Late News on Anaheim Workshop

Reception: California State parks Foundation President, Wayne Guthrie, will host another of his famous receptions on Monday evening in the Tiffany Terrace beginning at 6:30 PM.

Where do we go from here? What can we do individually and collectively about the problems the Department faces? Presidents Bud Getty and Joe von Herrmann will lead a discussion of what CSPRA and SPPOAC can do collectively and individually and what we as individuals can do to help the Department. This discussion will be held at the luncheon on Wednesday.

Banquet will be held on Wednesday evening along with a no-host cocktail hour and dance.

Beach Party will be held Tuesday evening at Huntington Beach.

Child care will be available for those who tell us when they want it, how many children, and their ages. If you let us know by mail before the workshop we guarantee we’ll have it. If you let us know 24 hours in advance we will do our best.

Correction: A tour on your own is available to Mission San Juan Capistrano not San Juan Bautista.

The Hotel address is: Inn at the Park, 1855 South Harbor Boulevard, Anaheim, CA 92802.

Late Charge for Registration will take effect on March 4, 1992.

PRAC members will be bringing information on jobs with their Park Districts for CSPRA, SPPOAC and PRAC members that may be facing layoff this coming year.

Winter Campout at Joshua Tree

Again, another campout received a small turnout. Despite this and some minor inconveniences by the NPS on my schedule, those that attended had a busy time.

We redefined camping. On Tuesday night, a movie was shown at my house following an evening social. The campers woke up Wednesday morning to (a tradition started by some wacky rangers from the Army Corps of Engineers at Sonoma) champagne breakfast. After breakfast, a short video on the park was seen and away we went.

First stop was Cottonwood Spring Oasis for glimpse of the morning and Native Americans days. The auto tour then continued to the Ocotillo Patch and Cholla Cactus Garden, through the Monzonite Rock Formations amongst the Joshua Tree Forests to Keyes’ View. The smog cooperated. We could see the Coachella Valley, Salton Sea, and down to Signal Mountain in Mexico. However, the 40 MPH winds made it a short stop. The main feature was the tour of Keys’ Ranch. A historic homestead, left in pretty much the same condition as the day William F. Keys died. This ranch is under heavy guard by the NPS and only a few ranger lead tours allow access to this treasure. Final stop was Barker Dam and the petroglyphs.

Thursday was a free day to do what you wanted. Last report received, the NPS rangers are still looking for two suspicious mountain bikers!

It was interesting to see the only attendees came from Northern California: Petaluma, Cameron Park, and Fremont. With over 250 members and a growing membership in Southern California, I can only wonder why more members didn’t attend. Folks, this is your organization. We want to see you at the next event.

To those who came, thanks!

Jeff Olits
From the Presidents Desk

"A Presidents Retrospect"
By Christopher W. George

As I wind down my term as President of PRAC, several questions have come to mind. First, I have to reflect on the accomplishments that have been made the past two years. I am proud to say that we are at the highest number of members in the associations' history. This is mainly due to the hard work of all of our Executive Board Members in recruiting and getting the “word out.” Second; our conference in Yosemite National Park was the best attended PRAC function in our history. Third; our workshops have been put together with the highest quality and imagination available.

Personally, I feel I have obtained growth as a professional by working with professionals. I have had the opportunity to see how many of your programs function and operate. You have allowed me to step in and become a part of your work lives. You have shared your concerns as well as your triumphs. Like so many of you, I look at my work as more than just a job. I have attempted to carry this over into the association. I am proud of the strides we have made and I feel there is so much that still needs to be accomplished.

So what now? Many people have asked me, “Will I run again?” I don’t know. As in any question, you have your supporters as well as your critics. I know I have my share of both. Many of our members feel uncertainty. Many of our colleges have come to PRAC in the past. These colleges are hopeful that our association will be able to be there for them both in the good times as well as the bad times. I know I can't ignore this, and I know that whatever I do or whatever road I take, I will continue to be there for PRAC.

It has been my concern to see that this occurs and that it will continue to occur. The Executive Board and I have laid the groundwork for growth and success. Often it has not been an easy road, but I have never known a more devoted group of professionals than those of you who are members of PRAC. So, let’s look toward the future and believe that we will make a difference! Together we can make our profession one of increased respect and admiration.

