

Hug A Tree Workshop A Big Success by Sandy Ferreira

In September, Region 1 co-sponsored a Hug-a-Tree Presenter Class at the City of Fremont's Central Park Visitor Center. This is a great program for children which teaches them what to do if they ever become lost in the wilderness. In addition this program is an excellent interpretative tool that can be used for school groups and campfire programs.

A big "thank you" goes out to Region 3 Director, John Havicon who put together this workshop which was attended by a good number of Rangers (28) from the City of San Jose, Santa Clara County Parks, Pale Alto and the City Of Fremont. It was well received by the participants too! Another big "thank you" to Cheri Hill, the presenter who made the class fun and enjoyable.

If anyone is interested and would like information about scheduling this program in your area, you can call either John or myself, thank you.

Shots Fired At City of Los Angeles Park Rangers by Russ Hauck

On Saturday, September 27, 1997 at approximately 10:40 p.m., City of Los Angeles Park Rangers John Palmer and Doug Kilpatrick, driving separate vehicles, responded to a major disturbance call at Griffith Recreation Center's Friendship Auditorium. Upon arriving at the location, the rangers were approached by a private security officer who told them that an armed suspect had just entered a vehicle which was leaving the location. The rangers followed the vehicle and momentarily lost sight of it due to traffic congestion. The rangers continued looking for the vehicle and when they neared Chevy Chase Recreation Center, they split up with Kilpatrick checking the east side of the rec-center and Palmer approaching from the west.

As Ranger Palmer turned onto the street on the north side of the rec center, he observed the suspect's vehicle in the middle of the street. As the suspects exited the vehicle, Palmer's vehicle was pelted with rocks and bottles and very shortly thereafter, multiple gun shots rang out. Fifteen to twenty rounds were fired, eleven of which struck the unarmed ranger's vehicle in the windshield, light bar, driver's door, and front and rear quarter panels. Ranger Palmer was uninjured but was still in the vehicle and ducked down until the fusillade subsided. Palmer exited the passenger side of the vehicle and took cover behind the brush patrol vehicle's water tank. Ranger Kilpatrick circled around and backed his vehicle up to Palmer's providing a shield to remove Palmer from the kill zone.

A perimeter was established and the LAPD SWAT team was called out. After an exhaustive search, it was determined that the suspect(s) had eluded capture. A sawed-off .22 caliber semi-automatic rifle with a pistol grip and a 30 round magazine was recovered from a Rottweiler's dog pen at a nearby residence. (Author's note: I saw the bullet holes and they appeared much larger than a .22!!)

Meanwhile, the efforts to arm City of Los Angeles Rangers continue, with opposition still strong from the LAPD. At a meeting of the Los Angeles City Council Public Safety Committee on Monday, September 29, two days after the shooting, Ranger Kilpatrick was quoted as saying: "I don't think I could have used verbal judo to convince that shooter not to shoot. We need to be armed."

Presidents' Message

As 1997 draws to a close my term as president is also coming to an end. It has been an honor to serve the members of this wonderful organization for the last three years. I have had the chance to serve with a number of enthusiastic and talented board members, make a few new friends, and learn some new things too.

Looking back, I remember a letter I received just after I was elected. The author, a past president, told me I would be in for a fantastic journey—what he so eloquently described as a "wild roller coaster ride." How right he was. The last three years has been a wild ride—full of spins, twists and surprises. I will miss the excitement of wondering what the next turn will bring, but it is someone else's turn to give the coaster a whirl.

As president I have had the great fortune to help PRAC make some changes to better serve our members. We have added a 24 hour job hotline to our toll free number. Beginning in 1998 we will be increasing our two scholarships from \$250.00 to \$300.00 each and we have held a number of successful workshops on such diverse topics as hazard trees, feral pigs, and trail building. In addition we have become more active in educating our legislators. Over the last few years PRAC has been a voice to oppose the hunting of mountain lions on park lands, supporting legislation to allow reserve park rangers with peace officer status and we are now joining in the battle to bring a new park bond issue to the voters.

