

You Can Live It Or Just Read About It

by Russ Hauck

Since I moved to California almost twelve years ago, I have had the great fortune to attend a Rose Bowl football game, a Major League Baseball All Star game, two NBA final games, and uncountable regular season games in many different sports.

California has more professional sports franchises than any other state. We are blessed to have so many sporting events. For the true sports fan, California is a great place to live. A few thousand lucky sports fans can say "I was there" when Kirk Gibson hit the bottom of the ninth home run against the A's in the 1988 World Series, or when Dwight Clark made "The Catch" on a pass from Joe Montana in Super Bowl XXII, or when a rookie named Magic Johnson played center for an injured Kareem Abdul-Jabbar and led his team to an NBA championship. It is hard to describe the emotion, the electricity in the air, the incredible buzz that is generated at one of these events. Some folks are lucky enough to be there. Others are left to read about it in the morning newspaper.

To draw a parallel, California offers some of the most scenic spots in the world. We can boast of a coastline longer than that of any other state in the nation. We have more national parks than any other state. We have every climate zone represented within our borders. The highest point and the lowest point in the continental United States are less than one hundred miles apart, both located in the state of California. For the park professional, California is a great place to work.

Each year, we hold a joint conference with the California State Park Rangers Association. A few lucky park rangers can say "I was there" when Russ Hauck read his poem, or when hundreds of us huddled in the lifeguard building to keep out of the rain, or when we got snowed in at Yosemite. Others are left to read about it in the next issue of the *Signpost*.

Just like the sports fan, who makes a sacrifice with his or her time and finances in search of a memorable outing, we make sacrifices to attend the annual park ranger conference. But the sacrifices we make are directly related to our livelihood. Professional growth is an on-going and critical process. The sacrifices are well worth it.

You can not find an experience that is more focused toward, or more pertinent to what we do than this conference. Because of the multiple track format, there truly is something for everyone.

Make your plans to attend the **California Parks Conference March 9-13 in San Luis Obispo**. I know you'll benefit. Don't wait to read about it in the *Signpost*.

Don't Forget!
Renew Your PRAC Membership
For 1998 Today!

Presidents Message

by Russ Hauck

As I sit down to write my first President's message, I must begin with a heartfelt thank you on behalf of the entire membership of PRAC to its outgoing president Pam Helmke. Not only did Pam do a fantastic job, she did it longer than she originally signed on for. At what would have been the mid-point of Pam's two year term, the membership voted to change the year in which the president's position is filled in order to balance it out with the five Director positions. Three people elected each year, rather than the four/two ratio it had been. This resulted in Pam serving a three year term.

For the past six months or so, I have been tagging along with Pam to PRAC functions, as it became apparent that I would be the next president since I was running unopposed. I quickly realized how fortunate I am. My agency allows me to conduct PRAC business while at work as long as it does not interfere with my regular duties. In my travels with Pam, I discovered that she did most of PRAC's work on her own time, and often at her own expense with gas and telephone calls. Many thanks to Pam Helmke for a job well done.

I am looking forward to the next two years. PRAC is poised to be recognized as a statewide force in park and ranger related issues. My contact information is listed on the back page, and I welcome your input. I also encourage you to contact your respective Regional Directors to offer or seek information. We are merely your representatives. This is your organization. I urge you to get involved and help steer this organization into the 21st century.

1998 California Parks Conference

by Sandy Ferreira

The PRAC/CSPRA parks conference will be held March 9-12, 1998 in San Luis Obispo, a beautiful southern California location. Both PRAC and CSPRA committee members are working hard to make this years conference an exciting one.

Some highlights include Huell Howser, of California Gold Series TV fame who was selected as PRAC's Honorary Ranger at the 1997 conference. He is slated to be the master of ceremonies speaker and is delighted to speak at one of the breakout ses-

sions. He will be speaking about filming in a park environment.

A special tour one evening is scheduled at Hearst Castle. Participants will get a close up view of this historic landmark in its full splendor.

Additionally, exhibitors and environmental displays will be set up in the main lobby area adjacent to the breakout session rooms. There should be a variety of interests for everyone. Anyone who wants to display a park vehicle may do so. Space will be made available in the main parking lot.

