

Region 1 & 2 Bar-B-Que

by Ken Miller

Mark your calendars for Wednesday August 21. PRAC is sponsoring the third annual Region 2 BBQ at Alum Rock Park in San Jose. Sandy Ferrera, our Region 1 Director will be helping out so it's a multi-region event. Alum Rock Park is also our President Pam Helmke's park so she will be helping too.

The BBQ starts at 3 :00pm and will go till dark. Alum Rock Park is the oldest city park in the state and there are lots of things to see and do. There will be volleyball, horseshoes, a playground for the more adventuresome people. For \$5 PRAC provides hamburgers, hot dogs and drinks. Bring something to share. Once again if you join PRAC as a new member or renew an expired membership the food is on us.

RSVP to me, Ken Miller, at 408-866-1240 by August 18 so I can make sure that there will be enough food. **See you there!**

Wood Ducks Benefit from Merced Teacher's Efforts

by Sandy Ferreira

For the past twenty-three years, Steve Simmons, a high school teacher in Merced has dedicated his many, many hours and days to the preservation of wood ducks in California. Steve has compiled an impressive record. Over the 23 season that Steve has collected data on wood ducks. More than 36,000 ducklings have been hatched successfully from his 187 nest boxes which are fastened to trees along the Merced River. Quite an impressive number! In addition to monitoring and collecting data, Steve has hatched out Kestrels, barn owls, screech owls and hooded mergansers in his nest boxes. He also bands them with a U.S. Fish & Wildlife band and has been able to follow their movements and reproductive success in subsequent years. Steve has increased the frequency of his box visits and has been able to web-tag hatching ducklings. Web tags are small, numbered metal tags that are harmlessly clipped through the foot webs of ducklings. This enables Steve to identify these birds when they return, with some birds traced through several generations. Some females eventually nest in the same boxes from which they were hatched.

A few weeks ago, I had the opportunity to work with Steve on his Merced River Wood Duck Project which was quite an experience. At first Steve explained and showed me the various tools and equipment that we would use. In fact, most or all of the equipment that we used to check the nest boxes, Steve invented.



At the first box we checked, Steve and I dropped into his routine. We both strapped on a carpenter's belt filled with tools for capturing and banding birds. A 12 foot ladder is wedged against the side of tree, then a plug is latched to the oval opening of the nest box

to prevent the bird from escaping. The permanent lid from the box is removed then a temporary one with a quarter of the top removed is slid into place. Quickly you must reach into the nest box and grab the bird gently, otherwise she will fly out towards the opening in the lid. Once captured and removed from the box, you are able to band the bird, inspect the nest for activity, recharge the nest box with fresh shavings, remove any signs of intruders, count the hatchlings or eggs all within a few minutes! Believe it or not, Steve has this process down to a science. It actually takes him no more than 3-4 minutes per box to check and inspect the contents. When data needs to be recorded, Steve will write down band numbers on his hand then transfer this information to his journal where he keeps detailed notes on the activity in each box. Steve can cover all of his 187 boxes before darkness halts him, and he returns periodically throughout the nesting season to monitor them.

Steve shares his enthusiasm for wood ducks with the community by speaking to school children and sports and civic groups. His presentations include slides, mounted specimens, and a partitioned display case containing mock-ups of wood duck nests showing the different stages of nest development and laying, a parasitized nest containing a large number of eggs from more than one female, and nests of other species which will use a wood duck nest box. Interested students work with Steve with box checks, and several have even gone on to pursue wildlife careers. Steve's interest in wood duck biology goes far beyond the usual wildlife management of production and harvest. He has collected exten-



(Story continues on page 7)

From The President's Desk

You may not be aware of it yet but some new and exciting things are happening with PRAC. One of the biggest events is a new Regional Training Center for park rangers and park maintenance staff. I recently represented PRAC during a meeting at West Valley Community College where an exciting idea was brought to life. The Park Management Program staff offered to coordinate a series of training courses for park management professionals. The classes will cover a wide variety of topics and range from one day to a week in length. Offering these classes to a variety of agencies simultaneously will allow you to attend needed training from the best instructors available at a reasonable cost. A draft directory will be out some time this fall and the first course listings should be available during the winter. The colleges' locations makes it ideal for members to attend from throughout the Northern California region and the college is entering discussions with a nearby hostel to provide low cost housing for our Southern California members. Not to worry, PRAC will still be offering topical training sessions at a reasonable cost in all of our regions.

