

The Park Rangers Association of California's Member Newsletter

THE SIGNPOST

Professionalism Through Unity Since 1976

What's in it For Me? Time to let it all hang out!

by Professor Tom "Smitty" Smith

I recently had a long phone conversation with Jeff Price, our PRAC Webmaster, about a variety of things. I first met Jeff at a PRAC/CSPRA conference, and like what happens at places like that, when two comrades get together, the conversation goes from there. *Jeff's phone bill must look like the national debt.* Good things happen when Rangers pass on to each other what has happened in the past year or so and what we can do to make things better in the future in what we do. That is what usually happens when you attend conferences. That conversation often just happens over a glass of brew somewhere or in a hallway at coffee break time.

That is exactly how the National Park Ranger's Association started. There was a group of Rangers that met at the Tetons for a social get together and the discussions led to just what I mentioned above. Out of those discussions evolved the association. That organization now has a large membership. PRAC actually had a part in that NPS evolution when I sent our by-laws (with input from CSPRA) to a friend in Yellowstone who was their first secretary.

(continued on [Page 2](#))

"Getting to Know You" Van Duzen Park, A Humboldt County Park Unit

by Patrick Boyle

Van Duzen County Park is one of 14 units operated by Humboldt County Parks Department. The Park consists of 4 old growth redwood groves along the Van Duzen River. Pamplin Grove operates as a group camp for company picnics, weddings, and family reunions; while Swimmers Delight is a 36 site campground/ day use area operating on a first come first serve basis.

The other two groves are left to nature with just a trail connecting all 4 groves that follows the river. Not a bad gig for one full time staff and one summer seasonal employee. Needless to say there is never a dull moment. *(continued on [Page 2](#))*

*Redwoods at park entrance*

2018 Parks Conference Event Summary and Highlights

by Matt Cerkel

This year's California Parks Training Conference at Tenaya Lodge just concluded. We had park rangers from Humboldt to San Diego and rangers from Nevada, Colorado and Hawaii in attendance.

It started off with Chris Cruz on *The Use of Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) in Park Management*. We had a great keynote speaker, Captain Ken Brink, Visitor Services Manager for Larimer County, Colorado, discuss the need for national standards for the park ranger profession. Scott Gediman, Yosemite's PIO, discussed managing public affairs at a high-profile park like Yosemite.

Our opening speaker Wednesday was George Durkee, who has served as a park ranger for 47 years. He discussed his 40 years as a backcountry law enforcement ranger and the use of GIS in Search and Rescue.

George was also honored at the conference's annual banquet

The conference concluded with the annual banquet, where George Durkee was presented as the 2018 PRAC Honorary Lifetime Member *For his decades of service as a backcountry law enforcement ranger and his dedication to the betterment of the park ranger profession.*

As the conference chair I liked seeing a lot of new faces at the conference. It was also good to see so many young rangers in attendance and rangers that reflect the diversity of California.

I would like to thank the speakers, track chairs and the attendees that ALL contributed in making the 2018 California Parks Training Conference a success. **See you all next year in Ventura County!**

President's Message April 2018

by Matt Cerkel

Returning top the Yosemite region for PRAC's 2018 California Parks Training Conference is like coming home for the Park Ranger profession in California. The idea of setting large tracts of wildlands aside for public enjoyment and preservation began in Yosemite in 1864 with the creation of the Yosemite Grant, California's first state park and the birth of the Park idea. In 1866 Yosemite became the birthplace of the Park Ranger profession with the appointment of Galen Clark as the "Guardian of Yosemite."



Clark photo courtesy M. G. Lynch Collection

Clark "was the first person formally appointed and paid to protect and administer a great natural park." Clark was "California's and the nation's first Park Ranger." Clark along with a Sub-Guardian had to protect the area...They were to strictly enforce the new state laws enacted to protect the park containing, the first park-

protection laws in the nation. "Specifically, no trees or timber were to be cut or injured, no fires were to be allowed in dry grass or undergrowth, no structures were to be erected without approval, and trails, bridges, and ladders were to be kept in order. They were also" given authority to "prevent...visitors...from doing anything which would tend to impair...the Valley or its surroundings." (continued on [Page 7](#))

"Getting to Know You" (continued from [Page 1](#))

The land was acquired by the Hammond Lumber Company near the turn of the century. It is comprised of virgin old growth redwood and one of the groves was a stop for the stagecoach from Red Bluff to Eureka. In 1956 Georgia Pacific (G.P.) bought out Hammond Lumber Company and then sold off its assets here in Humboldt County in 1969 to Pacific Lumber Company. Prior to the sale G.P. set aside 390 acres of land and donated it to the Nature Conservancy.

The Nature conservancy spent \$18,000 in legal and survey fees to acquire this property, and offered it to the State Parks. The State Parks declined because they were unable to reimburse the money the Conservancy had spent. The Nature Conservancy then reached an agreement with the County for \$10,000 along with a lease agreement for 280 acres for the next 50 years.

(continued on [Page 3](#))



What's in it For Me?

(continued from [Page 1](#))

PRAC also started like that when an idea by founders Raleigh Young and Bill Lawrence had an idea about forming a Bay Area Ranger's association. They gathered a small group and in the discussions that took place, it became a state-wide organization after an in-service training program at West Valley attended by sixty Rangers all over California revealed it had to be larger than that. The real need to get support for what we did state-wide was great. Park visitors and Rangers needed to be safe and our parks saved for the future. Here read this and here are the keys philosophy had to stop. Our Rangers needed training and support.

PRAC is a professional organization guided by officers, a governing board and by a document of by-laws. Doctors have a professional organization, lawyers have them and rightfully so, I might add. Being a professional, by definition, is having academic preparation and the development of standards to live by. There is a need to get everyone on the same song sheet.

