom to a four bedroom, with two shared bathrooms. This building was likely older than my housing 24 years ago, though in decent shape. My roommates were two other seasonal rangers and volunteers who rotated in and out throughout the season. Our living conditions came with their own challenges, including intermittent internet access, no cell service, and a persistent mouse problem. While there was more housing available than at my first park, it was older and showed signs of wear and tear.

Another observation on how housing impacts a park: While there was more housing available than at my previous assignment, some of the Mission 66 houses designated for permanent rangers were deemed uninhabitable due to their proximity to potential rock-fall hazards.

Consequently, many management-level staff were forced to live and work an hour and a half away at our other NPS site. This led to a lack of upper-management presence within the park, leaving



J. Joy James, Recreation Management professor, Appalachian State University

on-site staff to navigate unfamiliar roles without adequate guidance or training. Prior to this experience, I had not fully appreciated the importance of having all park staff reside nearby or on-site, as I had observed during my first season.

TRAINING, PEOPLE AND JOB: THEN AND NOW

In my first season, the park had a small cabin-like visitor center, and my job was typical of an old-school ranger, doing a little bit of everything – including greeting visitors, cleaning visitor center toilets, trail maintenance, roving, interpretive programs, collecting data for research projects, etc. Additionally, I had a weeklong formal NPS interpretation training at our sister park. My co-worker, who was Navajo and had worked for years in the visitor center, provided much guidance and helped me to learn about the park.

In 2022, I was part of a team of two seasonal interpretive rangers and an interpretation lead ranger. My responsibilities were more focused on interpretation, encompassing tasks such as staffing the visitor center, assisting gift shop customers, conducting interpretive programs on the trails daily and at night, and contributing to dark sky programs. The visitor center opened in 2012, boasted a museum, gift shop, exhibits, and employee offices, marking a significant upgrade from the facilities at my previous park. A surprise to me was how much I helped out with the gift shop register. There were two different cash registers to learn – NPS and Western National Parks Association Bookstore. Also, newer methods of credit cards from swiping, inserting or tapping were a dizzying contrast to the credit card imprinter using carbon paper used in the 1980s and 1990s. Additionally, there were more passwords to learn – cash registers, building alarm code, safe combination, employee ID, Quick-Time and more. I do not think I even *had* a password in my first stint as a ranger!

Similar to my experience at my first park, my Navajo colleagues at the Western National Parks Association Bookstore played a pivotal role in my training and orientation to the park – perhaps even moreso than my interpretive lead ranger. This is not to discredit the capabilities of my supervisor; rather, it underscores the invaluable institutional knowledge possessed by these long-term employees, who had been with the park for more than 15 years, whereas my supervisor had been there less than two years. They had a deep understanding of both their employer and the NPS agency, often surpassing that of permanent employees. Unfortunately, their expertise was sometimes overlooked or dismissed by my colleagues. Additionally, two dedicated volunteers made significant contributions to my interpretive training, offering insights into the park's culture and night sky crucial to my success. It was remarkable to see non-NPS staff and volunteers exert such influence on my ability to perform my duties. Despite the transient nature of seasonal and permanent park rangers, the non-NPS staff and volunteers had institutional knowledge of and a long standing commitment to the park. However, it was disheartening to observe the lack of recognition from

park management for their knowledge and contributions. I believe it is crucial for there to be greater acknowledgment of the impact volunteers have within the NPS. Conversely, there is also a need for park professionals to navigate potential conflicts between volunteer investment and park policies. This underscores the importance of fostering a more collaborative and mutually beneficial relationship between park staff and volunteers.

PARK MANAGEMENT AND INCIDENTS: THEN AND NOW

In my first season, I was introduced to the challenges of resource management and protection, as well as visitor management. Thinking back to 1998, I can think of two management concerns I was aware of as a seasonal employee. The first was the management and preventive measure for hantavirus in the park (in 1993, an outbreak caused the first known human cases of the disease). The second was the management and enforcement of damage to historical sites and poaching of artifacts. Since it was a small park, I interacted daily with the law enforcement (LE) ranger who discussed his challenges as the only LE for the park. My focus had always been on natural resources not on historical and cultural resources – I had no idea it was a problem until this experience, let alone the need for law enforcement in a park.

I think it is important to share that in addition to daily management of the park, there were two extraordinary events during my first season. Early in the summer, a massive multi-agency manhunt took place for men who shot and killed a local police officer and shot at my park superintendent while en route to escaping into the desert just outside the park. This event closed the park to the public for a couple of weeks, bringing multiple levels of a law enforcement presence to the site. Later that summer, in August, lightning struck, causing a wildfire near the park. Emergency personnel, including air tankers and smokejumpers, were brought in to fight the fire for a couple of weeks. Reflecting on those events, my initial season was not just about the usual ranger duties. It was an eye-opener, filled with everything from witnessing martial law to collaborating with various agencies like the NPS, FBI, Navajo police, county sheriffs and emergency agencies. While on my lieu days, I even had a run-in with bounty hunters out on the trails looking for the killers! At the time, I thought it must not be a typical experience as a seasonal park ranger. However, I have come to understand that there's no such thing as a "normal" season with the NPS.

During my second season, my academic background in recreation and resource management made me more attuned to the park's management issues. Like my first season, concerns at this site revolved around theft of artifacts and damage to cultural resource sites. Protection of these resources primarily fell to two on-site and one seasonal LE rangers.

Then and Now, Continued on Page 6

'I believe it is crucial for there to be greater acknowledgment of the impact volunteers have within the NPS. Conversely, there is also a need for park professionals to navigate potential conflicts between volunteer investment and park policies.'

Then and Now, Continued from Page 5

However, the division remained severely understaffed, even when fully staffed, inadequately addressing both resource and visitor protection needs. Throughout most of my season, only one LE ranger was on duty for four to five days a week due to staffing changes with the seasonal LE obtaining a permanent job and the other LE attending FLETC training. A notable change from my previous experience was the implementation of body protection and cameras for LE rangers. While acknowledging the importance of their safety, this shift toward policing in our parks reflects a broader trend. It may be indicative of evolving societal dynamics and increased public visitation to parks. Nevertheless, unlike conventional police forces, LE rangers lack the same level of backup when dealing with public interactions, underscoring the unique challenges they face.

One major challenge encountered at this park was the remote access and condition of unpaved roads leading to the park. During monsoon season, road conditions worsened, often flooding and becoming impassable. This not only presented logistical hurdles for visitors and NPS staff but also raised safety concerns, exacerbated by the lack of cell service for communication.

Visitors, often unprepared for road conditions, voiced frustration and complaints at the visitor center. Assistance typically fell to the limited number of LE rangers, who could only aid visitors within the park boundaries. The most significant incident during my season occurred when flooding left campers and visitors stranded, unable to enter or leave the park. With no upper managers residing on-site and the sole LE ranger off-duty, on-site staff had to assume unfamiliar roles without adequate guidance. This lack of on-site management underscored the need for better support and training for staff navigating such situations.

Another significant management challenge arose from COVID protocols, particularly regarding mask-wearing in the visitor center. The park adhered to the mask requirements dictated by the county where the park was situated. Given the impact of the pandemic on the Navajo Nation, which influenced the county's tendency to implement mask mandates more frequently than surrounding states, maintaining the visitor center's mask policy was paramount out of respect for my Navajo co-workers. Despite our efforts, enforcing the mask policy proved to be a point of contention, especially when encountering visitors who were resistant to compliance. Initially, the park provided masks to visitors who didn't have them, and most complied. However, once the park no longer had masks to give out, some visitors refused to adhere to the policy.

Interestingly, while park management instructed us to display notices regarding the mask policy, they did not actively encourage or support us in its enforcement. This lack of support created a conflict for all involved, leaving me feeling more powerless in these situations at the park than I did during the extraordinary incidents at my first park.

TWO NPS SEASONS = TWO MILESTONES IN MY CAREER

Having the privilege of being an outside observer of an agency whose work I deeply believe in, these two NPS seasons stand out as highlights of my career in outdoor recreation. Returning to the field in a ground-level position allowed me to bridge theory and practice, gaining valuable insights into the evolving landscape for park rangers. After years in academia, the hands-on experience revitalized my

Returning to the field in a ground-level position allowed me to bridge theory and practice, gaining valuable insights into the evolving landscape for park rangers.

understanding of park management, offering a fresh perspective that underscored the importance of practical knowledge alongside theoretical understanding.

Immersed in the day-to-day operations, I developed a deeper appreciation and respect for the challenges faced by rangers on the ground. It was a humbling experience, emphasizing the constant adaptation required in conservation efforts. Witnessing the realities of park management firsthand reinforced the significance of interdisciplinary approaches and collaboration. Overall, this 24-year gap between NPS seasons as a park ranger served as a poignant reminder of the dynamic nature of the field and the enduring commitment required to safeguard our natural treasures. ♦

Dr. J. Joy James is a professor in the Recreation Management and Physical Education Department of Appalachian State University.