Another new and exciting item is a training survey that is being jointly sponsored by PRAC and Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation. Many members agencies have asked PRAC to look into developing a series of professional training standards for park rangers, similar to what exists through POST for police officers. Jim O'Conner, the Training Coordinator for Santa Clara County Parks and the chair of PRAC's training committee will be spearheading this project. After the information has been compiled PRAC will make it available to any interested member looking to see what other agencies are doing in the field of professional training. Your survey packet should be arriving soon, **please** fill it out and return it to Jim. I think information we gather will be interesting and may lay the ground work for future projects.

On final note, the 1997 conference committee has started to meet. Our next conference will be held in Concord and we hope to have a lot of exciting new ideas to share. If you are interested in helping with the conference or have great idea for speakers or sessions you can leave a message for the committee on PRAC's voice mail.

I hope some of you are as excited about these new opportunities as I am and I hope to see you at a training or social event in your region soon.

Pam Helmke

Exchange Wanted by British Park Ranger

(Reprinted from the CSPRA Newsletter, April-1996)

I am writing to you with an interest in pursuing an exchange with a Warden or Ranger in your National Park. I am currently the Senior Warden for the Quantock Hills Area of Outstanding Natural beauty in Somerset, South West England.

I have been in full-time employment since 1984 in the field of Countryside Management and am looking to widen my experience. I am employed by Somerset County Council and work with the Countryside Section of Environment Department. I have discussed my desire to participate in such an exchange with my Countryside Manager, who has given me full support.

This year, 1996, is the 40th Anniversary of the Quantock Hills being designated England's first Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and would be a timely opportunity to initiate a work experience exchange. Obviously these arrangements would take some organizing but I would be keen to start an exchange anytime from September 1996.

I would like to think that some of the skills and experience that I have gained through working in different areas of countryside management would be of some benefit to your department, e.g.:

- detailed experience in heathland and ancient woodland management;
- wildlife monitoring and species surveys;

- use of grazing regimes for conservation purposes (i.e. Exmoor ponies);
- visitor management and dealing with urban fringe problems;
- environmental education and interpretations skills;
- using volunteers in the countryside (e.g. running a 50 strong team of voluntary wardens)

A year's exchange would give myself and any Ranger/Warden you may have in your Authority a reasonable length of time to benefit from the experience of working in another designated area.

I am presently the co-chairman for the South West Region of the Countryside Management Association (formerly the Association of Countryside Rangers) and have actively been involved in many aspects of developing training and the professional profile of Rangering in this country. I am also a member of the International Ranger Federation.

I am married to Jilly who is a qualified and experienced Primary School Teacher and we have two daughter, Rose (5) and Ellie (3). We live in a cottage on the south west slopes of the Quantock Hills which would obviously be available to a Ranger/Warden keen to participate in an exchange.

(Story continues on next page.)

Officer Safety

Ranger Shot At In East Bay Park

by Ken Miller

I don't have all of the details of the incident, only from a small write up in the San Jose Mercury newspaper, but there is still enough to share.

On May 28, police were looking for three men who shot at a ranger near a trail where a body was later found in Briones Regional Park near Orinda. The East Bay Municipal Utilities District ranger was on "routine patrol," heard shots fired, and then saw the armed men come out of the bushes and shoot at him.

This stuff really does happen.

In a San Jose park a few years ago two people were shot in a parking lot drug deal that went bad. Two rangers that I know had just decided not to patrol that lot as they were running late that night. It could have been them. **Never forget your safety.**

I'm interested in creating a database of assaults on rangers in California parks. There is a book that lists assaults on federal park law enforcement officers that is on my to-read list. I believe that we can all learn from other situations and be safer rangers. Please contact me if you are interested in helping with the database. I'll keep you posted on how things are going. Also if you have anything that is pertinent to the *Signpost* please pass it on to Dave Brooks. I'd like to see an ongoing discussion in the *Signpost*.

Park Ranger Exchange

(Continued from page 2)

I enclose some general information on Quantock Hills and a copy of my job description [available from Mike Lynch 916-885-4527].

I can, of course, provide references as to my experience and character if required.