The conference committee has agreed to add a Maintenance Track this year in addition to the Operations, Law Enforcement, Interpretative and Resource Management tracks. Raleigh Young and Tom Smith are the committee chairs for this track. They have researched a number of agencies and found that there is a need for more education and information in this area. Look for new and exciting sessions in the Maintenance track.

Mark your calendars and plan to attend and support this years conference in San Luis Obispo.

First Responder Update

by John Havicon

If you are re-certifying your First Responder or C.P.R. for the Professional Rescuer this year with the American Red Cross, you will see some new additions in training. The American Red Cross has updated the courses to meet the U.S. Department of Transportation's national standards. Many of the changes are changes in terms. For example; everyone knows the term "Survey the Scene." They have now change this to "Scene Size-Up." It still means the same thing, it's just that the powers that be liked this term better, as with most of the changes in terms. The following is a list of additions:

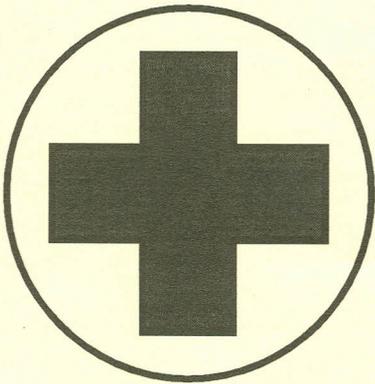


The C.P.R. course will now include "Preventing Disease Transmission" and "Lifting and moving victims."

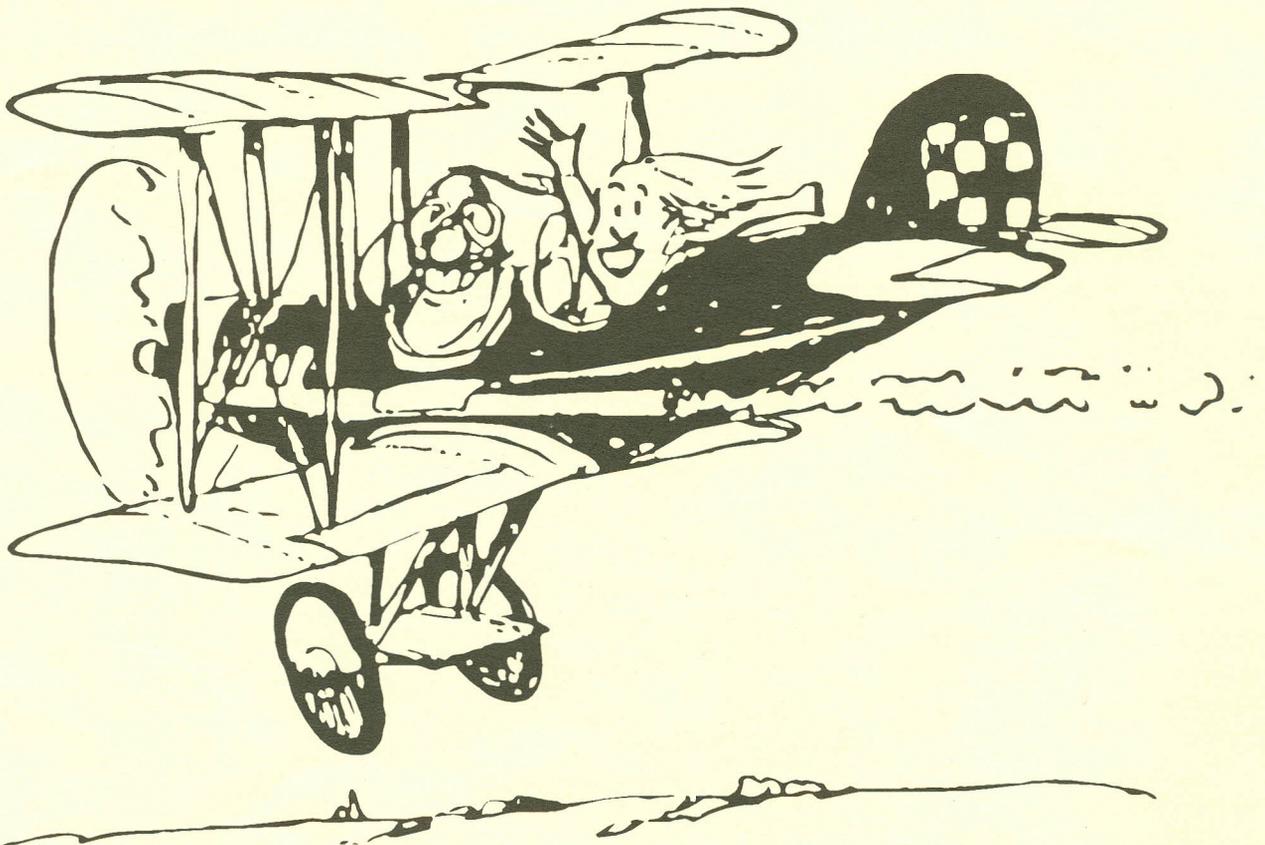
There is a change in the skill of the obstructed unconscious victim. Instead of initially re-tilting the head and trying two breaths again, they want you to re-tilt the head and try again as part of the cycle, every time you give two breaths.