None of this would have happened without the support of so many good people. People like Dave Brooks, our ever patient newsletter editor, Doug and Carol Bryce who manage our office and provide wonderful advice and guidance. I cannot forget to thank Tom Smith, one of our founding fathers, a past president, a mentor and a friend who has helped guide me along my career for so many years. Most of all I must thank each of you, the members of PRAC, who support the board, attend the workshops and conferences and share in the fun.

It's been a great ride folks!! Thanks again and see you at San Luis Obispo in March.

Pam Helmke

More Hug-A-Tree

by John Havicon

We had a total of twenty-eight Rangers from various Northern California agencies attend the Hug-A-Tree presenters training. Cheri Hill, the instructor, provided us with some valuable information that we can pass on to the children. I'm looking forward to starting this program in my area. Hopefully the next time you have to do a search for a lost child, they will be doing the right thing because they have received Hug-A-Tree training by one of us. Thank you Sandy Ferreira for arranging a facility at Fremont Central Park and also bringing the morning refreshments.

Region 2 Wrap Up

by Ken Miller

As the days of 1997 start to wind down so does my term as Region Two Director. I am not running again as I plan to spend more time with the family and catching up on hobbies. (A lame excuse as PRAC didn't really interfere with my family). Two terms and four years have gone by quickly. Two Trails Workshops, a Rescue Workshop and three barbecues made for a busy four years. I had a blast and want to thank everyone for helping to make my Directorship what it was. Thanks to the founders, the current and past Board of Directors, and especially to the membership for helping to make PRAC what it is today. I won't be an officer next year but I will certainly continue to stay involved in PRAC. Thank you to everyone.

The VW Bear

by Malcom Hosler

(submitted by Ken Miller)

I used to be a Park Ranger up in Yosemite, and have many fond memories of dealing with bear destroyed cars. I will agree that most VW busses not only resemble your typical dumpster, but that some bears are known to actually prefer the German product—the steel is thinner, better claw holds exist, and the stuff inside is tastier.

There used to be a story about the Tioga VW bear. Several rangers I knew swore it was true, but it is a good story regardless...

Years ago, the VW Beetle was quite the most common car on the road, even more so among the young hikers in 1973 when backpacking became a rage. It seemed like every other car was a VW, parked for days along the Tioga road at every backcountry trailhead. While the VW's were frustrating for the marmots (who could not find their favorite food—radiator hoses), there was one smarter-than-the-average-bear who was quite fond of them. The bug bear did not break into other cars—only VW Beetles.

VW did a good job on the Beetles (and as we know on the busses as well). A uni-body construction, coupled with excellent fit and good (original German!) rubber seals made the VW's airtight. It is well known that you have to roll a window down to close the doors on a VW. While this makes them float well, it also provided a means-for-entry for this clever ursine.

You see, the typical way a bear opens things is by brute force, which they are abundantly endowed with. I saw a bear rip the doors off a Suburban once, hinges and all. The owner had used a soup-can as a pencil-holder on his dash (bad idea—Yosemite bears can read, especially the words “Coleman” and “Igloo”). They stick their claws into the door edge and pull. But it probably does not feel good on the said digits.

This bear bounced.

He'd climb up on top the the VW Beetle and commence using it as a trampoline. The doors, well locked and with the windows rolled up, would

obligingly pop open, and the bear would closely examine the interior (once it was properly exteriorized by being ripped out of the car) for any food bits. He apparently had learned that backpackers typically left some food in their cars—no sense packing it out on the trip, and back for the last day's meal before the long drive home.

When he'd assured himself that no more Snickers bars were secreted in some obscure cubby, he'd move down the line to the next Beetle, and promptly start his exercise again.

