

Mountain Lions In Parks by Dave Lydick

On April 23, 1994 Barbara Schoener was attacked and killed while jogging near Auburn Lake Trails, a community in El Dorado County. The trail she was jogging on is part of California State Parks, American River District. A few weeks before this attack, a dog was mauled in the

back yard of its owner in Lake of The Pines, a community in Nevada County about 30 miles from where Barbara Schoener was attacked. Orange County Parks made a large out of court settlement to a young girl mauled by a mountain lion in Caspers Wilderness Park. State Senator Tim Leslie recently introduced legislation that would take away public agency immunity in regards to mountain lion attacks and allow payments to be made to victims, (including owners of pets and livestock), from the monies raised thru the mountain lion initiative.

What does all this mean to you and your agency? If you attended the 1994 Park Ranger Conference in Riverside you have a good un-

derstanding. If you weren't at the conference and you work in an area where mountain lions live, (and this could be just about anywhere), then you and your agency should be prepared in case an incident occurs in your park. Subjects such as public education, signing, closure of parks, and an incident protocol all should be addressed before you have an incident. Public education is probably the most important aspect in preventing a mountain lion attack and is an important factor in limiting liability if an attack occurs. California State Parks was well along in the development of a protocol for mountain lions and bears in State Parks, Ken Jones stated at the conference that copies would be available for outside agencies. Check with your local State Park office and see if you can get a copy from them.

So with all the publicity about mountain lion attacks has public sentiment shifted away from protecting this beautiful animal? A recent article in the San Francisco Examiner stated that a trust fund for the children of Barbara Schoener had received \$9,000 in donations while a fund set up for the care of the cub orphaned when the mountain lion was killed received \$21,000 in donations.

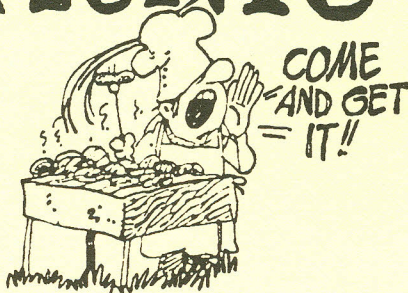
Coming Events

A Barbecue in Region 2

Mark you calendars for Wednesday August 24, 1994. PRAC and San Jose Park Rangers Association (SJPRAC) will be co-sponsoring a barbecue at Almaden Lake Park in San Jose from 3pm until dark. We will have good food, friends, volleyball, horseshoes, swimming, and even windsurfing if you want to rent or bring your own.

Look for more information in the next *Signpost*. Give Ken Miller a call for more details or if you would like to help plan this sun-filled afternoon. Ken can be reached at (408) 866-1240.

PICNIC



Trails are Coming!

October 19, 1994 is the date.

Ted Kerfoot, a 16 year veteran of the California Conservation Corps Trail crew supervisor, will be demonstrating trail construction, trail maintenance techniques and procedures.

Topics being covered will include waterbars, switchbacks, retaining walls, steps and erosion control techniques.

The costs are;

\$35 for PRAC members
\$45 for non-members

The location will be at Sonoma County's Foothill Regional Park in Windsor, CA. Just north of Santa Rosa off Highway 101.

For more information call Bill Trunick at (707) 838-3316 (H) or (707) 433-1625(W).

From the President's Desk

by Bob Donohue

The unfortunate incident that occurred at Auburn where a young woman was killed points out the serious problem habitat loss is becoming. I certainly do not place any blame on the woman for being where she was but neither do I place blame on the mountain lion for doing what it does naturally, that is hunt for food. Mountain lions have grown up within the sound of the human voice so we are less intimidating to them. They have grown use to our sounds and are no longer is afraid of us as they once were.

This problem I see as being a symptom of a much larger one. We are getting close to closing off many of the major migration corridors for large animals. If you look at a map that shows new development on this continent it is quite easy to see that migration corridors are becoming smaller.

