On April 24th, my employer, the Marin Municipal Water District (MMWD), and PRAC hosted Bob Donohue’s “Gaining Voluntary Compliance” Workshop at MMWD’s Watershed Headquarters. Rangers and Park Professional from MMWD, Marin County Open Space District, California State Parks and Outdoors California attended. The workshop was outstanding, being a good refresher for those familiar with it and great for those new to the park ranger field. I highly recommend this training; agencies outside of Region 1 have expressed an interest in hosting the workshop, so look for it.

Presently, I’m putting together a Search and Rescue (SAR) Orientation Course that will be put on in Marin County in the fall. The course will cover SAR basics such as conducting a hasty search, interviewing involved parties, search management and working with SAR teams. Tentatively instructors will include SAR managers for the Marin County Sheriff’s Office (MCSO) and a MSCO Deputy who formerly ran the Napa County Sheriff’s SAR Team.

Speaking of SAR in April I was involved with two searches on Mount Tamalpais in little over a one week period. On the second search I was involved with the search from the initial report to end of first operational period. Once the MCSO SAR Team was on-scene I served as the agency liaison to the search management team and also worked closely with the plans. As rangers this can be one of the most important roles we can play in a search. We are the experts on our parks and this knowledge can be vital during any search to occur in or near our parks.

In an update from a previous story San Francisco has proposed in its 2007–08 Budget to add up to 12 park ranger positions to the Parks and Recreation Department. This is a dramatic improvement over the current situation in San Francisco, hopefully the positions get approved.

In other ranger and park news, Napa County voters approved a Regional Park and Open Space District last fall and that agency is now in its early stages of operation. As of June 6th, MMWD is moving at reinstating peace officer status to its rangers. Finally, fire season has begun earlier this year, in both Northern and Southern California, so for those of you with wildland fire duties be safe. Have a good summer.

The International Day of the Ranger (or World Ranger Day) will be held on July 31st. After some discussion amongst member associations during IRF2006 in Scotland, it was agreed that the International Day of the Ranger would be celebrated on the 31st of July annually. This is the date on which the IRF was born, when the accord establishing the IRF was signed at Losehill Hall in Peak District National Park. World Ranger Day 2007 promises to be a very special day, because it will be celebrated with the world premier of the ranger documentary, The Thin Green Line.

The Thin Green Line is a documentary of rangers around the world, filmed and produced by a ranger—Sean Willmore of Australia. Sean spent all of 2004 and still more time during 2005 travelling the world, working with and filming rangers. A preview of his documentary was screened during the Fifth IRF World Congress in Scotland and received a standing ovation. This documentary promises to be very special, as it shows the heart and the guts of a ranger.

There are a number of things that will make this premier a very special event for the rangers of the world, Sean has very generously offered to donate 100% of the profits of the event, and the sale of the DVD’s of the documentary, to the Rangers Dependents Fund. The premier of The Thin Green Line is to be a gala “green carpet” event to take place in more than 48 countries around the world all on the same day. The IRF has 58 members in 48 countries and we are asking each and every member association to arrange a premier gala event. Individual protected areas and even individual rangers can organize their own

(Story continues on page 2.)
From the President’s Patrol Truck

Wow, can you believe we are already through June and heading into July? It seems like I just stopped to take a breath to get ready for memorial weekend and BAM! we are into the 90 days of fun. This time of year there aren’t too many issues going on in the PRAC office. The conference team slows down a bit and we all pretty much concentrate on customer service in our parks.

Speaking about customer service, how is yours? Are you tired of answering the same question for the 100th time? Have you emptied the same trash can so many times you wonder if it fills up the moment you put the new liner in it? Just remember that we are in the business of customer service. As park professionals we put ourselves into the shoes of our visitors to better understand how to serve them in a way that will provide an enjoyable experience for this and future generations.

Smile often, listen even more and enjoy your job because it’s the best in the world.

Oh, there is one order of business that I forgot to mention. Look for upcoming fire management trainings being offered by Region 4 Director Dave Updike and MRCA. Region 5 Director Sara Girard will be arranging a power saw training. In addition to the awesome trainings in southern California, Dave and Sarah will be putting on an end of the year BBQ for Regions 4 & 5.

until next time.

