FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

The PRAC Board has accomplished a great deal during the past year. The energy level of the Board has never been higher. What is sorely needed is increased participation from the general membership. Articles are needed for The Signpost, The Voice of PRAC, and The Cal Ranger.

There are many park professionals out there who I am sure can contribute a great deal to their Association. My main message for this upcoming PRAC year is membership participation.

Editor's Note: John Stuckerath from CSPRA needs articles for the next edition of The Cal Ranger. If interested, call John at (408) 338-6132.

The next PRAC Board Meeting, after the Conference, will take place in Sacramento, on Friday, June 12, 1987. The Friday meeting time will be 7:00 p.m.

The Sacramento contingent of PRAC is setting up a social and educational fun day right after the next Board meeting.

Everyone is invited including family and friends. If you don't know who, or what, PRAC is, this will be a wonderful opportunity to get to know the Association and to see what it can do to assist you in making your park district more professional. We accomplish a lot and we have a good time doing it.

Next year we will be working on VHS training tapes and programs, slide programs, social gatherings, and a host of other exciting activities.

The PRAC involvement in the Annual Conference is also high. The preparation of all of these types of projects takes time, research, energy and dedication.

The rewards of involvement are great so get involved:

* A good place to start is to send in those articles about who you are and what you do.
* How did your organization get its start?
* What opportunities does your district offer?
* What training needs do you have? What training do you offer?
* Do you have any unique programs underway?
* How are your Parks funded?

See what I mean? These kinds of questions and the solutions to them can only make for improved Park Rangers.
1. Bill Hendricks has confirmed that Rob MacLoed will teach a segment on Search and Rescue at the Annual Conference. The time segment, for the Search and Rescue portion, was changed to 2:00 p.m. Friday, March 13, 1987.

2. The proposed Agenda for the Annual Conference General Membership meeting was discussed. The Board decided to hold the meeting on Sunday morning, March 15, 1987. The Agenda will include the following:
   a) Formal amendment to Bylaws to reflect the new state regions.
   b) Future training opportunities including joint training with the National Park Service, Western Interpreters Association, Santa Rosa Training Center and others.
   c) Emphasis on Interpretive programs.
   d) Filling the Executive Secretary position.
   e) Consideration of the possibility of having the 1989 Annual Conference in Palm Springs.
   f) Renewed member involvement, by PRAC, in The Cal Ranger publication.

3. It was recommended that the slide program that Bill Hendricks has worked so hard on be put onto a VHS tape and made available to anyone requesting a copy for the reproduction cost.

4. Glen Kinney of the Livermore Area Recreation District called and requested a training tape from PRAC. This will be done at no initial cost to the District; however, future requests of this kind will be honored at cost. PRAC would like to make up a library on training tapes for sharing.

5. The Annual Conference for 1988 will be held at the remodeled Woodlake Inn in Sacramento, CA.

6. John Ramirez asked for volunteers to send a PRAC mailing to all Park Districts in the state. The mailing will be an introduction to PRAC, highlighting recent PRAC accomplishments with the purpose of soliciting new memberships.

7. Job Announcements were briefly discussed. It was requested that the PRAC be put on all mailing labels. PRAC would like to provide mailing lists for Job Announcements, however, the costs for mailing would be borne by the agency that has the vacancy.

8. It was requested that the proposed Camp Watch Program be changed to Park Watch Program and that a statement explaining that this program involves Cooperative Agency Associations be included in the program title for the conference.

9. The next PRAC Board Meeting, after the Conference, will take place in Sacramento, Friday, June 12, 1987. The Friday meeting time will be 7:00 p.m.
The following are speakers/topics PRAC will be involved with at the Conference in Ventura, March 12-15, 1987:

**GRANTS AND VOLUNTEER ORGANIZATIONS:**

Don Pierce  
Cal State University  
Fresno, CA

**PARK WATCH ASSOCIATIONS AND FRONTLINE VOLUNTEERS:**

Bill Hendricks  
Marin Municipal Water District  
Sky Oaks Ranger Station  
Fairfax, CA

NOTE: This is the first inter-agency Park Watch System in the nation. Current member agencies include the National Park Service, California State Parks, the Marin Municipal Water District, the Marin County Parks and Recreation, and the Marin County Sheriff's Department.