To each of you, I would like to say thank you for allowing me to be your President. It has been an honor that I will always be proud of.

ATTENTION STUDENTS
It's PRAC Scholarship Time

Any of you students out there should know that PRAC has a scholarship that is awarded once a year. At about this time a year, student members may apply. Information is being mailed to all student members in the next few weeks. For further information, contact Doug Bryce at (916) 383-2530.
A SHORT HISTORY OF IRVINE PARK

Looking forward to the coming conference in March, I am sure that many are familiar with the major attractions in the area. Hopefully many will visit our Orange County Parks. Our oldest County park is Irvine Regional and from our archives comes this short history.

Irvine Park and the surrounding area were originally a part of the Yorba Family's Mexican land grant, called Rancho Lomas de Santiago. In 1860 it was sold for $7,000 to a man named William Wolfskill who used it for the grazing of cattle herds. There was water in the creek the year round. The area at this time was very much a part of the "wild and woolly" West. Wolfskill's foreman, Joseph Pleasants shot it out with horse thieves near the creek area in 1862. That year, Wolfskill's nephew was "winged" and his horse shot out from under him by rustlers.

Accustomed to watering at the springs in the park, grizzlies and brown bears roamed the area. In 1859, a 800 pound grizzly was shot there. The cattle were frequently mauled by mountain lions and calves would be run down by coyotes. There was also a pack of seven timber wolves in the area until they were eliminated by poison bait.

In April of 1865, sheep men from Monterey County bought the ranch for $7,000; the same price paid by Wolfskill. They were the Bixby Brothers, the Flint Brothers and James Irvine. Soon flocks of sheep populated the park and surrounding area.

In the 1870's and 1880's the towns of Santa Ana, Tustin, Orange and Anaheim grew. The residents discovered the "Picnic Grounds" and hundreds arrived on foot, horseback and carriage for May Day and Fourth of July festivities. While not as dense with vegetation as in the 1850's Irvine Park was still visited by wild animals. Another grizzly was bagged where the barbecue pits are today. A condor with a 13 foot wing span was killed there in the 1880's.

In 1876 the land that comprised Irvine Park became the sole property of James Irvine who bought out his partners. Irvine Ranch then totaled 95,000 acres.

In 1897 James Irvine, Jr. decided to give the county a park. The 160 acre oak grove which was first named Orange County Park. There were few conditions of use stipulated by Irvine, but he did insist that the park be kept as natural looking as possible and that no alcohol be sold on the premises. A county ordinance eliminated alcoholic beverages altogether.

The first major development of the park was a dance pavilion built just after the turn of the century near the present band shell area. It stood for nearly thirty years when it was replaced by a new pavilion which was enclosed. This new pavilion burned to the ground on October 16, 1943, following an army dance. It is theorized that a public address system left on had overheated and caused the fire. The rebuilt stage is all that is left of this structure. The hexagonal building, known as the Exhibit Building was used to exhibit items of local history.

When Irvine Park was used as an army camp during World War II it was locked up and only recently refurbished and reopened as an interpretive center. The army camp was called Camp Rathkey and was used to train troops for combat.

Continued on page 9
Who's at Risk in the Wilderness?
by Ed Harrison, Southern Region Representative
California Parks and Conservation Association

Ed Harrison is the Southern Region Representative of the California Parks and Conservation Association, a group dedicated to promoting the preservation and restoration of natural and cultural heritage values of parklands. Mr. Harrison is also a Park Ranger with the Orange County Harbors, Beaches and Parks, and is currently assigned to the Regional Parks Operations' Interpretive Unit.

Two recent court decisions stand to make a profound impact on the recreational uses of wilderness. One of the cases involves a southern California parks department. Both cases had opposite outcomes and point out a disparity in the definition of liability in the wilderness.

In 1987, Ben Johnson went on a trip to Wyoming. Although inexperienced, he set out to climb the 11,938 foot Buck Mountain in Grand Teton National Park. Ben fell off the mountain and was killed. His parents sued the National Park Service for: failure to warn him explicitly that his climb was dangerous; not determining Ben was inexperienced and prohibiting him from making the climb; and not reaching him fast enough after the accident.

Across the country, wilderness users were watching for the outcome of this case. If the park service lost, it was assumed that to protect itself from liability; wilderness travel would be halted or at least restricted on government lands. What was once wilderness would now become hand railed or simply fenced off.