If these corridors are shut off then we are going to have nothing more than huge open air zoos. These zoos will have to be managed to keep everything in balance. If the top of the food chain (mountain lions, etc.) is allowed to proliferate then they will eat everything else in the food chain to the point when they begin to starve off. This would allow animals at the bottom of the food chain (mice and other rodents) to proliferate. Maintaining a balance would mean having to thin out certain animals. Not a popular choice with many environmentalists. The radical environmentalist will want to cull humans rather than animals and there will be general disagreement as to how these animals are to be managed.

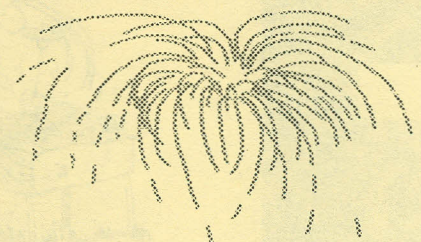
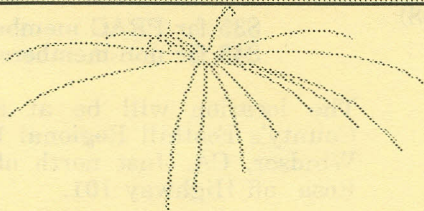
We must be very careful not to let things get to this point. The "powers that be" must be vigilant not to let development get to a point where these corridors are cut off. I am not anti-development but I do want safeguards for these corridors.

There is one other subject that needs to be addressed. Doug Bryce, our executive manager, has announced his retirement from PRAC and CSPRA effective January 1, 1995. Doug has been with PRAC almost from the outset and his retirement will have an impact. He will always be a part of PRAC especially because he is one of our honorary members. Much of what PRAC has accomplished is a direct result of his efforts. He has agreed to stay on as our office manager for four more years but will not be doing any work that takes him away from the office. We will begin a recruitment for a replacement for Doug as soon as we see in what direction CSPRA is going with this. It will be necessary to have someone on board at least one year prior to his leaving so they are familiar with all aspects of the job such as board meeting, the annual conference and other areas.

I wish Doug well in his retirement.

Good luck and enjoy life Doug, you have done us well!!

God bless,
Bob Donohue



Hand Tool Tips

from Bill Trunick

Training my seasonal staff, I came across this article that we might all review and use. These tips for hand tool safety are brought to you with permission and courtesy of the Hand Tool Institute. The Institute's award-winning safety programs are dedicated to consumer safety and protection. To learn more about the videos, booklets, guides and flyers they produce, contact The Hand Tool Institute at 25 North Broadway, Tarrytown, NY 10591.

The Four Major Points of Hand Tool Safety

Because hand tools are so easy to use, it's easy to be careless. You might expect them to do more than they are designed for. You may forget to maintain them properly or put them back where they belong. If you grab the wrong tool and try to make do, the possibility of an accident increase. Keep these four major points of hand tool safety in mind:

1. Protect your eyes from flying pieces and parts by wearing approved eye protection. Slip on some safety glasses or goggles. Make it a habit, particularly when using punches, chisels, hammers, power tool attachments and cutting tools.
2. Use the right tool. Most jobs can be done best with general tools, but sometimes you'll need special tools. Keep up with the general and special tools available to you. You'll not only work faster and smarter...you'll be safer.
3. Use hand tools properly to prevent accidents. No shortcuts!
4. Service your tools regularly. They'll last longer and be far safer.

General Rules for the Safe and Proper Use of Hand Tools

- Ordinary plastic-dipped handles are for comfort—not electrical insulation.
- Never use a tool as a hammer unless it's manufactured for that purpose.
- Always pull on a wrench handle rather than push and adjust your stance to prevent a fall.
- Never use a pipe extension or other form of "cheater" to increase the leverage of any wrench. Never use a hammer on a wrench, other than a striking face wrench designed to be struck.
- Adjustable wrenches should

be tightly adjusted to the nut and pulled so that the force is on the side of the fixed jaw.