Sunroof Beetles yielded to the first jump, I'm afraid, but the bear seemed not to notice. After all, the big opening provided a better means of “exteriorizing” the innards. But he was most famous for his hardtop antics.

Some rangers of the era swear it is true, and even a dumb bear is smarter than folks might think—smarter than dogs. Maybe it's true...

If you camp in bear areas don't leave anything out—even empty cans, well washed, used as pencil holders. Leave the ice chest outside, and open and empty, or locked out-of-site. Most bear areas have lockers at the campsites for storing stuff—big thick steel affairs. While you might not think of underarm deodorants, soap and sunscreen as food items, please remember that bears are true omnivorous, and think highly of shaving creme, toothpaste and spoiled year-old sardines. In the wild, they mostly eat grass and termites—be sure to pack away all yours. Bears won't typically break into occupied vehicles, but they certainly have done so.

The Suburban was totalled, BTW, in just minutes. Bears are amazingly strong. A VW would seem trivial, I'm sure.



Adapting to Change: Park Ranger

by Samantha Nista

In a world of ever-changing needs, it is no wonder that Park Ranger positions are also in a state of change. It is also no surprise that rangers with the ability to adapt and change will be in even greater demand than those who cannot. Here are some examples of adapting to change:

Self-Confident:

Know their strengths and what they do best, rather than dwelling on what they can't do as well. A confident attitude is infectious, as is a fearful or negative attitude. If you choose to look at change in a positive light, your employees will be better able to do the same.

Self-Motivated:

Take risks, learn new skills and ad-

just to new management styles. Look out for new ways of doing the work more efficiently and effectively.

Goal-Oriented:

Analyze change in terms of how it can bring them closer to their goals. They can effectively describe goals and objectives to the group and discuss what is expected of each member of the team.

Simplify Change:

Break it into small, manageable pieces.

Sense Of Humor:

Managers model behavior. Those who can't laugh easily make their department seem stiff, cold and impersonal. Employees are generally not moti-

vated to work in that type of atmosphere.

Open-Minded And Flexible:

Actively seek diverse opinions, instead of trying to control every item. When it's time to communicate a reorganization or a policy change, they let their employees know about it well in advance so people are not caught off guard.

(source: Communication Briefings, May 1995)

Something To Think About:

"Change is the law of life. And those who look only to the past or present are certain to miss the future."

*John F. Kennedy,
U.S. President*

Wildlife Disease Exposure: Rabies

(Submitted by John Havicon)

Rabies is one of the most common wildlife diseases in North America. Annually, more than 6,000 cases of animal rabies are confirmed in the U.S. Because of this, every county in California has specific protocols for dealing with animal bites and suspected rabid animals. Rabies is a viral disease that can affect any warm blooded animal, including humans. The disease is contracted through the saliva of infected animals by a bite or scratch. Rabies generally takes between 3 weeks to 6 months to fully develop. Exposures to wild animals such as skunks, raccoons, foxes or bats are considered high risk. Rodents and rabbits are generally not infected as they rarely survive an attack from an infected carnivore and die before the virus develops. In California, Skunks and bats have the highest incidence of rabies. The most common domestic animal infected is the cat.

A human exposure should always be considered an emergency. An exposure is considered a bite or scratch from an infected animal or direct contact from

a sick wild carnivore not available for testing, (such as picking up a sick bat). The rabies virus enters the muscle tissue where it binds with the peripheral nerves. It eventually travels to the brain and central nervous system. The virus also travels to the nerves around the mouth and salivary glands, where it presents itself in the saliva. The signs and symptoms of the virus are generally unnoticeable until the last week when the person may develop throat pain, paralysis, strange hearing sensations, dulled acuity followed by coma. By this time, it is generally too late and death is imminent.

Immediate and thorough treatment is the most important step to take for any exposure to rabies. 50% of all of infections can be stopped by thoroughly washing the wound as soon as possible. Encourage the wound to bleed for a short time, unless bleeding profusely, then flush the wound with water and scrub with soap for several minutes. Seek medical care immediately. Treatment should begin within 24 hours of the exposure.