Lee

International Day of the Ranger

(Continued from page 1)

own premier events. The aim is for 500 premieres of The Thin Green Line documentary to be held in at least 50 countries around the world on International Rangers Day. The premier will also be the launch of the Friends of the IRF campaign, an initiative that offers members of the public subscription (not membership) to the IRF in a few categories of “ranger” for a small annual fee, which can provide much needed funding for the IRF.

Not only is The Thin Green Line a very special documentary about rangers, it is also an event that has the potential to be a significant fund raising opportunity for the Ranger Dependents Fund, and through the Friends initiative to provide sustainable operational financing for the IRF. The IRF is not only growing, but the issues that are faced by rangers around the world are increasing and becoming more complex, which requires that the IRF grow to new organizational level in order to serve the needs of the rangers and the profession of ranger into the future.

I would urge, indeed beg, all IRF member associations and even individual rangers who believe in their profession and care for their fellow rangers to get out and arrange a premier event of The Thin Green Line. Details on how to do this can be obtained on the documentary’s website (www.thingreenline.info) or through Sean directly (seanwillmore@iprimus.com.au). It is easy to organize and an information/registration pack will be sent out to you on request. You are of course at all times also more than welcome to contact me directly.

David Zeller
The Mountains Recreation & Conservation Authority along with PRAC will be hosting a showing of the documentary on July 31st in Calabasas, California. There will be a silent auction held by the MRCA and proceeds go towards Ranger Dependents Fund. For more information contact Jewel Johnson via e-mail: jewel.johnson@mrca.ca.gov

David Updike, Fire Management Officer
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“The Lucky Tree”  
by Sara Girard

There once stood a mighty oak tree. On this oak tree were thousands and thousands of acorns. One of these acorns was a Lucky Acorn. One day, a scrub jay flew by and plucked the Lucky Acorn off the tree. Just as the Lucky Acorn was enjoying its ride, the scrub jay landed on the ground and shoved it into a hole and covered it over with leaves.

The Lucky Acorn sat in the ground undisturbed and was quite comfortable for several months. This was a Lucky Acorn because it was not eaten by the squirrels or birds. Rainwater soaked into the ground and all around the Lucky Acorn, making it moist. The seasons changed and springtime came. The rain stopped and now sunlight warmed the earth where the Lucky Acorn was safely buried.

Soon, the Lucky Acorn grew bigger and bigger and stronger and stronger until it stretched out above the earth’s surface. The Lucky Acorn was now a Lucky Sprout. This was a Lucky Sprout because it was not eaten by the deer or rabbits that scampared around. Fresh air and warm sunshine greeted the Lucky Sprout. Over the next few years, the Lucky Sprout grew bigger and bigger and stronger and stronger until it eventually became a Lucky Sapling.

When the local Native American children went out looking for a small tree to make an arrow, they did not harm the Lucky Sapling. When the local Native American children went out looking for a small tree to make an arrow, they did not harm the Lucky Sapling. With each passing season and with each passing year, the Lucky Sapling grew bigger and bigger and stronger and stronger, until it eventually became a Lucky Tree.

When the European settlers needed logs to build a home, they thought the Lucky Tree was better for shade and did not cut it down. Later, when the farmers needed lumber for a wagon they rested under the Lucky Tree, then continued their work. When the seasonal winds blew, the Lucky Tree stood tall and proud. When the seasonal fires came, the thick bark protected the Lucky Tree. Everyone agreed that this was a Lucky Tree.

Over 100 years went by and the Lucky Tree eventually became a mighty oak, just like its mother. It grew bigger and bigger and stronger and stronger for another 100 years, and then another 100 years. Every year, the Lucky Tree produced thousands and thousands of acorns to feed the animals and to grow more oak trees. The Lucky Tree eventually became part of a new park.