As part of the "Breathing Devices" training, you will be taught to use mechanical suctioning and airway inserts (oropharyngeal airways and nasopharyngeal airways).

An optional Automatic External Defibrillators (AED) course will available as an introduction to their uses. This course does not certify you in actually being able to use AED's in the field. The Red Cross expects to see more AED's available to us and other professionals in the next few years and are merely preparing themselves.



Don't Forget the San Luis Obispo Conference, March 9-12



Suspect in Ranger Shooting Convicted

by John Havicon

Those of you following my case of the suspect that shot me are probably as surprised as I am. Instead of charging the suspect, James Peacock with attempted murder of a Peace Officer, the jury reduced the charge to attempted manslaughter. I just can't believe that the elements of this crime meet the definition of manslaughter. I asked the District Attorney handling the case what happened. She told me that the decision was based on one juror who felt that Mr. Peacock shouldn't be charged with attempted murder because he was "such a young

man and this would ruin his life." The rest of the jury decided to compromise with the manslaughter charge instead of calling for a mistrial. I think the truth was that the case lasted two weeks because of court delays and they were just tired and wanted to go home.

Obviously, I am disappointed. The jury left me with the feeling that they didn't really care what this did to me. They left the message that since I'm a Peace Officer, I should expect these things to happen. I'm sorry, but this

is backwards. No Law Enforcement Officer should ever expect to be shot at as a routine part of their job. This man displayed the ultimate disrespect for the law by trying to kill me.

Mr. Peacock's sentencing is December 5. He can get up to 15 years. I will definitely be there for his sentencing and am going to ask the judge for the maximum. Mr. Peacock deserves more. In spite of all of this, I am just very thankful to be alive and healthy and I am glad to see this event in my life coming to a close. Thank you all for your support.

Photoshoot At The Refuge

By Sandy Ferreira

In November, I had the opportunity to reserve a Photo Blind at the Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge so that I could photograph wildlife, primarily migratory birds. This was a fun and rewarding experience that I'd like to share with you. To start with, photographers must be in the blind before sunrise. That meant getting up way before the crack of dawn, since I do live in the Greater Bay Area.

On arrival at the refuge, it was pitch black, my friend forgot to leave me my reservation card and more importantly, no waders!! Fortunately, I ran into another friend, a refuge employee who helped me out and gave me my waders. I asked Mike how deep the water was near the blind, his response was "without these waders" you'll be in trouble. So off I went.

To access Blind # 1, you have to follow the auto tour then park in the designated area. Look for the boat ramp on your left, walk down the ramp and into the water until you see the first guide stake. Fortunately, these stakes

are marked with reflectorized tape. If you didn't bring a flashlight, then you'd be in big trouble.