Welcome to the ANPR family

Here are the newest members of the Association of National Park Rangers (updated 6/12/2024)



Jennifer Knezek	Mount Vernon, WA
Emily Nisch	East Lansing, MI
Ricky VanSickle	Chicago, IL
Katherine White	Mission Viejo, CA
Brenn Boyle	Fort Worth, TX
Elizabeth Lorenz	International Falls, MN
Terrell Sheridan	Williamsburg, VA
Greg Jablonski	Franklin, WI
Flor Blum	New York, NY
Meredith Leaverton	Layton, UT
Rose McAloon	Buena Vista, VA
Neil Arsenaault	Frederick, MD
Fred Herling	Virginia Beach, VA
Kevin Schneider	Bar Harbor, ME
Eric Breitkreutz	Pawtucket, RI
Michael Creasey	Boston, MA
Jennifer Flynn	Wellfleet, MA
Alexcy Romero	Patchogue, NY
Kevin Wyrick	Rome, NY
Jason Newman	Brookline, MA
Jen Nersesian	Staten Island, NY
Julie Galonska	Lowell, MA
Shirley McKinney	New York, NY
Simone Monteleone	Concord, MA
Jennifer Smith	New Bedford, MA
Amy Bracewell	Hyde Park, NY
Jonathan Parker	Oyster Bay, NY
Jennifer Hardin	Salem, MA
Leslie Morlock	Stillwater, NY
Kelly Fellner	Springfield, MA
John Piltzecker	Jersey City, NJ
Linda Cook	Wilton, CT
Ahna Wilson	Seneca Falls, NY
Ashley Keleher	Mashpee, MA

Thank You!

for a successful spring fundraiser



Donor Recognition list

(Updated 6/11/2024)

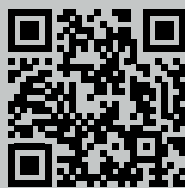
YOU MADE A DIFFERENCE! THANK YOU TO THE MORE THAN 55 ANPR MEMBERS who donated during this year's ANPR Spring fundraiser. The fundraiser is an annual event to help with overall operations, but this year, ANPR aimed more specifically. Back in the early 1990s, ANPR raised more than \$22,000 to help create a museum that celebrates the art and science of rangers. That contribution – combined with an additional \$557,500 from the NPS and other donors – resulted in the Museum of the National Park Ranger at Yellowstone National Park's Norris Soldier Station. This historic building contains a collection of equipment, recordings, uniforms, and other interpretive displays that demonstrate the evolution of rangering since its inception in the early 1900s.

Since then, the museum has stayed much the same, and now it's time for a face lift. ANPR stepped up once again to help with its rehabilitation, in cooperation with other partners and the National Park Service, which is committing funds to renovate the outside of the structure.

An anonymous donor challenged members to raise at least \$10,000, and it would be matched, and you succeeded! In total during the period between April 1-May 31, donors raised \$14,305, bringing the grand total during the fundraising period to \$24,305.

And there is more work to be done. The goal is to raise \$200,000 by the end of 2025. It's not too late to donate. Scan the QR code at right and earmark your donation to the Ranger Museum Fund.

"The Ranger Museum is our memorial to past, current and future rangers; our friends, and fellow co-workers," said ANPR President Rick Mossman for an article on the effort in the spring issue of *Ranger* magazine. "It honors those who sacrificed not only their lives, but to the many who have sacrificed in many other ways for the betterment of the national parks and their visitors. It's our memorial; let's keep it alive."



Ranger Museum
donation fund

Denali Peak \$1,000+

- Yosemite Conservancy
- Rebecca Harriett
- Anonymous
- Christopher Steis
- Candy Hart
- Bill Wade
- Paul Anderson

Half Dome \$500-749

- Rick Mossman
- John Case
- Badlands National Park Conservancy
- Anonymous
- Jon and Sue Lewis

Cliff Palace \$250-499

- Wendy Lauritzen
- Craig Axtell
- Mary Bradford
- Nancy Ward
- Meg Weesner
- Norman Hellmers
- Carol Hegeman
- Scott Chapman

Devil's Tower \$100-249

- Jerry Mitchell
- Robert Love
- Scott Shafer
- Rick Erisman
- Greg Mokoviak
- Bill Sanders
- Roger Welt
- Helen Scully
- Phillip Young
- Greg Jablonski
- Sean McGuinness

Devil's Tower, cont.

- Dick Martin
- Tim Oliverius
- Gilbert Soper
- Donna Villalobos
- Bill Carroll

Appalachian Trail \$50-99

- Lyndel Meikle
- Ian Williams
- John Cuillard
- Robert Dunnagan
- Heather Boothe
- Cindy Ott Jones / Rick Jones
- Dennis Burnett / Ginny Rousseau
- Bob Krumenaker
- Bruce Reed
- Colleen Derber
- Rob Arnberger

Little Rock Central High \$25-49

- Ilyse Goldman
- Tom Banks
- Steven Moore
- Gerald Swofford

Liberty Bell Up to \$25

- Meredith Leaverton
- Tom Vaughan
- Jonathan Shafer
- Bobby Vaughan

Old Faithful (monthly donations/ \$25+)

- Wendy Lauritzen
- Meg Weesner

Another day in the life of a ranger



Horses are saddled up and ready for a crater ride at Haleakala National Park in Hawaii. Photo: Pat Pilcher

By Pat Pilcher

"It's just another day in paradise."

DURING MY SIX YEARS AS A RANGER AT HALEAKALA National Park on the island of Maui, I frequently heard and repeated this phrase and never really thought about it that much.

My favorite duty was to give interpretive talks, lead guided hikes and demonstrate *Living History*. Most days were uneventful, and yet you never knew what to expect when working with visitors from all over the world. It's exciting, and I loved my job. Another duty as a ranger was working at the visitor centers. The routine of ranger life changes little from day to day, but some days stand out and are unforgettable.

The day I will never forget began when I drove to the visitor center near the summit of the Haleakala volcano to begin what I thought would be another routine day. I was the "lone ranger" working at the front desk in the center and so had to handle any situations that developed during the day.

As I approached the parking lot, I noticed a string of horses be-

ing unloaded from a large truck. The horses are used to carry visitors down the trail into the volcano's crater. The company that operates the concession brings the horses up from a ranch and guests book well in advance for the privilege of riding instead of walking down 2,500 feet and then back up. The round trip is eight miles and takes five to six hours to hike, and thus riding a horse is a less strenuous alternative to walking. I rarely paid much attention to this daily event, but this day was an exception.

Ninety-five percent of the time, visitor center duties involve answering questions such as, "Where's the bathroom," or "Why is it so cold here when the beach was so warm? It was warm at the beach." When you answer the same question 30 or 40 times each day, you begin to wonder if the life of a ranger is really that glamorous? Glamorous or not, I liked the life, but every so often that other 5 percent came into full view.

I first noticed something was amiss when someone came running into the visitor center waving their arms and shouting, "Ranger, ranger, you have to come! There's an injury at the horse-hitching post – hurry, they need help." These words always kick up my pulse

no matter how many times it happens. After securing the visitor center and grabbing my first-aid pack, I ran to the end of the parking lot where a crowd had gathered around the string of six horses.

My first impression was: What's the problem? I saw no apparent injuries but could tell from the crowd gathered something was wrong. When I got to the horses I noticed one of the riders was holding on tightly to the horses' mane and I saw her leg was stuck out from the horse. She quietly told me that her leg was broken. Her leg was indeed broken, and I saw her shin bone protruding through the skin. I later learned that the horse in front of hers 'had bolted and kicked back hitting her in the shin. This was a serious injury, and needed immediate attention.

At the same time I realized it was going to be difficult to get her off the horse without further injury. Being the sole ranger, I knew I had to act decisively and initiate first-aid as quickly as possible. Before I realized it, my medical training kicked in, and I took stock of the situation. I had to stay calm as well as keep things under control. Everyone looked to me to take the lead and do what must be done. After taking several deep breaths, I assessed the situation and first checked that the area was secure and that no further injuries would likely happen. I next determined that the injured rider was stable for now and there was no apparent bleeding or shock. I told the closest person to call 911 and stay on the line. I knew it would take a minimum of 30 minutes for EMTs to arrive, and so I had to stabilize the injured rider before she went into shock.

My next step was to ask the horse wrangler to hold the horse and

calm it enough to get the rider off safely. I opened my first-aid pack and prepared to splint the leg before figuring out how to get her off the horse. Splinting was a challenge due to the protruding shin bone but I finally got her leg stabilized and with the help of several volunteers, we managed to gently lift her uninjured leg over the horse and carefully lowered her into a sitting position on the ground.

The process to splint and remove her from the horse took about 20 minutes, and during this entire time, the rider carried on a conversation with me and remained fully conscious. I marveled at this and wondered how I would react if it had happened to me?

Finally, the rescue vehicle arrived with two EMTs. They took over and eventually put her in the vehicle, and off to the hospital she went.

I returned to the visitor center and resumed my duties as "the ranger at the summit." Later, as I drove down to park headquarters I realized that I was indeed fortunate to have excellent training that prepared me to handle this situation. Only later did I fully decompress and recognize that this definitely was *not* just another day in paradise.

Pat Pilcher spent 30 years working as a forestry technician/park ranger and naturalist guide. His work took him to assignments in Oregon, Washington, Hawaii, Colorado, New Mexico, Utah and California.