The case was dismissed in the Federal District Court because the United States Government Code protects the federal government from lawsuits regarding liability in undeveloped or primitive areas. U. S. Government officials can not be held liable for the discretionary judgments they make. The parents appealed and the initial ruling was upheld by the federal appellate panel.

The claims by the Johnson family sought to assign a disturbing level of responsibility to the government and a lesser amount to wilderness users. Being questioned was the assumption that wilderness is assumed to be wild. If there was one true rule of the wilderness, it was, and thankfully still is, survival of the fittest. Anything less would not be wilderness but a diluted, Disney version of what is wild.

Half the country away, and a year before the Johnson incident, five year old Laura Small was looking for tadpoles at Caspers Wilderness Park, in Orange County. As her mom stood just a few feet away, a mountain lion grabbed Laura by the head and dragged her into the bushes. After being rescued by a nearby park patron, Laura survived. She suffered deep lacerations, multiple punctures in her skull, damage to her right eye and a bone fragment in her brain that left her right side paralyzed.

What followed was a court case that also received national attention. The county's attorney Barry Allen, said “The bottom line is that the county can't be held liable for acts of a wild mountain lion, they shouldn't be able to sue.” The Small family's attorney said, “The county's not responsible for the mountain lion's action, but for it's own actions and its inability to warn the public about the dangers in the park.”

Despite the park’s designation as wilderness, the family contended in their lawsuit that wild animals were lured into close contact with the public by the county's placement of water, shrubbery and eating places around the park. They also claimed that park officials were aware of the danger of mountain lions in the park and failed to warn visitors of

Continued on page 10
My vehicle's better then your vehicle!

Have you ever felt proud to be driving along in your patrol vehicle, fire truck or other type of vehicle you use for your program? Have you ever attended a lecture and noticed what the other guy was driving and really wanted to look closer but were too proud to look?

Well, have I got an event for you proud park professionals! At this year's upcoming PRAC • CSPRA • SPPOAC joint conference, there will be a noncompetitive car show in which you will have the opportunity to show off your equipment in every detail.

On Wednesday, March 17, the conference will present the pride of the park ranger profession, our vehicles! (Now some of you may cringe, but this is all in fun!) I invite you, no I "Double Dog Dare You" to get involved in this event. For you folks that want to get involved, just think of how proud you will be in showing off your "Stuff." You can have demonstrations and have additional support vehicles (i.e., motorcycles, ATV's, Equestrian units and all sorts of stuff), along with your entry.

Furthermore, this event is not for just patrol vehicles. If you have medical vehicles, life guard vehicles or even maintenance vehicles, I invite you to get involved and show them too.

If you have any questions, please contact Chris George or Wayne Krusen at (714) 254-5226, or look for the vehicle show application headed your way.

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The Signpost
APPLICATION FOR EMERGENCY SERVICE VEHICLE CAR SHOW

NAME of Organization: ___________________________ No. of Vehicles: ____________

Address: ___________________________ City: ___________________________ Zip: ___________

CONTACT Person: ___________________________ Title: ___________________________

PHONE No.: ( ____ ) ___________________________

Please list a brief description of the type of vehicle(s) you would like to display (please include any additional items such as display board, additional support equipment, tool-rack, etc.).


Will you require any additional equipment to assist you in your display, (i.e; V.C.R., lighting, electrical, etc.)? List if any: ___________________________

Should you have any questions about your entry, please contact Christopher George or Wayne Krusen, at (714) 254-5226. If no one is available, please leave a message and phone number were you can be reached.

Please return your application by March 1, 1992 to:

RANGER CONFERENCE CAR SHOW
20816 Ely Ave.
Lakewood, CA 90715

Conference Committee only:

Application approved: ____________ Date: ____________ Space Number: ____________

Comments:

_________________________

_________________________

_________________________
Have you ever noticed a hungry look in someone's eye, looking eagerly at your shiny badge or maybe even your patch? Well, there seems to be a notorious group of individuals out there that may be after yours! The name of this group is ... “The Dreaded Badge and Patch Traders!”

Watch for them. They stalk you when you are on patrol, phone you when they are near. Some even send you letters! What is a poor park ranger to do?

