

# The Protection Ranger

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The Newsletter of the National Park Rangers Lodge, Fraternal Order of Police Vol. XVIV • No. 2 • 2009



## President's Message

John T. Waterman

The summer has come and gone and was perhaps one of the busiest for the Lodge in quite some time. Although there are several things currently on the burner that I am unable to go into detail as of yet, we felt it was important to get something in writing out to our members. One topic that has fueled the most interest has been the draft proposal for moving all DOI Law Enforcement Officers over to an 1801 series. I was happy to see numerous comments on our web discussion board and also the many emails I received from members. More than two hundred emails were answered on this topic. The proposal of the 1801 series was not a shining moment for the HR folks at DOI. One statement out of their office was "it certainly was a lack of coordination."

Clearly this is an understatement. In true NPS fashion, hours upon hours were wasted by Regional staff members attempting to put out their own opinions with limited information. Unable to obtain any facts, they too often sent out plaintive cries bemoaning the loss of the Generalist Ranger. There were a few statements that reflected that fact that the primary reason for our positions is Law Enforcement. Most of these statements were small attempts by Regional Chiefs to reiterate that fact.

This is not the first time that such attempts have been made. Since 2000 there have been at least three, but none that were accidentally slipped out to the field with required dates of action and

the failure of putting "DRAFT" on it. It was also interesting that it was done at a time of transition at the NPS, with the new Director having just been confirmed. We put out a statement several days after the draft memo was leaked. We were happy to see that numerous officials took our lead.

What so many people forget is that the central concern of any series change is our enhanced retirement. If this were to be taken care of, then all the other issues would fall into place. It does not matter what series we are in as long as it takes care of protecting our retirement. The 1801 series does not dictate what we actually do at individual parks. The individual ranger's work plan does. Why so many HR folks do not understand this is a misstep admitted by DOI. Instead we continue to mess with the PD directly.

In an effort to be a voice at the table, I teamed up with FLEOA NPS Chapter President Tim Alley to request a meeting with the Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar. A meeting was set up, but two days before the meeting, and after three meeting time changes, the Secretary had to cancel. Although I was disappointed, the Secretary's office offered to set up a meeting with the Assistant Secretary Rhea Suh along with several other key members. We agreed and on October 8<sup>th</sup>, Tim and I headed to Washington.

At the meeting, along with the Assistant Secretary, were Pam Malam (Senior Advisor for HR), Larry Parkinson (Deputy Assistant Secretary LE, Security, Emergency Management), Kim Thorsen (Director LE, Security and Emergency Management), and Dan Wenk (NPS Assistant Director of Operations).

We originally believed that we would have only a short time to offer our statements and suggestions and be out of the room in thirty minutes. Certainly several members at the meeting were prepared to do battle over the 6(c) claims and I believe were pleasantly surprised at our opening statements. Our goal was to make a fresh start by offering suggestions, a request to be a player at the table, and a chance to try and understand the issues from DOI's point of view. The meeting lasted for more than hour and forty five minutes.

Members at the meeting were honest about some mistakes, their concerns, and their goals. I found Assistant Secretary Suh to be an impressive listener who allowed each of us to have an open dialogue, asked questions, and offered suggestions at key moments. She quickly realized there was more to the whole issue.

We appreciate the Secretary setting up the meeting. I am attempting to put an analysis of the meeting together to be posted on our website. In the meantime here are a few tidbits. The disconnect between DOI HR and the bureaus was quite obvious, especially with the impression of what they believe is occurring in the field and what the situation actually is. Dan Wenk was very open in describing, for better or for worse, the independence held by each Park Superintendent and why the NPS is so bent on tradition.

We also learned where the 61% to 70% LE duties came from, which will give you an idea of how poor the 1801 analysis was. FLERT simply took the averages of all the bureaus LE Officers and divided the number. Nowhere could they defend why the

PD even needed percentage points. It would also appear that FLERT failed to look at past 025 series history. The Agency had requested from OPM a regulation change putting a prohibition in it stating that the 1801 job series may NOT be used for any position associated with conservation or natural resources type law enforcement. Certainly pushing such an issue would jeopardize current BLM rangers. Another pressing concern is that many Refuge officers are being denied promotion above the GL-07 or enhanced pay because HR officials fail to recognize the 025 series as being LE. I could go on and on. Clearly the 1801 issue is not dead.