**SEARCH AND RESCUE TECHNIQUES:**

Rob MacLeod  
Santa Rosa Criminal Justice Training Center  
Santa Rosa, CA 985485

NOTE: This will be an overview of current Search and Rescue techniques.

**SPAGHETTI FEED:**

Chuck Tello  
Ventura County Parks Department  
Ventura, CA 93009

**PRAC SLIDE PROGRAM:**

Bill Hendricks  
Marin Municipal Water District  
Sky Oaks Ranger Station  
Fairfax, CA

NOTE: Bill Hendricks will introduce this 15-minute program on the history and current programs PRAC offers.

Editor's Note: We hope to see you in attendance at the above list of sessions/activities. I believe they will be fun and educationally enriching.


Demonstrations as part of an interpretation are not used nearly enough. Usually the reason is simple; no one happened to think of any activity where a demonstration was the obvious answer. There is also the interpreter who is unsure of himself, or simply reluctant to "put on a show" before a group of people.

This does not mean, of course, that a demonstration is essential to a good interpretive program. It should be obvious that it does not fit every situation, and must be used selectively. However, there is danger in the demonstration, being too attractive as it must not detract from the main values of the park, area, or structure being interpreted. It should be kept relatively simple, if possible, although involved ones can be effective when well done.

As a device, the demonstration has many values:

- It offers the visitor an opportunity to see an idea, as well as hear about it.
- It encourages questions.
- It holds a visitor's attention. Seldom does one find the visitor indifferent to a good demonstration.
- It can show the involved story when an oral description would be very inadequate.
- It shows clearly how something is done and how it works.
- It offers the interpreter the opportunity to involve one or more visitors in the program by using him as part of the demonstration. Thus, the visitor becomes part of the tour and not simply a spectator.
- It offers the interpreter an opportunity to get children on the tour involved, thus furnishing them an experience they will long remember.

There are many places where a demonstration ordinarily can be used to advantage. Historical and archaeological areas offer the finest opportunities.

In many areas, the events or life of an historical period are portrayed by persons in costume. This type of demonstration is often referred to as "living history."

In an archaeological area, visitors were shown the use of the atlatl, the throwing stick of early Indian hunters.

In another area, use of the pecking stone by Indians was demonstrated.

Sometimes visitors are shown how arrowheads were made, and in Yosemite, an Indian woman showed how to make acorn bread.
A good example of what not to do once happened in one of our National Parks. A group of visitors was hiking up a canyon with a naturalist leading the party. Right in the middle of the trail he discovered a rattlesnake. This man knew snakes and he felt this would be a good time to demonstrate a few things about poisonous snakes. Accordingly, he pinned the snake's head down and grasped it behind the head. Raising it up, he showed the group. Some backed away in a big hurry, others came closer for a good look.

Then something happened that wasn't in the script. The snake managed to get its head loose just enough to sink his fangs into the guide's hand. That, of course, brought horrified screams from some members of the party, and excited everyone. Help was some distance away.

At this point, the naturalist salvaged what appeared to be a disaster for him. He had everyone sit down.

His calmness settled everyone down. Then he selected one of the party to go for help, and sat down with the rest of the party to wait.

The arrival of a doctor with anti-venin brought the entire incident to a happy conclusion. There was no doubt the demonstration had been effective, but most unnecessary and undesirable. It did, of course, underscore the need to always select a safe demonstration.

Take a good look around where you are carrying on your interpretive program, and you will likely find some excellent opportunities to show as well as tell. Certainly the visitors will enjoy demonstrations if in good taste.

**THINK SMALL**

Gary Dahl likes sailing as well as the next guy, but the more than $200 million spent by the challenger and defenders of the America's Cup boggles even his mind. "Therefore," he says, "the Los Gatos Yacht Club (85 members strong) us submitting a proposal to hold the next defense of the cup on Vasona Lake County Park, Santa Clara, CA.

Yeah, yeah, we know the lake is a bit small, but we're suggesting that the races be sailed using miniature, radio-controlled twelve meter boats ($149.95 each) and that the balance of the $200 million, plus the estimated billion generated for the local economy (by tourists and such) be given to the San Jose Symphony, the arts council and other deserving charity groups that really need the dough."