Prevention is always the best way to protect yourself. When handling any sick or injured animal, wear gloves and wash thoroughly after the contact. If you do have a sick animal, protect the public from it. It may be aggressive and may attack. Look for abnormal activities such as: nocturnal animals out during the day, viciousness, aggressiveness, walking sideways or with it's head cocked to the side, choking, snapping, drooling or paralysis. If you're the lucky one that has to capture an animal after a bite, remember all domestic animals must be quarantined for at least 10 days for examination. Wildlife bites require the animal be euthanized and their brains examined to determine if they are rabid. If you must shoot the animal, avoid headshots. The animals brain is the only area that can provide a true test for rabies. Follow your county's protocols on handling animal bites and rabid animals. You should be able to obtain a copy from your animal control office or your local health department

P.O.S.T. Certifies Roseville Ranger Program

by David Sloane

Roseville's Park Ranger program has recently received certification from California's Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training. The certification involved a three step process. This process included the following: a letter of intent, the passing of an ordinance, and inspection by a POST consultant. The process was fairly simple. Roseville's ranger program was already supervised by the City's Police Department and most of POST's requirements were already being met.

The letter of intent, written by the Chief, stated that Roseville's ranger program sought to participate in the Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training program. This letter also stated that the department was in the process of bringing employee backgrounds and training up to their requirements.

On April 2nd, 1997 Roseville's City Council passed and adopted Ordinance Number 3086. This ordinance documents the fact that the City desired to have its ranger program entered into the POST program and is willing to meet POST requirements to do so. The City will adhere to the standards for selection and training established by POST.

A POST consultant inspected the files of the City's public safety park ranger personnel to determine compliance with sections 1029 through 1031 of California's Government Code. Any new hires will also be subject to this inspection. The inspection basically checks for the following documentation in the employees' personnel files: Background results reduced to writing and retained, a POST Personal History Statement (standard POST form), BID record check (fingerprint returns), FBI record check (fingerprint returns), DMV driving record, record review of law enforcement agencies where applicant has lived or

worked, high school diploma or equivalent, birth verification of place and date, military record review or selective service registration, dissolution of marriage (verification if applicable), medical history, medical exam verification, and psychological exam.

While both of Roseville's rangers have completed basic POST academies, POST does not require that previously hired rangers attend a basic academy if they have not already. If a previously hired ranger had not attended a basic academy, however, they would not be eligible to receive POST certificates. In the event that Roseville hires any new rangers in the future, they must complete a basic academy within 12 months of employment.

The training received by Roseville's rangers already exceeded POST's continuing professional training requirements (24 hours of POST certified training every 24 months). By entering the POST program the City has made it formal that these standards will be maintained. This is the element of POST certification that seems to keep many ranger agencies from entering the POST program. Unlike police officers, training for ranger peace officers sworn under section 830.31(b) of California's Penal Code are not eligible for reimbursement. Ranger agencies must still pay for POST required training even though it is non-reimbursable.

Once entered into the program, POST recognized the status of Roseville's rangers retroactively since the time that the program was transferred to the Police Department. This allowed us to apply for applicable POST certificates. On 9-9-97 rangers received their Basic, Intermediate, and Advanced POST certificates. According to the POST consultant involved, these certificates are not "specialized". They are the standard certificates issued by POST.

There are advantages to being POST certified. Rangers who go through this process and have been to a Basic academy do not have to "re-certify" to maintain their status with POST. Also, there are few "standards" within the ranger profession as it applies to city, county and special districts. Being POST certified indicates that a ranger program is meeting the standards of most other law enforcement agencies within the state.

For additional information on this process, contact Dave Sloane at:
(916) 774-5478
or e-mail me at
parkrangerdave@hotmail.com.

WE DID IT!