Recent statements released by DOI, and reaffirmed by the Assistant Secretary, state that the Agency's employees are their greatest asset. Certainly several GAO reports and testimony on the Hill have shown that the DOI LE program has some of the worst morale issues of any other government Agency. During our meeting in Washington, Tim and I proposed several suggestions. Enhanced retirement continues to be one of the biggest morale and management issues. If this were to be taken care of, then many of the concerns of LE policies, work plans, and initiatives would be able to move forward.

In our suggestions, we referenced the General Authorities Act of 1978, where Congress clearly mandates that rangers perform Law Enforcement along with other duties including Resource Management, etc. It is time for the Agency to stop thwarting Congressional intent and move forward. The easiest way, and one clearly backed by numerous GAO recommendations, is for the Secretary to solidify our enhanced retirement through regulation. The Lodge will continue to press forward on this issue. In the meantime, a second meeting with the Assistant Secretary is in the works. The effort to schedule this meeting by DOI will clearly show their intent to work with us and willingness to move forward in a direction that is

beneficial to both the Agency and rangers. I am cautiously optimistic that something positive will come of this.

The Lodge Board continues to have an open dialogue with WASO staff and we appreciate their openness. Special thanks go out to Karen Taylor Goodrich. Some recent changes in the WASO staff include the loss of Cam Sholly, has accepted a Superintendent's position at Natchez Trace Parkway. Cam has been very vocal in support of rangers while in his position at WASO and I personally thank him for all of his assistance. The Lodge Board wishes him well in his new position.

A new arrival to the WASO staff working for Lane Baker is Greg Jackson who was Lodge president for several years. Prior to this promotion Greg had been at FLETC managing the advanced training program. While President of the Lodge, Greg was instrumental in pushing initiatives – such as body armor and better defensive equipment – that are standard today. To avoid any conflict of interest, Greg severed all ties with the Lodge some years ago, but continues his strong support of the needs and concerns of field rangers in his work.

There is so much more to talk about and I am out of time. A Lodge is only as strong as its membership, and ours is solid. Not only do active rangers continue to support us, but many retired rangers continue their support of the Lodge as members. I want to sincerely thank you all.

All member's dues go directly towards our phone calls and trips to DC, to advance the needs of field rangers, and to cover fees to Passman and Kaplan when our members need a consult with them. I am proud to have the chance to serve as your President. As always, do not hesitate to contact me at [jtwaterman@yahoo.com](mailto:jtwaterman@yahoo.com). If you would like to talk to me on the phone, send me a number to call and I will do so. As the holidays approach, I pray for all of you and your safety. Stay safe during the holiday season!

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## Update on Virginia State Lodge

John T. Waterman

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Recently the State Lodge sent out their newsletter which contained some alarming suggestions that several of you have contacted us on. There has been a pressure from the Grand Lodge for all of its members to purchase officer legal defense insurance through the Grand Lodge sponsored program of Hylant Insurance.

Several years ago, Hylant stopped giving our Lodge the discounted FOP rate – they told us we had to have at least 50 members signed up. They claimed they had no way to check. We knew we had 50 but they said we had to prove it to them. Many will remember last year our calls to the membership to confirm their Hylant coverage. So we got a list of 50 together and gave it to them. THEN they said that the only way we'd get the discount was for us to administer the collection of money. We'd have to keep track of and collect all the premiums and send it to them. At no time in a number of conversations had they mentioned this as a condition.

There's no way we could meet this condition, especially for a discount per member of only a few dollars. We don't want to bash Hylant, because both the Ranger Lodge and Grand Lodge have recommended them for years, and we have minimal knowledge of other policies out there.

However, lately it has been a constant battle working with Hylant, which has several middle companies to go through in order to receive any benefits. Several of our members have complained of trying to file a claim with this service. In addition, if you're behind on your premiums and your policy is canceled, you can't renew for six months – a guaranteed way to lose business.

I have talked directly with Grand Lodge President Chuck Canterbury on this issue and he is asking for a write-up from me which I will provide. We are increasingly thinking that Hylant insurance is not geared toward Federal Law Enforcement officers. They ask that we do the work in finding a lawyer, who then must agree to numerous terms of payment offered by Hylant which many do not want to do. Add to this the fact that they do not provide a 24 hour help line.