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



Rising to the Challenge

Ranger Rendezvous 47

RANGER RENDEZVOUS 47 IS hosted in beautiful Rapid City, S.D., this year and kicks off Saturday, Nov. 2, 2024, with trainings, including an exciting new offering called “Interpretation 150: Interpretive Skills for Park Employees,” taught by instructor Michael Stuckey. See details on Page 13. Our daylong ANPR Board of Directors meeting is Nov. 5, and the core program launches Nov. 6-9. Note the new Saturday-to-Saturday timeline to help accommodate travel and ensure participation through the end of the last day.

Many of this year’s programs will highlight this year’s theme, “Rising to the Challenge.” See the full program schedule, which is still evolving and will be updated live online, on Page 12 to get an idea of the overall plan. And read on for some of our most anticipated, and confirmed, events:

ANPR has invited both NPS Director **Chuck Sams** and Secretary of the Interior **Deb Haaland** as keynote speakers.

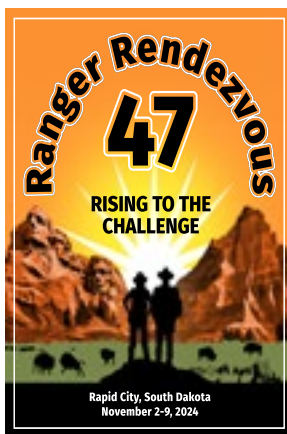
Alan Spears, cultural resources expert from National Parks and Conservation Association, will be the featured keynote speaker 8-8:50 a.m. Thursday, Nov. 7. His talk is titled, “An Advocate’s Views on the State of our National Parks,” and is not to be missed. For those not familiar with Spears’ great work, see his column in this month’s magazine, on Page 22.

From 2:20-3:15 p.m., Wednesday, Nov. 6, **Jeff Ohlfs and Rick Mossman** will discuss some National Park System (NPS) history that you will not get at “Ranger Skills.” Titled, “Not Ours, Others, Gone, and Didn’t Make the Cut,” they will offer an overview about what is not in the NPS, who has similar areas, what has left the NPS, and what didn’t make it into the NPS. Who knows? Maybe you will learn about an answer for trivia night! (Hint: Read Page 19 of this magazine!)

Paul Horsted has worked for five years on a project to locate and re-photograph historic photo sites at 24 of the oldest and grandest national parks. The results were published in “Treasures of the National Parks Yesterday and Today” (2017). He will present at 4:30-5:15 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 6, discussing similar work he has done across the Black Hills including rare images from the 1874 Black Hills “Custer” Expedition.

Casey Osbach, “Touching the Pen, the 1868 Fort Laramie Treaty,” 7:30-9 p.m., Nov. 6, will focus on the site’s relevance as a diplomatic center through a thematic, “first-person” character who observed the treaty ceremonies first-hand in April of that year (Joseph Casey, 2nd Lt., 2nd U.S. Cavalry, will be played by Casey Osbach, who will be dressed in period clothing with a cavalry saddle, replica Sharps Carbine, and Colt Revolver along with other props). Osbach’s character, an 1866 graduate of West Point Military Academy and former resident of Litchfield, Conn., will bring a 19th Century Euro-American context and viewpoint to the audience. Highlighting the observations of this

Registration is open now!
Scan this QR code to register



young lieutenant will be photographs of the 1868 Treaty taken by 19th Century photographer Alexander Gardner.

On Friday, Nov. 8, **Dan Wenk** will share perspectives of his time in the NPS wherein he served as superintendent of Yellowstone during some tumultuous years and also served as deputy director of the NPS. Dan will also be a member of a panel on “NPS Partners.”

David Vela will share perspectives of his time as deputy director and acting director of the NPS, the toll this assignment took on him, and what he sees looking ahead about the future of the NPS. His talk, “The View From a Former NPS Director,” is set for 10:30-11:15 a.m. Nov. 6.

Walter Dabney shares these words about a great presentation he will give 10:30-11:15 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 9: “In 1970, I spent a year assigned as aide to NPS ‘senior author and editor’ Freeman Tilden. I was 23, and he was 86. During that year, we boarded in the same house, worked, and traveled together based out of the Harpers Ferry Interpretative Design Center. We interacted with employees and students on our travels, from Florida to Canada and from D.C. to San Francisco. We got to know each other well. I kept a journal of the year and referred to that journal 47 years later to put together a program, not on what is interpretation, but who was Freeman Tilden and his legacy on interpretation in the NPS and other agencies.”

Additional presentations are confirmed or invited on:

- Climate change impacts on NPS areas and programs
- Cave management
- History of public lands in the United State
- The Museum of the National Park Ranger
- The NPS History Collection at Colorado State University
- An update from the World Ranger Congress in France
- An update on NPS Visitor and Resource Protection

FIELD TRIPS AND FUN

Two field trips are scheduled for Thursday, Nov. 8:

Field Trip No. 1: Mount Rushmore NM and Wind Cave NP and possible points in between. Estimate about 160 miles total. To be led by Rick Mossman.

Field Trip No. 2: Minuteman Missile NHS and Badlands NP and possible points in between. Estimate about 180 miles total. To be led by Mike Pflaum.

Awards presentation: Friday evening, Nov. 8. Awards will be presented, a reception will follow and then entertainment by a well-known local band led by Kenny Putnam, who also is the designer of this year’s RR graphic logo.

It will be an interesting Ranger Rendezvous, immediately following the U. S. election — don’t forget to vote early if you are going to attend the RR!

ANPR Super Raffle is heating up!

THIS YEAR'S RANGER RENDEZVOUS

will see the return of the Super Raffle. In addition to the daily silent auction and drawings, the Super Raffle showcases top-end prizes for those willing to buy tickets ahead of time. Go to rafflecreator.com/pages/38397/super-affle-by-anpr to view this year's prizes. Or scan the QR code to the right.



There will be a \$500 gift card from Amazon as a prize for the most donations for tickets by an individual, and a \$100 gift card from Amazon for the person who donates for each of the tickets drawn for the "grand prizes."

Although not a "Ranger Rendezvous" function as such, ANPR will conduct the drawing on Friday, Nov. 8, 2024, at the RR in Rapid City, S.D. (presence at the drawing is not required).

We expect that additional prizes will be added and we will send out updates periodically announcing new prizes and other information.

SO, HOW DOES IT WORK?

You can "donate" for "tickets" for yourself and/or you can solicit donations for tickets from family, friends, or whomever, by sharing the raffle URL or QR code above.

Ask your donors to enter your name in the "Credit these tickets to" field, so you can get credit for the ticket(s). Or, you can seek donations from others in person, and then manually enter their information into the dashboard.

THE FINE PRINT

This raffle is being conducted by the Association of National Park Rangers (ANPR), a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization, at 12675 N. Sunrise Shadow Drive, Marana, AZ 85658. Prizes are either donated to, or are being funded by ANPR. The raffle will close at 11 p.m. EDT on Nov. 7, 2024. Prizes will be sent to winners by regular ground, best available. Winners can pay extra for faster shipping. No purchase or contribution is required to enter. If you wish to get a complimentary "ticket" without donating, please email bwade@anpr.org and one ticket will be entered in the drawing in your name. Prizes are **not** transferable without the permission of ANPR. Please email bwade@anpr.org and one ticket will be entered in the drawing in your name.

TICKET DONATIONS

1 Ticket = \$5	5 Tickets = \$20
10 Tickets = \$35	25 Tickets = \$100
50 Tickets = \$150	100 Tickets = \$250

GRAND PRIZE NO. 1: ROLL YOUR OWN TRIP

A "Roll-Your-Own" trip. It can be a trip to another country, a float trip, a cruise or whatever you want to select. You select the destination(s), number of days, and the number of travelers. You will work through the ANPR "arranger" to set up the trip. ANPR will pay \$2,500 to the arranger, and any additional expenses will be the responsibility of the traveler. Trip arrangements can be made up to one year after the date of the raffle drawing. Or, you can take the "cash in-lieu of" choice of \$1,500. Note that this prize must be used within one year of the drawing.

GRAND PRIZE NO. 2: GRAND CANYON RAFT TRIP

Canyoneers is very pleased to donate two passenger spaces toward the ANPR Super Raffle on one of its 2025 **8-day Grand Canyon raft**



trips. This prize, valued at more than \$3,700 per person, will take passengers through Grand Canyon National Park, with camping and fine dining along the way. This is the best way to truly immerse oneself into this natural wonder of the world. More information is available at the Canyoneers website, www.canyoneers.com.

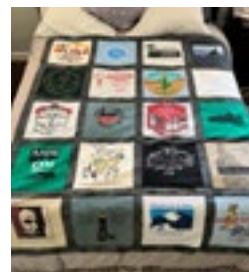
TWO-NIGHT ALASKA RAILROAD/LODGING LUXURY PACKAGE

This prize is being offered by Holland America Line. Holland America Line offers a luxury rail package for two that includes a **two-night stay** at McKinley Princess Wilderness Lodge or Denali Princess Wilderness Lodge in Alaska. See Alaska in style via the Alaska Railroad, and stay at one of these two great lodges in the heart of Alaska. Value: \$1,000.