Well, if you are one of the many park rangers out there that has gotten into this hobby, then we got a night planned for you.

At the upcoming PRAC * CSPRA * SPPOAC Conference in March, the opportunity will be made available for all you park ranger badge troopers. A get together is planned for a night of swapping, trading and buying of your most wanted treasures. This event is still being put together. If you're interested and would like to put together a display, or just want to start collecting, then contact Chris George at (714) 254-5226 for details on how to get involved.

Do drop by the night of the event and see how those “cwazzy badge hunters” do their thing.

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With the emergency implementation of A. B. 1297 (Isenberg, 75 pages) in July of 1991, local park agencies (per 1463.05 P.C.) and the California Department of Parks and Recreation (per 1463.05 P.C.) lost their 50% allocation of bail forfeitures and fines as 35 subsections of 1463 P.C. were repealed. A. B. 544 (Isenberg, 64 pages) generally reshuffles the bail allocation schedule by replacing, amending and adding numerous subsections of 1463 P.C., but does not restore any subsections directly relating to park agencies.

Loss of this revenue source will have a devastating effect on agencies that apprehend any significant volume of violators. Writing citations will continue to be an effective enforcement tool, but may have to be curtailed as occasional court appearances by rangers will strain budgets.

Typically citations’ revenue was used to fund training, equipment and supplies (like citation forms). Agency operated training academies and on the job training programs, as well as recurrent in-service training, will suffer until funding can be found. In the current climate there is a better chance of finding a breeding pair of Sasquatch, who have just won the lottery, than there is of finding unencumbered funds! This issue should be addressed by the PRAC membership at the March conference and a committee formed to pursue ways of countering or amending A. B. 1297.

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In California today there are 283 plant and animals officially listed as “rare,” “threatened” or “endangered.” Hundreds more are candidates for listing.

The myriad of pressures of modern-day California are pushing more and more of our native plant and animal species toward extinction. Tragically, if something isn't done soon to ease these destructive pressures, many species will disappear.

"Line 50” on the State Tax Form gives us a chance to help turn things around for California's endangered plants and animals. Every taxpayer who fills in “Line 50” is contributing to a unique statewide program that provides help to troubled wildlife species.

Please fill in “Line 50” and give California's endangered wildlife species a fighting chance for survival.
Jobs — Jobs — Jobs

**Park Ranger Supervisor**  
$3,317 - $4,106 per month  
Includes 7% PERS paid by City

The City of Glendale offers an excellent opportunity to assist in the implementation of our Park Ranger staff and perform various responsibilities including acting as community and park visitor liaison, conducting nature programs, patrolling and maintaining City parks and recreational facilities.

The ideal candidate possesses three years experience in Natural Resources Management, Park Administration, Forestry, Public Recreation or Law Enforcement, valid standard First Aid and CPR certifications, a valid California Class C driver's License, and a high school graduate.

**Apply:** City of Glendale Personnel Division, 613 East Broadway, Room 100, Glendale, CA 91206

**Closing Date:** February 28, 1992

**Phone:** (818) 548-2112  
City Application Required.  
EOE/AA Employer.

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### Summer 1992 Jobs at Lava Beds National Monument

The following positions are full-time employment from about April 8 through September 27:

- **Laborer:** $8.39/hr to $9.11/hr  
- **Maintenance Worker:** $10.54/hr

**Closing Date** for the above positions is March 14, 1992.

The temporary positions listed next are for full-time employment from May 4 through September 1, 1992:

- **Lead Forestry Technician (Assistant Engine Operator)** $17,686 per Annum
- **Lead Forestry Technician (Engine Foreman)** $17,686 per Annum

**Forestry Technician (Firefighter)** $15,808 Per Annum

**Forestry Aid (Firefighter)** $12,905—$14,082 Per Annum

**Forestry Technician (Fire Lookout)** $15,808 Per Annum

**Closing Date** for the above positions is February 28, 1992 or until filled.

Applications must be submitted to the National Park Service, Lava Beds National Monument, P. O. Box 867, Tulelake, CA 96134. For further information, please contact the Personnel Office at (916) 667-2282.
Irvine Park History, continued from page 3

The boat pond was excavated in 1913. When completed it was filled by the natural springs in its bottom. The boat house was built in 1914. The old cannon near the pond was placed there in 1926 as a part of a Spanish War memorial. The tablet on the memorial was cast in metal removed from the U.S.S. Maine. On the back of the memorial is a list of all Orange County residents who fought in that war.