With this in mind, the State Lodge is proposing to put to vote having its entire membership join Hylant which would require our dues to go from \$60 to \$290.00 to match an expected Hylant increase to \$239 per year.

In such bad financial times, the State Lodge should be offering ways to decrease due rather than raise them. Our Lodge struggles with what is reasonable for our members to pay while still trying to move forward on initiatives and stay in the black. I do not feel the State Lodge is being reasonable, especially for a liability insurance company that does not make things easy for us. I have made it clear to President Chuck Canterbury that it is time for the Grand Lodge to look after its Federal Officer members. I have also recently sent a letter to the Virginia State Lodge President expressing my concerns. We are a fairly large Lodge in Virginia and it is not often we interfere with State Lodge business, but it is time that the voice of Federal Law Enforcement is heard.

That said, I want to emphasize how very important it is that all of members obtain some kind of legal defense insurance. Arguably, the more the better – I hold several policies. If our members are choosing to use Hylant, then great, but I do not feel we should force members to have only one choice when there are numerous out there to choose from, especially those that specifically work on cases involving federal law enforcement officers. The State Lodge should encourage, rather than hinder, choices. I have asked our Webmaster/Vice President Duane

Buck to begin posting all of the companies we are aware of on our website with contact information. I ask that you take a look at those listed and if you are aware of others to let us know. I also ask that you provide us with any feedback that you may have as to whether they were helpful or not.

When considering insurance, it's also important you keep in mind the difference between Liability and Legal Defense Insurance. Liability is to protect your assets (your house, car etc.) if you are found liable in a civil case against you. Legal Defense is to pay for a lawyer to defend you from either civil or administrative action as a result of your job-related duties. Hylant, and perhaps other legal defense policies, do not actually go into effect until a formal action is taken against you. To cover this gap, the Lodge provides an hour or so legal consultation to members to advise them on what steps to take prior to formal adverse action against the employee.

Whoever you get to provide coverage, the Lodge strongly urges all members to find a carrier that offers a full legal defense plan with both Administrative and Civil protection.

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## Membership & Newsletter Notes

George Durkee

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Members have written wondering if we have their correct address and membership information because they haven't received a newsletter. Although quite often people don't update their address with us (see the Business Manager's article), the bad news is that lately we have not done a good job of getting newsletters out. I feel really bad about this but much of the problem is getting people to contribute articles. Astute readers will notice that for a number of years, articles are almost always by the same authors: John Waterman, myself and Randall Kendrick. Calvin Farmer will occasionally update us on retirement

issues, Lynne Stokes on legislative matters and Duane Buck on web news, but that's essentially it for contributors. I often end up putting in stuff from *PoliceOne* or something. Those articles are good, but don't originate with rangers, which is kind of the point of *The Protection Ranger*.

Along with our Business Manager, Paige Meier, our newsletter contributors are the same people who are carrying out the day to day operations of the Lodge: helping members, endless phone calls to WASO, DOI and members of Congress and, oh yes, our regular jobs and families. So this is kind of like one of those PBS exhortations to support our operation: join in the fun of Lodge Operations! Send us an article on something you're concerned about or something your park is doing that helps rangers, the public or your park.

The good news is because we've been remiss (though with cause...) about keeping our members up to date on our work and accomplishments, we've covered everyone's State & Grand Lodge dues. This means that those of you who have gotten multiple or "Final Notices" to renew can still get your dues in and you'll get your Lodge membership card. (If, though, you've got a newsletter with an extra-extra-special yellow notice inside, this is truly the last newsletter and you will be dropped with this issue. So please take a moment to send us your dues before it's too late!).

Like PBS, I hope I'm making enough of you feel just the teeniest bit guilty about supporting our effort to make your job better.

Finally, the Board also wants to sincerely thank those of you who put a few extra dollars (sometimes more than a few!) into your dues renewal every year. We haven't raised dues in almost 10 years and it's that extra little bit of generosity from our members that's made that possible.

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## Social Security and Your Retirement

Randall Kendrick

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As federal law enforcement officers and firefighters, we are required to retire early. The retirement system we fought so long and hard to join, pays us more than the regular civil servants to make up for the forced retirement.