I do not think I would go to a doctor if he was not a member of the AMA, Would you? Would you like to be wheeled into an operating room and find an intern standing there? Did you know that PRAC does support standards for the preparation for a Ranger? You also should know that government personnel management departments have trouble where to put Rangers as standards vary as do job descriptions? We are not professional in their eyes because there are no college programs where you can get a four-year degree in being a park Ranger. It is that "academic" standard that they place people into. You can be a Ranger with a variety of college degrees. Only professional organizations like PRAC and other Ranger organizations can help change that.

Professional organizations usually create a "code of ethics." Codes usually include individual competence in order to present the profession in a manner that brings credit to themselves and what they do. It is the "Ranger image" we strive for. It is wearing that flat hat and the pride that brings.

We have people out there in our profession that do not want to wear that symbol of being an approachable public servant. I cannot imagine that ever happening. (continued on [Page 4](#))

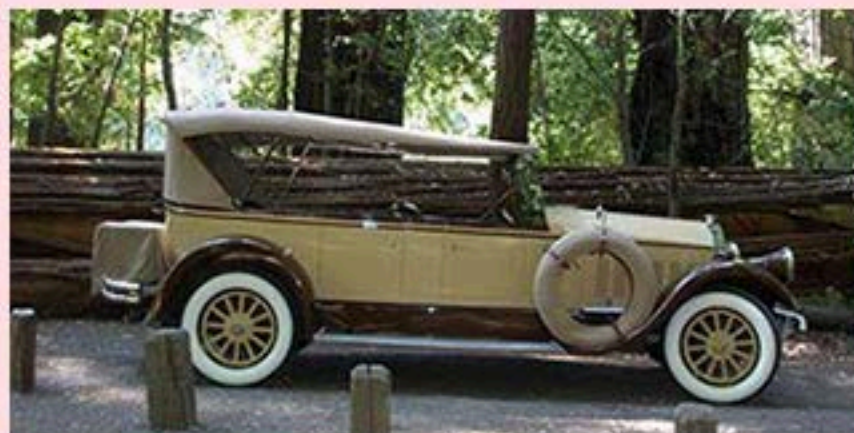


Conference snapshots

**"Getting to Know You"****Van Duzen County Park** (continued from [Page 2](#))

The other 110 acres were leased from the University of California as a study area. In 1980 the Conservancy turned over title of the property to the County with the condition that the land continues to operate as a public park in perpetuity.

We have 4th and 5th generation campers now in the park, and this is a local favorite swimming hole. Many Logging families would camp here in the summer while dad went to work in the woods. In fact one of the only reasons this property did not fall to the axe was that the locals petitioned the lumber companies to leave these groves so the families could continue to use them for camping each summer.



Old, but not nearly as old as the surrounding redwoods.

Pat Boyle photo

There are not many places today that allow you to camp right in the old growth redwoods. Our typical summer temps are in the low 80's, perfect for taking a dip in the river and sun bathing along the beach. People often tell us this park rivals the ones in the state and federal systems.

In the early days this park supplied the rest of the department with wood for picnic tables, split rail fencing, and buildings by utilizing dead fall in the park. Many down logs were unfortunately cut up and utilized in this way rather than "waste away" in the forest. Some were sold to supplement other Nature Conservancy projects. Fortunately today we have a greater understanding of the complex system that makes up and supports an old growth forest. An old logger told me, "No matter how good our timber practices become we will be paying for our logging history for the next thousand years. Old growth does not grow overnight." (continued on [Page 11](#))

What's in it For Me? *(continued from page 2)*

I was once called out by my Chief Ranger for not wearing my flat hat. I was shoveling manure! After I pointed out what I was doing, he said, "someone needing help might see you shoveling manure." It was a point taken. My old Yosemite boss used to say that in a park a Ranger is everything to everybody. The public expects you to know what that flower is, and to keep the park and the people safe. Part of the CSPRA code is to accept the moral responsibility for the safety and well-being of the park visitor. Also, to develop working relationships also with support groups in allied professions and citizen groups. Professional organizations can help you do that.

Professional organizations promote a unifying voice for what we do and what we believe in. A lot of true professionals pay for their memberships because of that one thing. Organizations like PRAC promote the future of the profession by inspiring young people to become like you. PRAC has a couple scholarships that we have trouble giving away. There is something wrong with that. Certainly, programs like West Valley College, and Santa Rosa C.C. or Chico State have students who need some help in affording school.

Professional organizations offer a method for people in the profession to communicate and to pass on ideas and ideals. It is why we have the Signpost. It is now on the web, so everyone can read it. Share it with non-members. Maybe even send it to agency directors so we might get their support for what PRAC is and not a threat to how they do things. Agency support is a real big issue.

Right now PRAC has some membership problems not only with the numbers but also with people willing to take the time to contribute to the cause, like even forgetting to vote. Jeff Price revealed to me that only 32 of our 139 members even voted in this past election. A process that took only 20 seconds! Contributing has always been an issue, as it has been proven that only about 15% of any organization ever volunteers to help with anything. There are always doers and then "just members." Not wanting to take the time to volunteer is often the excuse that is heard the most. Not willing to take the time and a passion for what we do is the real issue.

Thanks to an old Scoutmaster I had, Doc Hyde, who put a finger in front of my nose and said, "You like this organization? If you like it because of what you are getting out of it, you should be willing to take the time to give something back for what you take away." Thanks to Doc, that became what I am and deeply embedded in what I believe in. Am I saying that you are not a professional by not giving back?

(continued on [Page 5](#))

California Legal Update Consensual Encounters vs. Detentions

Article by Robert Phillips, submitted by Pam Helmke. These legal updates are prepared as an ongoing service to the law enforcement community by retired Deputy District Attorney Robert Phillips, formerly of the San Diego County District Attorney's Office.