RANGER RENDEZVOUS QUILT

An **oversized throw quilt** featuring T-shirts from past Rendezvous on one side and a fabric that contains NPS patches on the other. Quilt is shown just covering the top of a queen-sized bed. Donor: Rick Mossman and Kendra Balasz. Value: \$800



CUSTOM RANGER CARVING

Hand-carved ranger caricature titled "**Doing More With Less,**" by Rob Arnberger, in basswood and painted in acrylics; 13 inches tall x 10 inches long. This old ranger is a bit fed up and tired of not getting the funding support the National Park Service needs to carry out the important job of protecting our national heritage found in our National Parks. Arnberger was a ranger, superintendent, and regional director during his career and also a well-known woodcarver of humorous caricatures and realistic birds. Visit his website at spiritsinwood.com to learn more about his art and see more photos of his work. Value: \$450.

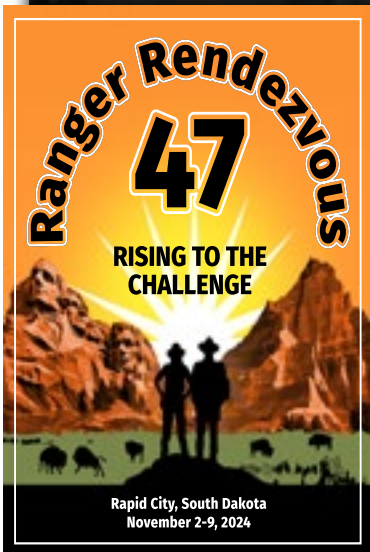
SAN DIEGO HARBOR CRUISE

Enjoy a **four-hour day trip** for two in the San Diego Harbor on the replica flagship of Juan Cabrillo Rodriguez, the *San Salvador*. Generously donated by the Maritime Museum of San Diego. Thank you, Thomas Workman! Value: \$200

More prizes are available online and we are adding more as we speak. Check back often!



RR 47 schedule



A side view at
Mount Rushmore.
Jamie Richards photo

** Ranger Rendezvous planning is still underway. The preliminary schedule below will be updated and available online closer to the event.*

Saturday, November 2- Tuesday, November 5

Pre-Rendezvous trainings will be available. See details on our featured Interpretation 150 course, on facing Page 13.

Tuesday, November 5

9 a.m.-4:30 p.m.: Board of Directors meeting
(open to all members)
2:20 p.m.: Registration opens
7 p.m.-?: Trivia night, hospitality room open

Wednesday, November 6

8-10 a.m.: Welcome addresses by ANPR
president, area superintendents, regional
director, local dignitaries
10-10:30 a.m.: Beverage break
10:30-11:15 a.m.: Speaker David Vela
11:15 a.m.-Noon: BOD reports
Noon-2:20 p.m.: Lunch
2:20-3:15 p.m.: Breakout sessions
3:15-3:45 p.m.: Beverage break/Raffle

3:45-4:30 p.m.: Partner Panel
4:30-5:15 p.m.: National Parks, Paul Horsted
6-7:30 p.m.: President's reception
7:30-9 p.m.: Cultural activity
7:30 p.m.-?: Hospitality room open

Thursday, November 7

7:30-8 a.m.: Announcements/ Raffle
8-8:50 a.m.: Keynote: Alan Spears, NPCA
9 a.m.-?: Field trips, golf tourney, personal time
6:30 p.m.-?: Hospitality room open
7:30-8:30 p.m.: Custer County SAR
6-8 p.m.: Tentative: Pistol Shoot
8-9 p.m.: Guest speaker

Friday, November 8

6:30-7:45 a.m.: Breakfast with board of directors
for first-time RR attendees
7:45-8:15 a.m.: Announcements/ Raffle
8:15-9 a.m.: Keynote speaker
9-10 a.m.: Breakout sessions
10-10:30 a.m.: Beverage break/Raffle
10:30 a.m.-Noon: Membership meeting

Noon-3:15 p.m.: Free time to explore
3:15-3:45 p.m.: Beverage break/Raffle
3:45-4:45 p.m.: Breakout sessions
6-6:45 p.m.: Awards celebration (all invited)
6:45-7:45 p.m.: Awards reception (for ticketed
guests)
7:45-10 p.m.: Live music, The Song Pilots (all
invited)
10 p.m.-?: Hospitality room open

Saturday, November 9

7:45-8:15 a.m.: Announcements and raffle
8:15-9 a.m.: Keynote speaker
9-10 a.m.: Membership meeting
10-10:30 a.m.: Beverage break/ Raffle
10:30-11:15 a.m.: Breakout sessions
11:15 a.m.-Noon: Cave Exploration
& Management
Noon-2:20 p.m.: Lunch
2:20-3:15 p.m.: Keynote speaker
3:15-3:30 p.m.: Beverage break/ raffle
3:30-4:15 p.m.: Keynote speaker
3:30-4:15 p.m.: Closing Keynote speaker
6 p.m.-?: Hospitality room open

Photo contest: **RR47**

SUBMIT YOUR PHOTOS FOR THE 2024 ANPR PHOTO CONTEST AT RANGER Rendezvous 47. Start taking or looking through your photos for your favorites to submit. Rendezvous participants enjoy looking at the photos to identify where they were taken and voting for their favorites.

2024 CATEGORIES

- **Landscape** (Daylight images of land, sky and/or waters at a distance)
- **Wildlife** (Wild animals in the image)
- **Historical and Cultural Resources** (Image represents history or cultural parts of NPS sites)
- **The Human Connection** (A person or people in the image)
- **In the Details** (A macro, close-up image)
- **Big Sky** (New category: Large sky in the image)
- **Ranger Rendezvous** (Image taken at a Ranger Rendezvous)

GUIDELINES

All photos must be taken within a national park unit, international protected area, or at a previous Ranger Rendezvous. Submit photos that meet the criteria for the specific category. Contestants may enter only one photo per category. Printed photos should be unframed and recommended size of 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 or by end of day Nov. 5. If unable to attend, photos or digital images can be sent to arrive no later than Oct. 27, 2024, 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.



ANPR member Liz Roberts won the 2023 Best of Show with this landscape image of Grand Canyon National Park.



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 6/14/2024)

- Rick Mossman
- Ed Rizzotto

Interpretation 150

Interpretive Skills for Park
Employees

32 hour class presented Nov. 2-5, 2024 at
Ranger Rendezvous 47

Learn the Art and Science of Interpretation
and Public Communication: Providing Care,
Service, and Connecting Park Visitors to Park
Resources

Topics include: Themes, Universal Concepts,
Intellectual and Emotional Connections to
Place, Formal and Informal Interpretation

ANPR Member Price (sliding scale):
\$250 (GS 0-5) seasonals, students, retirees
\$300 (GS 6-9) journeyman
\$350 (GS 10-15) managers and
administrators

Instructor: Michael Stuckey (33-year NPS
career and trainer/facilitator)

For more information, contact
tbanks@anpr.org

Chasing history

Former NPS interpreter teams with fellow writers to investigate the story behind the 'Merrie Trippers' journal of 1891

By Suzanne Gall Marsh

HAVE A DEEP CONNECTION WITH GREAT BREWSTER ISLAND, a gem of a small island in outer Boston Harbor within the Boston Harbor Islands National Park Area (BOHA). Since the 1980s, I have organized public boat trips for the Friends of the Boston Harbor Islands and coordinated the FBHI volunteers presenting boat narrations and leading on-island programs. As a NPS BOHA ranger/interpreter I led the park boat tours to Boston Light on Little Brewster Island, which is adjacent to Great Brewster.

But perhaps the most memorable trip I have taken to Great Brewster Island was in 1891 with an intrepid group of four women who sojourned on the island and kept a meticulous journal of their 17-day adventure. The women referred to themselves as the "Merrie Trippers" and used the nicknames "Ye Scribe," "Ye Acrobat," "Ye Aristocrat," and "Ye Autocrat." The first page of their journal reads, "Ye Log of Ye Square Partie at Ye Great Brewster in ye pleasant month of July 1891."

Of course, I am not an actual time traveler, but I was privileged to be part of a team of volunteer research detectives and writers from the FBHI who dived into the mysteries of this 1891 journal, which had been discovered by chance. We eventually produced a book that not only highlights the history of the Boston Harbor Islands, but provides a snapshot into the lives of 19th Century women.

"A Boston Harbor Islands Adventure – The Great Brewster Journal of 1891," published by History Press in 2023, is filled with excerpts from the journal, including amazing photographs and lovely watercolors, with supplemental material that puts the adventure in context. It represented a challenging piece of detective work: The journal had all the details of the women's trip – what they did and what they ate – but not their names. I am happy to tell you we were able to meet that challenge, and we now know who they were.

I have long been involved with recording and preserving the history of the Boston Harbor Islands, which are an integral part of the city's pre-history, history, present, and future. Because of their rich heritage and combination of natural, cultural, and historical resources, in November 1996, they were designated the Boston Harbor Islands National Park Area. It is managed as a partnership park and known today as Boston Harbor Islands National and State Park.