Often, retirees like us, have to take up a new occupation to make ends meet. If we meet the Social Security Administration's requirement of having forty quarters before we are vested in SSA, when it come time to receive our benefits, we find that our stipend has been cut 60 - 70% from what other workers get. This is called the pension offset provision and was put in place, so we were told, so that no one would get two civilian federal pensions. This puts us in a bind because we were forced to both retire early and get another job to pay off the house, put the kids through college, what have you.

There are companion bills before Congress that address this situation and give retired federal officers and firefighters full Social Security payments. The bills are H.R. 235 and S. 4848.

There are 306 co-sponsors in the House so we are in pretty good shape there. It is the Senate which is the problem because there are only 28 co-sponsors.

We are afraid that this is a case where one house pretends to stand solidly behind us and the other house (wink, wink; nudge, nudge) does nothing and will not be moved. Well, the senate will be moved if we send in enough calls and letters and the FOP's Washington office continues to apply pressure. It is not too early for you to think about social security parity with your fellow citizens. The sums involved are significant and we really are being bilked out of what we

deserve. We think, as we've said elsewhere, that letters and phone calls are better and more effective than emails.

In it imperative that you contact your Senators, preferably by phone, to explain our plight and ask for support. Mention that this bill is under the committee chaired by Senator Kerry. It would be helpful to send a call and a letter to Senator Kerry mentioning that you have contacted your Senator in this matter which is very important to you.

The Congressional switchboard number is 202-224-3121. A friendly person will answer and you just tell them the name of the Senator's office you want to be connected to. The Washington office of the FOP has done a lot of good work in this area but there has not been much movement for the past couple of years in Congress. We need to help ourselves and make these calls. The Washington FOP will then find it easier to work for this parity on our behalf.

### Other Congressional Issues

The National FOP very much wants to amend the Law Enforcement Officers' Safety Act, which would clarify the original law and make it easier for retired officers to comply with the paperwork requirements of 18 USC 926C, especially as it regards the annual qualification with a concealed firearm.

This is important for interstate travel. Retired officers usually don't have much trouble within the state they served but federal officers have served, quite often, in many states and traveling from one state to another can put a retiree in jeopardy of violating a state law. We don't believe this is the intent of the original legislation.

In addition, we have heard reports of the NPS no longer allowing retirees to qualify with the Agency as many have done over the years. In your calls and letters this should be mentioned. The Senate bill is S.1132 and your Senator should hear from you on this.

Both the National FOP and the Lodge will keep you informed as to when the House version is finalized so you can contact your representative. It is important that your elected officials hear from you. Phoning seems to work best for most elected officials with letters being a strong second choice.

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## A Bit of History: The Ranger Lodge Unionizes

Randall Kendrick

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From time to time we hear from members asking why the Lodge doesn't form a union, negotiate a contract and have a bargaining unit. Commissioned rangers, it would seem, would form a natural group of employees with the same problems and jobs which is what is needed in the federal sector to form a union.

The short answer to this is that we would have a union with full bargaining rights if the NPS agreed to it. It's that simple.

The sad answer to this is that the Ranger Lodge *did* form a union. But, management fought the Lodge, and it's organizing arm The Ranger Alliance, tooth and nail every step of the way. So we had to follow the National Labor Relations Authority's burdensome requirements and go about organizing ranger by ranger. It is the NPS that is stopping rangers from having a contract.

The Ranger Alliance was guided by the lawyers at Passman and Kaplan; we printed and distributed show-of-interest cards and had them returned in the prescribed way. After spending a ton of money, lo and behold, we had over 50% of commissioned rangers saying they favored a union with full bargaining rights. And we were recognized by the FLRA as a union. We had a union; what we next needed was a bargaining partner.

The NPS formally objected to the FLRA and we were forced to fight for our organization. After hearings and the deliberations of the FLRA office, the decision was that commissioned rangers did not have a sufficient "community or interest" group to form a union. We were told that we had more in common with a caretaker or interpreter in our home park than we did with a commissioned rangers in the next park over or one across the country.

We were shocked. The law firm was shocked and we appealed to the full FLRA board. After "studying" the situation and hearing the arguments, the FLRA ruled against us and in favor of the management of the NPS. We lost the union and, with it, the right to have a national contract. This would seem to settle the matter until the law is changed or the makeup of the FLRA is changed to favor our side.

