



The Signpost

March/April 1989

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POST-CONFERENCE ISSUE

Palm Springs Conference A Sizzling Success!

The setting was a beautiful desert oasis- Palm Springs, site of the 1989 PRAC-CSPRA-LEAGUE joint conference. This four day event wasn't all tropical drinks at poolside, and teeing off the first tee in balmy 90-degree weather though. The conference also had much substance for those rangers who attended:

OPENING SESSION: This gathering brought over 100 people to listen to Henry Agona, Director of the California Department of Parks & Recreation, and the presidents from PRAC, CSPRA, and LEAGUE. The following two panel discussions on resource management vs. facility development and situations involving park cooperative associations were also quite informative.

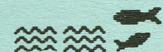
PRAC EDUCATIONAL FORUMS: Tom Hofsommer, PRAC Vice President, did an outstanding job organizing sessions on the Bay Area Ridge Trail, Off-Road Bicycling, and Homelessness in Parks. Each session packed the room, and generated enough interest to have gone well

past the time allotted. Hats off to Tom for a fantastic job!

CONFERENCE BANQUET: Two of PRAC's finest members were honored at this gala occasion. Pat Hayes from Fremont was awarded the first Professional Citation Award. Palo Alto's Jerry Lawrence, PRAC's first President, was the second recipient of a PRAC Honorary Membership. PRAC also presented CSPRA with a huge birthday cake honoring their 25th anniversary. Former Palm Springs mayor, Frank Bogart, presented an informative keynote speech before attendees danced the night away.

IN CLOSING: Congratulations to the organizing committee for a great job. For those who attended, I hope your experience was rewarding. See you next year in Chico!

Bill Hendricks
PRAC President



Highlights

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MARCH 9, 1989 PALM SPRINGS RACQUET CLUB

The following are highlights of the 1989 Spring Executive Board Meeting for PRAC:

VERBAL JUDO SEMINAR- Coastal Representative Annette Coleman suggested that PRAC sponsor a workshop on weaponless defense for rangers. Chris Crockett and Bruce Baker will join her in organizing this activity.

1990 TRAINING- Coastal Representative Glenn Kinney is working on sponsoring a two to three day Wildlands Firefighting class in the Spring of 1990.

SOUTHERN MEMBERSHIP INCREASE- Southern Representative Ernie Del Rio noted that membership in his region increased 95% in 1988.

TRAINING TAPES- Ernie Del Rio also will make "professional park ranger" training tapes on public contact available to PRAC agencies.

BAY RIDGE TRAIL RESOLUTION- PRAC member Dennis Danielson asked the Board to support by resolution the San Francisco Bay Ridge Trail Project. The Board approved a resolution of support.

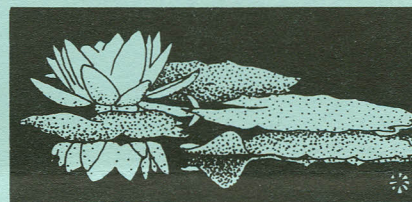
FALL WORKSHOP- PRAC President Bill Hendricks suggested that two concurrent sessions be offered. Topics presented for inclusion were staff management and interpretation. The Fall Workshop Committee consists of Bruce Baker, Chris

Crockett, Bill Hendricks, and Jerry Lawrence.

DUES RESTRUCTURING- The Board agreed to increase Student memberships to \$10, and Associate memberships to \$15. The increases are necessary to cover basic costs. The increases will take effect in October 1989.

1990 CONFERENCE- The 1990 Conference will be held March 6-9 in Chico, California.

PRAC SCHOLARSHIP- A \$200 scholarship was approved and will be awarded in the Summer of 1989.



VIRGINIA DALEY

Welcomes And Farewells On The PRAC Board

At the PRAC Board Meeting in Palm Springs, certificates of appreciation were presented to Coastal Representative Annette Coleman and Treasurer Bruce Baker for their outstanding service to the Association. Their enthusiasm on the Board will be missed.

New officers welcomed to the Board include:

COASTAL REPRESENTATIVES-

Glenn Kinney, LARPD
Judy Morris, City of Fremont
TREASURER- Barry Murphy,
Sacramento County

SOUTHERN REPRESENTATIVE- Ernie del Rio, Lake Cahuma.

PRAC 1988 Statement

AS OF 12/31/88

INCOME	
Memberships	\$2717
Training	1395
Interest Income	49
Sales	171
Conference	0
Savings Transfer	50
Scholarship Donations	350
Total	\$4732

EXPENSES	
Board Costs	\$1010
Publications	787
Bank Charges	3
Executive Fee	0
Travel	444
Conference	0
Training	440
Decals	164
Mugs	389
Scholarship	250
Awards	113
Refunds	45

Total	\$3645
Balance 1987	\$ 533
Income/Expenses	\$1087
Balance 1988	\$1619

1989 Budget

Approved March 9, 1989

INCOME	
Memberships	\$3000
Training	1530
Interest	115
Sales	150
Conference	574

Total \$5639

EXPENSES	
Executive Board	\$1124
Publications	1200
Service Charge	0
Manager Fee	600
Conference	250
Training	500
Awards	150
Travel	500
Scholarship	250
Consulting Fees	795

Total \$5639

Bruce T. Baker
Treasurer
March 1, 1989

Help California Wildlife On Your Tax Form

If, like the most of us,
you're still blankly looking
at your incomplete tax forms
here may be a little incentive
to get this burdensome task
done.