It was fate that in the mid-1990s Professor John R. Stilgoe of Harvard University discovered the Great Brewster journal in a Cape Ann bookstore when he stopped to change a bicycle tire. He purchased the well-worn album, whose pages were loose and might have been sold individually. He understood the value and importance of this primary source about 19th Century women's lives and wanted to preserve it. It is now part of the collection of the Schlesinger Library at Radcliffe.



"A Boston Harbor Islands Adventure: The Great Brewster Journal of 1891," History Press, by Stephanie Schorow.

Call it serendipity that in 2008 Stephanie Schorow, a Boston-based author and teacher, heard about the journal from staff at the Schlesinger Library while doing research for her book, "East of Boston: Notes from the Harbor Islands." Stephanie and I met when she interviewed me for this book. I was immediately intrigued with the journal and recognized the potential of sharing this incredible primary source in the future. It seemed to me a "sleeping beauty" waiting to be woken up and have its story shared with the world.

In 2021, I presented a proposal to the Friends board of directors to publish the 1891 journal — as the Friends has a proven track record of publishing historical pamphlets and handbooks. We developed the scope of work, contracted with Stephanie to be the editor/coordinator, and collaborated on a prepublication plan with the History Press. A call went out in the Friends "Tidings" newsletter for "researchers and internet explorers." We decided to call our author-volunteer team, "Merrie Trippers II" in honor of the original Merrie Trippers in 1891. Our team included Ann Marie Allen, Allison Andrews, Vivian Borek, Elizabeth Carella, Carol Fithian, Walter Hope, Pam Indeck, Marguerite Krupp, and myself.

Under Stephanie's direction, the FBHI volunteers met by Zoom to discuss parameters of the project, divided up work transcribing the document, assigned tasks for researching the women authors and attempted to determine who the women were. We tracked down the sources of the various literary quotes in the diary, conducted research on the context of the women's lives, gathered information on the Brewster Islands in the 1890s, and other tasks.

Many of the entries described sights that you can still see today from Great Brewster. For example on July 24, 1891, the journal records that:

It is always an interesting moment ... for at the appointed time the light flashes from the Light House, the flag falls from Fort Warren and the sunset gun booms. Music from the excursion boats in the Harbor was wafted to us and we could see the lighted train cars crawling to and from Pemberton around Point Allerton and when the friendly lights gleamed all along the horizon from Crescent Beach to Mino's Light, we could not feel that we were far from the Hub of the Universe."

What our book offers is the historical, social, and environmental context for the journal's entries, with information on women's lives at the time, women's clubs (the women were active members), the geography and role of the Boston Harbor Islands in Boston's society and commerce at that time, and environmental concerns. The journal's photos are an excellent source of "before" images of the Boston Harbor Islands. We provided the "now" images.

Our author-volunteers uncovered a wealth of information. The first clue came from a note on the stationery of Charles B. Nichols (1897-1984) of Hopkinton, N.H. It described the journal as an "interesting account of visit to Great Brewster Island in Boston Harbor. The ladies were friends of my mother, the scribe Miss Helen Whittier." With the help of Martha Mayo, a historian from Lowell, we were able to identify the four women, all longtime friends from Lowell.



A photo of the original Merrie Trippers on their 17-day, 1891 trek to Great Brewster Island. Photo: Schlesinger Library of the Harvard Radcliffe Institute

Some of the watercolors have initials, which helped identify the women by cross-checking with two of Lowell's women's clubs, the Dickens Club and the XV Club. Since Helen Augusta Whittier (1846-1925) had been identified as "Ye Voracious Scribe" and she was a prominent member of both clubs, it seemed logical that the three other women were also members. They were Isabella "Bella" Coburn (1849-1895), "Ye Artistic Acrobat;" Sarah Elizabeth "Lizzie" Dean Adams (1847-1918), "Ye Gentle Aristocrat;" and Helen Frances Ray French (1843-1921), "Ye Autocrat of Great Brewster." Extensive public records aided in our research.

I was responsible for writing "Chapter 7: Great Brewster from 1900-2022." I enjoyed being a history detective and went down numerous rabbit holes along the way. Three primary sources were of special interest: *1891 A History of the Boston Yacht Club*; *1880 Illustrated History of Boston Harbor*, by James Henry Stark; and *1882 Kings Handbook of Boston Harbor*, by Moses Foster Sweetser. For many years I have copied and laminated images from these books to share with visitors on my islands boat trips and walking tours.

The next step was for History Press to review and edit the manuscript and return to Stephanie to review and make edits. Anyone who has ever written a book knows what a back-and-forth process this is, including the copy-editing and proof-reading stages. The photographs were another story. It was a group decision as to which ones to include, and write the captions, which were edited by the team several times. Decisions had to be made about the color images section. There were many beautiful watercolors, but we couldn't include all of them due to page limitation. There were also color photos of contemporary Great Brewster. The production schedule was confirmed with the books to be delivered in late May 2023.

Besides my research and writing work, I am responsible for the administration of the History Press contract, ordering and paying for the books, tracking inventory and distributing books to the volunteers presenting the book related programs.

After publication, the Merrie Trippers II began a flurry of speak-

ing engagements, which continues to this day. The author-volunteers have spoken at historical societies, libraries, bookstores, and on boat tours. There are usually a group of at least four who read from the journal along with Stephanie doing a PowerPoint presentation. There is always time for questions, animated discussion, and book signings. Recent presentations were in March for Women's History month with National Parks of Boston for their Revolutionary History Series, the Boston Public Library in Copley Square, and in Lowell National Historical Park.

On July 20, 2024, there will be a Great Brewster Island boat trip to mark the 133rd anniversary of the Merrie Trippers adventure. Take a trip back in time with the Friends author-volunteers who will be onboard *MV Columbia Point* to provide narration as the boat cruises around the island with frequent pauses to observe the island. There is no dock to accommodate landing on Great Brewster. Pack a picnic; there is no food or beverages sold on the boat. If you will be in Boston then, why not come along?

Suzanne Gall Marsh was a Boston Harbor Islands National Park Area ranger/interpreter for twelve years and is the founder of Friends of the Boston Harbor Islands. The organization celebrates 45 years of public service on land, sea and the islands in 2024.

Hear More about the Merrie Trippers II

WGBH radio program "All Things Considered" (aired March 8, 2023). "Amateur sleuths unveil the women behind the 132-year old Boston Harbor adventure journal." <https://www.wgbh.org/news/local/2023-03-08/amateur-sleuths-unveil-the-women-behind-132-year-old-boston-harbor-adventure-journal>

WBUR "Radio Boston" (aired June 21, 2023). Tiziana Dearing interviews author Stephanie Schorow and Gall Marsh. <https://www.wbur.org/radioboston/2023/06/21/boston-harbor-islands-book-glamping>

Betty Reid Soskin

A lifetime of telling honest, hard, historical truths with persuasive grace

By Tom Banks

BETTY REID SOSKIN HAS ACHIEVED PINNACLE status within the nation and among her peers. Born on September 22, 1921, Ms. Soskin is renowned, not only within her home state of California and within the National Park ranger profession, but throughout the world.

Alongside President Barack Obama, Betty participated in the National Christmas Tree Lighting ceremonies in Washington, D.C. in 2015, during Obama's last year in office. In 2016, she was profiled in a *TIME* book commemorating the 100th anniversary of the National Park Service. More recently, in February 2024, she was featured in a "PBS Newshour" segment in which she spoke of her early struggle with depression and her love of singing, which buoyed her in the face of enormous life challenges. An autobiographical movie about her is nearing completion.

Soskin became a permanent NPS ranger in 2007 after starting as a temporary ranger at the age of 85. A national treasure, she retired on March 31, 2022, at the age of 100 from Rosie the Riveter World War II Homefront National Historical Park. She holds the distinction as the oldest full-time park ranger to have ever worked for the National Park Service, joining the ranks of a very few centenarians who have worked for the agency. In March 2024, ANPR's Board of Directors voted unanimously to honor Betty Reid Soskin with one of its highest awards, the designation of Honorary Member, an honor which Ms. Soskin has accepted. The Association of National Park Rangers, the premier organization representing the national park ranger profession in the United States, is proud to count Betty among our ranks.

Betty grew up in Oakland, Calif., after her family moved from New Orleans when Betty was 6 years old. She has personal recollections of the events of the 1930s and 1940s, including Amelia Earhart's flight and the 1944 explosion at Port Chicago near Richmond, Calif., the largest incendiary event in the Lower 48 occurring during World War II. Later, Port Chicago Naval Magazine National Memorial became one of a group of National Park Service sites in the San Francisco Bay Area where Betty worked as an interpretive park ranger. An inspiring, 55-minute film of one of her ranger talks is available for viewing at the NPS website for Rosie the Riveter World War II Homefront National Historical Park. This talk, which Betty gave in her 90s, demonstrates Betty's personal knowledge of history and her ability to explain and interpret profound, difficult truths of events in our national life, from Black segregation and women's rights to environmental justice. The film is worthy viewing for all – including all of us who are, or aspire to be, national park rangers.

Thank you, Betty Reid Soskin, for being a pioneering woman, a truth teller, and a role model and example for us all. We proudly, and warmly, welcome you as a member of the Association of National Park Rangers.

Tom Banks, former board member of ANPR (Seasonal Concerns, Treasurer, Education & Training), serves on several ANPR committees and has been a member since 1986.