Frank and Ernest Bob Thaves

---

IF WE'RE GOING TO FIND YOU GUYS, I NEED BETTER COORDINATES THAN "...NEXT TO ERNIE."
CHAIN SAWS
Safer Than Ever

Each year, approximately 63,000 Americans go to emergency rooms to be treated for chain saw injuries. A few of them die.

Most of the accidents are caused by problems for which technology has no solution: The operator touches a chain while he's changing position, he loses his balance, or he trips over the saw.

About one-fifth of the accidents and a dozen of the deaths are attributed to a phenomenon called rotational kickback: the upper quadrant of the bar tip contacts an object during operation, transferring all of the chain's energy to the saw, which then revolves back toward the user. Rotational kickback can also be caused by human error, but unlike the other hazards, it can be prevented by changes in the design of the chain saw.

In March 1986, the chain saw industry, in cooperation with the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), adopted the voluntary American National Standards Institute Standard for anti kickback equipment.

Coping with kickback:

All of the 15 or so chain saw manufacturers used reduced kickback chains, introduced in the 1970s.

The five chain makers that supply the industry use different designs, but they all have the same goal: to prevent the chain from binding in a log.

Everyone in the industry seems to agree that safety chains are not as "aggressive" as their predecessors; they tend to reduce cutting speed by 10 to 20 percent because they take smaller "bites."

After the anti-kickback chain, the most widely used safety feature is the chain brake. Chain brakes come in two varieties: hand-activated (set off when the forearm pushes against the hand guard as the saw snaps back), and inertial. The inertia brake works even if the operator's arm doesn't hit the hand guard.
To meet the safety standard, a brake must stop the chain before the saw has rotated 45 degrees.

Another device that many manufacturers use is a reduced-kickback guide bar. There are two types, but the idea behind each is to reduce the upper quadrant of the bar's nose, where kickback occurs. One type is symmetrical and tapers to a narrow radius at the nose. The other type, the banana bar, also has a small radius, but its nose appears to curl upward.

Unfortunately, low-kickback bars (and chains) can be easily removed and replaced with more dangerous equipment.

Usually, when the bottom-rail groove wears out, the owner turns the bar over. But banana bars, because they are asymmetrical, cannot be flipped.

The bar tip guard, may be the most controversial device yet. It completely precludes kickback, yet only two manufacturers use it on their saws: Homelite and Echo.

"Technically, it is the best [chain saw] safety feature that was ever invented," admits Dan Tilton a chain-saw safety instructor for Tilton Equipment Co. "But because the tip gets in the way, nine out of ten users will take it off before they ever use the saw," he notes.

The tip must be removed to cut trees that must be lifted out of the kerf, not pulled back through it, after a cut.

Defenders of the tip guard say it helps keep the chain clean and allows the operator to cut in close quarters, and they argue that most owners aren't inconvenienced.

According to a 1980 Homelite survey of 165 users, about two-thirds of those who had ever had the tip, attached it or removed it and, put it back on again.

Of course, none of the safety devices are infallible.

Whatever protective devices manufacturers build into their saws, there's no way to make a chain saw a truly safe tool for the casual user.
Built in safety can do a lot to reduce kickback, but most chain saw injuries involve careless use or abuse of the tool.

Safety engineers and experts at major chain saw manufacturers all agree that the key to safety remains with the operator.

"Our emphasis is on prevention of kickback," said Paul Watson, Homelite's director of product safety.

Spokespeople from Stihl stressed education, pointing out their company's program of dealer training, consumer seminars, and safety films available to service clubs, and its line of safety clothing and accessories such as log tongs and break bars.

Are there special procedures that can make post Standard chain saws even safer around the home?

Hazards remain, but there are absolute no-nos for casual users:

- A safe stance puts the body to one side of the cut line. If the bar kicks back, it will not strike the operator.

- Never borrow, rent, or lend a chain saw without proper instruction. The owner's manual should accompany the tool. And if you haven't yet read the one that came with your saw, DO SO!

- Never use a chain saw when you feel fatigued, or with children or pets in the area.

- Never smoke while operating a gas powered tool.

- Never adapt consumer chain saw for a bow guide; their broad, blunt nose greatly increases the size of that dangerous upper quadrant.

- Never, yank the cord of a step through rear handle chain saw while holding the saw in midair, although, this type of saw is the safest saw to start.