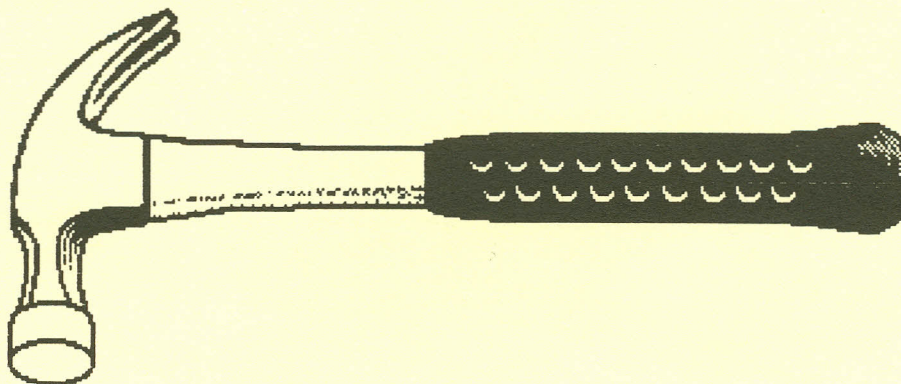
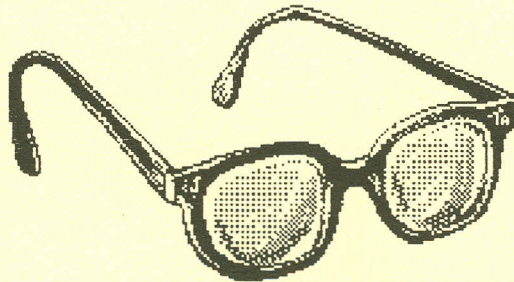
- Never use a pipe wrench to bend, raise or lift a pipe.
- Never use hand sockets or attachments on electric or air powered driving tools.
- Select a wrench or socket whose opening exactly fits the nut. Always seat the wrench or socket straight on the nut—do not cock the tool when turning.
- Ratchet mechanisms should be cleaned and lubricated periodically with light oil.
- Pliers should not be used for cutting hardened wire. Always cut at right angles—don't rock from side to side when cutting.
- Always strike squarely with the hammer striking face parallel to the surface being struck. Avoid glancing blows and over and under strikes. Never strike an object with the side of a hammer. Do not strike one hammer with another.
- Keep hammer heads tight on the handle. Never use a hammer with a loose or damaged handle.
- Metal cutting chisels are for cutting, shaping and removing metal softer than the cutting edge itself.

- Always strike the struck base of a chisel or punch squarely. The striking face of the hammer should have a diameter approximately 3/8-inch larger than the struck face of the punch or chisel.

- Use the right type of screwdriver tip for the screw. Make sure the tip fits the screw slot, not too loose and not too tight.

- Never use screwdrivers that have rounded tips.

- Do not use screwdrivers with split or broken handles.



New Conservation Ethic Must Guide Use Of National Parks

by Bruce Babbitt

*Bruce Babbitt is secretary of the Interior Department.
He wrote this article for the Los Angeles Times.
(Reprinted from the San Jose Mercury News)*

In its 1916 decree creating the National Park Service, Congress explicitly outlined two goals: Preserve the designated sites "unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations," and provide for the public enjoyment of those resources. The conflict between preservation and access has forced a creative tension on the Park Service since its first days. Achieving balance grows more difficult each year.

As challenging as the mission is, the two goals are not contradictory, particularly when one focuses on the nature of the genuine park visitor experience.

The national parks are not about entertainment; Disney, Warner Brothers and others are masters at that task, and park rangers need not compete with them. Rather, rangers make it possible for the American people to encounter their heritage naturally. The challenge is in bringing the visitor to a more intense appreciation of the natural world.

This framework sets new and clear parameters on methods for accommodating more visitors.

Despite annual increases in the number of visits, for example, the Park Service will not be in the road-building business. Roads disrupt, divide and fragment natural systems that are the very reason for parks; our challenge is in finding new means of visitor transport.

We will not be in the hotel-building business, but will instead work with owners of lands bordering parks so that many overnight needs can be met in gateway communities. These communities can also serve as "staging" areas, where visitors can learn of a park's facilities, collect materials and shop—all without adding to the milling crowds inside.

Likewise, the service must consider different methods for protecting its resource base, because it is no longer enough to focus on the nature of developments within the park. We must begin to focus on parks not as distinct entities, but as the centers of ecosystems.