If you have a Ranger/Warden who might be interested in an exchange here in Somerset, or require further information, please contact me:

Tim J. Russell
"Keepers Cottage," Lower Teritill,
Cothelstone, TAUNTON,
Somerset TA4 3EA

For more information on the International Ranger Federation contact Bud Getty of Mike Lynch via CSPRA.

"Say What?"

by Russ Hauck

Every Sunday in the Los Angeles Times magazine section is a column entitled "L.A. Speak" which features the lingo of a particular occupation or hobby. A couple of weeks ago the column featured park rangers. It made me start to think about some of the terms that I have heard or use that weren't listed.

Road Pizza: Road kill that has been run over so many times that it is as flat as a pizza, but otherwise unrecognizable.

Land Mine: dog poop. The reaction to stepping on either one is exactly the same.

Smokey Stand-by: extreme fire hazard. "Let's keep an eye out for smokers on the trails today. We're on Smokey Stand-by."

Belt Wannabe: A rattlesnake that finds its way into a building whose disposition makes relocation difficult.

Klingon: A hiker seeking a shortcut who gets stuck on a steep face and has to hug a rock until help arrives.

Sugar Train: Nature hike involving a large group of elementary school students travelling down a narrow trail.

HBD: Has Been Drinking. "Be careful when you approach that group in the Northwest corner of the park. They're HBD."

Switch Hats: To quickly change demeanor to deal with an unexpected occurrence. "I had to switch hats when I rounded the corner with that sugar train and saw those two guys tagging a tree."

Job Security: An incredibly stupid act that makes you realize your profession's worth.

Broken Sprinkler: urinating in public.

Press hard, three copies: to issue a citation. "I couldn't believe that broken sprinkler in the group picnic area. Oh well, job security. Press hard, three copies."

Dances With Wolves: A transient living in a remote location in the park, far away from contact with people.

Poor man's picnic basket: plastic grocery bags. "The supermarkets must have had a field day yesterday. Look at all those poor man's picnic baskets on the downwind side of the park."

Turn the place green: A quick response by a number of Rangers. "When I called for back-up on that occupied stolen, you guys really turned the place green."

Nickel Phrase: Comes from the saying "I wish I had a nickel for every time I've heard that." Pertains to any reference to Yogi, Boo-Boo, or pic-a-nic baskets.

I would love to know about some other terms or phrases that you have heard or used. Please call or fax me with your offerings (numbers are on the back page) and I'll start compiling a list. In the mean time, be careful when you "bushwhack into Stoner's Hilton." (Cut through the brush to get to the clearing where the kids hang out to smoke dope.)

Firearms Training: Everyone Needs to be Realistic

by Sergeant Ken Belden, San Fernando Police Dept., CA

Does the names *Oklahoma City vs. Tuttle*, *Tennessee vs. Gardner* or *Popow vs. City of Margate* ring a bell? If you are a firearms instructor they should. They are some of the most prominent court cases, all over ten years old, which have established guidelines on how we train and act in regards to our use of firearms. When checking the most recent California peace officer murder statistics I can't help but wonder if the majority of us learn to incorporate the different incidents into training scenarios or at least into officer safety briefings.

In 1995, California had twelve officers killed, a substantial increase from previous years. And as the previous years also clearly indicated there are constants that need to be addressed if we haven't done so already.

Night shoots are a must. How much of your training is conducted in low light or no light conditions? Half of the shooting occurred in hours of darkness. In order to remain proficient officers need to be exposed in all types of light settings.

Body armor works. Only half the officers wore their vests. In four of the non-wearer cases, three would have survived if they had worn their vests. In only one case did a vest get penetrated and that was by a high powered round. The old adage of sweating instead of bleeding should be reemphasized. Besides comfort the only other downside comes the media's incessant reporting of our vest's life saving properties. Public awareness probably accounts for 50% of the fatal wounds being head shots.

Multiple suspects awareness. In 42% of the shootings two suspects were either involved in the attack or an integral part of the incident. This kind of statistic must be considered when developing training scenarios.

Distance. As in virtually every year proceeding it, close distance remains a glowing constant. In 1995 eight murders occurred at a distance of *ten feet or less!* Honestly, how many of you set up courses less than *twenty-one feet?* This close quarters type training needs to include shoot-and-move and stress induced point blank shooting. From a personal standpoint this should in no way discount practicing at longer ranges. Being able to hit your target at 25 yards could be every bit as life savings as hitting at 5 feet.