Patdowns for Weapons

People v. Parrott (Apr. 4, 2017) 10 Cal.App.5th 485 Rule: Asking a person (1) to keep his hands away from a suspicious bulge in the person's sweatshirt, (2) for his identity, and (3) to move to a sidewalk, do not necessary, absent a "show of authority," convert a consensual encounter into a detention. A patdown for weapons is supported by sufficient reasonable suspicion when the person nervously and continually touches a heavy bulge in his sweatshirt pocket and then physically resists handcuffing during a detention.

Facts: Defendant had a thing for carrying guns. Unfortunately for him, a prior felony conviction prevented him from lawfully doing so. Not to be deterred by such a minor problem, defendant took his pistol with him on February 9, 2015, while driving around Eureka, California, only to have his car stall at the intersection of Pine St. and Wabash Ave.



Two Eureka police officers — Officers Harkness and Slotow—observed defendant's stalled car, without rear or brake lights, roll backwards into the intersection. The officers watched defendant get out of the driver's side of his car, push it to the side of the road, and open the hood. Upon contacting defendant, he told the officers he didn't need any help.

Defendant was wearing a hooded sweatshirt, the front pocket of which noticeably bulged from some apparently heavy object. As defendant repeatedly touched the bulge in his sweatshirt pocket, the officers suspected that it might be a firearm.

(continued on [Page 7](#))

Yosemite Reflections On the 2018 Parks Conference

by Candi Hubert, Director Region 5, Vice President

As I reflect on this years' PRAC Conference, I am reminded why I love attending each year. I drove up to the Tenaya Lodge with another Park Ranger from Orange County Parks. As soon as we reached the foothills below Yosemite, the drive started to get exciting. Once we reached the winding road to the Tenaya Lodge, the scenery was spectacular with snow everywhere. It was a beautiful winter wonderland.

Once we settled in the hotel with snow all around, I realized this was one of the most beautiful trips I've had to the area. Our rooms were conveniently located near the lobby and the conference rooms. It's always great to hang out with park staff who you normally don't see outside of work and often only at meetings. Jackalope's became one of our fun dinner spots.

Our keynote speaker this year was Captain Ken Brink from Larimer County. He gave a wonderful and inspired talk for all park rangers in attendance.

This year I noticed many new faces and returning attendees also. There were many interesting sessions to choose from. The first day, I went to The Use of Game Camera's for Park Law Enforcement, Where Can A Story Take Us and Wild land Fire Evacuation. I was curious to see how another agency handles their game cameras.

The instructor Matt Cerkel gave many good tips on the use of cameras from where to position them to the type of cameras. He also gave us a draft of their policy on Park Law Enforcement Surveillance Camera's, which is a useful reference. The second session focused on how public libraries and National Parks forge new experiences for communities. *(continued on [Page 8](#))*



What's in it For Me? *(continued from [Page 4](#))*

Just belonging to an organization is giving back. Sacrificing and supporting your profession with your hard-earned dollars is giving back.

You get many things out of a professional organization that are hard to measure. No matter what the thoughts are about Scouting in this modern age, I took away a lot out of that organization, including my land ethic, skills in living and surviving in the outdoors, and leadership skills. Skills I have used often. When you belong to a professional organization like PRAC, Education, friendships, comrade are all bye products of membership. Things that you just keep with you a lifetime.

There are probably some pretty diverse issues as to the causes for our organization's membership loss. Changing demographics to a more urban society and perhaps a loss of our "land ethic", law enforcement issues and organizations that support those, and the cost of memberships could lead to the attitudes of "what's in that for me? Costs were even an issue when the membership was less than ten dollars!

It might be time to take a long look, in this electronic age, to revisit those costs. Demographic changes include organizations like Rotary, Elks, and other like organizations finding that the new generations are not joiners. They are also having membership problems. It all boils down to being the best you can be and having a passion for what you do. Being a PRAC member helps you do that. Think of all the people in this world that envy what you do. Rangers have the best job in America!

I always fear when I write something like this that I am preaching to the choir. Then I am reminded that even a choir is part of a congregation. Hope to see you soon, if the Lord lets me.



Smitty

**Contact Us
Officers, Directors
and Staff**

President
Matt Cerkel
(415) 609-3863
matt@calranger.org

Vice-President
Candi Hubert
(714) 357-7861
region5@calranger.org

Region 1 Director
Michael Warner
(415) 999-2151
region1@calranger.org

Region 2 Director
Aylara Odekova
(408) 274-6121
aylara@calranger.org

Region 3 Director
(to be appointed)

Region 4 Director
Richard Weiner
(909) 952-1520
region4@calranger.org

Region 5 Director
Candi Hubert
(714) 357-7861
region5@calranger.org

Region 6 Director
Andy Brown
(775) 849-2511
region6@calranger.org

The Signpost Newsletter
Editor, [Matt Cerkel](#)
Associate Editor, [Jeff Price](#)

Executive Manager
Betsy Anderson
(707) 884-3949
office@calranger.org

WebMaster
Jeff Price
(805) 278-9201
webmaster@calranger.org

Editorial Opinion

**Parks Need Your Help & Vote
Please Support the Parks and Water Bond**

The California Parks, Environment, and Water Bond is on the ballot in California as a legislatively-referred bond act on June 5, 2018.

It was a very close vote to get the measure on the ballot. A 2/3 vote (54 members) was required in the State Assembly and it received 56 aye votes. A 2/3 vote (27 senators) was required in the State Senate and it received 27 aye votes. In September 2017, Governor Jerry Brown signed Senate Bill 5, titled the *California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection and Outdoor Access for All Act of 2018*.

The measure would authorize \$4 billion in general obligation bonds for state and local parks, environmental protection and restoration projects, water infrastructure projects, and flood protection projects. The measure would also require that between 15 and 20 percent of the bond's funds, depending on type of project, be dedicated to projects in communities with median household incomes less than 60 percent of the \$39,980 statewide average.