At Yellowstone, massive herds of elk and buffalo (and soon, perhaps, gray wolves) do not acknowledge the straight lines on a map; those animals inherited an entire ecosystem, and park staff must work closely with resource managers from other state and federal agencies to protect their migration range.

Everglades National Park is part of a natural system being killed by the invasion of exotic plants (caused by nutrient-rich agricultural runoff) and the diversion of water for residential and commercial uses. That park's fate lies not in the hands of its rangers, but in a massive, multi-agency effort to restore the system.

Sequoia National Park has air-quality problems worse than many large cities, but the problems' source lies in faraway industrial centers along the California coast and in the Central Valley. Clearly, it is no longer sufficient to label land a park and assume it is protected.

Protecting the resource base also means continuing the search for new sites, because America's history and perspectives are always changing. Fifty years ago, there was no Martin Luther King Jr. Historical Site to be preserved, because that chapter in our history had not yet been written.

A century ago, we crossed the Midwest in search of scenic splendor, oblivious to the extraordinary biodiversity being plowed up and

taken for granted. The new effort to create a park in the Kansas tallgrass prairie finally acknowledges the importance of that resource.

Generations in search of alpine scenery simply walked on by some America's unique ecosystems. One of those regions would be protected by California Desert protection Act, ushered through the Senate by Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif. Unsurpassed in its scenic, biological, cultural and recreational significance, the desert has been ignored too long.

Finally, protection of the resource requires a sounder financial base. A first step would be congressional action to restore discretion to the Interior secretary to set reasonable park entrance fees. Currently, only three of the 367 Park Service sites charge \$10 per vehicle, only 15 charge as much as \$5 per car, and Yellowstone's entrance fee is less today than it was in 1915.

Though beset by fundamental problems, the welcome sign is out at our national parks, because the National Park Service can fill a unique and immediate role. We are within decades of an environmental collapse on this planet. Our urgent task is to communicate to American people what it means to live more lightly and respectfully on the land.

Any contemplation of our role in developing and teaching a new conservation ethic leads directly back to the national parks. The parks are where this task is easiest, where the educational process begins, where it is all so extraordinarily fresh, obvious and overwhelming.

The national parks must serve as the gateway to the conservation ethic, because if that gateway can't be crossed in our national parks, it can't be crossed anywhere.

**"As a recreation professional
it was a great opportunity to be crossed trained."
"All the information I needed for developing a new park."
"The experience and knowledge gained is invaluable."
"An excellent opportunity for sharing experience and ideas!"**

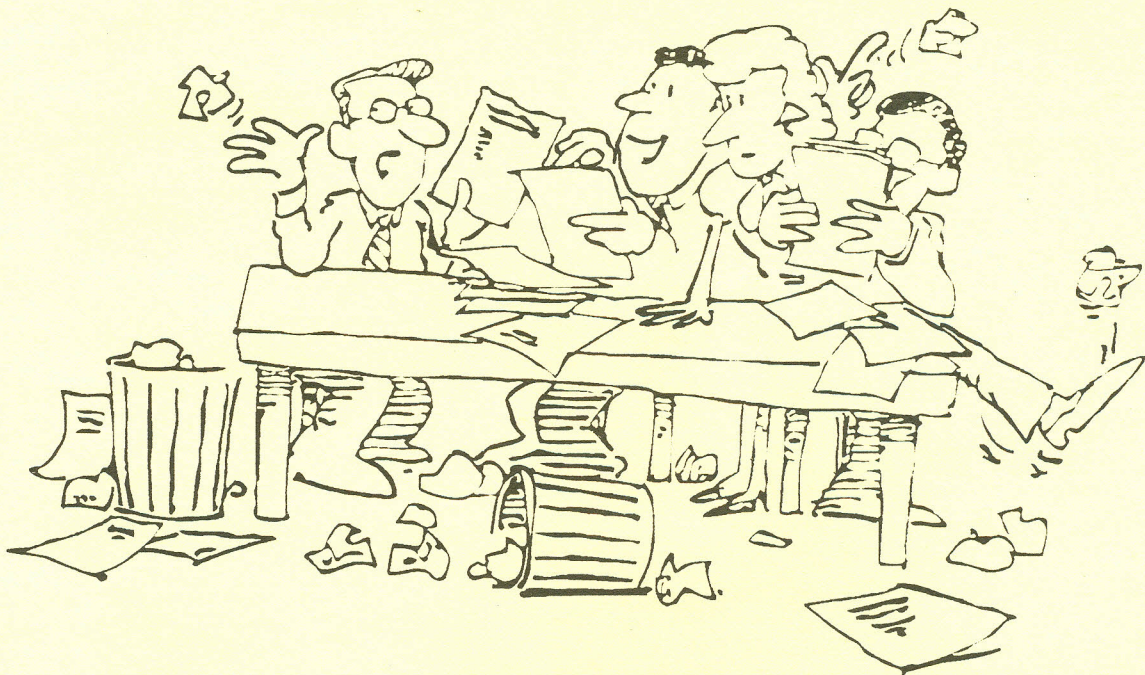
Can you afford to miss the Ninth Annual Pacific Southwest Maintenance Management School?