Today, people come from near and far to visit the Lucky Tree. Some people come to take photos of the Lucky Tree. Some people come to picnic with their children underneath the Lucky Tree. Some people come just to rest in the shade of Lucky Tree. School children give the Lucky Tree big hugs. They hold hands to see how many kids it takes to form a circle around the Lucky Tree’s massive trunk. This is a Lucky Tree because it is loved.

I am sad to report that on March 11, 2007, the Lucky Tree was lost to fire at Santiago Oaks Regional Park, in Orange County, California. It was estimated to be 300–500 years old.

The Lucky Tree is gone, but not forgotten. It is forever stored in the memories of anyone who ever met the Lucky Tree. It is remembered though all the animals that used the Lucky Tree for food and shelter. It is remembered by all the oak trees that were once little acorns on the Lucky Tree.

The “Lucky Tree” story was written by a dedicated retired volunteer park ranger, Spike O’Connell, about a real tree in Orange County. Spike’s story was presented to thousands of school children.

Natural Resources Communication Workshop

The Natural Resources Communication Workshop, sponsored by the Western Section of The Wildlife Society, will be held at California State University, Chico from January 7–11, 2008. The week-long workshop is designed to help natural resource workers more effectively communicate with general as well as technical audiences through personal presentations using good visual aids, especially computer-generated PowerPoint images. 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 computer-generated graphics, avoiding PowerPoint presentation “pitfalls,” and handling equipment problems. A special session entitled “Verbal Victories” provides hints for handling difficult, or even hostile, audiences.

Participants in the 2008 workshop will not only learn professional tips for using PowerPoint, but also will gain exposure to Photoshop Elements (a great digital photo editing and cataloging program).

The workshop will have two instructors for 2008. Dr. Jon Hooper is a Certified Wildlife Biologist (CWB) and Certified Interpretive Trainer (CIT) who has taught communication

(Story continues on page 7.)
OAKLAND - Some of America’s richest and largest farms are paying pennies for the vast amounts of electricity needed to deliver irrigation water to California’s arid Central Valley.

In 2002 and 2003, agribusinesses in the Central Valley Project (CVP) paid only about one cent per kilowatt-hour for electricity to transport irrigation water, according to a 15-month investigation by Environmental Working Group (EWG). Compared to Pacific Gas & Electric’s agricultural rate, that’s an annual subsidy of more than $100 million from U.S. taxpayers.

EWG’s report is available at www.ewg.org. It shows both the price paid by each CVP irrigation district in the years studied and the amount of energy the district used.

Every year the CVP, the nation’s largest federally subsidized irrigation system, moves more than 2 trillion gallons of water through 1,500 miles of canals. The electricity needed to move water around the CVP would power every home in Chico for 18 months. But just as CVP contractors pay heavily subsidized rates for their water, they pay next to nothing for the power that delivers it.

Through the federal Freedom of Information Act, EWG obtained U.S. Bureau of Reclamation documents that enabled us to calculate, for the first time, the rate paid by CVP agribusinesses and the value of their power subsidy. We found:

CVP power rates were 10 to 15 times lower than PG&E’s industrial, agricultural or residential rates.

In Westlands Water District, the largest and most politically powerful irrigation district in the CVP, power subsidies in 2002 were worth about $165,000 per farm.

The CVP power sold to farms by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation is essentially unregulated. No government agency, other than the Bureau itself, oversees its rates.

“In an era when other Californians have been rocked by volatile electricity prices and the constant threat of rolling blackouts, a few thousand agribusinesses are guaranteed dirt-cheap power, courtesy of U.S. taxpayers,” said EWG Senior Analyst Renee Sharp, lead investigator for the report.

“These subsidies are not helping small farms survive, but padding the profits of the biggest and richest farms.”

Cheap power is just the tip of the iceberg of federal subsidies to the CVP:

Department of Agriculture data show that from 1995 to 2004, CVP agribusinesses received more than $890 million in direct commodity payments, mostly for cotton and rice.

An earlier EWG investigation conservatively estimated the value of CVP water subsidies at $416 million in 2002.

In total, federal subsidies to the CVP easily top more than half a billion dollars a year and could well reach $1 billion all at taxpayers’ expense.