Natural Resources Communication Workshop Announced

The Natural Resources Communication Workshop will be held at California State University, Chico from January 12-16, 1998. The week-long workshop is designed to help natural resource workers more effectively communicate with the general public through personal presentations using good visual aids-especially 35mm slides. Since many of the problems in natural resources management are people-oriented, more effective communication can significantly improve many management programs.

The hands-on workshop is practical-oriented and enhances participants communication skills in planning, preparing, presenting, and evaluating presentations. A variety of topics are covered including selecting communication strategies for specific audiences, creating graphics, and handling equipment problems. A special session entitled "Verbal Victories" provides hints for handling difficult, or even hostile audiences.

This year's workshop will be expanded to 5 full days (from the previous 4 1/2-day format). The new format will give participants more "hands-on" lab time for creating graphics, especially computer-generated graphics. As a special bonus, participants will receive a copy of "Effective Slide

Presentations- A Practical Guide to More Powerful Presentations," a new book by the course instructor that will be published this fall.

The course instructor, Dr. Jon Hooper, has taught communication workshops for more than 20 years in locations around the country. He is a Certified Wildlife Biologist and holds degrees in environmental communication and wildlife ecology.

The workshop has been sponsored by the Western Section of The Wildlife Society for 27 years. The deadline for applications is October 31, 1997; the course fee is \$595.

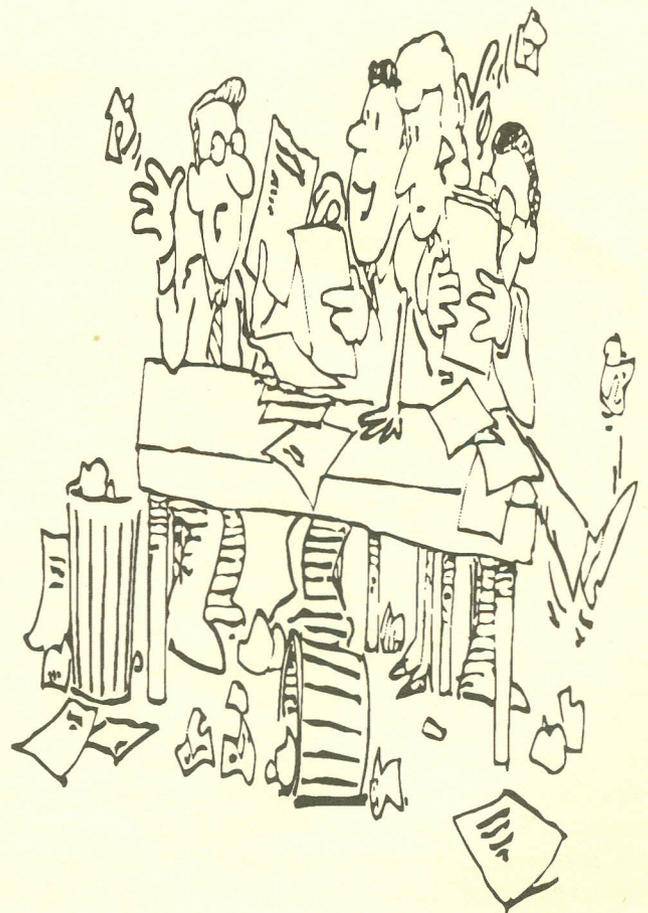
Applying for the workshop is easy. On letterhead, applicants should describe: (1) their current position within their agency/organization, (2) how they would use the training and (3) any special reasons why they feel they should be chosen as a participant. Participation is limited to 16 people. Submit applications to: Dr. Jon K. Hooper, Dept Recreation and Parks Management, Calif. State University, Chico, CA 95929-0560. For more information, call Jon at (916) 898-5811.