This is your opportunity for state-of-the-art education in parks, grounds, and facilities maintenance management practices and philosophies! The recreation field is constantly changing, but you won't be left behind if you attend this nationally recognized school.

Don't miss your chance to learn or increase your knowledge in these critical areas facing the maintenance management field today. You will learn to reduce labor costs, manage your time, improve decision making, understand and improve work relationships, improve on-the-job performance, improve the quality of your services, manage capital projects effectively, manage water conservatively and manage grounds maintenance.

The school will be held at the UCLA Conference Center on the densely wooded shore of Lake Arrowhead, California on November 13-18, 1994. The school is a two-year education program and third year graduate forum and is open to all green industry professionals wishing to take a comprehensive look into maintenance management systems.

The fee is \$610 which includes instruction, course materials and reference notebook, certificate of completion, jacket and all meals and housing for the full 5 day program. Pre-registration is required. CEU's will also be offered for pest control advisors, qualified applicators, and Certified Arborist & Tree workers credits. To receive a brochure, please contact the NRPA Pacific Service Center, 350 S. 333rd St., Suite 103, Federal Way, WA 98003, (800) 796-NRPA, (206) 661-2265, FAX (206) 661-3929.



Identifying Difficult People

by Ken Miller

Often times at work I encounter people who I will be issuing infraction citations to, for riding bicycles on closed trails, having their dogs off a leash, or being in a preserve after hours. Many of these people do not have their drivers licenses with them and it can be a challenge to have them provide their correct identification. Mike Quane recently taught a legal update to my District's Rangers and provided some good techniques that I'd like to share.

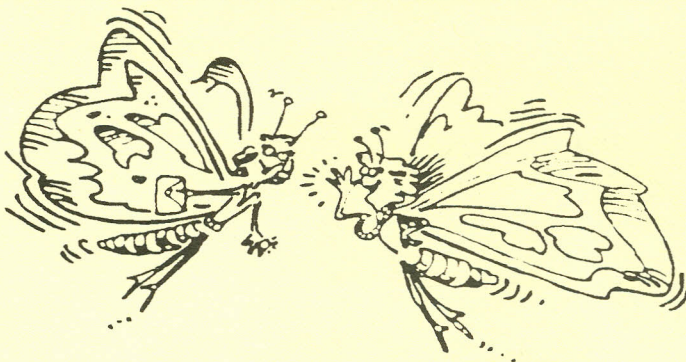
Mike first quoted a recent court case involving a ranger that said an officer could not demand that a suspect provide his drivers license. Say "May I see your drivers license" instead of "Give me your license". This case was thrown out due to an illegal search based on the "Give me your license" statement. Just something to think about. If a motor vehicle had been involved the suspect would have had to provide a drivers license to the officer.

Mike mentioned ten items that a person should know that is easy to confirm. If three or more of the items do not check out you have reason to believe that they are giving you false information and can act accordingly. Ask for the information then have the person repeat it later in the contact. Most of these items are

fairly obvious but there are a couple of new ones that could come in handy.