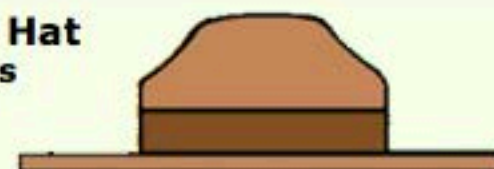
A "yes" vote supports the measure to authorize \$4 billion in general obligation bonds for state and local parks, environmental protection projects, water infrastructure projects, and flood protection projects.

Clean and reliable water resources, including secure flood control systems, and access to parks and recreational space, are vital to our economy and wellbeing as a state.

This bond allows us to invest in critical priorities that have been neglected for years, while lifting people up with good jobs and livable, healthy communities.

We recommend YES on Senate Bill 5.

**Under the Flat Hat
Ranger Standards**



by Matt Cerkel

As many of you know, I often write about the need for standards for the park ranger profession, the idea of the generalist ranger and where the ranger profession is headed. I've praised PRAC for having developed the Park Ranger Training and Standards, the "Generalist Ranger" certificate. I've written about the trouble of using the term "Generalist Ranger" because the term means different things to different people and there is no agreed upon standard on what is a "Generalist Ranger."

I like the new term for modern-day equivalent of the "Generalist Ranger" and that is "Multi-Specialist Ranger." A term North Carolina uses for its State Park Rangers. At the 2018 California Parks Training Conference, our keynote speaker, Captain Ken Brink, talked about the need for national standards for park rangers.

During his speech Ken discussed the five duties modern park rangers have: Interpretation, Hospitality, Public Safety (Law enforcement, EMS, SAR and Fire), Maintenance and Stewardship. These same duties are also reflected in PRAC's Park Ranger Training and Standards.
(continued on [Page 8](#))



Brian Lee proudly showing Park Ranger badge patch he just purchased.

Mike Lynch photo

California Legal Update *(continued from [Page 4](#))*

Eventually, Officer Harkness asked defendant to step onto the sidewalk. Asked for his name and birthdate, defendant readily but nervously provided both, volunteering that he was not on probation or parole. As they waited for a records check to come back, the officers asked defendant to refrain from touching the pocket of his sweatshirt. During this time period, defendant asked for, and received, permission to smoke a cigarette. Dispatch eventually came back with the information that defendant's driver's license had been suspended. At this point, Officer Harkness "took hold of" defendant's right arm and told him to put his hands behind his back.

When appellant resisted, the officers took a firm grip on him to prevent him from moving or reaching into his front pocket. He was told a second time to place his hands behind his back. After again refusing to cooperate, the officers subdued defendant by placing him on his stomach and handcuffing him. Officer Soltow pat-searched defendant. Feeling what he believed to be a gun, Officer Slottow reached into appellant's front sweatshirt pocket and retrieved a loaded handgun. Defendant was arrested for being a felon in possession of a firearm 9 (P.C. § 29800(a)) as well as driving without a valid license (V.C. § 12500(a)) and booked into jail.

On July 17, 2015, while out on bail (and on a case not contested on appeal), defendant was contacted by another Eureka police officer while sitting in a vehicle in the parking lot at a local mall. Upon discovering that defendant had an outstanding warrant, the officer arrested him. A subsequent search of the vehicle incident to arrest resulted in a loaded firearm being found under the driver's seat. Defendant was again arrested for being a felon in possession of a firearm.

With both cases consolidated for trial, defendant filed a motion to suppress the handgun from the first case. Upon denial of his motion, he pled guilty in both cases, admitted to various allegations, and was sentenced to 5 years in prison. Defendant appealed. Held: The First District Court of Appeal (Div. 4) affirmed. On appeal, defendant argued that the recovery of the firearm in the first case was the product of (1) an illegal detention and (2) an illegal patdown for weapons. The Court disagreed with him on both issues. (1) The Detention: Contrary to defendant's arguments, defendant in this case was held not have been detained until the officers attempted to handcuff him after discovering that he was in violation of V.C. § 12500(a); driving without a valid driver's license. Up until that point, he was only being "consensually encountered."

In so ruling it was noted that an individual is detained only at that point in a contact when police officers restrain his or her liberty by means of physical force or a show of authority. "A consensual encounter between a police officer and an individual does not amount to a detainment under the Fourth Amendment."

(continued on [Page 10](#))

President's Message *(continued from [Page 2](#))*

Guardian Clark was also named a special sheriff's deputy by Mariposa County, carried a firearm (rifle) and made the first known park arrest in 1870 and, which demonstrates law enforcement duties for park rangers is not a recent development. It was also expected that the guardian and sub-guardian be in the valley and Big Tree Grove during the busy season, "in order to bring about entire safety and security that wanton damages will not be inflicted." At times Clark had to accomplish his mission of protecting the park with "no appropriations, salary or money to develop the park" (budget issues in parks are almost as old as the parks themselves). As a result, Clark went without even partial salary for years, and was never fully paid. "As the first park ranger, Clark established the park ranger profession as one of protector, host, and administrator...he began the proud ranger tradition of protection and care of parks, combined with courteous and helpful service to the visiting public."

In 1890 Yosemite National Park was created and it was administered by the US Army. In September 1898 the Army Superintendent of Yosemite "received authorization to appoint Forest Rangers...for temporary service. These men were to assist the Troops on their patrols." These rangers were kept on for the winter to protect the Park (when the Army had returned to the Presidio in San Francisco). "The Army reports to the Secretary of the Interior referred to these rangers as "Park Rangers." This was probably the first usage of the "Park Ranger Title." The forest rangers in California National Parks officially became known as park rangers in 1905. So even the job title of park ranger had its origins in Yosemite.

