BOOM LOWERS ON LOCAL AGENCY USE OF RANGERS AS A.B. 805 NEARS PASSAGE !!

The Peace Bill (A.B. 805) recently passed the State Senate Judiciary Committee on a 7 to 1 vote. The bill will now go before the floor of the Senate on August 21st. Once passed by the Senate, the bill will go to Governor Deukmajian for signature into law.

Despite strong opposition by PRAC, A.B. 805 has an even stronger chance of becoming law. If this occurs, all cities, counties, or special districts wishing to create a ranger job class must first certify those positions through P.O.S.T. The very nature of this bill threatens agencies wishing to use rangers as naturalists, resource managers, or even as generalists. The primary purpose of the ranger under this bill would be law enforcement.

There is still time, though, for PRAC members to push for defeat of A.B. 805:
1. Write to your local State Senator, urging him/her to vote NO on A.B. 805. A sample letter can be found in this issue of the The Signpost. Also urge your agency’s department head or commission to draft a letter to the local State Senator urging a NO vote on this bill.
2. Using the sample letter noted above, write Governor Deukmajian requesting that he veto this bill if it comes across his desk.
3. Send a cover copy of any letter you send to Doug Bryce, P.O. Box 28366, Sacramento, CA., 95828-0366

These three items will not take much time to do, but they could make the difference of whether A.B. 805 passes OR NOT! For further information on A.B. 805, and what you can do to defeat it, contact Doug Bryce at (916) 383-2530.
SCHOLARSHIP NEWS !!

by Bill Hendricks
PRAC President

The PRAC Scholarship Committee is pleased to announce that Bruce Pace is the recipient of its first ever scholarship. Bruce recently received his A.S. degree at West Valley College in Park Management. He will be attending CSU-Chico in the Fall to study Recreation Administration. Bruce has received academic honors for seven semesters. He also has impressive work credentials with park agencies including the County of Santa Clara and the City of Palo Alto. He has also completed an internship with the Midpeninsula Open Space District, and he has performed volunteer work with the U.S. Forest Service. Bruce is well-deserving of this scholarship, and he is an asset to our profession.

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The Executive Board of PRAC wishes to thank those of you who contributed to the 1989 Scholarship Fund:
Pamela Helmke
Bill Hendricks
Dave Lydick
Jeff Ohlfs
Lori Raymaker
Douglas Tait

Your generosity made it possible for PRAC to award its first scholarship to a deserving college student doing coursework in the park management field.

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PRAC is now asking its members to contribute to the 1990 Scholarship Fund.

Keep this fund for deserving "future rangers' alive. Direct any scholarship inquiries or donations to: PRAC Scholarship Fund, P.O. Box 28366, Sacramento, CA., 95828-0366. If you enclose a donation please include your name, address, and telephone numbers.

PRAC MEMBERSHIP NEARS 200 MARK

Doug Bryce noted in his Executive Manager Report of June 16, 1989 that total PRAC membership was 191. This includes 105 regular members, 59 student members, 9 associate members, 16 agency members, and 2 honorary members.

THANK YOU MICHHELLE ALEX

The Executive Board of the Park Rangers Association of California wishes to formally thank Michelle Alex for her fine efforts as Secretary on the Executive Board since March of 1987.

She has been responsible for getting all Association correspondence to PRAC members and has done an excellent job. Michelle currently works for the Sacramento County Parks & Recreation Department.

Executive Manager, Doug Bryce, will take over as Secretary for the Association. Once again, Michelle, all our thanks and the best in all your future endeavors.
PRAC SPEAKS OUT!

The PRAC Executive Board recently authorized President Bill Hendricks to draft correspondence pertaining to two issues of great interest to park rangers and and park advocates. The text of this correspondence has been reprinted below for the benefit of all PRAC members.

The first letter describes PRAC’s opinion regarding proposed pit mining adjacent to Bodie State Historic Park:

July 12, 1989

Governor George Deukmajian
State Capitol Building
Sacramento, CA., 95814

Dear Governor Deukmajian:

I am writing to ask that your administration oppose the open pit mining proposal of Galactic Resources, Ltd. on the boundary of Bodie State Historic Park. The proposal is not only a threat to a National Historic Landmark, but will also cause irrevocable damage to area’s natural environment.