Betty Reid Soskin, above, with visitors outside of the Rosie the Riveter Visitor Education Center in Richmond, Calif. Below, a portrait taken of Soskin. NPS Photos/Luther Bailey



INTERPRETATION

Are rangers actually saving the planet?

WHEN I JOINED THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, I WORKED AT MAMMOTH Cave National Park in Kentucky. Each year, the interpretive rangers were required to include a special message in every interpretive program that tied into some newsworthy topic. In 1987, the bicentennial of the writing of the U.S. Constitution was the topic ... sometimes a challenge in a cave park in Kentucky. Another year, talk of acid rain was all over the news, and still another year it was the importance of biological diversity. As I've said before in this column, as a young ranger, I was all gung-ho to do what I was told, and to be honest, I loved the challenge of connecting the seemingly unrelated topics of acid rain or the bicentennial of the Constitution to "my" park.

Even nearly 40 years ago, I recognized the power my words had in influencing people. Who doesn't love a park ranger? According to a 2022 poll conducted by YouGov, three-quarters of Americans hold a favorable opinion of the National Park Service. While that support dips among younger, non-white and lower-income Americans, interestingly it is pretty much even across the country and across party lines.

All of that evidence, both anecdotal and data-driven, puts the National Park Service and its interpretive rangers in a powerful position to deliver climate change communication. That premise was what drove the creation of the Earth to Sky Interagency Partnership in 2004, a partnership between the National Park Service and NASA. Anita Davis, who founded and led Earth to Sky for 20 years, said the partnership was born from NASA's desire to take advantage of the "awesome skill levels, talent, and capability park rangers have to connect with the public. Earth to Sky is about combining NASA's climate science resources with the NPS's ability to reach people."

In 2010, the National Park Service established its own Climate Change Response Program, a cross-disciplinary program that provides guidance, training, technical expertise, project funding, and educational products that support our actions to preserve the natural and cultural resources and values of the National Park Service.

Both Earth to Sky and the NPS Climate Change Response Program make the case that hearing consistent messaging, based on local impacts of a changing climate, can create emotional connections. A visitor who hears about melting glaciers in Glacier Bay National Park on a summer cruise, then visits Biscayne National Park and hears how an acidifying ocean is impacting sea turtles and manatees, and then learns about erosion of fish pond walls at Kaloko-Honokōhau National Historical Park may begin to put these divergent stories together to create a more complete picture of how climate change is impacting a broad range of national parks. Stanford University's Nicole Ardoin told *Scientific American* that talking about a direct threat to national parks "brings up something very emotional related to climate change. It's a great time to reach people, when they are emotionally raw and ready to do something."

National park rangers saving the planet is not a new trope, but perhaps in earlier times it was...exaggerated. Continuous, concerted efforts to communicate the existential threat of climate change to park visitors may be changing that...one program at a time.

Gary Bremen retired from the National Park Service in 2022 and is continually amazed at the things he learns in national parks that change his view of the world.



Bleached Elkhorn coral at Biscayne National Park in Florida.
NPS photo: Pete Wintersteen



Receding glaciers at Glacier Bay National Park in Alaska.
Gary Bremen photo



Erosion of fish pond walls at Kaloko-Honokōhau National Historical Park in Hawaii.
NPS photo

ADMINISTRATION

Public Lands Corps hiring authority can jump start your career

LAST YEAR, I WROTE ABOUT THE MYSTERIES OF HIRING AND THE various hiring authorities. ANPR receives so many inquiries asking, “How can I get a job in the National Park Service?” that it seemed a good idea to focus on one of those hiring authorities, in particular. It is called the Public Lands Corps (PLC) hiring authority.

The PLC program combines education and work through the various conservation and service corps for the conservation, restoration, construction, or rehabilitation of natural, cultural, historic, archaeological, recreation, or scenic resources. It is authorized by the Public Lands Corps Act of 1993 as amended by the Public Lands Corps Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2005.

This hiring authority allows for noncompetitive eligibility that can be used by former PLC members to apply for permanent positions (it can also be used for temporary or term positions). This eligibility is valid for two years from the completion of the individual’s most recent PLC service.

PLC members are eligible for noncompetitive hiring status if they:

- Are between the ages of 16-30 (inclusive) or in the case of veterans, are 35 years old or younger.
- Are a citizen or lawful permanent resident of the United States.
- Have completed, at a minimum, 640 hours of satisfactory service with a qualified youth/conservation corps where at least 120 of those hours were through the PLC.
- Meet OPM qualification standards and any other qualification requirements stated in the vacancy announcement (including selective placement factors, positive education requirements, physical requirements, etc.)

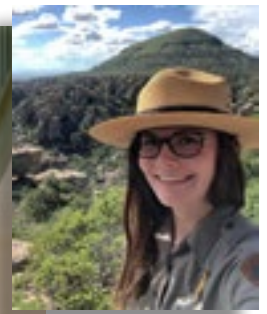
The NPS maintains a list of Service Corps Partner agreement holders (the above noted ‘qualified youth/conservation corps’) at this lengthy website: www.nps.gov/subjects/youthprograms/21st-century-conservation-service-corps-opportunities.htm

For a list of jobs and internships, visit: Jobs At Corps – The Corps Network at this site: corpsnetwork.org/jobs-at-corps/.

BUT HOW DOES THIS LOOK IN REAL LIFE?

Here’s a PLC success story:

Kaylene Wright got her start through the Student Conservation Association in 2017. During her eight-month long internship with the Southeast Arizona Group (Chiricahua NM, Fort Bowie NHS, and Coronado N. Mem.), she worked in Interpretation/Education. She researched and developed her own programs, participated in various trainings alongside staff from different disciplines, learned how to independently provide visitor services, and got hands-on



Kaylene Wright, a former PLC member, was able to use the PLC hiring authority to become a permanent park guide (interpretation) for Chiricahua National Monument and Fort Bowie National Historic Site. Courtesy: Marin Karraker

experience in what it is like to work in the NPS. She especially enjoyed working alongside the park rangers and being treated as an equal. She had experienced other workplaces where interns were not valued or were seen as ‘less than.’

“Being valued meant a lot to me and definitely contributed to my desire for a NPS career,” she said.

Indeed, we did value Kaylene as a member of our team. So much so, that when she applied for one of our positions through her PLC noncompetitive status, we quickly scooped her up as a permanent park guide!

I asked Kaylene if it was an easy transition from PLC to NPS. She said it took some time to figure out what PLC was and how she could use it to her advantage. “It wasn’t really discussed in my circle back then (nor in my AO circle) and all I started with was a small paragraph in the SCA handbook,” she said.

She also noted that it was difficult to know which positions she was eligible for, but she soon learned that she could apply to any permanent jobs that were not open to the public. The announcement would include details under the “This Job Is Open To” section and would either mention PLC specifically or “all special hiring authorities.”

Kaylene’s advice to others hoping to capitalize off their PLC experience? Connect with someone who understands how it works. Ask them to review some USAJobs announcements with you so you can know what to look for and how to apply. How to find such a person? Contacting ANPR is one way and certainly while you’re in your PLC assignment, making a connection with an administrative professional is another.

My advice for hiring officials considering the use of the PLC hiring authority? Start locally by contacting your admin officer for more information. Reach out to your HR specialist or your Servicing Human Resources Office (SHRO) lead.

For all the ‘how can I work for the NPS?’ questions, we also hear the ‘I always wanted to work for the NPS!’ refrain. The PLC hiring authority is one way to make that dream a reality for many of our next generation of employees.

— Marin Karraker, *Administrative Officer, SEAZ Group*

National parks you may never have heard of in Molossia

By Jeff Ohlfs

HAVE YOU EVER HEARD OF A MICRONATION OR EVEN VISITED one? “Micronations,” “micro-states,” “imaginary countries,” “counter countries,” “unrecognized nations,” or “ephemeral states” are all terms for countries that have been declared independent by (usually eccentric) individuals or small groups, but unlike other such attempts, fail to achieve widespread diplomatic recognition.

Many have only one inhabitant; others are larger. Most seem to consist of a single Grand Poobah, with or without a coterie of petits Poobahs. In most cases, micronation founders have declared dominion over land that actually exists. Like other countries, some of these nations have proclaimed declarations of independence, adopted constitutions, sought diplomatic recognition, sent out envoys extraordinary and ministers plenipotentiary, displayed coats-of-arms, and issued stamps, passports, and “currency” as defined by one micronation, the Kingdom of Talossa.

I count about 58 in the world. I’ve been to three: Conch Republic (Key West), Slowjamastan (Anza Borrego Desert), and Redonda (a protected area of Antigua and Barbuda). I was surprised to learn there is one in Nevada, the Republic of Molossia. In 1998, it was founded by his Excellency Kevin Baugh, president of Molossia. Molossia claims sovereignty over 11.3 acres of land near Dayton, Nev.

OK Jeff, why is this important to ANPR? Well, in May, I visited the Molossian National Park Service (MNPS), which “preserves the natural and cultural resources of our nation for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration of this and future generations. We work tirelessly to conserve the scenery, natural and historic objects and the wildlife of Molossia.”