In 1916 the National Park Service was created, and they inherited the park rangers working at Yosemite and the other national parks. The book "Guardians of the Yosemite" described these early National Park Service Park Rangers as "The ranger is the law, the information bureau, wildlife protector, handyman, forest fire fighter and rescuer. He is responsible for the protection and administration of his area. He is trained for these duties and must be mentally and physically qualified to handle them competently."

(continued on [Page 10](#))

Under the Flat Hat

(continued from Page 6)

Ken went on to discuss the various ranger models used and how one size does not fit all (OSDNFA). Off this list one model caught my attention: The Multipurpose Ranger Model. This is the term I've been looking for! The modern day equivalent for the historic Generalist Ranger, this ranger has duties in all the areas listed previously and is trained and certified in those duties. This is also the idea behind the PRAC Park Ranger Training and Standards Certification. As part of the revision of those standards it may be time to transition from the term "Generalist Ranger" to the new term "Multipurpose Ranger" and help define to our agencies and the general public what a "Multipurpose Ranger" is and what is required to become one.

As Captain Brink closed his presentation he stated that there is an urgent need for a national dialogue aimed at establishing standards for rangers. He pointed out NFPA Standards for Firefighting, POST Standards for Law Enforcement and National Registry for EMS. All these are elements of the ranger profession, but who is going to take the lead in our profession and help define the standards for rangers?

PRAC can help take the lead; we've already established our Park Ranger Training and Standards. Once the revisions to the certification process are complete I will be first in line to earn my PRAC Multipurpose Ranger Certification. PRAC should also start working with the agencies and encourage them to also adopt the standards.

California can serve as a model for rest of the country! We can lead the way!



Yosemite Reflections

(continued from Page 5)

This was particularly interesting to me since my facility has a new library in our park. The last session for the day focused on Evacuation during a Wild land Fire, which is very relevant for my facility that is a wilderness park and had burned 90% ten years ago during the Santiago Fires. And more recently, we had Canyon I and II Fires that burned three of our parks in Orange County.

After a busy day attending sessions, my Orange County colleagues and I went down to Oakhurst for dinner. It's always interesting driving down the windy road at night with snow on both sides of the road. Our meals were good and lucky us, the waitress did not mind separating checks for the seven of us.

The second day opened with presenter George Durkee who was a backcountry ranger for 47 years in several parks including Yosemite. He had colorful stories to tell us about his backcountry days. My second day sessions included CDFW Inspection/Enforcement/Statutes, October 17 Fires-Lessons Learned at Sonoma County Parks and CDFW Marijuana Trespass Grows, Officer & Environmental Safety. Both fires and marijuana grows are both issues at Orange County Parks and there is always things to be learned from other agencies. I was very impressed with Lt. John Nores from Fish & Wildlife. He and many other speakers were so passionate about their role and profession. It was inspirational learning from them.



Orange County Ranger contingent on Banquet night. From right to left, Travis, Jenn, Sean, Candi, Diane, Maura and Mason.

Our awards banquet this year honored George Durkee for all his many years in the backcountry and contributions to the park ranger profession. We also had a lively raffle and silent auction to top off the night.

We were lucky enough the following day to be able to explore the valley and take a couple hikes to Happy Isle and Mirror Lake. And the day is not complete without a lunch visit to the Awhanee Hotel (now Majestic Hotel). The day was spectacular beyond words and I will always remember this trip and thankful to have spent time with Mason, Jenn, Sean, Travis, Diane and Maura from OC Parks.

I hope all my friends, both new and returning, will join us next year for the **2019 Conference in Ventura.**

2019 Parks Conference Slated for Ventura County

by Jeff Price

The 2019 California Parks Conference will be held along the Ventura coastline. Plans are now under way for an educational, fun and enjoyable presentation. If you would like to help the Planning Team, be a presenter or have questions, drop a note to [Matt Cerkel](#).



Know What You Are Trying To Say An Initial Speaking Tip

by Ethan Rotman, iSpeakEASY, Performance Speaking Coach
and 2018 Conference presenter



Ethan Rotman

This first speaking tip is so basic, that people sometimes laugh when I say it: Be clear on what you are trying to say and what you want your audience to know when you are done.

It sounds so basic, but a common mistake is not being clear on what we are really trying to say. Think about it - if the speaker does not have a clear idea of what they are trying to say, how is the audience supposed to figure it out? We feel rushed or, worse yet, we believe that since we are just "speaking for a few minutes at a staff meeting" or "having a quick word with the boss (or spouse, kids etc)" that we don't need to prepare.

Speaking without knowing your point can be likened to driving without a destination (except it lacks the romance of the free-wheeling spirit heading down the road). You veer right, then turn left, go straight for a bit, you double back, take a side road that leads you no where. You end up talking about all kinds of things that really are not pertinent to the message you are trying to deliver, the audience tries to follow you but ends up lost and takes a "mental vacation".

The next time you are going to speak, whether it is in front of a group or one-on-one, ask yourself this question: "What is the one thing I want them to know when I am done speaking?" When you can answer this question - organize your thoughts and then you are ready to begin. Being clear in your own mind on your objective will go a long ways in helping you present your thoughts in a clear and concise manner that will be effective.

Treat every conversation with care and respect. Before you speak, put yourself in the driver's seat and say, "where do I want this to go"?