1. A persons name and how to spell it.
2. Their address and zip code. (The Post Office has a book available to match zip codes to addresses.)
3. Their phone number. (Carry a phone book to match prefix to address.)
4. Their date of birth (ask their age as well).
5. Their age (ask date of birth again).
6. Their social security number. (Ask state of issue and confirm in the back of a "Quick Code.")
7. Their friends names.
8. If they have a drivers license or not.
9. If they have been in jail or not (local check).
10. A phone number of a friend.

You will certainly not use all of these questions but they will provide you with more tools to use during a difficult stop. The more knowledge you have will give your more confidence during a difficult stop.



A New Direction for your Parks! Use Braille to...

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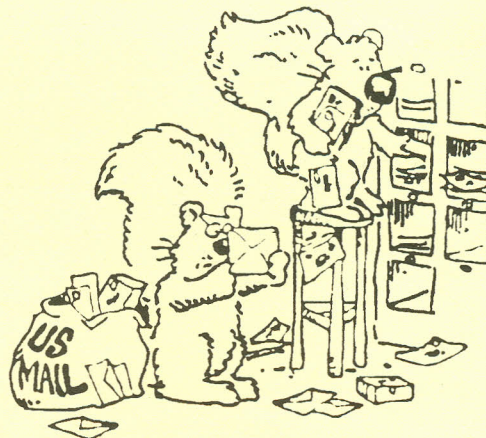
Braille Specialties
8445 Pleasant Hill Circle
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(903) 561-3055

Region 3 Happenings

by Dave Lydick

Ken Weiner recently informed me that he and Dave Sloane will be moved from the Roseville City Parks Dept. to the Roseville Police Dept. effective July 1, 1994. Whether Ken and Dave remain "Park Rangers" in title was unknown when I talked to Ken and their duties will no doubt change in some fashion.

We all hope that the City of Roseville recognizes that there is a difference between Rangers and Police and let Ken and Dave continue to do the excellent job that they have done in keeping the Roseville Parks safe and friendly.



Cultural Diversity Workshop, To Help Rangers Deal With Everyone

by Kelly Byrne, Region 4 Director

Region 4 is comprised of Inyo, Kern, Kings, Los Angeles, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Tulare and Ventura Counties. If you think this article is going to be a plea for new members, then you are half correct as every article is a plea for new members. But as I look at the areas that are covered by Region 4, I am certain that the rangers of each county have some different stories they could tell about incidents in the field. Most of the stories would probably have one thing in common: people.

Dealing with people is what our job is all about, and this includes all cultures, races, sexual orientation, religions and economic class. If everyone that the Park Ranger came across was exactly the same, then we could deal with each situation and park patron exactly the same. This would be like the old Del Taco commercial (same place, same thing...). But California offers all the extremes in diversity when it comes to people and all of them will find a park one time or another.

With the threat of law suits, complaints and just making a situation very messy, rangers need some sensitivity concerning all the diverse cultures that they might encounter. Many Police departments are starting to offer these courses as part of their academy training. Because no matter what someone might think about someone else, it cannot come out on the job. Sometimes you might not even know you are offending someone

because you are unaware of their culture. Ignorance is not bliss in this situation.

Living and working in Los Angeles, I have had a chance to observe and be part of some training in cultural awareness. Los Angeles is a well known melting pot of all races, creeds etc... and sensitivity is important in dealing with people in the field. As PRAC is wanting to offer workshops on a variety of subjects to help the Rangers, Region 4 will be offering such a workshop in the fall of 94. This workshop will be a hands-on approach that will get you thinking about the different types of people you deal with everyday. The workshop is not a tactics workshop but a sensitivity hands-on exercise that will stimulate conversation that could lead to sharing of different tactics in the field. The exercise will not take all day, unless we start talking and just can't stop. The exercise will be led by experts in the field of cultural diversity, educators that have worked this exercise with a variety of individuals.

I would like to extend a personal invite to those in region 4 to please contact me about what PRAC has to offer for you, besides workshops. PRAC can be a political ally, offer job bulletins and be a great source for networking. Please give me a call or look for upcoming details on the workshop on cultural diversity and meet me 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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