The Park Rangers Association of California urges you to consider the long-term effects of the mining activity proposed for Bodie Bluff. Far too often we have neglected the natural environment for economic endeavors benefitting a few select individuals.

Natural, cultural, and recreational resources are an important aspect of California’s heritage. Preserving and protecting parks and open space lands today, will assure that future generations are offered opportunities to enrich their lives through outdoor recreation and natural resource experiences.

Sincerely,

Bill Hendricks
President
The second letter concerns PRAC's support of the American Heritage Trust Bill:

July 12, 1989

The Honorable Alan Cranston
Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C., 20510

Dear Senator Cranston:

I am writing to request your support of the American Heritage Trust Bill, H.R. 876, sponsored by Congressman Morris Udall.

Since its inception, the Land and Water Conservation Fund has been an important source of funding for the acquisition, development, and planning of local parks and open space lands in the state of California. Unfortunately, appropriations from the fund have been reduced drastically in recent years creating the necessity of enacting the American Heritage Trust Bill.

The Park Rangers Association of California urges you to support H.R. 876 which would implement a "self-perpetuating trust” ensuring the return to the original appropriations of the Land and Water Conservation Fund. Increased pressure on our country’s natural resources necessitates appropriate funding for local, state, and federal park systems and recreation areas.

Passage of the American Heritage Trust Bill is essential to the well-being of our society.

Sincerely,

Bill Hendricks
President

PRAC members are urged to contribute their own opinion regarding these issues. Support from you park agencies would also be beneficial. For more information on these two issues contact Bill Hendricks at (415) 663-

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LETTERS TO PRAC

Ranger From The City Of Cypress
Pledges Support For PRAC

To Whom It May Concern:

As a Park Ranger on a municipal level, I find many challenges as well as rewards. (Therefore) I am pleased that an association for Park Rangers is established.

I would like to help with any committee work.

Looking forward to hearing from your association, and please find my personal check enclosed for membership.

Thank you

Patricia A. Lehtola
Park Ranger
City of Cypress
JUNE BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

The following are highlights of the PRAC Board meeting held June 16, 1989 at West Valley College in Saratoga:

A.B. 805- The Board approved sending a letter to the State Senate opposing this bill to make illegal the use of the title “park ranger” by agencies who do not certify their personnel as peace officers. Also approved was a mailing to be sent to all PRAC members urging support of the PRAC position. (See article on A.B. 805, and what you can do to help defeat it, on the front page of this issue.)

Audit Committee Results- The committee reviewed, and found in order, all financial records for 1988.

Agency Directory- Doug Bryce was contracted to research and prepare a directory of all California agencies with park ranger personnel.

1990 PRAC/CSPRA/League Conference- The conference will be held March 6-9, 1990 at the Chico Holiday Inn. Room rates will range from $48.00-53.00.

PRAC Brochure- Tom Hofsommer indicated the new brochure will be ready by October.

Fire Training- Will be held in the Spring of 1990 following the conference. John Nichols will organize the event.

Winter 1990 Training- This training session is slated to be held in Southern California.

The next meeting of the Board will be 6:00 p.m. Friday, September 8, 1989 in Sacramento at Doug Bryce’s home. Call Doug at (916) 383-2530 for directions.

CAL RANGER EDITOR NEEDED!

The Park Rangers Association of California and the California State Park Rangers Association are searching far and wide for a CAL RANGER editor. This important Executive Board position would provide great exposure to park rangers working for the State and for local agencies. According to PRAC Executive Manager, Doug Bryce, “the job is much easier than you think.” It can also be quite rewarding. All prospective applicants should have access to a personal computer with a desktop publishing program (an Apple Macintosh computer is preferred).

If you are ready for the challenge call Doug Bryce at (916) 383-2356 today!
The Signpost is published by the Park Rangers Association of California (PRAC). The Association mailing address is P.O. Box 28366, Sacramento, CA, 95828. The Signpost Editor is Christopher Crockett. 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 to Christopher Crockett, Coyote River Parkway-Hellyer Unit, 985 Hellyer Avenue, San Jose, CA, 95111. Information can also be submitted by telephone at (408) 225-0225. Submission deadlines are the last day of January, March, May, July, September, and November.