© 2017 - All Rights Reserved. Rotman is an Interpreter with more than 35 years professional experience who provides training and coaching for Park Rangers, Interpreters, Managers and other professionals.
ethan@ispeakeasy.net(415) 342-7106,
www.iSpeakEASY.net

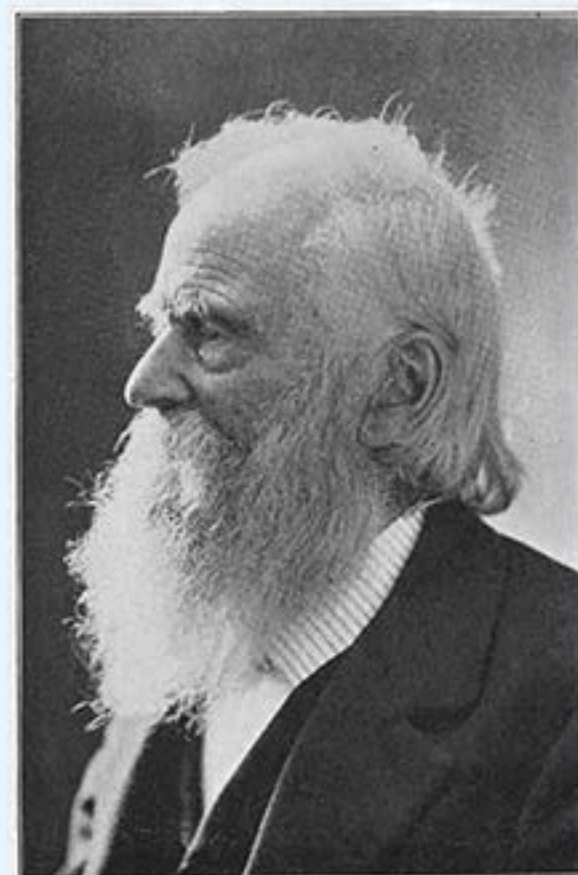


President's Message *(continued from Page 7)*

Stephen T. Mather said this about park rangers in the 1920s "They are a fine, earnest, intelligent, and public-spirited body of men (and women), and the rangers. Though small in number, their influence is large. Many and long are the duties heaped upon their shoulders. If a trail is to be blazed, it is 'send a ranger.' If an animal is floundering in the snow, a ranger is sent to pull him out; if a bear is in the hotel, if a fire threatens a forest, if someone is to be saved, it is 'send a ranger.' If a Dude wants to know the why of Nature's ways, if a "Sagebrusher" is puzzled about a road, his first thought is, 'ask a ranger.' Everything the ranger knows, he will tell you, except about himself."

It should be noted the interpretive park ranger had its origin in Yosemite too, with the first real park interpretive programs which were simultaneously developed in Yosemite and Yellowstone in 1920. Initially, these rangers were called Ranger Naturalists. During the 1920s the duties and training of the Ranger Naturalists were formalized, this included founding the Yosemite School of Field Natural History in 1925.

My view is that professional park rangers are "protectors, explainers, hosts, caretakers, people who are expected to be knowledgeable, helpful, courteous and professional: people who find you when you're lost, help you when you're hurt, rescue you when you're stuck, and enforce the law when you or others can't abide by it." Since 1866 this is what a park ranger in California has been, it is what unites our profession. We are all these things and more, it is our common ground and heritage, and it all began here in Yosemite.



Photograph by Zeller.

*Galen Clark**Photo courtesy CSPRA's History Collection***Legal Update Hints***(continued from Page 7)*

The contact in this case began as an offer of assistance by the officers when they saw that defendant was having some car problems. Even though defendant indicated that he did not need any assistance, there was no legal reason why the officers were required to walk away. It is well settled that "law enforcement officers do not violate the Fourth Amendment by merely approaching an individual on the street or in another public place, by asking him if he is willing to answer some questions, by putting questions to him if the person is willing to listen, or by offering in evidence in a criminal prosecution his voluntary answers to such questions."

Such a contact remains a "consensual encounter" at least up until that point that a reasonable person no longer feels that he is free to walk away. That typically requires some sort of "show of authority," to the extent that a reasonable person no longer feels free to leave. The Court also rejected defendant's argument that there was insufficient evidence of a V.C. § 12500 violation in that they never saw him driving. It was clear, under the circumstances, that he had been driving the vehicle when he was observed getting out of the driver's side of the car right after the car had been seen rolling backwards into the intersection. The Court further rejected defendant's argument that patting him down for weapons under these circumstances was illegal. Assuming that defendant had only been detained when handcuffed, the law requires that the officers had a reasonable suspicion to believe that he might be armed in order to conduct a patdown of his outer clothing for weapons.

Noting that "a police officer has a strong need to practice caution and self-protection when on patrol," the Court found that under the circumstances of this case, the officers had the necessary reasonable suspicion when they observed him nervously touching the heavy bulge in his sweatshirt pocket a number of times, and thus the patdown search was a lawful search under the Fourth Amendment.



"Getting to Know You"

Van Duzen Humboldt County Park (continued from [Page 3](#))

During the 1985 budget crisis we almost lost the park. A formal request was written up and sent to the State from the County Board of Supervisors proposing to trade Van Duzen Park for some State beach property adjacent to one of our other park units. When this was reported in the local paper, people spoke out in droves for support of a locally controlled Park unit in the redwoods. They stated that the state parks were just "too popular and expensive". This caused the Board to rescind the letter. At that time day use was \$1 per vehicle and camping was \$6 dollars a night.

Our goals in the early years focused on managing the park as a recreation area with no real money or other resources to make improvements to the facility. However in the late 1990's that all changed. (Well not the money or even the resources come to think about it.) Much of the old growth in Humboldt County and around the park was being logged by the Maxxam Corporation. Charles Hurwitz (Junk Bond Junkie of the 80's) bought out Pacific Lumber Company in 1985, and pretty well raped it of all its valuable redwood. We were the staging area for Earth First! during the "Redwood Summer"(1990) and the "Save Headwaters" (1995) protests.



Main swim area at Swimmers Delight in Van Duzen County Park, Humboldt

That meant we were ground zero between the protesters and the Logging community.

I think we earned some respect from both sides in our handling of these large groups and all the attention and pressure that came with the protesters using the park as their base camp. (But that is a whole other story.)

