

# The Signpost

November-December

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## VOLUNTEER MOUNTAIN BIKE PATROL A ROUSING SUCCESS IN MARIN COUNTY

by Stephanie McCaffrey  
Bicycle Trails Council of Marin

In July 1989, a volunteer bicycle patrol was formed to aid trail users in the Mount Tamalpais area of Marin County. This patrol, named the Mountain Bike Assistance Patrol, was approved by the Marin Municipal Water District in response to ten injury accidents which occurred during May and June, 1989; and due to a significant increase in hiker complaints. The Patrol was organized by the Bicycle Trails Council of Marin.

The Bicycle Trails Council of Marin was formed four years ago, by volunteers, to educate cyclists on trail etiquette and minimizing trail impacts. In the Spring of 1987 two council members, Steve Hoxie and Blair Lombardi, started an informal patrol on local trails. While on patrol, they carried first-aid supplies and trail maps, and they started educating the Marin cycling community. Later, the Marin Municipal Water District asked for help in improving trail-use compliance, and the Council started a "barricade program", where patrollers were stationed at critical trail sections, and talked to other cyclists and hikers about proper trail use.

With the success of this phase of the program the Council, during the Fall of 1988, was asked by the Marin District of the California Department of Parks & Recreation to assist with patrol on state park lands. Communications and patrol training was provided by state park personnel as a result of this interaction. Also during this time, formal approval of the patrol program was obtained with the Marin Municipal Water District.

According to Stephanie McCaffrey, member of the Bicycle Trails Council of Marin, the Mountain Bike Assistance Patrol was created by volunteers who are committed to protecting the area's parks and visitors. Each patrol operates in pairs, at the present time, allowing one member to seek ranger assistance and one member to stay with a victim in accident cases. The patrol is currently in the process of purchasing a radio with a County Communications frequency. Currently, eleven people are certified to work the patrol, with plans to expand to twenty individuals in the near future. The patrol operates on weekends, with each two-person patrol working a four hour shift. Patrol members call themselves "M.A.P.'s".

Though M.A.P.'s use bicycles to patrol, the object of the assistance and education is not strictly the off-road cyclist. According to McCaffrey, they assist and educate all trail-users. "The more we educate, the more potential we have of reducing complaints and user confrontations." Currently, the "barricade program" has been very effective in the Phoenix Lake, Rock Springs, and Railroad Grade areas. And, because we're mobile on trails that rangers cannot always get to, we feel we have a very good chance of contacting cyclists who break the rules."

Though they have no arrest powers, peer pressure and education are effective catalysts for M.A.P.'s obtaining compliance. "If you yell (sometimes) and make it very clear that an undesirable activity is occurring, many times they'll go some place else", says McCaffrey.

A university study found that off-road bicyclists accounted for 45 percent of all trail-use in the Mount Tamalpais area. In fact, the profile of the Patrol has been so visible that other trail users feel that M.A.P.'s legitimize bicycle use on all trails in the area. Steve Petterle, Lands Manager for the Marin Municipal Water District, in response, states that off-road bikers had been using these lands since prior to the District's inception. Therefore, this use has always been legitimate, even to the extent that the District "protection policy" formally classifies cycling as an activity consistent with current regulations. With this in mind, the Mountain Bike Assistance Patrol is an essential operational program to ensure the protection of public trails in Marin County.

Since their formal establishment in July 1989, M.A.P.'s have participated in a ride-a-thon sponsored by the Bicycle Trails Council, and the Marin Horse Council. This activity was in support of the proposed 400-mile San Francisco Bay Area Ridge Trail. M.A.P.'s acted as field marshals, provided first-aid and acted as public information liaisons.

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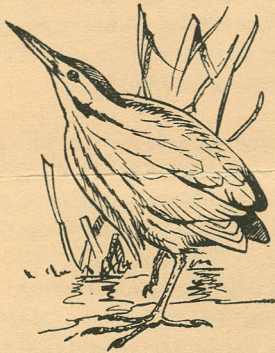




(Mountain Bike Patrol-continued)

Currently, M.A.P.'s receive 40 hours of training in first-aid/CPR refresher, and in the interpretation of park features and rules. The Patrol is also putting together a training film for use by future Patrol candidates. M.A.P.'s on trails are identified by wearing Bicycle Trails Council shirts and name badges. They also wear water district and state park patches on their fannypacks. People can sign-up for the Patrol at any county bike shop affiliated with the Bicycle Trails Council. M.A.P. candidates are responsible for their own first-aid/CPR training, must be 18 years of age, and should have control of their bike and the stamina to ride area trails for a four hour period.

