



## EBRPD News (Region 1)

by Ken Wong

On January 10, 2009, Pilot/Ofc. Kevin Iacovoni, Volunteer Flight Medic Jared Apperson and Det. Kenneth Wong (Tactical Flight Officer) of the East Bay Regional Park Police were on aerial patrol (police helicopter “Eagle 7”) over the regional parks in Alameda County.

During the patrol, a call of a “person down” was dispatched in the blind to any units in the area of Anthony Chabot Regional Park, Alameda County. The crew in Eagle 7 responded to the area and conducted a search for the injured person. During the search, they were advised that an elderly male, who was participating in a cross country running event had suffered a heart attack.

Eagle 7 was directed by persons on the ground to the victim’s location. Ofc. Iacovoni landed the helicopter and Medic Apperson and Det. Wong off boarded with emergency medical gear.

Medic Apperson and Det. Wong arrived on scene and found off duty San Ramon Valley FD Paramedic Brian Medley and other people providing CPR/1st aid to Lee Schmidt who was unconscious on the ground. Medic Apperson assisted with the CPR effort and Det. Wong coordinated with the other responding emergency personnel. When Schmidt was stable, he was transported to a REACH Life Flight helicopter that landed nearby. Schmidt was air lifted to Stanford Medical Center for treatment.

On April 20, 2010, the East Bay Regional Park District–Board of Directors and the Bay Area Chapter of the Sudden Cardiac Arrest Association presented the above personnel, honorable service awards for their life saving action. According to Mr. Schmidt and his family, he underwent several treatments for his medical condition and was fortunate not to have any lasting ill effects of his heart attack.



*(Left to Right) Kenneth Wong; Brian Medley; Lee Schmidt; Jared Apperson; Doug Siden (EBRPD - President of the Board); Chief Timothy Anderson; Kevin Iacovoni; Lt. Steve Drewniany (Sunnyvale DPS and SCAA)*

# Threats & Attacks Against Park Rangers on Rise

Posted: Thursday, May 27, 2010

by Mead Gruve, Associated Press Writer

Laramie, Wyo.

An environmental group that advocates on behalf of government employees worries anti-government rhetoric fueled a surge in attacks and threats last year against law enforcement rangers in national parks.

The group Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility said it used the Freedom of Information Act to compile a list of 158 threats and attacks against law enforcement rangers in national parks in 2009. That's up from 36 tallied in 2008 and the previous high of 111 in 2004.

The group's executive director, Jeff Ruch, said he's concerned anti-government sentiment is partly to blame. People just don't have a high level of respect for park rangers like they did in the past, he said Wednesday.

"There's certainly a change in public attitude," Ruch said. "The exact cause of that may take a social scientist. But there isn't the same warm and fuzzy feeling most people remember as the good old days."

Some rhetoric lately sounds like the "sagebrush rebellion" against federal land managers out West in the 1990s, he said.

The PEER numbers are surprising and the Park Service hasn't studied what caused the increase, said David Barna, the agency's chief of public affairs. But the numbers are worth looking into, he said.

"We can't always stop the number of assaults on our staff, but we can equip and train to respond to them," Barna said.

The number of documented incidents varied widely by park.

PEER documented none in the heavily visited Grand Canyon and Yellowstone national parks. Other popular parks such as Redwoods and Yosemite in California had several. Lake Mead National Recreation Area in Nevada led with 58 incidents.

Ruch said reporting inconsistency from park to park probably accounts for the variation. He criticized the Park Service for not doing more to track threats and assaults on all park employees including law enforcement rangers.

The Park Service is improving by implementing a new tracking system, Barna said.

Incidents nationwide ranged from verbal threats by people told to leash their dogs to drinking and drug-related confrontations. PEER also documented confrontational traffic stops, including a car chase, on the 444-mile Natchez Trace Parkway in Mississippi, Alabama and Tennessee.

The Park Service has a long history of downplaying violence and threats against park staff, said Paul Berkowitz, a recently retired Park Service law enforcement officer whose 33-year career included duty in Yosemite and Grand Canyon.

"It goes against the image of what we envision national parks to be," he said.

## Notes submitted by Park Ranger Marie D. Fong

*As if by random coincidence, I read this article on the Sunday morning before my shift started during this busy Memorial Day Weekend. Knowing I was the only Ranger on in my District for the entire holiday weekend was daunting and by Sunday morning my morale was low and concerns for the remainder of the weekend were high. This article would seem to be another hit to my morale, but later in the day, while scrubbing graffiti off a trash can I was berated by an exceedingly large family who was enraged that the bathroom was out of toilet paper. As the main instigator railed against "lazy government employees who spend their days wasting their hard earned money" and "whiling away natural resources" it was actually refreshing to know that I wasn't the only one in this predicament illustrated by PEER. As a rule I tend to avoid delving into the many overwhelming challenges Park Professionals face unless there is a solution to be found or reached, but in this case I think a feeling of solidarity and universality may be an underlying gift at the start of this busy season.*



# Le Societe de Camaraderie Hosed Charity Pistol by Ken Wong

On May 8, 2010, the *Le Societe de Camaraderie* hosted a charity pistol match at the Alameda County Sheriff's Office Regional Training Center. There were approximately 40 shooters who participated in the match. There were raffles, BBQ and vendors at the event. All proceeds from the match went to the Children's Diabetic Fund and everyone at the match had a fun time.