- Never relax your maintenance procedures. Some chain makers claim that correct filing is even more critical with low kickback chains because you can diminish the chain's effectiveness if you distort its shape.

"The problem," says Don Lawty (technical editor of the trade magazine Chain Saw Age), "isn't that there's anything new about chain maintenance. The problem is that homeowners have never maintained their saws properly in the first place. Most of them don't have enough cutting experience to spot a dull chain."
A major distributor of chain saws and safety apparel told me the problem can be worse than that: "We've had casual users put their chain on backward. And—several of the new safer chains increase the severity of kickback over ordinary chains if you happen to mount them backward!"

- Never take built-in chain brakes for granted. You must keep their mechanism clean of oily saw dust and other debris if they're to work decisively.

It's worth your effort to make sure that any replacement chain you buy is a low-kickback design, even if you're mounting it on a pre-Standard saw. You might even want to consider replacing your old guide bar.

A final word: because the new standard places responsibility for education on the dealer, don't be surprised if your dealer asks you to sign an acknowledgment that he's explained the low-kickback features that you are insisting on buying. It's for his own liability defense, and it's appropriate, isn't it, that you assume responsibility for the added risk you are taking upon yourself?

Zone 2 and 3 injuries are rarely fatal. Heavy gloves and proper grip would lessen zone 2 injuries, as will hand guards now mandatory on consumer saws.

Zone 3 injuries cannot be lessened by safety devices when injuries are caused by careless handling, improper stance or failing to shut off a saw while carrying it. Chaps and boots offer the best protection here.
An official from the National Park Service has threatened to arrest a Florida archaeologist for allegedly disturbing historic artifacts from a shipwreck on a public beach.

In response, an attorney representing archaeologist Robert Marx has sent a letter demanding that the Park Service "cease and desist" making any defamatory statements that reflect on Marx's professional reputation.

The controversy stems from Marx's nearly year long attempts to unearth the Manila galleon San Agustin, which sank in 1595 with a cargo of Ming dynasty porcelain, jewels and precious metals at Drakes Bay south of Point Reyes.
Marx wants to turn over most of the valuables to state and local governments. He also intends to use the wreckage as a blueprint for a full-size copy of a ship he wants to sail across the Pacific in 1992, commemorating the 500-year anniversary of Columbus' discovery of the Americas.

Marx has applied to the State Lands Commission and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration for permits to locate and recover the ship, which is believed to be buried under tons of sand and silt in Drakes Bay.

Marx said that Spanish archives place the wreck beyond the quarter-mile offshore boundary of Point Reyes National Seashore and thus outside the Park Service's jurisdiction.

But Park Service maritime historian James Delgado claims that Marx violated federal laws when he visited the beach recently and handled some debris that had washed ashore.

The materials included some wooden planks, a rusting metal rod and several large stones -- possibly used for the ship's ballast -- that were lying in the sand. Delgado said the items are historic artifacts and that if Marx returns to the beach and pokes around again he might be arrested.

Marx filed an "admiralty arrest" or a legal claim to the ship which he said was necessary to protect the wreck from would-be treasure hunters. He said ships dragging anchors in the bay may inadvertently damage what is left in the wooden hull of the ship.

Marx also intends to keep enough of the recovered items to offset the estimated $2 million to $3 million needed for the salvage operation.

Delgado said the wreck by being buried is "essentially locked in a vault and is in no danger from anything at the moment. There is no overriding need to go in there and dig it up."
PLEASE MR. RANGER, WILL YOU ACCEPT MY LOTTERY TICKET AS PAYMENT?
Taken from the February 1987 issue of CSPRA Newsletter

CSPRA member Mel Harada, at Millerton Lake SRA, collected an Iron Ranger envelope with a message on the back stating: "out of change."

However, the envelope felt as if something was inside. Opening it up, Mel found a winning lottery ticket for $5.00.

At last report, the District hadn't decided whether they should cash it, send accounting the ticket or buy five more tickets in the hope of hitting it big and showing a huge increase in revenue for the month.

A TRUE FISH STORY?

Copied from a news story on KLOK Radio, February 16, 1987

A man from Palo Alto, California has a fish story he regrets ever telling.

Recently, while walking along Matadero Creek, the man saw a huge Steelhead swimming in the clear, cool waters. The sight was too good to pass up, so he reached down and snatched the fish up with his bare hands!

