From The Editor's Campsite

The 1987 PRAC/CSPRA/LEAGUE Conference in Ventura was a fun and educational experience. This post-conference issue of The Signpost contains PRAC session information. I hope members, especially those who were unable to attend the conference, find the following articles useful.

I am also pleased to have received some newsletter contributions from PRAC members. I hope this trend continues and grows, since member contributions are vital to the success of The Signpost. If you have news items from your agency you feel would be of interest to other park professionals contact me at: 300 Friar Way, Campbell, CA., 95008. I can also be phoned at (408) 378-4467. I look forward to hearing from some of you soon.

Chris Cockett

Conference Session Info Available

PRAC members conducted various excellent workshops during the 1987 conference in Ventura. Those attending were able to take valuable information back to their agencies. For those who were unable to be at the conference, the benefits of the workshops are still available. Topics and contacts for PRAC sponsored sessions are as follows:

1. Grants and Volunteer Organizations- Techniques on effective grant research and writing for non-profit, volunteer organizations. For more information contact: John Ramirez, PRAC President, (209) 733-6612

2. Park Watch- Methods for developing multi-agency park protection programs involving the general public. For more information contact: Bill Hendricks, PRAC Coastal Representative, (415) 459-5267.

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3. Search & Rescue- An overview of search & rescue in various outdoor environs. The incident command system and SAR priorities were also addressed. For more information contact: Rob McLeod, SAR Coordinator—Northern California Criminal Justice Training and Education Center, (707) 539-5210.

PRAC Welcomes New Secretary

At the March Board of Directors meeting in Ventura, Michelle Alex was installed as the new PRAC Secretary.

Michelle currently works for the Sacramento County Parks Department. She fills the board position vacated by Maxine Ramirez of Visalia. Michelle's new PRAC functions will focus on board meeting agenda/minutes development and distribution.

The PRAC Board of Directors extends a warm welcome, and praises her efforts to strengthen our organization.

PRAC Slideshow Available

The world premiere of the PRAC slide program took place at the 1987 Conference. The fifteen minute presentation covered the varied functions rangers carry out throughout the state of California. Specific topics included: interpretation, law enforcement, visitor safety, maintenance, and resource management.

The slide show is now available, for loan, to PRAC members. To obtain a copy contact: Bill Hendricks, Marin Municipal Water District, at (415) 459-5267.
Editor's Note: The following is a synopsis of a workshop Mr. Hendricks presented at the PRAC/CSPRA/LEAGUE Conference on March 3, 1987.

The six major land management agencies in Marin County, California have recently developed a Park Watch program, believed to be the first of its kind in the nation. A number of similar programs have been initiated by single agencies or organizations throughout the state. However, Park Watch is the only known county-wide cooperative agency program in operation.

During the summer of 1984, field rangers from the National Park Service, the California Department of Parks & Recreation, the Marin County Parks & Recreation Department, the Marin County Open Space District, and the Marin Municipal Water District met informally with the Marin County Sheriff's Department to discuss the problem of auto burglaries in the County's parks.

In meeting, representatives found many additional concerns which were common to all agencies. In addition to law enforcement, rangers felt that visitor safety and awareness, resource management practices, and staff interaction and communication could be dealt with more effectively through inter-agency cooperation. They also felt that park visitors could take increased responsibility for the parks in a fashion similar to the popular neighborhood crime watch programs already in existence. It was agreed that public education programs,
media coverage, and park signs would provide excellent public exposure, awareness, and involvement in Marin County's parks.

As goals and objectives were developed, and the program was formed, public and media attention for Park Watch grew rapidly. Since then, program highlights have included:
1. The donation of funds from the Marin County Board of Supervisors;
2. A luncheon presenting the program to media throughout the San Francisco Bay Area;
3. Installation of the first permanent Park Watch sign in a dedication ceremony attended by Director Mott of the National Park Service, and Director Briner of the California Department of Parks & Recreation and;
4. The appointment of a Park Watch coordinator for the Western Region of the National Park Service.

Rangers in Marin County often depend on each other for inter-agency training and mutual aid. On any given day the six participating agencies have a maximum of 47 rangers on duty. With over 150,000 parkland acres in Marin County, this averages to one ranger for every 3,200 acres. The County is unique with 39 percent of its total acreage in public use land. But, the County is not unique with the challenges, problems, and concerns rangers must face.

In attempting to overcome common problems rangers in Marin County are now asking the public to become additional eyes and ears by reporting any suspicious or hazardous situations. This program has the potential to be applied by park agencies throughout the nation. All that is needed is to pool resources and maintain effective communication channels. This, combined with close public interaction, are essential to a successful Park Watch program, which can be imperative in protecting parks and their users.

For further information on Park Watch contact:
Casey Mayor Bill Hendricks
Marin Municipal Water District
Sky Oaks Ranger Station
P.O. Box 865
Fairfax, CA., 94930
(415) 459-5267,
or
Lee Schenk
Western Region Coordinator
NPS Park Watch
Point Reyes National Seashore
Point Reyes, CA., 94956
(415) 663-8525.
PARK EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

The City of Palo Alto, in the San Francisco Bay Area, is recruiting for a permanent Park Ranger. The position entails a wide variety of duties in the areas of maintenance, land management, patrol, and interpretation. Minimum requirements are a B.S. degree in park maintenance, natural science, or a closely related field; two years experience in parks; or a combination equivalent to possession of an A.A./A.S. degree plus two years experience. Candidates must have a valid California Driver's License, and an Advanced First Aid certificate within six months of employment. The successful candidate will be required to pass a background examination.

The salary range is $1,765-2,208 per month. Apply to: City of Palo Alto Personnel Department, 250 Hamilton Avenue, Palo Alto, CA., 94301; or call (415) 329-2376. The application deadline is 4:30 p.m., May 30, 1987.

OUTDOOR ANTICS

Bloom County □ Berke Breathed

...Uh... Good morning, Officer. Howdy, boy? Say, that wouldn't be one of them fancy vark detectors, would it, boy?

This? Uh... Why... no... Actually, this is a... er... an onboard Captain Kirk sub-space communicator. Yeah... that's right!

Uh... hello? Starfleet command? Come in, please... hello?

Uh... no answer. Musta broke back there when you was doin' warp 70.
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