Molossia has three units in its national park system. The first is Heliotrope Falls National Park, established in 2000. “The park includes a portion of Sutro Creek, where it forms a cascade through a narrow canyon. This cascade, named Heliotrope Falls, is the centerpiece of the park, which is in fact very small. The park is frequented by wild horses, coyotes, hawks and many other desert animals.” (Molossia NPS)

The second is Back Forty National Park,



Heliotrope Falls National Park. Photo: Molossian National Park Service

established in 2003. This “park includes over half of the Molossian Home Territory, an area of boulders, washes and the Lone Tree, as well as the Molossia National Cemetery. The park is set aside as a natural area within our nation for the purpose of preserving the natural ecosystem of the high desert and maintaining a viable habitat for the many animals and plants that call Molossia home. It is toured via the Trans-Molossia Interpretive Trail.” (Molossia NPS)

And finally, the third is Mustachistan War National Battlefields Park, established in 2006. This park preserves “the peaceful desert area where two battles were fought, the Battle of Black Lizard Canyon and the Battle of Rattlesnake Rift in 2006. (Molossia NPS)

I made an unsuccessful attempt to visit Heliotrope Falls National Park and Mustachistan War National Battlefields Park. I could not

find a Molossian National Park ranger to guide me. Warning, don’t try visiting these two parks without a ranger. The desert is vast and there are no landmarks.

Like any visit to a micronation, it’s a good-natured slam at our geopolitical system.

Molossia’s visit was a pleasant morning guided by its President Kevin Baugh and exploring the Nevada high desert. Consider a stop the next time you travel near Carson City and bring your expired passport to get it stamped. Please check their website for “visiting hours,” customs, and passport formalities: www.molossia.org.

Coincidentally, the Republic of Molossia has a province 16 miles from my home called the “Molossia Desert Homestead” in Joshua Tree. My next micronation will be following the World Ranger Congress to the Principality of Seborga, Italy.

— Jeff Ohlfs, *Life Member of ANPR*



Trans-Molossia Interpretive Trail in Back Forty National Park. Photo: Molossian National Park Service



Mustachistan War National Battlefields Park
Photo: Molossian National Park Service



PROTECTION

Why vacancies in protection are bad: Part 2

This is Part 2 in a series of articles Kevin Moses will provide over the coming year on the problems with leaving vacancies unfilled. This part picks up where Part 1 left off in the previous issue.

THE PRIMARY ASSERTION OF THIS series is this: Allowing Protection Ranger vacancies to go unfilled, even for a little while, is BAD. This is due in large part because it means that at any given point in time, parks have fewer rangers onboard than they ought to have, and that results in at least some – and oftentimes a lot of – critically important work not getting done.

Part 1 of this series highlighted the emergency response, proactive patrols, and mandatory collateral duties that often get under-served due to positions lapsing for too long. Part 2 dives into additional collateral duties that, though not mandatory, remain vital, and are also far too frequently getting overlooked due to vacancies. These additional collateral duties, elective training, and responsibilities include:

LAW ENFORCEMENT

- Court/AUSA liaisons
- TLO coordinators
- Non-Lethal Training Ammunition (NLTA) Instructors
- Gap Analysis instructors
- Driving safety, Below 100, and Stop Sticks instructor
- Advanced Motor Vehicle Crash Investigations instructors
- Intoximeter coordinators
- Attend initial state-certified two-day Intoximeter Operator School, then complete periodic refresher training to maintain state certification; be available to operate the machine at the drop of a hat when a fellow ranger makes a DUI arrest.
- PT (Physical Training) up to three hours per week (though many would argue that PT should be A. mandatory, and B. up to five hours per week). Think about this: Firefighters get five hours per week and have to pass *one* physical fitness test (pack test), while commissioned, red-carded rangers only get three hours of on-duty PT time, yet have to take *two* physical fitness tests (pack test and the PEB). Utterly brilliant.
- Special LE operations (sobriety checkpoints, decoy ops, hunt-



A helicopter carries water during the Atkins Pea Ridge Fire. When ranger positions are left vacant, critical work such as this is delayed or hampered. Photo: Kevin Moses

ing season saturation patrols, early-morning boundary patrols). Each of these require multiple rangers, not solo ops.

- Make periodic checks/assessments of archaeologically significant sites (often in remote areas).
- Radar Training coordinators
- Peer Support specialist
- Crisis Intervention team members and instructors
- Spot check/monitor SUP and CUA activities occurring within the park (weddings, guided climbing, scientific research activities, special events, group excursions, organized sporting events, etc.)
- Installing game/trail cameras in areas needing monitoring (suspected bait sites, tree stands on park boundary, illegal ATV use/trespass, ginseng poaching, trash dumping, clandestine marijuana growth sites, etc. Installing these cameras is a time-consuming activity, often requiring two rangers, specialized equipment, and an entire shift.

SEARCH AND RESCUE

- UTV Program/UTV instructors
- Ranger “taxi service” –similar to short courtesy transports mentioned earlier, except that they’re significantly time consuming (example: transporting lost or exhausted hikers from Trailhead A

to their vehicle parked at Trailhead B). If rangers do not respond to the initial courtesy transport call, they run the risk of the situation evolving into an even longer, more complicated SAR because these hikers will often attempt to return to their vehicle on foot, exhausted and unprepared (no map, no light source), and either get lost, injured, or more exhausted and call for “rescue.” At that point, rangers then have to locate the subjects before they can provide them with the ride they should have just given them in the first place.

- Serve as an instructor and/or coordinator for one of the NPS’s SAR training programs (Basic Technical Rescue Training East and West courses, SWIM (Swiftwater Incident Management) course, dive training, MOCC, cave rescue training, avalanche rescue training, and so on.

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

- Mental Health First Aid instructors
- Serve as EMTs during multiple pack tests per year
- Emergency Vehicle Operator Course (EVOC) training
- Coordinate with Park Volunteer coordinator to staff VIPs in several programs requiring SAR and EMS personnel

WILDLAND FIRE, AVIATION, ICS, PHYSICAL SECURITY

- Complete elective Wildland Fire training courses to gain experience and certifications.
- Complete elective aviation training courses to gain experience and certifications.
- In-park Type 3 Incident Management team (typically rangers fill several positions in most parks that have such a team)
- Aviation Unit liaison for parks that have aviation programs (coordinates multiple hoist, short-haul, landing zone, and other specialized aviation rescue safety trainings, etc.)
- Assist with teaching WFSTAR (Wildland Fire Safety Training and Refresher) and other firefighting courses, sometimes developing fresh, new courses from scratch.
- HazMat training (such as HAZWOPER, etc.)
- CISM counselor
- Physical Security coordinators
- Take initial Sawyer Course (either S-212 or new NPS Sawyer Training), then maintain currency with chainsaws, including bi-annual Chainsaw Safety Refresher
- Responding to national-need wildfire and hurricane incidents for up to 18 days at a time
- Serving on special out-of-park assignments, such as Presidential Inauguration every four years, Border Surge, Standing Rock, park anniversaries, VIP visits, special events, etc.
- Completing Wildland Fire, All-Hazard, and ICS Position Task Books/Trainee Assignments for oneself and serving as an evaluator for other people’s task books
- Attending AARs and/or BORs for serious incidents (overly complex SARs, fatalities, major wildfires, etc.).

MISCELLANEOUS /ADMINISTRATIVE FUNCTIONS

- Instructors requested to travel to sister parks to teach classes for them (Use of Force, C-Tac, TEMS, Fire Refresher, SAR classes, etc.)
- Giving back to cooperating agencies that give to parks. Examples: Park’s EMTs serving as proctors at practical EMT testing stations at local hospitals; conducting training for personnel from sister

agencies, such as tactical rope training for the FBI or state police

- Visitor Assists (lockouts, jump starts, minor mechanical issues with vehicles, such as helping to change a flat tire, and short courtesy transports)

- Serving on park committees (Bear Council, Interdisciplinary Team, Safety Committee, Team Green, Red Card Committee, JHA Review Committee, park employee associations, etc.).

- Complete initial Adverse Conditioning for Wildlife Training (such as bear hazing), plus periodic refreshers

- Serving on national or regional teams, such as: SET, Honor Guard, IMTs, National Working Groups or Committees (example: National SAR Working Group, Technical Rescue Handbook editing working group, position description (PD) development working group, etc.)

- Serving on in-park special assignments, such as dignitary visits, the NPS Centennial, ribbon cutting ceremonies, Night Sky and Eclipse Festivals, Wilderness Weekend, Wildflower Weekend, etc.

- Serving on community relations/community engagement projects, such as participating in local holiday parades, National Night Out, Shop with A Cop, Heroes Fitness Challenge, tech rescue demos, school and Scout programs, assisting interpretive rangers with interpretive programs, etc.

- Lengthy out-of-park training assignments (Basic Training at FLETC and Field Training at another FTEP park, ParkMedic, advanced courses at FLETC, etc.)

- Acting assignments (details) that might last up to 120 days, both in-park and out-of-park (Acting DR, Investigative Services Branch Special Agent detail, etc.)

- Providing escorts for families conducting internments in park cemeteries (typically, a ranger helps coordinate these efforts, opens the gate to the fire road leading to the cemetery, then accompanies them to the site).

