Since July 1988, visitors using the American River Parkway in Sacramento County have had help a little closer thanks to the addition of solar powered cellular call boxes.

As with many parks, the lack of nearby available telephone lines was a limiting factor in having telephones in the parks. The twenty three mile long bicycle trail along the American River provided unique problems for people needing to report crimes, accidents, or fires when they not only didn't know where the nearest phone was but also didn't know where they were.

In July 1988, three solar powered cellular call boxes were installed along the bike trail at locations that the Sacramento County Parks Department determined would be of greatest value while also factoring in the likelihood of vandalism and the availability of existing telephones outside the park. Funding for the operation of the phones was obtained from the American River Parkway Foundation for a trial period. An additional four phones were added approximately one year later and 15 more phones were recently installed with the Sacramento Municipal Utility District donating the funding for them as part of a program to study and promote photovoltaic cells.

We believe the call boxes have been successful but there are problems that arise with their installation. Programming 911 into the telephones would have been the easiest, (and cheapest, 911 calls are free), but 911 cellular calls go to the C.H.P. dispatch and they would not have been the correct agency to receive the calls. We used the Sacramento P.D. and the Sacramento Sheriffs Dept. dispatch centers and have the calls go into a dedicated line. Calls where people activate the phone but don't say anything are time consuming to check out and these probably account for fifty percent of the use. The phones are somewhat expensive to purchase ($3,320 each) and there is a monthly service charge plus a charge per call.

We have had very little vandalism problem (one stolen handset and a couple of signs), and this is probably due to the fact that the phones are built very sturdily. The phones we used were purchased from G.T.E. Cellular Communications. The batteries can last twenty days without a charge but even on overcast days the photovoltaic panel provides electricity.

Overall the installation of these phones have been a success. Many accident and crime victims have been glad that there was a emergency phone nearby and response time to these events have been shortened. If you would like additional information on cellular call boxes we would be happy to share our experiences. You can contact Dave Lydick, Tom Hofsommer, or Gary Kukkola at (916) 366-2072.

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**CSPRA-PRAC Annual Workshop Reminder**

Santa Clara Biltmore, March 4-7, 1993

The Workshop is almost upon us.

Speakers are dusting off their notes and arranging their slides.

Registrations are in the mail.

The fun is about to begin.

Activities are planned such as an interpretive beer tasting, a vehicle exhibit, a great raffle with lots of prizes plus lots more.

Not to forget the various sessions and speakers, banquet and local tours.

So plan on being there and renew old friendships and make new ones.

Hope to see you there!
From the President’s Desk

by Bob Donohue

It is an honor for me to be writing my first President’s message. I have so many things I want to say and can only hope that I am reasonably eloquent.

I am looking forward to my tenure as your president with much enthusiasm and great anticipation. Those of you who know me know how much I care for and believe in this association. There are many things I want to accomplish during my term. These are not personal goals but rather goals that will strengthen and improve PRAC. One major goal is to increase our membership and regain the members we have lost the last few years. As many of you know I believe in continuing education. I plan to continue our workshops, striving for quality rather than quantity. We must give a person a reason to belong to PRAC other than we are a bunch of fun people. We are a professional organization and education is one way to show it.

PRAC has undergone many changes over the last couple of years, most of which were brought on by expansion. Many of the changes were for the good but some were not. That is as it should be. An organization cannot grow unless it is willing to take some chances. During my tenure I hope to make some positive changes that will benefit us all. I want to see PRAC become the leading association for rangers. When an individual or agency needs help, education, guidance I want them to think of PRAC first. I want PRAC to benefit all rangers but especially members.

I will be looking to all of you for help. Any suggestions you may have, any ideas or criticisms you think will benefit the group, feel free to contact me at any time. Call me at (916) 895-4972 or FAX (916) 342-6921. This is not my association nor is it the Executive Manager’s, it is all of ours. It is incumbent upon all of us to take an active role in determining the future and the course of PRAC. I look forward to hearing from all of you.

I want to take a little time now to thank Chris George for the job he has done for the last three years guiding PRAC. During his tenure we have expanded our sphere of influence to include Southern California. With that expansion our board also almost doubled. It was uncharted territories for us but thanks to Chris’ able leadership we made it through and are now on our way to some real growth. PRAC has done well under Chris’ tutelage and I can only hope that I have a fraction of the success that Chris has had. Once again from all of us on the Board of Directors, thanks for a job well done and we wish you well in any future endeavors.
Emergency Management Training Consultants

3323 Watt Ave Suite 253 Sacramento, CA 95421
(916) 647-1268

Course Announcement

Swiftwater Rescue & Adventure

Emergency Management Training Consultants is proud to announce the introduction of our combination Swiftwater Rescue and Adventure course. This course is being offered to you and your department as an opportunity to continued education in the field of swiftwater rescue. This unique educational experience will be presented during an adventure filled day of white water rafting. The location will be on the American River in central California. The field of study will include:

- Water safety and survival
- Swiftwater dynamics
- Hazard identification
- Medical problems
- Water rescue equipment: uses, limitations, maintenance
- Swiftwater swimming techniques
- Shallow water crossing
- Throw lines and throw bag uses
- Technical rigging for water rescue
- Contact rescues
- Use of inflatable boats
- Introduction to river searches
- Field problem solving & simulated rescues

This course will be offered: March 13,14 and 27,28 April 3,4 and 27,28 May 11,12 and 18,19 and 22, 23 June 16,17 and 23,24 July 10,11 and 13,14 and 28,29 August 21,22 September 1,2 and 8,9. These classes have a limited number of available spaces.