With the help of FOP Federal Lodge 1, the union that represents the commissioned rangers at Independence, the rangers at Lake Mead tried to form a union. Approximable 75% of the rangers signed show-of-interest cards saying that they wanted a union. The NPS fought this tooth and nail. Because the law had changed since First Federal organized, it was ruled that the Lake Mead commissioned rangers could not have a union in spite of the clear intention of the rangers that they wanted a bargaining unit. Again, management could have recognized the rangers and allowed them to form a bargaining unit but decided we weren't worth talking to in a professional forum.

We have been advised by Passman & Kaplan that under the current law, rangers cannot organize park by park and the First Federal Lodge Contract would be impossible today. So, we are left with a good professional organization, helped by the 300,000 members of the FOP in various Lodges; a strong national office and effective Washington office. The bottom line is: if the NPS had not

opposed our union, we would have a national contract now. The other side of this coin is that because of the way the law is interpreted by the FLRA, we cannot have a union under current conditions.

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The Lodge welcomes your thoughts, suggestions and comments and will print them only if you say it is all right to do so. Otherwise, we will protect your privacy as we have done for members since 1987.

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## Using GIS In Ranger Operations

George Durkee

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*A map is not the territory it represents, but if correct, it has a similar structure to the territory, which accounts for its usefulness.*  
Alfred Korzybski, 1931

In a previous issue of *The Protection Ranger*, I wrote about the concept of better integrating the use of GIS (Geographic Information Systems) technology into search and rescue. At its most basic, it allows Plans and others in the IC to better visualize terrain (with different types of maps produced) and keep track of the size of the incident, team assignments, location of clues as they're reported, location of helispots, camps and other assets, and the exact search routes of helicopters and ground teams taken from GPS units that they carry.

Using GIS more extensively in SAR and other incidents is important for a number of reasons:

- As I noted above, it allows people in the planning section to have a better idea of the terrain and the size of the search area. The more closely that a map represents the territory and incident, the more clearly planners can visualize the area and make better decisions. Maps can be made showing the relief of the landscape, colored to show each search segment and any

combination of clues/tracks, and labels that best convey a feel for the SAR and the difficulty of the terrain involved. 3D maps can also be used and can have clues and tracklogs projected onto them.

- It's a much more efficient way to keep track of the search's daily progress. Rather than a series of marked up maps or acetate overlays, each Operational Period is saved and can be called up either on a computer screen, projected onto a wall screen with a digital projector or printed out on custom sized maps.
- It's a more efficient and dependable way to archive the search's progress and status when it ends. This can be critical to an After Action Review or legal review. Also critical, if the person isn't found, a fairly exact picture of terrain covered can be called up months or years later to renew the effort without repeating previously searched areas or, alternatively, concentrating on holes revealed by GPS tracklog data of the search area.

NPS Fire and Resource Management have been using GIS for years and regularly share techniques and, especially in the case of fire, have established standards and training for its use. One of the problems is that the parks who do use this for SAR or other ranger activities don't necessarily share their experience or techniques.

Paul Doherty of YOSAR, Tom Patterson of ESRI (and former NPS ranger), myself and a growing number of others from both the NPS, Sheriff's, and MRA SAR teams have been collaborating over the last year to share techniques and knowledge. In the process, we're also coming up with more streamlined workflows, forms and tools to carry out our tasks more quickly and efficiently. We've also started a Google discussion group: **Using GIS in SAR for Emergency Responders.**

([groups.google.com/group/sar-and-gis](https://groups.google.com/group/sar-and-gis)) where techniques, experience and files are shared.

Probably one of the main reasons many rangers have been slow to adopt GIS techniques is because of the learning curve of the primary software, ESRI's ArcMap, that is the standard in the NPS. Rangers have to master a huge number of skills as it is, adding one more is often too much. However, many rangers are comfortable with other basic mapping programs such as Google Earth or TOPO. So when an incident comes up, they often use those for basics like finding the location of a SPOT or PLB signal, getting coordinates to direct a team or helicopter to the area, or even plotting various points with a dot on the map. These are definitely well designed programs and have an intuitive interface for ease of use. The alternative is usually to get the park's GIS coordinator or someone in Fire or Resource Management to take on the job of GIS mapping in the Situation Unit of an Incident Management Team.