- Delivering orientation training for incoming concessions staff

- Wilderness management duties (coordinate with BC/Wilderness/Trails Office, serve on National Wilderness Climbing Management Committee, complete Arthur Carhart Wilderness Training Center courses, Minimum Requirements Decision training, etc.)

- Leave No Trace master/instructors

- Changing fire road gate combinations periodically (many are difficult and time-consuming to access)

- Attend periodic all-employees meetings

- Periodically updating documents such as the Superintendent’s Compendium, Jurisdictional Compendium, JHAs, SOPs, MOUs, etc.

- Submitting Work Orders for variety of repair requests

- Submitting IT work request

- Delivering “Emergency Services Orientation Training” to incoming seasonal Interpretive staff at their annual training

- Lost and Found – complete documentation for L&F items, route to Comm Center, follow-up regarding disposition of items

Check out the fall issue of Ranger for Part 3 of “Why Protection Ranger Vacancies Are Bad.” It will explore duties, responsibilities, and functions specific to supervisory rangers that end up getting neglected when those positions are allowed to lapse for lengthy periods of time.

— Kevin Moses

Supervisory Ranger, Shenandoah National Park

The 60th anniversary of Freedom Summer

IN 1964, LESS THAN 8 PERCENT OF ELIGIBLE African Americans in the State of Mississippi were registered to vote. State laws, Jim Crow policies, and white resistance to black empowerment prevented most African Americans in Mississippi from even attempting to register.

Literacy rates and educational achievement for poor and working-class Black people remained troublingly low. The denial of the franchise and limited access to educational opportunities, most often separate and unequal, combined to keep a plurality of African Americans in Mississippi in a state of servility.

Then Freedom Summer came to Mississippi. Around 800 volunteers, all of them young and most of them white, traveled to cities and towns such as Greenwood, Ruleville, and Shaw, to run voter registration drives and Freedom Schools.

Trained at the Western College for Women in Ohio by veterans of the civil rights movement like Bob Moses, the first of the Mississippi Summer Project volunteers (as the initiative was formally known) arrived in Mississippi on June 15, 1964. The Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE), and the Council of Federated Organizations (COFO), combined to form the Freedom Summer leadership cohort.

Few of the volunteers had ever been to Mississippi. None were prepared for the extreme poverty and racism they encountered. Some would make the ultimate sacrifice in the fight to ensure their fellow citizens had equal rights and representation before the law.

Voter registration was slow, dangerous work. Volunteers were subject to arrest and rough handling at the hands of mobs who tracked their movements and waited for opportunities to attack and intimidate. The Black families who hosted Mississippi Summer Project volunteers in their homes were targeted in drive-by shootings and fire bombings. And any African Americans seeking to register might easily find themselves fired or evicted after courthouse registrars reported their actions to vindictive bosses and landlords.

Running a Freedom School was an equally challenging endeavor.



This home was once what the Mayor of Shaw, Miss., called the “SNCC House,” the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee’s house. The SNCC was one of three groups that came together for Freedom Summer in 1964. Photo: Alan Spears

In Mississippi, as in other parts of the American South, Black people not only had no rights to speak of, but white supremacy had convinced them that they deserved no rights. Freedom Schools stocked small libraries with books on African and African American history. Freedom School teachers used the writings and speeches of Frederick Douglass to enhance literacy skills and sharpen the awareness of their students of a Black past more glorious than they had ever imagined. In short order, this 1964 version of a DEI curriculum had a profound impact on the handfuls of Black students it served.

Local resistance was violent and immediate. At a Freedom School established in Gluckstadt, Miss., (just north of Jackson), in July 1964, teachers taught their students about Frederick Douglass, the poetry of Langston Hughes, and the history of slave revolts in the United States. According to Thomas E. Ricks, author of “Waging a Good War: A Military History of the Civil Rights Movement, 1954-1968,” the Gluckstadt school was burned to the ground its third week in operation.

Local law enforcement took immediate action. A vehicle being driven by Freedom Summer volunteers attempting to leave the area near the smoldering ruins of the school

was ticketed for reckless driving.

By the numbers, Freedom Summer had marginal impact. Black voter registration in Mississippi ticked up modestly that year. But the violent opposition to voting rights for African Americans and the dismissal of the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party at the 1964 Democratic convention in Atlantic City, N.J., that same summer cast an ugly light on Mississippi and helped bring about passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. The Freedom Schools (around 40 were established) used diverse, equitable, and inclusive storytelling to help a disenfranchised people begin to realize their purpose and power.

It is hoped that the National Park Service will commemorate the 60th anniversary of this critical chapter in our civil rights history. And as we remember this history within the contemporary context of southern governors signing into law legislation that bans the teaching of African American history (save for the happy bits!) let us understand this. One no longer needs to burn down a school to deprive people of the opportunity to learn.

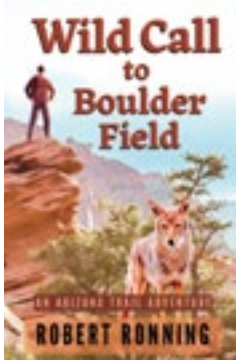
— Alan Spears,

National Parks Conservation Association

IN PRINT

Missing dog sparks trail adventure

This is a story of a ranger (I'm guessing NPS ranger although his duty station is a mystery), his missing dog, another dog he finds while looking for his, a wildlife biologist whose trail camera catches an image of a jaguar in the Santa Rita Mountains just south of Tucson, the jaguar, and a young man whose main aim in life seems to be protesting against whatever seems to be worth a protest.



"Wild Call to Boulder Field," Robert Ronning, Desert Paws Books, 2022.

These people and animals all come together while the ranger is hunting in the Santa Ritas for his lost dog. He is no longer in uniform as his supervisor has asked him to surrender his badge due to a parking ticket he had issued to a trapper written on a piece of toilet paper.

Wade, the ranger, has an uncommon affinity for, as the local vet put it, "for dogs and wild critters," maybe not so much for humans except his girlfriend.

While on the Arizona Trail, looking for his dog, Wade has the eerie feeling he is being stalked, yet with all his wilderness skills, he cannot verify his uneasiness. At one point, he hears noises that could only come from a dog. He reaches down into a hole that the dog must have used to avoid a predator and pulls out a small dog. Since the dog had been spayed, he figured he would take it home with him to determine whether he could locate the owner. He fashions a leash and sets off again, only

to come upon a campfire that had not been extinguished. Shortly thereafter, he finds the campfire user, a young man who is seeking something to protest in the use of nature.

The young man and Wade soon part ways, and Wade resumes his hunt for Abby, his dog, along with the new dog he names Buck because the dog seems to respond to that name. The same uneasiness is still with him. Then they meet the wildlife biologist whose camera trap has captured an image of a jaguar, a cat that is very rare in the Santa Ritas. Maybe this is the cause of Wade's uneasiness?

If this story sounds appealing to you now, stop reading this review and go pick up a copy. Spoiler alert is ahead!

A short time later, Buck breaks free of his leash. The next time Wade sees him, he is hanging from the jaws of the jaguar. Not wanting to lose two dogs, Wade cautiously approaches the jaguar. Suddenly, the jaguar drops Buck and retreats to the wilderness. Buck is unharmed.

Upon Wade's return home, Buck (his real name is Puck) is returned to his owner. And Abby has showed up after being gone for some time. All ends well.

I enjoyed this book. I believe readers of *Ranger* will also.

— Rick Smith, *ANPR book reviewer*

'Fraser' a fun children's' tale

This is a different book than I have ever reviewed for *Ranger*. It is one that Grandmothers and Grandfathers or great ones may wish to read to their grandchildren or great grandchildren.

The story revolves around Fraser, who lives alone in a cabin deep in the woods.

He decides he needs friends and sets off to find them. First, he comes to a lake where people are having too much fun to pay attention to him. He then comes to a zoo where he notices all the animals look sad. Finally, he comes to a city where people are in a hurry and talking on their phones — no friends there.

He decides to return to his cabin but by this time, it is very dark. He swings open his cabin door and finds someone there.

"What are you doing in my cabin?" he asks.

"What are you doing in *my* cabin," Hazel replies.

In the dark he must have made a wrong turn. He makes his apologies and gets set to leave. Instead, she invites him to stay for dinner with his favorite food, pancakes. When Fraser leaves a bit later, he knows he has found a friend.

— Rick Smith, *ANPR book reviewer*



"Fraser the Forest Ranger," Matthew Schufman, Random House, 2023.

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





**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

Rick Harwell, VIP
rharwell@anpr.org

Education and Training

Rae Emerson, Retired
remerson@anpr.org

Fundraising Activities

Wendy Lauritzen, Retired
wlauritzen@anpr.org

Internal Communications

Greta Ketchner, Upper Delaware
Scenic & Recreational River
gketchner@anpr.org

Membership Services

Shannon Wilson, Retired
swilson@anpr.org

Professional Issues

Max Farley, Fort Pulaski National Monument
mfarley@anpr.org

Seasonal Perspectives

Troy Hunt, Education
thunt@anpr.org

Government Affairs

Mike Pflaum, Retired
mpflaum@anpr.org

Strategic Planning

Lauren DeGennaro, Zion National Park
ldgennaro@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**