Don't hesitate! Register yourself or your group today.

Tuition is $120.00 per person

Registration:

Name_________________________ Agency_________________________
Address________________________
City_________________________ State _______ Zip__________
Course Description_________________________
Day time phone number_________________________
Course date_________________________
Amount inclosed for reservation_________________________
Please send course announcements to above address ______

Mail to: Emergency Management Training Consultants, 3323 Watt Ave Suite 253
Sacramento, CA 95421
Not Sour Grapes
by L. Lawrence Baird
Member, Moreno Valley Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee

Having been involved in numerous elections from the national to city level, I was quite surprised at the outcome of our last PRAC elections. Before I continue I want to make it very clear that I am not displeased with any of our elected officers, but somewhat confused at the reasoning of the electorate. I specifically refer to Region 5. I have known both candidates for over three years and have observed the activities of each within our organization.

In an election, activity and visibility are two of the key elements. In Region 5 there few more active than Bill Hedges. He was responsible for bringing group membership to the Orange County Park Ranger Reserves, brought in several new individual members, has written for The Signpost and was a presenter at the last conference in Anaheim. For these reasons I thought he would be a shoo-in for the Region 5 directorship. I was wrong.

When I received my November-December issue of The Signpost I immediately called Bill and asked for his thinking on the outcome of the election. He said, “I didn’t expect to win, PRAC members aren’t going to vote for a reserve over a paid ranger.” I was again surprised. I had hoped that disrespect and animosity toward reserves were something foreign to park rangers, primarily because they are more educated and more dedicated than members of other organization that have reserves.

I thought back to another election where I knew that Rick Horn would be elected Region 5 Director. He too is one of the most well known and active members of PRAC and he too was defeated, and he too is a Reserve Park Ranger.

As reserves, are we in the right place, or do we have a place in PRAC? Obviously our money and expertise is welcome but for some reason our leadership is not.

This makes me wonder if our money and time wouldn’t be better spent developing an organization of conservation related volunteers with the specific goals and desires of reserve rangers. Or, perhaps PRAC could evolve into an organization that furthers the objectives of all rangers, paid and unpaid. In any case it is an enigma that should be addressed.

I believe that the later choice is the best. We could demonstrate that there need be no division between rangers and reserves, that we are beyond such petty jealousy. The alternative of forming a separate organization for reserves would weaken PRAC and because the number of reserve rangers is small it would be difficult to develop a strong organization. The final choice is yours, to hang together or hang separately.
Ordinance Prohibiting Nighttime Loitering in City Parks Is Constitutional
by Don Watstein

In the case of People v. Trantham, 161 Cal.App.3d Supp. 1; 208 Cal.Rptr. 535 (1984), defendant Roger Trantham appealed his being found guilty of a misdemeanor for “entering, remaining, staying or loitering in a park between the hours of 10:30 p.m. and 5:00 a.m. of the following day,” in violation of the Los Angeles Municipal Code section 63.44(B)(14).

Trantham has confused the notice component of due process, a constitutional mandate, with the preferred practice of placing signs at strategic points to inform persons as to what is prohibited. The actual notice mandated by due process is that a penal statute defined with sufficient definiteness that ordinary people can understand what conduct is prohibited. From the maxim of jurisprudence that everyone is presumed to know the law arises the law is no defense to its violation.

Accordingly, lack of actual knowledge of the provisions of section 63.44(B)(14) is of no legal significance. The pivotal inquiry being whether the defendant was aware that he was engaging in the conduct proscribed by the section.

The appeals court therefore affirmed the judgment of the trial court against Trantham.

Don't forget the Workshop!!!
News From Region 2
by Carol Fredrickson

PRAC Membership Grows

I would like to thank the East Bay Regional Park District Rangers for their time in allowing me to present information on the Park Rangers Association of California. They are going to join PRAC as a union agency and we will possible gain some new individual memberships as well. PRAC welcomes the rangers of the East Bay Regional Park District!

New Equipment for San Jose Park Rangers

In February the San Jose Park Rangers will be trained and authorized to carry O. C. Spray in place of the Mace they currently carry for self defense while on duty. We believe that San Jose will be the first California park law enforcement agency to carry O. C. Spray.

What is O. C. Spray?