PRAC members wishing to obtain more information on the Mountain Bike Assistance Patrol can contact: Marin Municipal Water District at (415) 459-5267.



## WILDLAND FIRE TRAINING UPDATE

by Glenn Kinney  
PRAC Coastal Representative

The PRAC Spring workshop entitled, "Wildland Fire Training for Rangers", is scheduled for April 4 and 5, 1990 at West Valley College in Saratoga. The tentative workshop fee is \$40.00 for PRAC/CSPRA members and \$50.00 for non-members.

The workshop will include class and field instruction on fire behavior, firefighting techniques, mobile attack, and fire prevention education.

Registration forms will be mailed to all PRAC members by mid-February. In the meantime, if you have any questions contact Glenn Kinney at (415) 449-0491.

## A NEW WAY TO SEND ARTICLE SUBMISSIONS

PRAC members having access to a MacIntosh computer with Microsoft Word Programming can now write their article on the computer and mail the disk to *The Signpost* editor for use in future issues of the PRAC newsletter. This will speed up newsletter production greatly. The disk will then be mailed back to the sender once it has been off-loaded. For more information on this new service contact Chris Crockett, *The Signpost* editor, at (408) 225-0225. Disks can be mailed to: *The Signpost*, Coyote-Hellyer Park, 985 Hellyer Avenue, San Jose, CA., 95111.

## NEW PERSONS TO EDIT THE CALIFORNIA RANGER

The *California Ranger*, the joint magazine of the Park Rangers Association of California (PRAC) and the California State Park Ranger Association (CSPRA), will be co-edited by David Brooks from PRAC and Doug Bryce from CSPRA. Rick Sermon and Don LaKatos, from the Mott Training Center at Asilomar, will assist by soliciting articles, and by recommending topics for the publication.

PRAC members are encouraged to submit any articles pertaining to contemporary park ranger issues to: *The California Ranger*, Park Rangers Association of California, P.O. Box 28366, Sacramento, CA., 95828-0366. Articles should be 1,000 words, or more, and should include photographs and graphics. Also include a biographical sketch of no more than one-hundred words. All articles submitted become the property of PRAC and CSPRA, and may be edited without notice.



## PRAC FALL WORKSHOP A SUCCESS

The PRAC Fall Workshop, "Field Interpretation and the New Park Visitor", was a great success according to members of the workshop committee. Held October 31st and November 1st at the Palo Alto Baylands Interpretive Center, the workshop was attended by over 90 park professionals from throughout California.

What follows are brief synopses of the main workshop sessions:

### Opening Keynote Speaker: William Penn Mott Jr.-

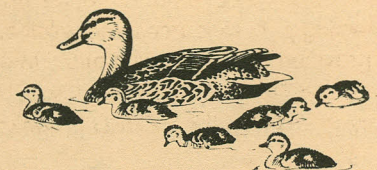
The former Director of the National Park Service opened the workshop with a rousing talk on the importance of interpretation in the 21st century. He noted that park professionals must be aware that 90 percent of our nation's population will be living in the great metropolitan centers. Most citizens of these areas will have little, if any understanding, of the natural world and its vital interrelationships. Therefore, Mott noted, the critical charge of park interpreters will be to serve this population so that our parks can be preserved for posterity.

### Changing Demographics in California Parks: Chris Schmidle, California Department of Parks & Recreation, and William Penn Mott Jr.-

Both gentlemen covered the four major demographic trends facing today's society: changes in age groups (trend from older to younger user groups), increases in ethnic diversity, massive population growth, and the emergence of economic stratification (creation of the need to provide a wider array of services to meet public demand).

### Park Interpretation and Urban Youth: Janet McGowan, City of San Jose Recreation, Parks and Community Services Department-

Ms. McGowan demonstrated the City's "Community Outreach Interpretive Program". This program is designed to bring the park to urban school classrooms.





**Cross-Cultural Land Ethics and Communication with Multi-Cultures: Drs. Dave Simcox, Ronald Hodgson, and Steve Dennis, California State University at Chico-**

Dr. Simcox spoke regarding the constant change in park user group make-up and the increase in park use by a wide range of cultural groups. He noted that in the last decade California parks have seen a significant increase in use by Hispanic, Asian, and Middle Eastern Groups. Emphasis was placed on a study the University was conducting in the Angeles National Forest, regarding use patterns by first generation Hispanic/American populations.

Drs. Dennis and Hodgson spoke about how we, as park professionals, are communicating with cultural groups who see us intrusive strangers.