In 1919, Jesse Irwin became official custodian of Irvine Park and the family has been the park's chief concessionaire to this day. The family lived in the park in a 1 1/2 story caretaker's house in which they used kerosene lamps and a wood stove. At first all maintenance was done by the family and some hired hands. Later prisoners from the jail did all the raking in the park.

During the roaring twenties the park was discovered by Hollywood. Movie makers used it for scenes in many films including the famous “Lassie Come Home.” Movies that starred Edward G. Robinson, Mickey Rooney, Irene Dunne and Dick Powell were also filmed in the park.

The oldest living things in the park are the beautiful old oak trees. These are to two types, the Coast Live Oak and the Canyon Live Oak. According to a study completed in 1967 the trunks of the largest trees are 55 inches in diameter indicating that they germinated at least 750 years ago. Richard the Lion Hearted was just returning from the Third Crusade when the oldest trees were beginning to sprout. By the time Columbus discovered the New World they were almost two feet thick.

Such oak trees are found throughout the county and there is an ongoing effort to make sure that they are preserved.

Irvine is just one of the many parks in Orange County. I am looking forward to sharing this and more with those who attend the coming PRAC Conference.

Larry Baird
President
Orange County Park Ranger Reserves
Wilderness Risk, continued from page 4

the risks. Because of this, the county should be held liable. On August 23, 1991, a jury voted unanimously to support the Small family claims, and awarded Laura $2 million. The case is being appealed.

So 1991 brought two conflicting decisions on the status of wilderness. On Federal lands, wilderness is what wilderness was. On any other lands, wilderness is something less, and something more. It is less less wild, and more regulated. The result may be tragic.

In the nineties, governments have become aware of the need for wildlands. Habitat depletion and fragmentation have called for the dedication of wilderness parks. This recent decision may affect the ability of a local agency to meet the need for a wilderness park and they may opt instead for just another soccer field.

What is needed is legislative action. The federal government is protected with a series of codes that protect it from the “deep-pocket” mentality of park users. What California lacks is similar codes to protect the local agencies from these costly lawsuits.

The California Government Code, Section 831.2 provides protection from liability of unimproved public property. Section 831.4 extends the protection to unpaved roads and trails that provide access to recreational and scenic areas. What is lacking is a definition of unimproved public property. At what point does a wilderness park become “improved?” If trails are protected by the code, is a bench rest stop not? Does the presence of a park ranger imply that the area is improved? Is a portable toilet unimproved and a flushing model improved?

In order for California to gain more wilderness parkland, these questions must be answered. Without this clarification, future park plans may be put on hold. This can only result in a negative impact on the future of California’s wildlands.
On January 23, 1992, I had the honor of participating in an exciting workshop conducted by the Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District. The program entitled "Supervisory Leadership Training Workshop," was aimed at park ranger supervisors and those wishing to be. Approximately fifteen PRAC members attended the workshop hosted by Region IV Director, Don Walstein.

The workshop covered such topics as; developing better communication skills, how to accept better responsibility at work, performance under stress, teamwork and safety, disciplinary action and commendations. The workshop lectures consisted of professionals in the recreation field as well as those in the private sector.

I was quite impressed with the workshop and feel that this type of program should be covered in more than one region. A similar supervisory workshop is being planned for the near future for in Northern California. I highly recommend our members to take advantage of this program when it is made available.

As park professionals, we often are faced with a large amount of issues involving training. Often our resources are placed in making ourselves better law enforcement officers, better interpreters, etc., but how often do we spend in making our supervisors better. Often, we may choose a person for a supervisory role because of their merit in the service of the program we work for. However, we never really train that person to do the job properly.

As a result we may often get a supervisor who feels they’re doing right, but in reality they may be doing it wrong. Many times I hear "My supervisor doesn’t understand me," or "He/she only jumps on me when I screw up!" This type of behavior often reflects in negative work habits and a low morale status for the entire program.

So what’s the answer? The answer is programs such as the one held at Rancho Simi Valley. It may not make you the best supervisor over night, but it’s a great start.
PARK RANGERS ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA
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1991

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