Afterwards, the man contacted the local paper to announce his achievement and soon he was deluged with media attention.

Unfortunately, someone else was interested in his story - the Fish & Game Department!

The story ends with the man receiving two unwanted gifts - citations for fishing without a license, and fishing by an unlawful method (human hands).

The moral of this story: the truth can hurt!!
"Oh, Ranger, can I take your picture with a bear?"

"Just a minute, ma'am, until I show this gentleman where to go fishing."

"Where's a bear, now?"

"Well ma'am, there was one in these woods an hour ago. Maybe we can find him."

Five minutes for the purpose of finding a wild bear.

"Oh, Ranger, that's a lovely bear! Stand closer to him, won't you? Would you mind putting your arm around him? It would make a peachy shot. We'd just love it."

"Sorry, ma'am, but it's against regulations to hug the bears."

"Oh, pshaw! Why do they have such foolish regulations? Well, just pretend to be feeding him something."

Knowing the ways of bears, the ranger declined to "pretend". He produced some molasses chews and actually fed them to the bear. It is dangerous business to try to fool a bear about food.

Click! Click! Click!

Another ranger was immortalized in picture, for the ninetieth time that day.

"It's all in the day's work." explained the ranger.

"What else do you do?"

"Well show folks where to camp, and how to keep on the right road and answer questions, and see that people don't tease the animals, and keep things orderly, and put out forest fires, and give lectures on Nature, and rescue Dudes in danger, and 'most anything anybody wants done around here."

"All in a day's work, ma'am."
EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Ranger
Northern California

Seasonal - 4-15 to 10-15
OR
5-15 to 9-15

Salary: $5.50 hour to $6.75 hour

Final Closing Date: April 3, 1987

Experience: Two-year degree in outdoor recreation or related field and a one-year minimum in maintenance and operation of a park or recreation facility.

License Required: Valid California Driver's License

Certificates: Standard First Aid and CPR cards are required.

Description: Perform a variety of skilled and semi-skilled maintenance and janitorial tasks. Collect fees, provide visitor information and perform security patrol of assigned sites. Good public contact skills are essential.

Apply: California Land Management
675 Gilman Street
Palo Alto, CA 94301

COMPANY APPLICATION REQUIRED
PARK RANGERS ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA OF CALIFORNIA

Income/Expenses Financial Statement 1986

**Income**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Memberships</td>
<td>$1,500.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual conference proceeds</td>
<td>$208.95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>$1,708.95</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Expenses**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Executive Board</td>
<td>$272.52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>operation (postage, etc.)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Publications (Signpost)</td>
<td>$173.31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bank service charges</td>
<td>$38.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Executive Manager fee</td>
<td>$284.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Traveling expenses</td>
<td>$400.68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>$1,168.71</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Transfer to savings: $400.00

Income above expenses: **$1,568.71**

Balance January 1, 1986: **$729.55**

Income above expenses: **$140.24**

Balance December 31, 1986: **$869.79**

*Does not include transfer to savings*

**SAVINGS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Transfer from checking</td>
<td>$400.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest income</td>
<td>$68.08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balance December 31, 1985</td>
<td>$1,072.32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balance December 31, 1986</td>
<td><strong>$1,540.40</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total monies as of December 31, 1986: **$2,410.19**

February 5, 1987

Bruce T. Baker, Treasurer
PARK RANGERS ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA
1986 Executive Board Officers

PRESIDENT
John E. Ramirez
Tulare County Parks
(209) 733-6612

COASTAL REPRESENTATIVES
Bill Hendricks
Marin Municipal
Water District
(415) 459-5261

SOUTHERN REPRESENTATIVE
Charles Tello
Ventura County
Regional Parks
(805) 654 3971

THE SIGNPOST EDITOR
Christopher Crockett
Santa Clara County
Parks and Recreation
(408) 867-3654

EXECUTIVE MANAGER
Doug Bryce
P.O. Box 28366
Sacramento, CA 95828
(916) 381-4620

Annette Coleman
Palo Parks & Open Space
(415) 329-2638

IM Hofsommer
Sacramento County Parks & Recreation
(916) 366-6132

CAL RANGER EDITOR
Ed Stuckerath
Big Basin Redwoods State Park
(408) 338-6132