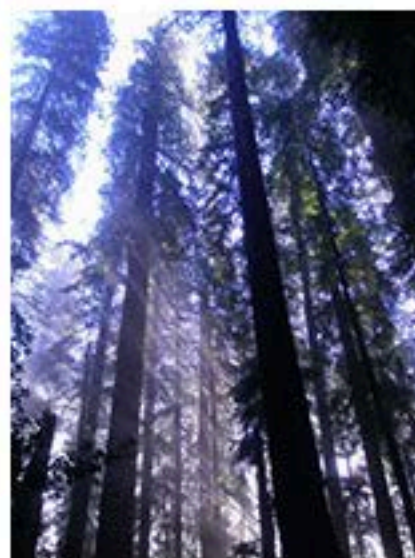
In 1996 Fish and Wildlife designated the park as critical habitat for Spotted Owls and Marbled Murrelets due to our abundance of standing old growth timber. All this has created a bit of a management conundrum. Attempting to balance a high recreational use area and still meet the needs of the Park especially during the nesting period for endangered species was and still is a challenge at times.

The park has been featured in several auto commercials, a couple of Russian music videos for Zara, (The Pop Diva of Russia) and featured in the movie "Outbreak" and "Walking with the Dinosaurs".

I would like to say join us on Facebook or the internet, but we are still walking with the dinosaurs when it comes to technology at times.

Ah, life behind the redwood curtain.

If you ever want to take a peek at what goes on behind this curtain, please stop by and say hi. We are, as always, on a first come first serve basis but the coffee is hot, and it is always cool under the canopy of these majestic trees.



(Pat Boyle photos from upper left) Kids doing a tree science measurement project, sunrise in the tall redwood forest, a foggy day along the Van Duzen River inside the park.

2018 Honorary Lifetime Member George Durkee

George Durkee has served as a seasonal ranger for the National Park Service for 47 years. Until recently, he was a backcountry law enforcement ranger and worked in Yosemite, Sequoia and Kings Canyon (37 years), and Channel Islands National Parks.

He has now returned to where he started – Yosemite – teaching GIS to rangers and working with search and rescue to improve mapping skills. He also teaches GIS and Emergency Services at Columbia College in Sonora, CA.

In the late 1990's he became interested in GIS as a way to better capture information generated in SAR incidents. In the mid-2000s, working with other SAR and GIS professionals he helped design better geospatial tools and training for SAR. This included a book, starting a Google discussion forum and designed software (MapSAR) to further this effort. These efforts have since expanded into techniques and workflow to locate cell phones in search situations and provide training for teams and advice during active incidents.

George also helped co-found the US Park Rangers Lodge, Fraternal Order of Police in 1986 and served in a leadership role at the Lodge for many years. Through the Lodge's efforts retirement packages for NPS law enforcement rangers improved.

The Lodge repeatedly fought for better training, equipment and working conditions for the NPS law enforcement rangers. Recently the Lodge transitioned into a new role as the US Park Rangers Lodge, Supporting PEER's Thin Green Line, but it continues to help protect the protectors of our national parks.

For his nearly five decades of service as a ranger here in California where he protected both the parks he served in and the people visiting them, his efforts to improve the working conditions for park rangers, and for his continued service to the parks and the park ranger profession the Park Rangers Association of California is proud to recognize George Durkee as our 2018 Honorary Lifetime Member.



President Matt Cerkel presenting
2018 award to George Durkee

Opinion California Needs to Step up Park Maintenance Support the Park Bond Bill in November!

Once considered a "best in the nation" system, California's parks and open spaces have suffered in recent years from a lack of adequate funding to meet the backlog of unseen or aging infrastructure at many of the state's most beautiful places.

Additionally, parklands are on the front line of climate change, affected by severe storms and sea-level rise, drought and fire — increasing the backlog. Deferring maintenance is akin to taking on more debt — it costs more to fix things as their condition worsens. Gov. Jerry Brown used this same analogy with regard to the Legislature's transportation measure: "If the roof on your house is leaking, you better fix it, because it gets worse all the time."

We agree — the time to fix our parks is now.

A park bond bill moving moved across the governor's desk for his signature and it is on the 2018 ballot. Both outline funding for disadvantaged communities, increased preparation for, and resiliency to, climate change and per capita distribution to every community in the state.

The combined leadership of Senate Pro Tem Kevin de León, Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon and Assemblyman Eduardo Garcia, D-Coachella (Riverside County), in championing this bill toward a bond to tackle the \$25 billion of deferred maintenance in parks throughout the state is commendable. It has been 15 years since a legislative park bond made it to the ballot; it's parks' turn.

An example is given in a recent study that found the value of the East Bay Regional Park District in Oakland to the state's economy to be \$500 million annually. As the land managed by the district is a minor share of the state's 47 million acres of open space, imagine how much greater this effect of parks throughout the state is to California's economy. Championing a bond to tackle the \$25 billion of deferred maintenance in parks throughout the state is commendable.

It has been 15 years since a legislative park bond made it to the ballot; it's hopefully parks' turn.

World Ranger Day Coming July 31, 2018

World Ranger Day both commemorates Rangers killed or injured in the line of duty and celebrates the critical work Rangers do to protect the world's natural and cultural treasures.

World Ranger Day is observed annually on the 31st of July and is celebrated by the International Ranger Federation's (IRF's) member Associations, The Thin Green Line Foundation, and by organizations, schools and individuals who support the work of Rangers and the IRF worldwide.

The first World Ranger Day was observed in 2007 on the 15th anniversary of the founding of the IRF.

Let's pause for a moment to reflect on the sacrifice that these Rangers make; to honor the fallen Rangers and their colleagues who still bravely undertake their role in the field.