Number of rounds expended. Once again the number of rounds shot doesn't fully tell the tale. In 1995 the average rounds expended by the officers was 9.5 per incident while the ass...., I mean suspects averaged 3.6

rounds per incident.

There are those powers-that-be who feel because of their particular position in law enforcement, advanced firearms training is unnecessary, either for them or their charges. I'm referring to those people that because of public perception become accustomed to feeling like they are not really peace officers. Park rangers, school police or officers in protective services may feel like that but the fact remains they are as susceptible to the same dangers as everyone else. Don't think so? One of the officers killed was a community college police officer and another was a city school police officer. A few more conditions became evident that show *all* authoritative figures are subject to lethal situations.

Officers are mostly attacked with moments of initial contacts. In 75% of the incidents the suspect(s) attacked suddenly and quickly. Sound tactics need to be incorporated into training regards to increased awareness of suspect's hands, use of cover and presence of firearms.

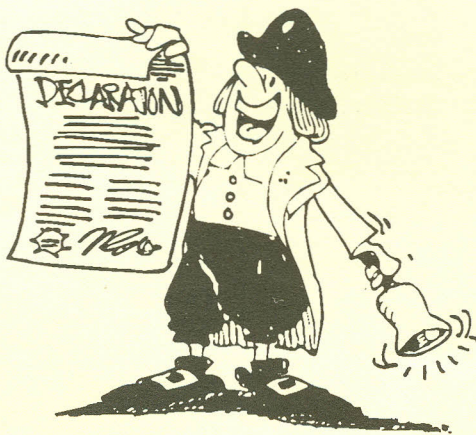
Age and experience. The assailants aren't kids and neither are the victims. The assailants average over thirty years of age and the officers are older than that with the average experience level being eight years. The age group repeatedly taking the most losses is the 7-15 year veterans.

Patrol is dangerous. The aforementioned group of peace officers need to pay particular attention. Year in and year out those in some type of patrol function suffers the most injury and death. Last year patrol accounted for *two-thirds* of the murder total.

So, do officers in a specific grouping require less realistic firearms training than another group? Not a chance. Anyone carrying a gun and sporting a badge is within their rights to expect their agency, however large or small, to provide them with the most comprehensive training

available. At the same time firearms instructors from smaller departments should realize they are as credible as those from larger, well known big boys. In a lot of cases they are more so, simply from having the flexibility of accomplishing different things without running into a logistic nightmare, and having the support to make them work.

Whatever the case, whatever the type of officer, the only acceptable number of murdered officers is zero. Looking at realistic firearms training shouldn't be a start, it should be a continuing process.



Concealed Weapons Off Duty

Introduction by Dave Sloane

The following article was reprinted in the Signpost with the written permission of the PORAC Law Enforcement News. It originally appeared on page 15 of the May 1996 PORAC Law Enforcement News under the Legal Defense Report (no author listed). While this article relates the story of a correctional officer, sworn under Penal Code section 830.55(a), it addresses the issue of peace officers (other than "police officers") carrying concealed weapons off duty. The article illustrates why it is important to belong to PORAC and subscribe to the Legal Defense Fund.

Many ranger agencies in California currently believe that they can prohibit their peace officer/rangers from carrying a concealed weapon off-duty. You can draw your own conclusions after reading the article. For further information on this issue consult Attorney General's Opinion Number 89-505-August 31, 1989.

Concealed Gun Charges Dropped

PORAC Law Enforcement News,
Vol. 28, No. 5, May 1996, pg.15

A Folsom Community Correctional Facility (FCCF) officer who was charged with felony and misdemeanor violations after administrators recovered a concealed handgun from his personal vehicle won a victory on April 12, when the Sacramento County District Attorney's Office dismissed all charges.

Mark McVicar's truck was searched last August after the institution received an anonymous letter claiming he was carrying a concealed weapon onto facility grounds. He was charged with a felony violation of Penal Code Section 4574, bringing a firearm into a prison facility, and misdemeanor violation of Penal Code Sections 12025 and 12031, unlawfully carrying a loaded, concealed firearm. The dis-

trict attorney issued a complaint for the misdemeanor violations.

When LDF panel attorney Christopher Miller, a former prosecutor now with Mastagni, Holstedt & Chiurazzi, took the case, the D.A. was determined to prosecute McVicar for the felony charge.

