PRAC BEGINS MISSING CHILDREN INFO PROGRAM

Beginning with this first issue of the 1989 "The Signpost", the Park Rangers Association of California will be regularly printing information on missing children.

PRAC Coastal Representative, Glen Kinney initiated this effort with the hope that it might assist park rangers in being aware of children who are missing in the State of California. Kinney notes that, in some cases, these children were abducted from city, regional, state, and federal parklands. It is hoped this will drive the issue home to those in the park ranger profession. "We have a duty to protect all park visitors," notes Kinney, "especially the children."

The 1988 suspected abductions of Amber Swartz-Garcia and Michaela Garecht in the San Francisco Bay Area have publicized the need for all concerned citizens to be on the look out, and to report any suspected sightings of missing children.

Inserted in this, and future, issues of "The Signpost" are fliers of children who are currently missing. PRAC is asking its members to make copies of the enclosed flyers and to:

1. Post them at public places (eg., visitor center, bulletin boards) in the parks where they work;
2. Provide copies for all park staff to reference while on duty;
3. Give additional copies to staff at other parksites.

For more information on the missing children issue contact: Glen Kinney, PRAC Coastal Representative, Livermore Area Recreation & Park District, 71 Trevarno Road, Livermore, CA., 94550; (415) 449-0491.
Organizers for the 1989 PRAC/CSPRA/LEAGUE Conference in Palm Springs are in the process of setting up an exhibit of park-related publications being produced by park agencies or cooperating organizations in the State of California.

It is hoped this exhibit will provide conferees with new, exciting ideas for using different types of publications in various visitor service programs. Organizers are looking for the following types of material: 1) maps, 2) books, 3) newspapers, 4) brochures, 5) posters/calendars/postcards, 6) membership materials, and, 7) videotapes.

All submissions should have been produced between 1986-88; should be published by a PRAC/CSPRA/LEAGUE affiliated organization, and should be mailed by February 7, 1989 to: Publications Exhibit, c/o Betsy Knaak, Anza-Borrego Desert Natural History Association, P.O. Box 310, Borrego Springs, CA., 92004.

Those wishing to send publications must submit a completed Publishers Form, and an Exhibit Form attached to each item sent. Blank copies of these forms can be found in this issue of "The Signpost".

Items can be picked up, traded, or given away after the Conference. For more information call Ms. Knaak at (619) 767-3052.
MEETING HIGHLIGHTS
Notes From The PRAC
Executive Board Meeting

Friday, January 20, 1989
Effie Yeaw Nature Center
Sacramento, California

- The Nominations Committee agreed to send ballots for the 1989 election of Treasurer, Southern Representative, and Coastal Representative (two positions) by February 1, 1989. The deadline for receipt of ballots is March 1, 1989.

- Dennis Danielson from the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District is coordinating the Spring 1989 Trail Maintenance Workshop. The activity is scheduled for April 21, 1989 in the Santa Cruz Mountains. A flyer will be sent to PRAC members prior to March 1, 1989.

- Tom Hofsommer from the Sacramento County Parks & Recreation Department reported he would be preparing a PRAC Logo Poster for membership recruitment and for sale at the Annual Conference.

- Executive Manager Doug Bryce noted that, per State requirement, an audit committee should be formed from the membership in order to oversee Association revenue and disbursements. Tom Hofsommer, Dave Lydick, Glen Kinney, and Doug Bryce volunteered to serve on the committee.

- Doug Bryce noted that expense reimbursement forms are available to all PRAC members seeking reimbursement for expenses which benefit the Association.

- Bill Hendricks of the Marin Municipal Water District asked Executive Manager Doug Bryce to explore developing a statewide park ranger agency directory. Doug will report back to the Board at its next meeting.

- John Ramirez from the Tulare County Parks & Recreation Department clarified voting rights for the Student Director. The Board voted to extend voting rights to the Student Director of the Association.

- Doug Bryce and Bill Hendricks noted that PRAC membership reached its highest level ever in 1989. As of January 15, 1989 the Association had 156 members.

- The next Executive Board Meeting of PRAC will be held at the Annual Conference in Palm Springs. The meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 9, 1989 from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. All PRAC members are cordially invited.
PRAC NEEDS PARK RANGER JOB DESCRIPTIONS

PRAC President, Bill Hendricks, is compiling a file of park ranger job descriptions and announcements from local, regional, state, and federal agencies in the State of California. Material need not be current, but should contain up-to-date education and experience requirements. This information will be used to evaluate professional standards and to inform interested persons of job opportunities in the parks and recreation field.

Send any material you may have available to: Bill Hendricks, 1400 Marshall-Petaluma Road, Petaluma, CA., 94952.

AND IF YOU NEED HELP RECRUITING PROSPECTIVE PARK RANGERS...

PRAC's complete mailing list is available—Free Of Charge—on adhesive labels. Call or write: Doug Bryce, PRAC Executive Manager, P.O. Box 28366, Sacramento, CA., 95828-0366. (916) 383-2530.

FROM THE PRESIDENTS DESK

A Message From Bill Hendricks, PRAC President

PRAC is currently in a period of great transition—developing from a small professional group into a statewide organization capable of making significant impact in the park, outdoor recreation and natural resource fields.

Membership in 1988 increased 150%. With this growth comes great promise for a wider array of Association activities. The Executive Board, though, needs to hear what your needs are as a PRAC member. Is PRAC...giving you the right training sessions...providing you with interesting information in The Signpost...giving you the type of Annual Conference you want...providing you with adequate correspondence? These are questions you must answer in order for PRAC to reach its full potential.