The "Camaraderie" is a professional law enforcement association founded in the late 1930's by Oakland Police Officers, when state law prohibited a club/organization composed entirely of police officers for the betterment and welfare of its officers.

The East Bay Regional Park Police Association graciously paid for some of their interested members to participate in the match. I would like to thank and recognize their participation.



*Ofc. Matt Little*



*Ofc. Josh Godwin*



*Officer Chuck Torres with his son*



*Det. Kenneth Wong*



*Ofc. Chris Spencer*

"I think the environment should be put in the category of our national security. Defense of our resources is just as important as defense abroad. Otherwise what is there to defend?"

**Robert Redford,**  
actor, director, and environmentalist

**Park Rangers Association of California  
Board Officers 2010**

**President**

DAVE Updike  
(310) 858-7272 EXT. 123  
FAX: (310) 858-7212  
E-Mail: [president@CalRanger.org](mailto:president@CalRanger.org)

**Region 1 Director**

KEN WONG  
(510) 206-0803  
E-Mail: [region1@CalRanger.org](mailto:region1@CalRanger.org)

**Region 2 Director**

PAM Helmke  
Cell: (408) 201-2886  
E-Mail: [region2@CalRanger.org](mailto:region2@CalRanger.org)

**Region 3 Director**

David Moskat  
(916) 875-6672  
Cell: (916) 342-0105  
E-Mail: [region3@CalRanger.org](mailto:region3@CalRanger.org)

**Region 4 Director**

DAVE STERLING  
(562) 570-1765  
FAX: (562) 570-1134  
E-Mail: [region4@CalRanger.org](mailto:region4@CalRanger.org)

**Region 5 Director**

SARA GIRARD  
(949) 923-2252  
FAX: (949) 509-6685  
E-Mail: [region5@CalRanger.org](mailto:region5@CalRanger.org)

**Region 6 Director**

MARIE D. FONG  
Cell: (775) 813-3629  
FAX: (775) 828-6614  
E-Mail: [region6@CalRanger.org](mailto:region6@CalRanger.org)

**Past President**

LEE HICKINBOTHAM JR  
(408) 483-0174  
FAX: (408) 354-8623  
E-Mail: [pastpresident@CalRanger.org](mailto:pastpresident@CalRanger.org)

**The Signpost Editor**

David Brooks  
(831) 336-2948  
FAX: (831) 335-1178  
E-Mail: [newsletter@CalRanger.org](mailto:newsletter@CalRanger.org)

**Scholarship**

Bill Hendricks  
(805) 756-1246  
FAX: (805) 756-1402

**Executive Manager**

BETSY ANDERSON  
(707) 884-3949  
FAX: (707) 884-1945  
E-Mail: [office@CalRanger.org](mailto:office@CalRanger.org)

**WebMaster**

Jeff Price  
(805) 278-9201  
E-Mail: [webmaster@CalRanger.org](mailto:webmaster@CalRanger.org)

THE *Signpost* is published by THE PARK RANGERS ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA (PRAC). THE ASSOCIATION MAILING ADDRESS IS P.O. BOX 1533, STEWARTS POINT, CA, 95480.

THE *Signpost* Editor is DAVID BROOKS. ARTICLES OF 1,000 WORDS, OR LESS ARE WELCOME. ALL SUBMISSIONS BECOME PROPERTY OF PRAC AND MAY BE EDITED WITHOUT NOTICE.

SUBMISSIONS CAN BE MAILED TO DAVID BROOKS, 560 HILLCREST DR., BEN LOMOND, CA, 95005. INFORMATION CAN ALSO BE SUBMITTED BY TELEPHONE AT (831) 336-2948.

**Submission deadlines ARE THE LAST day of JANUARY, MARCH, May, July, SEPTEMBER, AND NOVEMBER.**

**email:**  
[prangerd@ix.netcom.com](mailto:prangerd@ix.netcom.com)

**MEMBERSHIP Application**

NAME _____		
address _____		
city _____	STATE _____	zip _____
PHONE _____		
HOME _____	work _____	
Email Address _____		
Employer or School _____		
Job Classification or Major _____		

Park Rangers Association of California  
P. O. Box 153  
Stewarts Point, CA 95480-0153

**First Class**

**Voting Membership**

REGULAR.....\$50 \_\_\_\_\_  
RETIRED.....\$35 \_\_\_\_\_

**Non-voting Membership**

AGENCY:  
(1-24 persons—6 mailings)..... \$100 \_\_\_\_\_  
25 persons—12 mailings)..... \$150 \_\_\_\_\_  
STUDENT.....\$20 \_\_\_\_\_  
ASSOCIATE.....\$35 \_\_\_\_\_  
SUPPORTING..... \$100 \_\_\_\_\_

Park Rangers Association of California  
P.O. Box 153, STEWARTS POINT, CA 95480