FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK
by Bill Hendricks, PRAC President

THOUGHTS ON PRAC AFTER THE 1990 CONFERENCE

In my four years on the PRAC executive board I have noticed a significant change in the approach towards professionalizing our organization. Member involvement has increased and dedication has returned to what it was in PRAC's early years. We can all be very proud of the progress our association has made.

The Chico conference points to a bright future for PRAC. Member attendance was at an all-time high. First time attendees were very excited about their membership and wanted to become more involved. This was evident at the conference board meeting, where 32 members were in attendance.

It was also encouraging to see some longtime members returning to the conference. Raleigh Young (Santa Clara County Parks & Recreation Department) and Tom Smith (West Valley College), founding fathers of the association, were in attendance.

A positive sign was to see increased student involvement at the conference. The Park Resources Committee from CSU-Chico assisted in registration and provided conferees with the best spaghetti dinner in recent memory. The student section is our future. Section membership has increased from 14 to 72 members in less than two years. The section also took an active role in the conference for the first time in a long time. Student section representative, Rod Turner, and other students deserve special thanks for their help. Rod has done an excellent job on the board.

If you missed this year's conference I encourage you to attend in the future. This positive energy and fellowship is contagious and needs to be filtered to all park ranger agencies in California.

This conference, and other activities over the last two years, has greatly enlightened me to the needs of park rangers. I have enjoyed the friendships and I am extremely grateful to the executive board for their hard work. At times, a great deal was expected from board members. I hope the membership will recognize these people at future association events. The entire cast was exemplary, but I wish give special thanks to Doug Bryce and Tom Hofsommer for going way beyond the call of duty. They are instrumental in allowing PRAC to reach its current level of success.

Thank you all for the opportunity to partake in what will prove to be one of the most exciting periods in PRAC history. Much remains to be accomplished. I believe you are all up to the challenge.
DOUG BRYCE RECEIVES HONORARY MEMBER AWARD
by Bill Hendricks

PRAC acknowledged the accomplishments of Doug Bryce in the park ranger field by bestowing upon him the 1990 Honorary Member Award at the annual conference in Chico.

Doug has been the PRAC executive manager for 10 years. He recently retired following a 32 year career with the California Department of Parks & Recreation (DPR). Doug received his first ranger assignment at Anza-Borrego Desert State Park, and has worked in various parks for 16 years. The second part of his career was spent working in the DPR's Interpretive Services Division in Sacramento.

Doug has been the executive manager for the California State Park Rangers Association for 22 years, and he also had an eight year stint as manager of the Western Interpreters Association. Doug’s retirement has led to his involvement as manager of the California Park & Conservation Association, and as newsletter editor for the Society of California Archaeologists.

In the past few years Doug has been instrumental in increasing the service provided to PRAC members. He has compiled a statewide park ranger agency directory, developed a PRAC recruitment poster, and he has personally visited ranger agencies for recruitment purposes. Doug was the chair for the 1990 joint conference, and he was instrumental in putting on the Autumn 1989 workshop in Palo Alto. Doug has seen PRAC through times both good and bad, offering his guidance and assistance to assure growth.

PRAC thanks Doug Bryce for his commitment to making the park ranger profession in California what it is today.

NOTE TO PRAC MEMBERS

At times PRAC makes its mailing list available to park agencies and other related organizations for information exchange purposes. This is a service to PRAC members, and it increases the association networking ability.

Should any member not wish to have his/her name distributed for such purposes they may request their names be removed from the association mailing list. Contact executive manager, Doug Bryce at (916) 383-2530.

PROFESSIONAL CITATION AWARD GOES TO TOM HOF Sommer
by Bill Hendricks

Tom Hofsommer has been recognized as the second recipient of the PRAC Professional Citation Award. Tom has been committed to the executive board for the past six years, serving as coastal region representative, as acting president for nearly one year, and twice as vice-president. Prior to Tom’s PRAC involvement it is rumored he actually had a real life! His wife Diane and daughter Molly are looking forward to finally seeing him regularly after all these years with PRAC.