Get involved:

- Host a public or private event dedicated to the work of Rangers and screen the international Ranger documentary, *The Thin Green Line*. [Apply online](#).
- Download a World Ranger Day Poster ([PDF](#)) – Put your name and location on the sign, have your picture taken whilst holding the poster, or take a photo with Rangers or in a protected area, and post it on social media sharing the photo to the IRF and the TTGLF Facebook pages using the hashtags on the sign.
- Raise funds to support Rangers and the work of the IRF, through its charity arm The Thin Green Line Foundation.

World Ranger Day e-pack will be available online the second week of June.

[International Ranger Foundation](#)



International Ranger Federation

New Signpost Newsletter Editor Welcome Amy Wolitzer

by Jeff Price

President Matt Cerkel announced on March 1, 2018, that he had selected PRAC member and Livermore Park District Ranger Amy Wolitzer to assume the duties of Editor for the PRAC *Signpost* Newsletter, beginning in April 2018.

Contact information for her and where to send *Signpost* articles, photos or other contributions, can be found soon on the PRAC website [Contact Page](#).

NEWSLETTER



Amy takes the reins replacing the veteran former *Signpost* Editor David Brooks, who retired in November 2017 after 25 years performing that task. During the last six months, while searching for a replacement Editor, Matt Cerkel and Jeff Price filled in as interim and associate editors for the newsletter in a web-based online version.

Welcome Amy!

Keeping Up Appearances Routine Park Maintenance Tips and Tricks

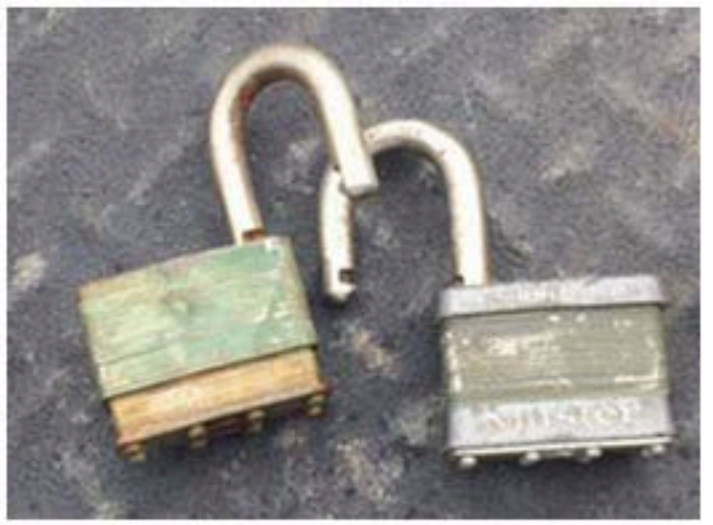
by Mike Warner, Region 1 Director

Rusty locks, damaged signs, or litter around the trail head, we have all seen these before. While some of us will jump on the chance to clean up our entry points, not everyone is enthusiastic to do the work. Many times, its left to someone else to do so they can carry on with their patrol duties.

I argue that maintaining your entry points is actually an essential patrol function, and will make your job of patrolling your parks easier. For those that have studied in criminal justice or urban studies this may sound familiar to you.

The Broken Windows Theory was first posited by James Wilson and George Kelling in 1982. The short explanation of the theory is this; broken windows (small vandalism or disorder) in a neighborhood if left unchecked or unrepaired would eventually lead larger crimes. Why you ask? Because it would appear to a bystander that no one cared about the area, therefore people could do whatever they wanted.

Because of the Broken Windows Theory I find it imperative to keep the entry points to my park in good repair and appearance. If you go to Yosemite National Park is their front gate rusty? Are their signs tagged with graffiti? Is there litter on the ground? No (well, most of the time). You should strive to treat all your entries like this. Your trail head might really be the only agency structures your park visitors will come into contact with during their visit. *(continued on [Page 15](#))*



Keeping Up Appearances

Routine Park Maintenance *(continued from Page 14)*

If your visitors reach your park and find that signs are tagged with graffiti, or the gate is falling off its hinges, or there is litter all over the ground what do you think their perception of the park or the park rangers will be? Do you think they will care about leashing their dog or following any park regulation?

Most likely not, and when you go to enforce those regulations the first reaction of the visitors when caught in violation will be "Really, all you do is just bust people instead of taking care of the park?".

It usually only takes 15 to 20 minutes to clean up an entry point, but it makes a world of difference. A supervisor of mine used to use the expression of "Treat it like its your own ranch. Would you want your ranch to look trashed?"

Here is a little check list that I go through every time I go through one of our entries:

- Are the vehicle / pedestrian gate(s) in working order, does it need painting or grease? (if metal gate)
- Is the agency lock painted (in our case green) making it easier to discern for our staff and other agencies? Is it lubricated?
- Are all the signs neat, clean, and free of graffiti / stickers? (This includes the back of the signs).
- Is there any litter on the ground?

Everything I need to accomplish these goals, or at least most of it will fit in a small tool box. A couple cans of spray paint, silicone oil (for locks), Goof Off, a knife, a socket set, and maybe a few spare signs or hardware. The impact from cleaning up your entry points, and being seen doing so will make the public realize there is someone who cares about this place. In turn they will realize they too should care about it, or at the very least should follow the rules since there is a Ranger out and about very often.

In parks there is a saying, *litter attracts more litter*. Taking that 5 minutes to pick up litter might make other people do the right thing and place their trash in a trash can rather than throw it on the ground. And you don't have to get every piece of litter to be effective, the act of you picking up trash shows to others that 1.) you care about the park and 2.) you are setting the example for others to follow.

In the end how do you want to be remembered by your visitors. As the ranger who took care of your park, or as the person who ignored the trash and litter to get one more citation that day. I'm not saying to ignore violations, but that a little bit of an investment in maintaining your park goes a long way towards building a relationship with your community, and in the long run may inspire people to do the right thing rather than what is easy.