**Palo Alto Urban Clean-Up Program: Gordon Baillie, City of Palo Alto Park & Open Space Division-**

Mr. Baillie outlined the growth of this community clean-up program on the Palo Alto Baylands, with the City of Palo Alto acting as a private conservator of land from another city.

**California Wildlands Program: Rick Parmer, California Department of Fish & Game-**

This presentation provided a fascinating history and travelogue of this innovative new program, in which Californians are asked to pay for interpretive services, much like current fishermen and hunters.

**Bayland Interpretive Exercises: City of Palo Alto Naturalist Staff-**

Before and after lunch, on the second day of the workshop, workshop attendees participated in field interpretive exercises around the interpretive center. Exercises included specimen seining, interpretive uses of laboratories, and bird talks.

**Closing Keynote Speaker: Ron Russo, East Bay Regional Park District-**

Mr. Russo, Chief of Interpretive Services for EBRPD, gave a rousing presentation on the importance of public education in protecting park resources and wildlife. He provided attendees with many interesting examples of impacts in his agency, and how the EBRPD is seek-

ing to protect its lands, at present and in the future.

PRAC members unable to attend the workshop can obtain further information on any of the workshop sessions described above, by contacting Judy Morris at (415) 791-4340 or Doug Bryce at (916) 383-2530. They can advise on how to contact workshop presenters for detailed information.

## **WEST VALLEY COLLEGE REUNION SCHEDULED**

The West Valley College Park Management Department is planning a reunion of all alumni for Thursday, May 10, 1990. The planning committee is trying to lasso as many alumni as possible. For more information on this exciting event contact Tom Smith or Luana Ransier at (408) 867-2200.

## **TULARE COUNTY PARKS DIVISION WINS NATIONAL AWARD**

**Submitted by  
John Ramirez,  
PRAC Past President**

The Tulare County Parks Division was recently recognized by the National Association of Counties (NACO) with an Achievement Award for its "Adopt An Arbor" program.

Under the "Adopt An Arbor" program community service groups can adopt a picnic arbor in a county park for a one-year period. Groups donate either labor or materials towards an arbor's upkeep. The NACO award committee praised the parks division for its ingenuity and creativity in establishing this useful community program.

The Achievement Award Certificate was presented to Lorie Mangine, Chair of the Tulare County Board of Supervisors, during the NACO Conference this past July in Cincinnati, Ohio. The award was presented to park staff, by Mangine, on August 17, 1989 at Mooney Grove Park

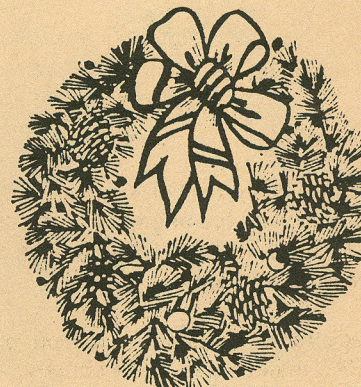
## **DON WEISKOPF BECOMES FIRST WINNER OF NATIONAL SPORTS AWARD**

Longtime PRAC supporter and member, Don Weiskopf, is the first recipient of the Ruth Owens Award. The award recognizes a person who has significantly contributed to the humanitarian and education aspects of the Arco/Jesse Owens Games, a youth sports program founded by the late Jesse Owens in 1964. The award is named for Owens' wife, Ruth.

Don has been a member of the American River College faculty since 1966. He currently is director of the college's recreation and leisure studies program, which has co-sponsored the Sacramento North District Championships of the Jesse Owens/Arco Games for three years. According to college staff, Don has been the driving force behind these types of community related activities.

Don's interest in Jesse Owens and his commitment goes back to 1960 when he interviewed the former Olympic athlete. He has also co-authored a book entitled "Dynamic Track and Field", which included advice from Owens.

According to the Jesse Owens Foundation, this new award will not be given annually, but only when it is determined that an individual demonstrates outstanding leadership in developing and promoting youth sports programs. The executive board and membership of the Park Rangers Association of California extends its congratulations to Don Weiskopf for his efforts in improving the community.





## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

By Bill Hendricks,  
PRAC President

Greetings from Utah! No, I'm not starting a far-eastern region of PRAC. But, then again, who knows what the future might bring us. Little did I know, when I began my term as President one-and-a-half years ago, that I would currently be nearly 800 miles from California. But, facing the challenges of being an out-of-state PRAC officer is not nearly as overwhelming as facing the prospect of a first-ever Rocky Mountain winter.

What prompted me to leave the cozy confines of Mt. Tamalpais in Marin County? I have decided to continue my education in the graduate program of the Department of Recreation & Leisure at the University of Utah. But, while I begin a new chapter in my career, I will continue in my present capacity with PRAC. If you ever find yourself in Utah please stop by and say hello. I'll be thinking of you all in sunny California, especially as I shovel snow off my driveway this winter.