The report recommends that CVP agribusinesses should be required to pay prices approximating market rate for the power used to store and move irrigation water. A federal agency should regulate power rates to ensure system fairness, and should make these rates publicly available. CVP contractors, and contractors in other federal water projects, should not be allowed to “double-dip” and “triple-dip” on federal subsidies.

CONTACT: Bill Walker or Renee Sharp, (510) 444-0973

EWG is a nonprofit research organization based in Washington, DC that uses the power of information to protect human health and the environment. The group’s research on Power Subsidies is available online at

http://www.ewg.org/reports/powersubsidies/.
Tuberculosis – A Growing Threat
by Pam Helmke

Recent headlines have brought new light to an old problem, TB—Tuberculosis. TB is an infectious disease caused by the Mycobacterium tuberculosis organism. TB is a chronic, bacterial infection that, according to the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, affects some 2 billion people—or about 1/3 of the world’s population.

TB typically infects the lungs but can infect other body organs. A large portion of the infected population will carry the bacterium without showing any symptoms (called Latent TB). Patients infected with TB are most at risk of developing the active (or infectious) form of the disease in the first year after infection. Some patients can take years to develop the active form of the disease.

In the United States the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention reported some 14,000 cases of active TB and estimate there are 10–15 million people in the U.S. with the latent form of the disease (2005 data).

Populations at risk for developing TB include:

- **Persons with HIV/AIDS:** these patients are very vulnerable to all infections due to their compromised immune status and they are more likely to develop the active form of the disease when first infected.

- **Foreign Born Nationals:** People born in countries where TB is particularly prevalent are likely to be infected due to the high exposure rate. Africa, Asia and Latin America are areas with high infection rates.

- **Homeless/Injection Drug Users:** TB is very active within overcrowded shelters, jails and prisons. People weakened by poor nutrition, drug abuse, and alcohol abuse may be more susceptible to infection.

TB is primarily an airborne disease. Spread from person to person by tiny droplets expelled from the infected person when they cough, sneeze, speak, sing, or even laugh. Signs and symptoms of TB are vague and can include weight loss, fever, night sweats, and loss of appetite, cough, chest pain and bloody sputum.

Diagnosis is typically done by the tuberculin skin test. A health care provider will inject a small amount of tuberculin under the skin of the forearm. After 72 hours the site will be inspected for a red welt. A positive skin test only indicates a patient has been exposed to the TB bacterium or to a bacterium related to M. tuberculosis. Some people from foreign counties were the population is vaccinated for TB may also have a positive skin test.

To confirm the results of the skin tests Doctors rely on signs and symptoms, past medical history, x-rays and sputum cultures. Since the M. Tuberculosis bacterium is a very slow growing organism it can take over 4 weeks for lab tests to confirm the diagnosis.

As public safety personal with a duty to provide emergency medical care. Park Rangers should be trained in and provided with basic personal protective equipment for use when working with high risk populations. TB can be preventable disease when proper safety equipment is used. Gowns, eye protection, and special respirators will provide a high level of protection when used correctly. A single use, disposable respirator rated by the CDC as N95 is indicated when working with a suspected TB patient. To be effective the N95 respirator must be fit tested annually to assure proper use and size. Public safety personnel with facial hair will not be able to obtain a seal on the respirator and will increase their risk of exposure. Regular medical check-ups and an annual skin test may be also be recommended by your health care provider.

For more information on TB:

- **National Library of Medicine MedlinePlus**
  8600 Rockville Pike
  Bethesda, MD 20894
  [www.medlineplus.gov](http://www.medlineplus.gov)

- **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention**
  1600 Clifton Road
  Atlanta, GA 30333
  [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)

- **World Health Organization**
  Avenue Appia 20
  1211 Geneva 27
  Switzerland
  [www.who.int](http://www.who.int)

It’s Grunion Season

Each year from March until August the grunion return to the beach. California grunion are a species of marine fish found only along the coast of southern California and northern Baja California. The grunion are famous for their unusual spawning technique. High tides bring the fish high onto the beach where they lay their eggs in the sand. Two weeks later the next high tide waves hatch the eggs and the tiny grunion swim out to sea.