Present your wishes or desires at the next Executive Board Meeting, or in a future issue of The Signpost. Educate your fellow colleagues about PRAC, and, get their input for improvement. Take an active role in your PRAC. I hope to see you all at the PRAC/CSPRA/LEAGUE Conference in March.
A NOTE FROM A FORMER (PROSPECTIVE) PRAC MEMBER

I recently saw the latest issue of "The Signpost". My supervisor at Doran Park in Bodega Bay brought it in for the staff. (It's) nice to see how the organization has progressed over the years. I have been a ranger for over 17 years with Sonoma County Regional Parks, and (I was) a PRAC member in its formative years under Tom Smith. I was the Northern Representative for a few years and, for various reasons, I let my membership drop. But, I am now considering "re-upping" since it looks like I may go the distance as a ranger....

In any case, I would like to become involved again. I understand that several of the rangers from Sonoma County Regional Parks are (already) members....

Thank you for your time. Perhaps after the first of the year my car can sport a PRAC sticker (again)!

Sincerely,
Gary Greenough
Park Ranger II
Bodega Bay, CA.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF INTERPRETERS MEMBERSHIP INFO AVAILABLE

PRAC members interested in obtaining information or membership with the National Association of Interpreters (NAI) should contact:

Mike Nicholson
NAI-Region 9 Director
Livermore Area Recreation & Park District
71 Trevano Road,
Livermore, CA., 94550
(415) 449-0491

DUES RENEWAL POLICY CLARIFIED

By John Ramirez
PRAC Past President

Several new members have expressed concern over paying full membership dues late in the calendar year. The following information is designed to clarify PRAC procedure on this matter.

Those members joining PRAC in the months of October, November, or December will retain full membership benefits through December 31st of the following year.
The 1989 PRAC/CSPRA/LEAGUE Annual Conference  
March 7-10, 1989  
Palm Springs Raquet Club, Palm Springs, California

AGENDA

**Tuesday, March 7th**
- Golf & Tennis Tournaments - 1:00 to 5:00 p.m.
- Tour of Desert Museum - 2:00 to 5:00 p.m.
- Welcome Party - 6:00 to 10:00 p.m.

**Wednesday, March 8th**
- Opening Session - 8:15 to 8:45 a.m.
- Panel Discussion - "Facilities vs. Resources" - 8:45 to 10:15 a.m.
- Panel Discussion - "Partners In Parks" - 10:30 to 12:00 p.m.
- Picnic Lunch (Supplied by Conference) - 12:00 to 1:00 p.m.
- Field Trips
  - 1. Indian Canyon
  - 2. Living Desert Reserve
  - 3. Talking Hands Program - 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.
- Palm Springs Tram/Spaghetti Dinner
  (Includes dinner, raffle, tournament awards, stargazing) - 5:00 to 10:00 p.m.

**Thursday, March 9th**
- Formal Paper Presentations
- LEAGUE Workshops
- PRAC Workshops - 8:30 to 12:00 p.m.
- Lunch - 12:00 to 1:00 p.m.
- PRAC Board Meeting - 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.
- Awards Banquet (Celebrating CSPRA's 25th Anniversary) - 6:00 to 11:30 p.m.

**Friday, March 10th**
- Farewell PRAC/CSPRA/LEAGUE Joint Meeting - 8:00 to 11:00 a.m.
- 9:00 to 11:00 a.m.

**PRAC SPONSORED ACTIVITIES**

The Park Rangers Association of California is sponsoring the following activities at the Joint Conference:

"Wheels Of Change - The Mountain Bike Issue": A discussion of policy development, philosophy, and management techniques presented by public agency professionals and off-road bicycling advocates (March 9th, 8:30-10:00 a.m.).

"Home Is Where The Park Is - Homelessness In Parks": A discussion of the impact of the homeless in California's public parks (March 9th, 10:15-12:00 p.m.).

_All rooms at the Conference Site (King/Twin) will be $65.00 per night. For more Conference information call Tom Hofsommer at (916) 366-2072_
RANGER'S LEGAL UPDATE

By Chris Crockett,
Senior Park Ranger,
Santa Clara County Parks & Recreation Dept.

DETENTIONS
Persons Parked In A Public Parking Lot
(People vs. Lopez, 1987,
Cal App. 3d 93)

In 1985, an undercover narcotics officer approached an occupied car in a San Diego public park parking lot, and noticed an open beer can in the defendant's lap. The car was vacated by the defendant and was searched by the officer. During the search the officer found a small jar of liquid which later proved to be PCP. The defendant was arrested. The defendant later claimed her initial detention for beer was unjustified because the park's parking lot was not "a highway."

The officer claimed the detention was justified since she was violating CVC section 23223 by having an open beer container in her car. He was wrong. According to CVC section 360, a parking lot is not a highway, since it is primarily intended for parking, not travel. The court did not buy the argument that this was a "reasonable mistake of law." They felt that accepting the officer's argument would encourage peace officers to be ignorant of the language of the laws they enforce.

The term "highway" has been held to include parking places adjacent to a roadway, and the asphalt shoulder adjoining a paved roadway. A parking lot separated from a street or road is not covered under this definition.

NOTE: Probable cause for vehicle searches in parking areas may be permissible under city and county ordinances. Check with your local prosecutor or district attorney for applicability.

1989
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Of California

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The Signpost is published by the Park Rangers Association of California (PRAC). The Association mailing address is P.O. Box 28366, Sacramento, California, 95828.

The Signpost editor is Christopher Crockett. Contributing editors and writers are as noted in each issue. Articles of 1,000 words or less are welcome. All submissions become the property of PRAC, and may be edited without notice. Submissions should be mailed Christopher Crockett, Coyote River Parkway, 985 Hellyer Avenue, San Jose, California, 95111. Information can also be submitted by telephone at (408) 225-0225.

The Signpost is published bimonthly. Submission deadlines are the last day of February, April, June, August, October, December for each appropriate issue.