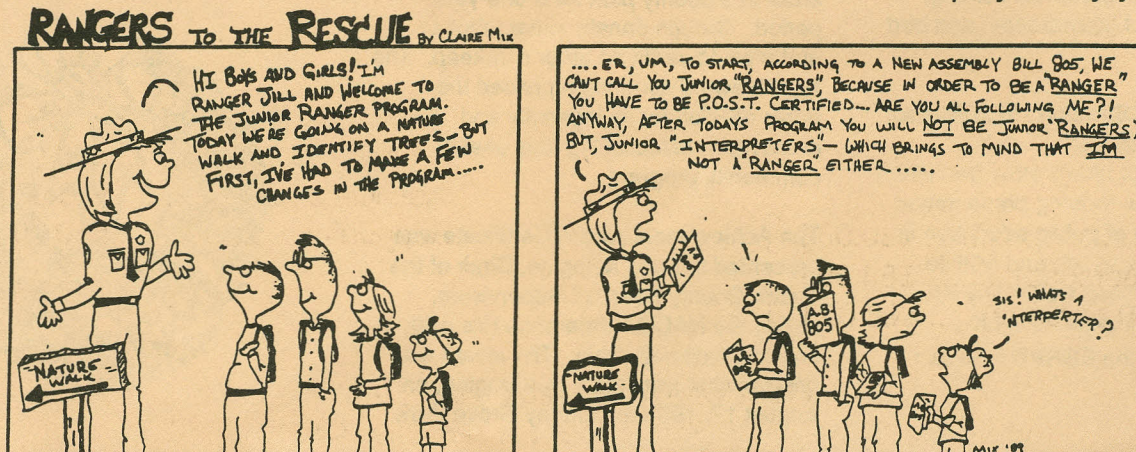
**Editor's Note:** Bill can now be contacted at the University of Utah, Department of Recreation & Leisure, (801) 581-7521.

## NEW COMIC STRIP PREMIERES IN THE SIGNPOST

### Editor's Note:

Claire Mix is a seasonal Park Ranger for the Town of Los Gatos, and is a part-time cartoonist. Currently she is working on a cartoon strip titled "Rangers to the Rescue", which addresses the daily dilemmas rangers are faced with.

The strip Claire submitted for this issue focuses on the A.B. 805 issue. I hope you enjoy it.





# PARK RANGERS ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA

## 1989-90 Membership Registration Form

The Park Rangers Association of California is a non-profit organization designed to serve the interests of you- California's park professionals. Your membership in PRAC entitles you to:

- Discounted registration on all PRAC-sponsored workshops
- Discounted registration for the 1990 PRAC/CSPRA/League Conference in Chico
- Reduced prices on select PRAC merchandise
- Subscription to "The Signpost", the bimonthly newsletter of PRAC
- Subscription to "California Ranger", the journal of the Park Rangers Association of California and the California State Park Rangers Association

Established in 1976 by California park rangers, PRAC's purpose is to serve park rangers at various levels. This is accomplished through publications, training, networking and activities which promote the goal common to rangers throughout the California- "Park Professionalism Through Unity!"

Join PRAC now and be a part of all that's happening in California parks.

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## PARK RANGERS ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA

### 1989-90 Membership Application

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone (work): \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone (home): \_\_\_\_\_  
Employer/School: \_\_\_\_\_  
Job Title/Major: \_\_\_\_\_

#### *Voting Memberships:*

Regular..... \$25.00 [ ]  
Agency  
(1-10 persons)..... \$35.00 [ ]  
(11-50 persons)..... \$60.00 [ ]  
(Over 50 persons)..... \$80.00 [ ]

#### *Non-Voting Memberships:*

Student..... \$10.00 [ ]  
Associate..... \$15.00 [ ]  
Supporting.....\$50.00 [ ]

Make Checks Payable To: PRAC

Return To: PRAC, P.O. Box 28366, Sacramento, CA., 95828-0366



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David Brooks & Doug Bryce

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**The Signpost** is published by the Park Rangers Association of California (PRAC). The Association mailing address is P.O. Box 28366, Sacramento, CA., 95828. **The Signpost** editor is Christopher Crockett. 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 to Christopher Crockett, Coyote River Parkway-Hellyer Unit, 985 Hellyer Avenue, San Jose, CA., 95111. Information can also be submitted by telephone at (408) 225-0225. Submission deadlines are the last day of January, March, May, July, September, and November.