No beach cleaning is preformed below the high tide line during grunion season. No taking of grunion is permitted during April and May. During other months, no gear is permitted so collection may take place only with bare hands and a fishing license is required.

For more information on grunion and a schedule of grunion runs go to [www.grunion.org](http://www.grunion.org).
BOSTON - With the unofficial launch of the summer season this past weekend, the state has only five park rangers assigned to the 400,000 acres of parkland outside Greater Boston, but 50 assigned to patrol the State House—a distribution level protected by the Legislature.

“I think a lot of people would expect that park rangers would be out in the parks,” said Tad Ames, president of the Berkshire Natural Resources Council, who said October Mountain State Forest in Lee is a law enforcement “no-man’s land,” plagued by litter, illicit parties, and the illegal use of off-road vehicles.

Since the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, the Legislature has provided hundreds of thousands of additional dollars in order to strengthen security at the 600,000-square-foot State House, increasing the number of rangers from about 30 to its current level. But the number of park rangers patrolling the 156 state parks beyond the metropolitan area has remained steady, at just a handful. Only 17 rangers patrol the 222 heavily used urban parks closer to the city, while 16 guard state watersheds.

“I honestly will tell you, there is nowhere in the state, in my estimation, in the state parks that I know my program is doing an adequate job,” said Curt Rudge, Massachusetts’ chief park ranger. “Without adequate staffing, how can you? It’s just not physically possible.”

Governor Deval Patrick tried to eliminate a budget category that dedicated money to the rangers at the State House by consolidating it with the overall parks budget, which would have given his Conservation and Recreation commissioner more flexibility to assign rangers across the state. But during the budget process, the House set aside money for the State House rangers again, ensuring that the funds could be used for no other purpose. The Senate followed suit in its budget proposal. And both the House and Senate proposed slightly increasing spending on the State House rangers for the next fiscal year to $1.9 million.

“If there is a need for additional park rangers at the state parks that we all treasure, then those need to be discussed and if possible addressed, but they shouldn’t come at the expense of security at the State House,” said David Guarino, a spokesman for House Speaker Salvatore F. DiMasi. He added that it costs the state less to have rangers guard the State House than it would to have police perform that function.

Some environmental advocates object to the deployment of trained park rangers—complete with khaki shirts, green pants, and Smokey Bear-style broad-brimmed hats—to guard the State House, a job the rangers have been doing since 1995, when the Legislature evicted the State Police.

“It’s a misuse of the state ranger force,” said Jack Clarke, director of public policy and government relations at the Massachusetts Audubon Society. “Let’s put the rangers in the field, where they belong.”

Rudge, however, said that even if he had more flexibility, he would not cut the number of rangers at the State House. At least 50 rangers, he said, are needed to adequately guard the building and the streets surrounding it 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. In addition to screening people and bags with X-ray and magnetometer machines at three entrances, the rangers run a dispatch center in the bowels of the State House, patrol the corridors, handle illegally parked cars, and patrol the perimeter of the building. Just last week, a sharp-eyed ranger spotted a backpack on the State House roof, he said; upon investigation, he discovered two mischievous Boston College students had crawled onto the roof and climbed up to the cupola.

“You’ve certainly got to look at your priorities, and there’s a huge priority right now for the State House,” Rudge said. “It’s really a significant responsibility for us.”

But in the meantime, hundreds of thousands of acres of state forests, beaches, and lakes have far less protection than they need. While many state parks have workers in charge of maintenance forestry, programming, and other functions, rangers are supposed to be patrolling the parks to keep them safe for visitors and to protect the parks’ natural resources from abuse. Park employees reported more than 3,500 incidents in the state parks outside Greater Boston between 2002 and 2006, ranging from fires to fights to illegal dumping, according to data provided by the Department of Conservation and Recreation.

Rudge acknowledged that the five rangers patrolling the state parkland outside of the metropolitan area—a sixth position is vacant—are overwhelmed. But he said the rangers do their best to focus on “hot spots” and try to work out a plan to head them off, he said. They rely heavily on the help of the state and local police and state environmental police, all of which, Rudge said, are also strapped for resources.