The issue underlying the charges

The issue underlying the criminal charges was whether a correctional officer employed by a city-owned correctional facility may carry a concealed weapon. Under Penal Code Section 830.55(a), a correctional officer employed by a community detention facility is a peace officer.

With the assistance of the Folsom Correctional Peace Officers Association, Miller successfully argued Penal Code Section 12027, allowing other duly-appointed peace officers to carry concealed firearms off duty, applies to FCCF officers.

The District Attorney's Officer eventually agreed the misdemeanor case would have to be dismissed. However, the D.A. continued to press for a felony charge for bringing a weapon onto prison grounds.

Miller defeated this tactic by arguing the statute, section 4574, is directed at inmates and their accomplices who bring or attempt to bring weapons into jails and prisons, not at correctional officers authorized to carry concealed weapons off-duty. The FCPOA provided a history of other cases in which FCCF correctional officers brought firearms onto facility grounds and were not disciplined or prosecuted.

On April 12, 1996, the Sacramento County district attorney dismissed all criminal charges against McVicar for insufficient evidence. Mastagni, Holstedt & Chiurazzi now will use the dismissal to fight McVicar's termination.

Coming Soon Region 2 Training Session **Hug-A-Tree & Survive**

This one-day training session will certify you to present the nationally acclaimed "Hug-A-Tree and Survive" program. This wonderful program teaches young children how not to get lost and what to do if they do get lost in a wilderness environment.

We are looking for a date sometime in November in the San Jose area—**stay tuned for more information.**

PRAC BBQ Fizzles

by Sandy Ferreira

On Friday May 10, Region 1 was hosting a BBQ for all PRAC members and anyone else who was interested in attending. Unfortunately we did not get the response that I was hoping for. When PRAC sponsors socials like this, it is a good opportunity for everyone to meet new rangers, catch up on what is going on in your region and more importantly, network! That is what PRAC is all about. The membership is what makes PRAC...and that's you!

Ken Miller from Region 2 and I discussed hosting a joint BBQ in the summer for both of our regions. Look for more information in the *Signpost* and hopefully we will get a better response.

CPR & the LAW

At least one recent study has shown that a significant percentage of persons are fearful that performing CPR on a cardiac victim would subject the rescuer to legal risks. Reportedly, this has caused some persons to avoid being trained, and others who are trained from getting involved when confronted by a life-threatening emergency.

Anticipating this problem, the ACT Foundation in 1980 published an informative pamphlet entitled, "CPR and the Law." The pamphlet attempts to explain the law as it relates to CPR rescuers. Many thousands of copies have been distributed to CPR instructors and trainees. In order to provide for wider distribution, an updated version is presented in this issue of CPR Citizen. Permission is hereby granted to any person or organization desiring to photocopy "CPR and the Law" for widespread distribution.

There are many categories of civil law, but the one area of the law which concerns most CPR-trained citizen is that of tort law, specifically the law of negligence. This branch of law originates with the earliest tenets of our Judeo-Christian ethic. It is based on the centuries-old expectation that each of us must be responsible for our acts, that we have no right to inflict injury upon others through our carelessness, and that we must be financially responsible for those injuries we might cause through such carelessness.

Simply stated, every one of us, in everything we do, at all hours of our waking life, must always conduct ourselves in such a manner so as to not subject our fellow persons to unreasonable risks of harm. This requirement is not limited to CPR. It surrounds us in all of our activities and relationships. It is one of the important bases of a civilized society.

Where some injury does occur (an automobile accident, for example), and an injured person claim that the accident was caused by the carelessness (negligence) of another person, a lawsuit may result. The primary purpose of the lawsuit would be to recover "damages" (money) which approximates the cost of the injury suffered. However, for the lawsuit to be successful, the plaintiff (the person who sues) must allege and prove four necessary elements.

The four elements which must be proven to support a lawsuit based on alleged negligence are:

1. Duty—It must be proven that the defendant (the person who is being sued) had a duty to the plaintiff.

2. Breach of Duty—It must be proven that the defendant failed to live up to that duty and actually breached it with regard to the plaintiff.

3. Damages—It must be proven that the plaintiff suffered some discernible form of injury.

4. Causation—It must be proven that there was some cause-and-effect relationship between the breach of duty and the actual injuries (damages) suffered by the plaintiff.