Check line 45 on your
California State Tax Return
and designate a few dollars to
protect the 254 species of
plants and animals endangered
in California. All your
donations are deductible.

Come on "kick in a couple for
the critters!"

City Of Los Angeles Survey On Ranger Qualifications Released To PRAC Members

**SUBMITTED BY BRUCE BAKER,
LOS GATOS PARKS & FORESTRY**

In February 1989, Anne Waisgerber from the City of Los Angeles Parks & Recreation Department submitted a survey of qualifications for park rangers in the State of California.

The survey was part of an effort to grant peace officer status to the City's ranger force. The Los Angeles City Council approved peace officer status for its rangers on February 1, 1989. Rangers are now receiving 320 hours of police academy training, but will remain unarmed.

Twenty-one park agencies responded to the survey. The following results were tabulated:

AGENCY TYPES- Seven agencies were municipal, one was state, three were special districts, and ten were county.

PEACE OFFICER STATUS- Nineteen agencies had rangers classified as peace officers. Two agencies had rangers classified as public officers.

SALARY RANGES- Ranger salaries ranged from \$17,000 to \$37,000. The State of California paid the best wage at top step. The City of Oakland paid the best at entry step at nearly \$26,000 per year.

Status Limitations- Out of 21 agencies polled, seven allowed their rangers to carry P.O.P.E. (Peace officer protective equipment). The remaining 14 agencies did not authorize use of P.O.P.E.

Training- All ranger agencies with peace officer status required a minimum of 40 hours training. All agencies, but one, who authorized use of P.O.P.E. required a minimum of 200 hours training.

It should be noted that this information is not truly comprehensive or current. But, it does show some trends which may be of interest to PRAC members.



Job Corner

The following agencies are recruiting for park ranger positions:

- PARK RANGER I
Don Pedro Recreation Agency,
deadline-TBA, call (209)
852-2396.
- PARK RANGER
Midpeninsula Regional Open
Space District, deadline-TBA,
call (415) 949-5500.

SAVE BODIE

Rangers Rise To Defend Bodie From Mining Threat!

NEWS RELEASE SUBMITTED BY
THE CALIFORNIA STATE PARK RANGERS ASSOCIATION

Alarmed that an open pit mining operation in Mono County might destroy the historic ghost town of Bodie, the California State Park Rangers Association (CSPRA) has formed a special committee to raise public awareness.

"Bodie is not only a state historic park. It is also a national historic landmark," Don Murphy, CSPRA President points out. "It is the best preserved ghost town in California, and certainly the most interesting ghost town anywhere in the West."

Strip mining of three-and-a-half square miles of high desert on the boundary of the old town is being considered by Galactic Resources, Ltd., a multimillion-dollar international corporation based in Canada. (Under the current plan), the top half of 600 foot high Bodie Bluff and the rest of the mile-long ridge that forms the backdrop for the old town would be stripped. The gold would be removed by a new cyanide-leaching process much more efficient than the methods used in Bodie's heyday.

Up on the ridge, the old mines and mine buildings, which in their time gave Bodie its reason for being, would be destroyed. In addition, CSPRA fears that blasting and the rumble of oversized trucks hauling thousands of tons of ore could well shake down the fragile old

buildings of the town itself.

And it's not just Bodie at stake. The U.S. Bureau of Land Management reports five operating strip mines on its land throughout California, and six more applications are pending. Four such mines are proposed for Mono County alone.

Proliferation of such mining is destroying the irreplaceable wilderness values in many parts of the desert. Aesthetic factors are only the first casualties of these activities. Everyday, birds and other animals die in cyanide-laced settling ponds (despite measures to scare them away).... (Also), Mono County would lose a permanent tourist attraction.

PRAC members interested in helping save Bodie should write Governor Deukmejian, State Capitol Building, Sacramento, CA., 95814; and their legislators, CSPRA urges. Also write the Mono County Board of Supervisors, which plays a key role in approving this project.

"We could also use funds to help get the word out," Murphy notes. Donations can be made to: CSPRA-SAVE BODIE!, P.O. Box 28366, Sacramento, CA., 95828.

The Signpost is published by the Park Rangers Association of California (PRAC). The Association mailing address is P.O. Box 28366, Sacramento, California, 95828.

The Signpost editor is Christopher Crockett. Contributing editors and writers are as noted in each issue. Articles of 1,000 words or less are welcome. All submissions become the property of PRAC, and may be edited without notice. Submissions should be mailed Christopher Crockett, Coyote River Parkway, 985 Hellyer Avenue, San Jose, California, 95111. Information can also be submitted by telephone at (408) 225-0225.

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