“We get all sorts of things that take place in parks when nobody’s there,” Rudge said.

In Willard Brook State Forest, which sprawls across 2,600 acres north of Fitchburg, off-road vehicles regularly tear up trails, even though they are forbidden in the forest, said Emily Norton, president of the Friends of Willard Brook, a citizens’ organization that sponsors activities and clean-up trails. “It’s just not physically possible.”

(Story continues on page 6)
natural resources
communication workshop

(workeded from page 3)

workshops for 30 years in locations around the country. He holds degrees in environmental communication and wildlife ecology. Mr. Ethan Rotman works with the California Department of Fish and Game as the coordinator of the Fishing in the City program in the San Francisco Bay Area. He is a Certified Interpretive Trainer (CIT), Certified Interpretive Guide (CIG), and Certified Interpretive Manager (CIM). Ethan has over 25 years experience as an environmental interpreter and communicator and provides group training and personal coaching with his company SpeakEASY.

The workshop has been sponsored by the Western Section of The Wildlife Society for 37 years. The deadline for applications is October 31, 2007; the course fee is $695. Late applications are accepted (they're placed on a waiting list in case of cancellations).

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, (3) any special reasons why they feel they should be chosen as a participant, and (4) if they already have official agency/organization approval to attend. Applicants should include their address, phone number, fax number, and email address with their application. 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, contact Jon by calling (530) 898-5811, faxing (530) 898-6557, or e-mailing jhooper@csuchico.edu.

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rangers flood state house instead of state parks
(continued from page 6)

ups there. Illegal dumpers leave refrigerators, televisions, tires, and water heaters to rot in the woods, she said. This year, after the Friends' annual winter carnival, someone even stole an ice sculpture of a black bear that the group had commissioned for the event, she said.

Norton said the park's three year-round staff workers are spread thin even though additional help arrives during camping season. She said she was not sure she had ever seen a ranger.

“They don't come around here, as far as I know,” she said.

The park rangers took over responsibility for State House security 12 years ago, after lawmakers decided they had had enough of the State Police handling security on Beacon Hill. Lawmakers complained that troopers had been rude to staff and members and had cracked down on legislators' cherished parking privileges.

But rangers, who are unarmed and have no authority to arrest people, still rely on the State Police to handle any serious incidents. Troopers maintain a station at 1 Ashburton Place, a nearby state office building, and they regularly patrol the State House. Recently their presence, which was increased after the terrorist attacks, was scaled back somewhat because the extra security seemed unnecessary, said State Police Lieutenant Paul Maloney, the station commander.

When it first took over security, the Metropolitan District Commission—one of two parks agencies that merged several years ago to become the Department of Conservation and Recreation—hired new rangers to replace the 30 state troopers who had been guarding the State House. After the terrorist attacks, access to the State House changed dramatically. The 21 open public entrances were reduced to three and metal detectors were installed to prevent people from carrying weapons or bombs into the building. The new security requirements created demand for at least 50 rangers, Rudge said.

“I honestly cannot see how we could get away with fewer staff,” he said, adding that the lack of serious security problems at the State House suggests that the staffing level there is about right.

Rudge said he would like to be able to say the same about the rangers' presence at the parks.

“In the east, the parks are smaller, but there is intense usage,” he said. “Then you get to the western end of the state, and maybe they're not as intensely used, but we're covering 12,000 to 14,000 acres in a park, and there's seven or eight per region. You couldn't drive down every cart road in some of our parks in a week.”

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### Membership Application

**Name**

**Address**

**City** | **State** | **Zip**
---|---|---

**Phone**

- Home
- Work

**Email Address**

**Employer or School**

**Job Classification or Major**

### Voting Membership

- Regular..................................................... $50
- Retired...................................................... $35

### Non-Voting Membership

- Agency:
  - (1-25 persons—6 mailings).............. $100
  - 25 persons—12 mailings)............... $150
- Student................................................. $20
- Associate.............................................. $35
- Supporting.......................................... $100

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**First Class**

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Submission deadlines are the last day of January, March, May, July, September, and November.

email: dprangerd@ix.netcom.com