The good news, though, is that in the last year, ESRI has taken a keen interest in what the mapping needs of the NPS are. They've sent several of their people to both Yosemite and Sequoia Kings parks to conduct a Needs Assessment and listen to how all staff make use of maps and geospatial information. It's not just SAR where GIS is extremely useful for common ranger operations. The idea is to develop an overall plan that figures out how we use maps and information and how ESRI might help us do our overall jobs more efficiently and effectively.

From this effort, Sequoia Kings is developing a GIS Requirement Analysis and Implementation Plan that will have implications for adoption throughout the Park Service. One of the primary goals of this review process is to develop an easier and more intuitive way – like a web browser – for the average ranger to quickly retrieve maps and data.

For instance, keeping track of MVAs, medivacs, marijuana operations etc. all have geospatial components that would benefit from better GIS techniques. This just means that anything that can be associated with a place on a map can be plotted with a symbol, line or polygon and linked to the information about it. Photos can also be spatially located and represented as points until the mouse hovers over the point and the photo pops up. The map can then become the way to visualize and access that information rather than having it in a file drawer or as a report on the park's network.

Mapping, say, MVAs and keeping a long term record allows us to see patterns emerge. A ranger who's been in the district for years knows that a certain curve tends to get accidents and might push for a sign there. As we know, rangers come and go. GIS is a way of preserving that knowledge for new rangers to have available. The same with marijuana operations. Mapping the exact location of plots and access trails allows better surveillance and revisits of those sites. Long term data storage becomes the institutional memory of a park. Clusters may emerge that reveal patterns or possible problems and, maybe, a way to mitigate those problems with increased patrols, education of visitors or rerouting trails.

GIS also becomes a way to graphically show managers specific needs of a district and justify funding or other resources. You can send in reports with lists of statistics on a page, but a cluster of red crosses on a map showing fatalities at a curve can be more dramatically effective.

In addition to basic mapping, data collection and storage, one of the huge advantages of ArcMap over other programs is its ability to do analysis of all aspects of terrain and available data. For instance, it allows using the known growing needs of marijuana (slope, aspect, elevation, water, vegetation associations etc.) to generate maps showing areas with the potential to be used for marijuana growing.

Recently an ESRI programmer spent a week in Yosemite discussing the needs of SAR and helping us design analysis models to better visualize and predict different aspects of search operations. One of the first things a SAR planning team has to do is establish a point last seen and try to figure out how far a person might travel in the time since that report. From that travel distance, a perimeter is drawn on a map and resources allocated to block trails or other likely routes the person may take to travel out of that established zone. In addition, a total search area perimeter is established and subdivided into logical segments for teams to search.

One model being developed would estimate a person's travel time based on slope, trail, stream crossings, and vegetation type. It would also show places where a person would be blocked from continuing, such as high water crossings or cliffs. Programmers at Rocky Mountain National Park developed a similar model now used by researchers to estimate times to research plots. It works well, but doesn't easily allow the introduction of variables. The ESRI model will allow entering different parameters for hiking speeds of, for instance, children or healthy adults etc. It will also be flexible to accommodate seasonal stream variations – a stream in spring which would be a barrier might not be by August.

When applied to GIS, Korzybski's famous "the map is not the territory" is a warning not to make computer analysis a substitute for local knowledge. For all of this technology's potential mapping and analysis potential, it still takes people with specific knowledge of an area to be able to properly evaluate and make decisions based on experience as well as the maps created. It's often our hunches and guesses that allow for true understanding of a situation that lead to solutions. GIS, though, can be a way to efficiently and effectively envision complex information – turning a flat piece of paper into a better approximation of the territory.

## Membership Notes

Paige Meier  
Business Manager

The 2010 membership cards will be sent out in early January. If you received a renewal notice and have not yet paid your dues, you will not receive a membership card until dues are paid. Thanks to all who have sent your dues in. If you haven't, please try to get them in soon.

The Grand Lodge has changed the way they print membership cards (see bottom of page). Starting this year, the printout will include the address that the Grand Lodge has on file for you. Please check to see if the address shown is in fact your current address. If this address is NOT current, please update your file.