With regard to the element of duty, it is important to note that (except in the state of Vermont) an individual has no legal duty to come to the aid of a dying stranger. However, once the rescuer ("good samaritan") commences aid to a stranger, he must not arbitrarily abandon the victim. He must perform as a reasonable and prudent rescuer would perform under the same or similar circumstances. Although there may not have been an initial duty to aid the stranger, such a duty is created the moment the rescuer begins to aid and assist the victim.

A reasonable and prudent rescuer would check the victim's airway, breathing and circulation before commencing CPR. A reasonable and prudent rescuer would not commence CPR on a person who had merely fainted. A reasonable and prudent rescuer is not required to perform miracles. Common sense and a reasonable degree of skill are all that the law would require under such emergency circumstances.

It is the element of causation that makes CPR a relatively risk-free procedure to the CPR-trained rescuer. A person who needs CPR is *pulseless and non-breathing*. It is pretty hard to get any worse off than that! The CPR-trained rescuer didn't cause the pulselessness and absence of respiration. Thus, the rescuer can't be held accountable for the patient's condition of clinical death before CPR is commenced. If the patient does not receive appropriate emergency care (including CPR), he will die. If CPR and subsequent emergency measures fail to restore life to the victim, he will be no worse off than he was when found pulseless and non-breathing (clinically dead). If the victim survives, he will have nothing to complain about—even if the CPR may have caused some physical

injury such as broken ribs, the alternative was death!

We are not aware of any court that has held a rescuer to be an insurer of the victim. That is, there is no requirement that you bring 'em back to life. All the law expects is that you perform as a reasonable, prudent, trained individual would under the same or similar circumstances. If an individual performs CPR in such a manner, there can be no penalty under our civil law—whether or not the victim survives.

One conceivable legal risk would be in the case where CPR is performed on one who doesn't really need it (for example one who has fainted but has a pulse and is breathing). But a person who is properly trained will know enough to check the important signs before commencing the technique.

Another possible legal risk might be found in a case where a would-be rescuer gives up the effort without good reason (American Heart Association Standards permit termination of the effort if the rescuer is exhausted and unable to continue resuscitation.)

One study involving 629 patients clearly demonstrated that bystander-initiated CPR nearly doubles the chances for long-term survival of victims of cardiac arrest due to primary heart disease. Other studies have shown that more than 80 percent of all Americans are aware of CPR and that as many as one in ten have already been trained in the technique. It is reasonable to presume that CPR is performed hundreds of times daily. Nonetheless, we are not aware of a single lawsuit anywhere in the U.S. arising from an incident where a citizen rescuer performed that technique on someone who needed it.

Statistically, it would appear that CPR performed by a trained layperson or someone who really needs it, presents far fewer legal risks than driving your car above the legal speed limit, allowing your dog to run unleashed, or maintaining an attractive nuisance in your yard.

Notice. The preceding information was prepared by James O. Page, JD, Executive Director, ACT Foundation, member of the California Bar, and was designed to provide accurate and authoritative information with regard to the subject matter covered. If legal services are required, the reader should seek a qualified professional of his or her choice.

Smitty's Book Report

It was really nice to see another book report for the *Signpost*, and not surprising that it was Bern Smith (a former student of mine, I might add) that submitted it. Thanks Bern. Anytime anyone would like to read a book, and write a report for the *Signpost*, give me a jingle. I have several on the shelf just itching to be read.

I spotted a book the other day, in one of my many flyers that I receive in the mail. This one, I believe, was on my NRPA book list. It is a new book on interpretation. For years, all of us that have taught interpretation or have taken an interpretive course, or have given interpretive programs, have used Grant Sharpe's **Interpreting the Environment**. In a way, the book had become the "bible" of interpretation. I had used this book, as well as Freeman Tilden's **Interpreting Our Heritage**, when I taught at West Valley. Tilden's book is very philosophical, and Sharpe's book a "textbook" on the subject. I think that there is now a perfect "how to book" on interpretation. This new book is **Interpretation of Cultural and Natural Resources**, published by Venture Publishing. The book is written about the principles, philosophies, and practices that are the essence of interpretation. It takes special aim at college students, as well as those that are attempting to better their interpretive skills. I feel that it would also be a great book to loan docents, or other park volunteers.