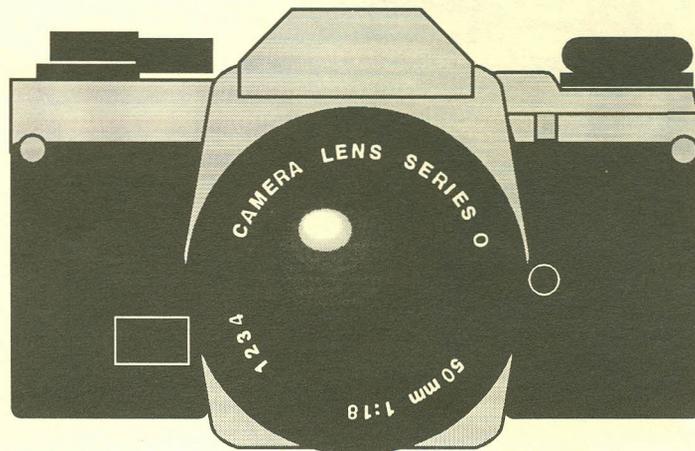
Once entering the water, I had to hike about 300-400 yards through open water, tules and a lot of tall grasses in the darkness. It was really fun. As I walked towards the blind, you could hear thousands of geese and ducks quacking and honking in the still air. Some sprung up and flew right pass me.

I finally reached the blind. It was a comfortable size, about 6X8, it had a single chair inside. There were several openings in the roof and sides

which enabled you to get a good picture of the birds at different angles.

Once I settled in, I poured myself a cup of hot coffee and waited for daylight. The blind has several snags out in front of it, so birds have a resting place and you can get a good close-up shot. The ideal lense to use would be a 300-500MM zoom or a 500MM. It was amazing to see so many birds. The majority I saw and photographed were white-fronts, pintails, green-wing teals, cinnamon teals, spoonies, Canada geese, widgeons and several species of hawks. This was really a good day for birding.

I stayed in the blind for about 3 hours then hiked back out to my vehicle and continued my photo opportunities on the auto tour. At the end of your day, the Refuge asks that you check out and return the reservation card then fill out a form which indicates the numbers and kinds of birds that you had seen that day. I can't think of a better and more rewarding way in which to spend a fantastic day....happy birding! !



Full-Time Instructor Park Management

West Valley College, Saratoga

Application Deadline is February 28, 1998

The Position:

Teaching responsibilities may include classes in interpretation, horticulture, report writing, search and rescue, wildland fire suppression, patrol procedures, and any other courses that relate to the Park Management Program. Other academic responsibilities will include developing new and revising existing curriculum and maintaining close liaison with colleges and universities that offer programs related to public and private land stewardship. Teaching assignments may require teaching day, evening, weekend classes and summer short courses. Other duties include coordinating advanced in-service training programs and liaison with public and private land management agencies. Applicants who possess the knowledge, skills and life experiences to address the cultural and educational needs of a linguistically and culturally diverse student population are encouraged to apply.

Assignment:

This is a full-time, 10-month, tenure track position as a Park Management Instructor. Employment will begin in the Fall 1998 semester (August, 1998). The work assignment for teaching faculty consists of class assignments that total a load factor of 1.00 each semester. There will be other responsibilities which are necessary for the effective and efficient operation of the Park Management Department, West Valley College and the West Valley-Mission Community College District.

Salary:

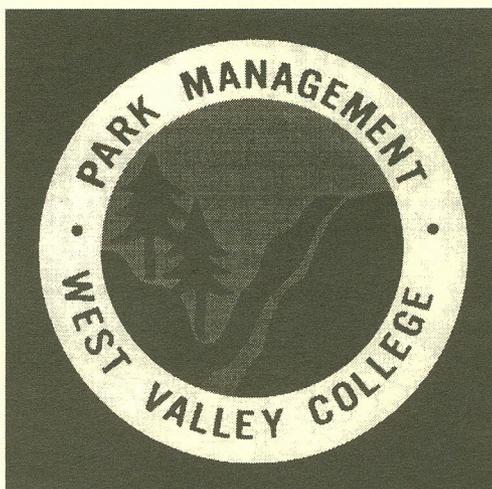
Placement on the Academic salary schedule is based on evaluation of the level of academic preparation and teaching and professional work experience. The 1997-1998 Academic Salary Schedule ranges from \$35,085-\$47,576 annually.