O. C. (Oleoresin Capsicum) is a powerful inflammatory agent that occurs naturally in cayenne peppers. It conforms to the requirements of the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act as well as state laws.

Why use O. C.?

The use of tear gas and Mace by police is generally known and accepted by the public. O. C., which has been available for about 14 years, has not been widely publicized or used. The primary difference between the commonly carried CN and CS gases and O. C. is that the former are irritants while O. C. is an inflammatory agent. Irritants work by activating pain receptors in the nervous system of the person exposed. They tend to be less effective when the subject’s neural transmitters are blocked by drugs, alcohol or high levels of endorphins, a naturally occurring narcotic-like substance released by the brain. As an inflammatory agent O. C. works by causing swelling of the eyes and air passages making any suspect susceptible to the effects of this organic agent. Since O. C. is biodegradable, it does not require any special decontamination measures. Normal ventilation should completely remove it from an enclosed environment in about 45 minutes. The primary potency of O. C. begins to diminish within five to ten seconds allowing the officer a window of opportunity to cuff the suspect. (Or for the Ranger to run away!) All symptoms associated with O. C. exposure should disappear with 15 to 45 minutes of exposure with no after effects. For more information on O. C. Spray and Park Rangers, you can contact any of the San Jose Park Rangers at (408) 277-5130.

More From Region 4
by Donald Walstein

A big hello from Region 4, southern California area. “It’s our duty to protect and serve all park users so that they are able to enjoy themselves in a peaceful atmosphere while they have fun at any of the District’s parks.”

I would like to introduce PRAC members to the District’s newest Park Ranger, Jerry De Rosa, recently joined the District’s ranger force after spending 25 years with the LAPD. Jerry spent the past 13 years of his police career working in the Juvenile Division. His juvenile crime investigation experience should be an asset to the ranger program and Association, since a large percentage of ranger contacts in the parks are with juveniles.

Jerry obtained his teaching credentials from UCLA and has instructed various classes in juvenile procedures at the LAPD academy.

Jerry is a member of PRAC and can be contacted at Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District at (805) 584-4445.
When was the last time you saw a copy of your credit report? Creditors, insurance companies, government agencies, courts, and potential employers all have access to your credit report. But sometimes these reports have errors. So it’s a good idea to request a copy, just to be sure everything is accurate. And, it’s simpler than you think. TRW, a national reporting agency, will provide you with a copy of your credit report just for the asking. You may request a free report once a year. This is the information they require. (You can even use this form.)

Credit Report Request Form

Your Name ________________________________

Last, First, Middle Initial + Junior, Senior, II, III, or IV

Your Social Security Number ________________________

Your date of birth __________ / ______ / ______

Your spouse’s first name, if married __________________________

Five years of previous addresses (each address must include zip code):

Current address ____________________________________________

City __________________________ State _____ Zip _______ how long _______

Previous address __________________________________________

City __________________________ State _____ Zip _______ how long _______

Previous address __________________________________________

City __________________________ State _____ Zip _______ how long _______

(Use a separate sheet for addresses, if necessary)

Your signature __________________________________________

Important note: You must also include a photocopy of your driver’s license or a utility bill to verify your current name and address.

Mail to: TRW, P.O. Box 2350, Chatsworth, CA 91313-2350
(This offer is made by TRW and has no connection to PRAC. Be sure to send your requests directly to TRW.)

Find out what status your credit is in by requesting a copy of your credit report. It’s easy and you can request it once each year.
PARK RANGERS ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA
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President
Bob Donohue
(916) 895-4972
Fax (916) 342-6921

Region 1 Director
Bill Trunick
(707) 527-2041

Region 2 Director
Carol Fredrickson
(408) 277-4045

Region 3 Director
Dave Lydick
(916) 366-2072

Region 4 Director & PLEA Liaison
Donald Watstein
(805) 584-4440
FAX (805) 526-7648

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(714) 858-9366

Past President
Chris George
(714) 254-5226
FAX (714) 254-5223

Membership
Raleigh Young
(408) 336-2948

"The Signpost" & "Cal Ranger" Editor
David Brooks
(408) 336-2948

Office Manager
Doug Bryce
Office (916) 383-2530
Fax (916) 387-1179

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Submissions should be mailed to David Brooks, 560 Hillcrest Dr., Ben Lomond, CA, 95005. Information can also be submitted by telephone at (408) 336-2948. Submission deadlines are the last day of January, March, May, July, September, and November.

Membership Application

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address

city state zip

Phone
home work

Employer or School

Job Classification or Major

Voting Membership
Regular $35

Non-voting Membership
Agency:
(1-10 persons—2 mailings) $45
(11-50 persons—5 mailings) $70
(50+ persons—10 mailings) $90
Student $10
Associate $15
Supporting $50

Park Rangers Association of California
P.O. Box 292010
Sacramento, CA 95829-2010
(916) 383-2530 FAX (916) 387-1179