PRAC Attends EBRPD's Health & Safety Fair by Sandy Ferreira

In September PRAC was invited to attend East Bay Regional Park Districts annual Health and Safety Fair which was held at Castle Rock Regional Park in Walnut Creek. There were a variety of exhibitors and demonstrators which offered interesting health and safety information and free samples of current products that would benefit people in our professions. In addition, you could get your blood pressure checked, participate in a game of horseshoes, baseball, volleyball or softball and take a leisurely two mile canyon walk to see peregrine falcons. During lunch, an old fashioned delicious bar-b-que was served and you could sit around a grove of oak trees and enjoy the parks natural beauty. A big "thank you" to PRAC members, Doug Bryce, Patty Walker and Terry Barber who did a great job representing PRAC at this years Health and Safety Fair. We had the opportunity to talk with many people about the benefits of PRAC and becoming new members. In addition, our table, materials and visual display looked great and was very well received.

Thanks Patty for inviting PRAC, we hope to return again next year.

The Signpost



Smitty's Book Report

I don't know if you realize it, but there is a new profession rising in the science of park management called, "recreation ecology." Quite honestly, that kind of excites me. It is one of those "if you had it to do over, that is what I would have done," categories. I stumbled into this while gathering information for a course that the Director of Santa Clara County Parks, Paul Romero, and I are team-teaching at San Jose State. It is a course in the effects of recreation and ecotourism on the environment.

Exciting, what?

Because Paul works for a living, I tried to gather all the info. I ran into the books I am going to tell you about while surfing WWW. Believe me, they should be on your shelf. For two reasons; they are cheap(\$20), and they are timely. The books are published by the National Park and Conservation Association, and deal with visitor impact management. The Association paid for three university researchers to look into impact, and the challenge that we face in trying to keep our parks sustainable for future generations. Volume I, **Visitor Impact Management, A Review of Research**, does just that. It looks at all the research out there that deals with the impact that recreation has on soils, vegetation, water resources, wildlife, and also into the impacts of the experience, itself. Volume II, **Visitor Impact Management, The Planning Framework**, covers the principles of impact management,

gives you processes for management, and a lot of case studies. Every manager of every park in America should have these books at their elbow. At the price, there just is not any excuse. Like all books similar to these two, the references that the authors used in reporting the information are like a "what's what" in ecological principles as they relate to parks. I don't know when I have been so impressed with a real resource that can help us all in making the decisions necessary to sustain our parks.

I have also ordered a new book on recreation ecology from Pat Leidle Booksellers that I am hoping will be here by the winter *Signpost*. Publication is sometime this fall.

Kuss, Fred, Graefe, Alan, Vaske, Jerry, **Visitor Impact Management, A Review of Research**, National Parks and Conservation Association, 1990

Graefe, Alan, Kuss, Fred, Vaske, Jerry, **Visitor Impact Management, The Planning Framework**, National Park and Conservation Association 1990

The above volumes can be ordered from:

National Parks and Conservation Association
1776 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Suite 200
Washington, D.C. 20036

I just looked in by checkbook. They cost \$19.95!

Mountain Lions Go On Tour!

by John Havicon

For the last year, Sacramento County Parks, Effie Yeaw Nature Center has had a mountain lion exhibit on display. The exhibit, which was partially sponsored by the Mountain Lion Foundation and California State Parks, was intended to further educate the general public of the importance of mountain lions to the environment and what to do if a person actually encounters one in the wild.

We have had such a positive response with this exhibit, that it was decided to take it on the road and share it with other museums through-out the state. Be sure to look for it when it comes to an area near you. This is an excellent hands on exhibit for young and old alike. The exhibit will be traveling for the next two years at the following locations:

10/6/97-12/31/97 Great Valley Museum-Modesto

01/07/98-03/30/98 Coyote Point Museum-San Mateo

06/23/98-09/22/98 High Desert Nature Museum-Yucca Valley

10/07/98-12/07/98 Sanborn Nature Center-Saratoga

01/07/99-03/07/99 Lompoc Museum-Lompoc

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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.

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