Minimum Qualifications:

1. Bachelor's degree in an appropriate discipline, such as Forestry, Natural Resources, Park Planning, Park Administration, or related disciplines with two years of experience OR Associates degree in the above disciplines with 6 years of experience OR possess a valid California Community College Credential in Forestry/Natural Resources or related disciplines AND also be able to qualify for instruction in Police Officer Standards and Training (P.O.S.T)
- OR
2. The equivalent of the above. Candidates who claim the equivalent qualifications must provide conclusive evidence of their qualifications. Please contact Human Resources at West Valley College for specifics.
 3. Demonstrate ability to effectively teach, counsel or work with persons of diverse academic, socio-economic, cultural, disability and ethnic backgrounds.

Desired Qualifications:

1. Minimum of two years (4160 hours) paid work experience with an agency where management of outdoor recreational activities is part of the daily duties.
2. Knowledge of significant current political and resource management issues facing public land management agencies.
3. Ability to effectively communicate verbally and in writing to a diverse student population.
4. Ability to effectively organize and teach a variety of related subjects to a diverse student population who have varied skill and ability levels.
5. Ability to effectively work with others, be innovative and function as part of a team.
6. Ability to problem solve effectively.
7. Experience in organizing and conducting in-service training sessions.
8. Ability to effectively use and integrate computer-based technology (either Windows or Macintosh platform) into teaching and other collegiate responsibilities.



Application And Inquiries:

Applications and inquiries should be directed to Human Resources, West Valley College, 14000 Fruitvale Avenue, Saratoga, CA 95070

VOICE: (408) 741-2155

TDD: (408) 741-2657

FAX: (408) 867-9059

Web site: <http://www.wvmccd.cc.ca.us>

2nd Pacific Flyway Wood Duck Symposium

February 6-7, 1998

University Of California Davis, CA.

by Sandy Ferreira

Anyone with a professional or personal interest in Wood Ducks, including waterfowl managers, biologists, waterfowl association members, ornithological members, Audubon society members, natural history groups and students with an interest in wetlands and waterfowl should plan on attending this symposium. Invited guest speakers include biologists and authors Art Hawkins and Frank Bellrose (authors of *Ducks, Geese and Swans of North America*, and *The Ecology and Management of the Wood Duck*). Both Art and Frank have played pivotal roles in studying and restoring Wood Duck populations in North America and are recognized as leading authorities on Wood Ducks and waterfowl.

On Friday, February 6 (Day 1) will focus on issues concerning the biology and management of Wood Ducks in the Pacific Fly-

way. On Saturday, February 7 (Day 2) will focus on Wood Ducks for Naturalists. This session will provide a variety of presentations and workshops on topics of interest to both the professional manager/biologist, and the enthusiastic naturalist with a cu-

riosity about Wood-Ducks and cavity-nesting wildlife.

The symposium will be held on the campus of the University of California at Davis, Ca. in conjunction with the Davis Duck Days Festival, an international celebration of waterfowl and wetlands held annually at Davis, and the California Waterfowl Association's annual Davis Dinner. This is an exceptional opportunity to take field trips off site and view wildlife at various refuges in the area, learn to build nest boxes and attend a number of workshops. Duck Days continues on Sunday, February 8.

If you would like to attend the symposium, contact UCD at 1 -916-757-3180, ATTN: Teresa Brown, and for information about the Duck Days Festival, the California Waterfowl Association at (916) 648-1406.



One For The Good Guys

By Samantha Moss

Yorba Linda, CA—An Anaheim Park Ranger was robbed at a Lamppost Pizza last month. As the two robbers entered the building they told everyone to hit the ground. They put a hand-gun to the head of one customer and told everyone else not to move. The Anaheim Ranger did exactly what they said. The Anaheim Park Ranger remembered his training "Don't be a Hero." "Be the eyes and ears for the police" remember every detail and report it. He did exactly that, after the suspects left he went to the window wrote down the license plate number. He called 911 and informed the dispatcher the description of the two suspects height, approximate weight, hair color, clothing and the make and model of the car. All the information went over the Red Channel. This channel broadcasts to all Orange County Law Enforcement units. The vehicle was spotted in Fullerton by a Fullerton Police Officer and the chase concluded in Buena Park. Both suspects were apprehended.