Here's how to do this:

1. Log onto the Grand Lodge site at: [www.fop.net](http://www.fop.net).
2. If you don't already have a login and password, go to the **New User Registration** page. Enter your last name, the membership number from your membership card; Virginia for the State Lodge; and 060 for the Lodge number.
3. Then enter a user name and password for the site.
4. New and already registered users can then enter the Members Only area of the Grand Lodge web site.

To change member information choose **My Tools**, then **Update My Information**.

5. Remember to enter and save it only once.

Once you've entered your current information, it will be reviewed and approved by the Lodge Secretary or the Business Manager. We will then update your Ranger Lodge file. The Grand Lodge then makes the change and sends the information to the Virginia Lodge. Doing this will ensure that you continue to receive all mailings from the Grand and VA Lodge as well as the Ranger Lodge.

**Please note that it is up to individual members to make these changes on the Grand Lodge web site.** We have been receiving many checks for dues payment where the address on the check or the return address on the envelope is different from the address we have on file for a member. Based only on that, we don't change our files unless you specifically ask us to.

Finally, it is essential that you address mail to us in the following manner:

**National Park Rangers Lodge  
PO Box 1481  
Twain Harte, CA 95383**

Letters addressed otherwise, like FOP Lodge or Ranger Lodge just confuses the post office.

Thank you!

The Lodge strongly encourages all members register on our web site ([rangerfop.com](http://rangerfop.com)). Our web site posts timely and important information, as well as hosting a discussion board regarding issues important to rangers.

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If you haven't already provided it, please send us your email address for our files. That way we can quickly get news to you or ask questions. Write us: [foplodge@sonic.net](mailto:foplodge@sonic.net).

## Time to Renew?

If you have recently received a notice of renewal (*check your mailing label on the newsletter for your expiration date*), please send your dues in soon. You may renew using the envelope provided or go to our web site and use PayPal:

[www.rangerfop.com/join](http://www.rangerfop.com/join)

The continued support of each of you is critical to continue our efforts on your behalf. Please renew when you receive our note.

If you've moved, please send us an email at [foplodge@sonic.net](mailto:foplodge@sonic.net) and tell us your new address. We only update you in our database. You also need to go to the Grand Lodge website, sign in, and update your address there so you can continue to get VA and Grand Lodge mailings: [www.fop.net](http://www.fop.net).

Member support is always available by email or phone: 800-407-8295.

Please call *only* between 10AM and 7PM Eastern Time.

Many thanks for your continued support!

**Please be sure to check your address**

**Fraternal Order of Police 2009**

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**Lodge Website**

The Lodge website is updated with notices and links to other sites that we think are interesting and/or helpful to resource based law enforcement officers. Visit it often between issues of the Protection Ranger to keep current on things that affect you and your job. Our address is [www.rangerfop.com](http://www.rangerfop.com)

**Application for Membership**

You may also join, renew and pay your dues online with PayPal:  
[www.rangerfop.com/join.htm](http://www.rangerfop.com/join.htm)

I, the undersigned, a full-time regularly employed law enforcement officer, do hereby make application for active membership in the U.S. Park Rangers Lodge, FOP. If my membership should be revoked or discontinued for any cause other than retirement while in good standing, I do hereby agree to return to the Lodge my membership card and other material bearing the FOP emblem.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

DOB: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Permanent Rangers: \$60/year

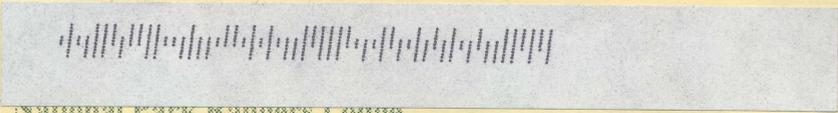
Seasonals and Retired Active Members: \$40/year

Associate (non-Commissioned) Membership (Newsletter only): \$40/year

Renewals: You do not need to send in this form to renew. Enclose a copy of your Commission (new members only).

Make Check Payable to: National Park Rangers Lodge.  
Agency and Work Unit: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: FOP Lodge, POB 1481, Twain Harte, CA 95383  
Phone: 1-800-407-8295 10am-7pm Eastern Time or email  
[foplodge@sonic.net](mailto:foplodge@sonic.net)



National Park Rangers Lodge  
POB 1481  
Twain Harte, CA 95383