The text is divided into sections. The first section deals with what interpretation is and the philosophy of interpretation. I guess you have to have that. Seems that every textbook does. Section Two deals with the value that interpretation has to society, and to the clients. Section 3 contains the details on how to give a good program, and also includes an important chapter on how people learn. Section 3 is the strength of the book. It has "everything you need to know" about how to give a good program, in-

cluding the mechanics, regardless of the type. Living History? No problem. Slide talk? No problem. An interpretative sign? No problem. Creating a new interpretive brochure? It tells you how to do it.

The last section (4) lets you know how to effectively manage interpretive activities, along with planning, training, other administrative functions. Needless to say, this book belongs in your library. Knudson, Douglas M., Cable, Ted T., and Beck, Larry, **Interpretation of Cultural and Natural Resources**. Venture Publishing Company, State College PA, 1995. Five hundred and ten pages. Cost is around \$40.

What better way to "tune up" your knowledge as suggested by Russ Hauck in the last issue of *Signpost*, ("A formal Thank You"), than to read. Although Russ was writing about the annual conference, he was also writing about professionalism and what it takes to be a professional. Thanks to you, Russ, for your great insight as to the importance of conferences and to "being all you can be." Books are a bargain. What price can you put on knowledge and professionalism?

Speaking of conferences. Russ eluded to the fact that conferences can be costly. I have a suggestion to make. Maybe it is about time for all of us to open our homes and our hearts to our ranger friends from other parts of the state. What better way to have statewide unity, than to let a good ranger professional who cannot afford the motel prices, crash in that spare bedroom or on the couch a couple nights during the annual conference. We could have a "housing clearing house" person. I would be willing to try to place people in spare bedrooms. Of course, I would need a listing of people willing to open their doors to others. What do you people think? Could that work?

Wood Ducks

(Continued from page 1)

sive data over the 23 years that give a detailed understanding of the reproductive behavior and ecology of the wood duck, this information will be valuable to many wildlife scientists and managers interested in the preservation of the wood duck.

Steve is an interested and valuable resource. I reflect back on the day that Steve and I worked together, banding wood ducks, monitoring and checking nest boxes, I can thank him for passing on his knowledge and expertise about the importance and preservation of the wood duck in California.

If anyone would like to contact Steve, and would like any information about his Merced River Wood Duck Project, he can be reached through the California Waterfowl Association, The phone number is (916) 649-1406 or you can contact me at (510) 791-4340.

Trails Workshop In Planning Stage

by Ken Miller

Mark your calendars for October as another trails workshop is now being planned. Due to the success of the last two workshops I think that we have a good thing going. At each prior workshop people wanted more topics so we will have something new this time around.

If you have any particular interests for the workshop or are interested in planning and helping please contact me. If I don't hear from you, you might just hear from me.

PARK RANGERS ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA

Board Officers

1996

President

Pam Helmke
(408) 277-4539
Fax (408) 277-3241

Region 1 Director

Sandy Ferreira
(510) 791-4340
Fax (510) 494-4895

Region 2 Director

Ken Miller
(415) 691-2165

Region 3 Director

Dave Sloan
(916) 774-5100
Fax (916) 773-5595

Region 4 Director

Russ Hauck
(818) 548-3795
Fax (818) 548-3789

Region 5 Director

Paul Pettit
(909) 940-5644
Fax (909) 657-8496

Past President

Bob Donohue
(916) 895-4972
Fax (916) 342-6921

Cal Ranger Foundation

Tom Smith
(408) 356-5702

The Signpost Editor

David Brooks
(408) 336-2948
FAX (By Arrangement)

Scholarship/

Cal Ranger Foundation

Bill Hendricks
(805) 756-1246
Fax (805) 756-1402

Office Manager

Doug Bryce
Office (800) 994-2530
Local (916) 558-3734
Fax (916) 387-1179

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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.

email: prangerd@ix.netcom.com

DavidB8480@aol.com

CompuServe: 76516,3440

Membership Application

name

address

city

state

zip

Phone

home

work

Employer or School

Job Classification or Major

Voting Membership

Regular \$35

Non-voting Membership

Agency:

(1-25 persons—6 mailings) \$75

(> 25 persons—12 mailings) \$100

Student \$10

Associate \$15

Supporting \$50

Park Rangers Association of California

P O Box 292010

Sacramento, CA 95829-2010

(800) 994-2530

FAX (916) 387-1179

Park Rangers Association of California
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