We later found out that the two suspects, one from Compton and the other from L.A. had shot and fatal wounded an off duty law enforcement officer at a hair salon they robbed earlier in the day. The officer was shot in the head after the robbers discovered he was in Law Enforcement. The officer did not offer any resistance. One of the police officers from Buena Park said "If it wasn't for the information and description the Anaheim Park Ranger gave, the suspects probably would've never been apprehended."

Smitty' Book Report

Several months ago, I wrote a review of a book about fire. It was titled **Fire in the World**, and was written by Stephen Pyne of Arizona State University. At the Santa Rosa Conference, one presenter at a session on fire kept referring to another book by Pyne, titled **Fire in America**. Being a book "freak," I immediately set out on a mission to find it. I tried all my favorite haunts. Barnes and Noble and even the Gallery in Mendocino, and came up empty. I tried to have them order it. Out of print, they said. I even had my brother-in-law in Arizona go to the ASU bookstore. No luck. Then, the first of November, my luck changed. My wife and I were on our annual "honeymoon" to the Little River Inn in Mendocino, and the trip prompted a return to the Gallery. There it was! **Pyne's Fire in America**. It is a second printing. Never know what you can find when you "graze" through the local bookshop.

Fire in America was worth the wait. Steven Pyne is not only a professor at Arizona State, but had spent a seasonal "lifetime" as a member of a fire crew on the North Rim of the Grand Canyon as an National Park Service employee. He has "been there, done that." The book opened my eyes a lot about fire in this country. Oh yes, I had read bits and pieces here and there. I also knew that the Indian had a great deal to do with the fire history in this country. What I didn't know was the rest of the history about fire management in this country. I thought that it was basically a new concept in terms of historical time. Pyne takes us through that history. From the settlement of America up to the present, he follows the bouncing "political ball" and philosophical points of view in this book. He divides the country into "fire sections" which includes the South, (where it mostly all began), the Northeast, the Lake States, Northern Rockies, the Northwest, California, the Southwest, and Alaska. Also included in the book are chapters on the history of fire policy in the Forest Service and other governmental agencies.

Throw in the history of equipment, of manpower, of fire prevention and protection programs, and you have a very comprehensive book. Of course, there is a excellent chapter on fire ecology, as well. When I did my living history program in Yosemite, I did a lot of research about the army and its role in protecting the National Parks. Little did I realize that the early day Forest Service Rangers took their techniques from the cavalry in how to fight a fire. How they did it is right there on page 244.

Pyne "sprinkles" sayings throughout about fire from noted poets, educators, political figures, and even the Bible. **Fire in America** is a well written book about a very complex subject. It will take some time, however, because it is 531 pages long. I don't know if it ranks as a resource book. Certainly the chapter on fire ecology can be helpful. Maybe it might be a good book to do research from (there is a chapter on that, by the way) when you are trying to convince the political powers to do some prescribed fire. Using fire, as Pyne points out, has been a management tool since there has been an America.

The price is right. I paid \$25 for my copy. Plus tax, of course.

Pyne, Steven J. **Fire in America, A Cultural History of Wildland and Rural Fire**, University of Washington Press, Seattle Washington, 1997. 531 pages.

More Conference Arm Twisting

by Russ Hauck

One of the highlights of the Park Ranger Conference for me is the annual pistol shooting competition. It is a good-natured opportunity to engage in a competitive event that produces an incredibly high testosterone level. It really is a blast (no pun intended).

The pistol shooting competition is open to any conference attendee, male or female, even if your agency does not authorize firearms. If you own a handgun and would like to take part, we would love to have you join us. It is a lot of fun, and as a former first place winner, I welcome the challenge. I could use another plaque on my wall! (The good thing about "talkin' smack" in print is that you can reach so many people at one time, and they don't have the opportunity to offer a rebuttal until the next issue comes out). Hope to see you there.

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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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