Tom has always given that extra effort for PRAC. In the Fall of 1987 he hosted the first training session PRAC conducted in many years. He has been on the conference committee for the last five years, and he has held numerous other committee positions. Tom led PRAC’s effort toward opposing Assembly Bill 805, and he is currently on the steering committee for 1990-91 workshops and training.

With what little spare time he has, Tom enjoys bicycling and cross-country skiing with his family. He even finds time to work, now and then, as a park ranger for the County of Sacramento. PRAC sincerely thanks Tom for his years of dedication. He is truly the epitome of a park ranger professional.

PRAC MEMBERSHIP SOARS

PRAC’s executive manager reported that, as of 12/28/89, membership had reached an all-time high of 231. 123 regular memberships were recorded, and an amazing 71 students had become members. Agency memberships also looked promising at 23. The coastal region led all others with 103 members. A pleasant surprise was the increase in Southern Region membership to 34. PRAC is truly taking off!
HIGHLIGHTS OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING
March 8, 1990

The March 1990 board meeting was held in Chico at the 1990 joint conference site. Thirty-two members were in attendance. The highlights are as follows:

**Election Results:** Chris George was elected president, Bruce Weidman was appointed vice-president, and Cheryl Goss was elected Valley Representative.

**Miniconference Committee:** A steering committee was appointed consisting of Tom Hofsommer, Pam Helmke, Bob Donohue, Chris George and Bruce Weidman.

**Scholarships:** Tom Smith donated $200, and Raleigh Young moved that $400 be put into the fund. Committee members include Pam Helmke, Kathy Satterlee, John Ramirez, Tom Hofsommer and Bill Hendricks.

**Sale Items:** The Association is looking into sales of lapel pins, beer mugs, patches, belt buckles, and video tapes.

**1990 Fall Training:** Topics presented include the homeless, gangs, drugs, and law enforcement techniques. The steering committee will decide on a location.

**1990 Goals:** Increase membership 30%, increase agency membership 50%, increase promptness of The Signpost, restructure committees, develop video library, develop ranger training standards, increase outside training opportunities.

**Next meeting:** June 1 in Sacramento.

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**PRAC SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS SOUGHT by Bill Hendricks**

The Park Rangers Association of California is currently soliciting scholarship applications from members studying in the park ranger field. Award amounts vary, but past scholarships have done a great deal to assist deserving PRAC members towards reaching their educational and career goals.

Those wishing to apply should complete and return a scholarship application (see this issue of The Signpost for an application form), statement of interest, and two letters of recommendation. To be eligible for a scholarship applicants: must be a student member or a regular member of PRAC; must be enrolled with a minimum of 6.1 units in the semester the scholarship is awarded; must be enrolled in a program of study in park and recreation management, resource management, forestry, or a related field; and must have a minimum GPA of 2.5 for all coursework completed.

The deadline for all applications received is June 1, 1990.

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**PARK RANGERS ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA 1989 FINANCIAL STATEMENT**

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Association Reserves: $1,194

(All amounts rounded up to the nearest dollar)

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**JOBWATCH**

- The Marin Municipal Water District is currently recruiting for a park ranger to perform patrol, protection, and maintenance in watershed areas. To apply contact the Marin Municipal Water District, Personnel Department, 220 Nellen Avenue, Corte Madera, CA., 94925, (415) 924-4600.
- The city of Palo Alto is currently seeking a ranger for its open space operation. To apply send resume/salary history to Jeanine Goodale, Personnel Dept., 250 Hamilton, Palo Alto, CA., 94301.
Executive Board Officers 1990

President
Chris George
Anaheim Parks & Community Services Department
(714) 999-5226

Vice President
Bruce Weidman
Livermore Area Recreation & Park District
(415) 449-0441

Past President
Bill Hendricks
University of Utah
(801) 467-4565

Treasurer
Barry Murphy
Sacramento County Parks & Recreation Department
(916) 366-2072

Coastal Representative
Glen Kinney
Livermore Area Recreation & Park District
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Coastal Representative
Judy Morris
City of Fremont, Parks and Environmental Services Division
(415) 791-4340

Valley Representative
Cheryl Goss

Southern Representative
Ernie Del Rio
Santa Barbara County Parks & Recreation Department
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Student Representative
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CSU-Chico
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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, 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.