

CLEAR TEXT:
WASO Ranger Activities'
Electronic Newsletter

AUGUST 5, 1993

PUBLICATION SCHEDULE

Due to the number of staff members on leave in August (including CLEAR TEXT's primary author), the next edition will not appear until September 3rd. Contributors should keep that date in mind when submitting time-sensitive information.

INCIDENT REPORTING

Several matters pertaining to incident reporting have arisen over recent weeks:

* Incident volume - You are collectively doing a first rate job of getting all qualifying incidents in to us in short order. As of this morning, we'd received as many incidents to date as we did by mid-October last year. Two points need to be mentioned regarding the increased volume, though. The first pertains to timeliness of listings. We try to get all reports in each day, but sometimes are unable to do so. In that case, the higher priority reports appear first, and the others are entered at later dates. The second concerns follow-ups. Although we appreciate them on all incidents, they are not necessary on relatively "routine" incidents, such as body recoveries from previously reported drownings.

* Use of RAD pagers - As of this date, we've received after-hours notifications on a dozen incidents and a couple of fires through the Ranger Activities pager. We appreciate your responsiveness to our request to use that system to call in Level I incidents and encourage you to continue to do so in the future.

* cc:Mail submissions - As you'll recall, this year's incident reporting SOPs mandate their transmission by cc:Mail in so far as is possible. Faxed reports sometimes take a while to get to the right place, and are not available at any other location other than our main offices. Please use cc:Mail if you have that capability.

* Use of names - As you may have noted, the morning report has been inconsistent in its use of names of rangers and other involved in incidents. That's because there are two different opinions on the matter, and it's difficult to decide which should be ascendant. Those who favor use of names argue that it's good for recognition and morale; those opposed argue that few people are interested in names other than those involved in an incident and that it fosters competition for name recognition. Our compromise position has been to use them in those instances where the person was integral to the story itself or performed either exceptionally or above and beyond the call of duty. Your opinions on the matter are welcome.

* Reporting party - Some incidents come in without any listing of the reporting party's name, title and/or phone number. Those are useful for attribution and follow-up purposes, and we appreciate their inclusion.

* Incident summaries - We keep all incidents sorted by type in separate Word Perfect files. At present, we have year-to-date incident summaries in about 60 categories. We also have final summaries by incident type for the last

two years. These have proven to be highly useful in a variety of applications, and we'd be happy to share them with you on an as-needed basis. Please keep in mind that logistical considerations mean that we'll have to send them via cc:Mail and that some of the files - particularly SAR and drugs - are quite long.

FIRE EQUIPMENT SUMMARY

Rick Gale says that nobody's been even close in guessing which park has the fire boat, although several have correctly assumed that it's probably not Death Valley or Independence. It's at Voyageurs.

KEN PATRICK

Following the note we sent out on July 23rd regarding the scheduled parole hearing for Veronza Leon Curtis Bowers, who murdered ranger Ken Patrick in 1973, we received a suggestion that we provide some details on the shooting because many rangers who have come into the Service in recent years are not familiar with the particulars. The following is drawn from "The Law of the Land", a chronological summary of deadly force incidents involving land management law enforcement officers which was written by Paul Berkowitz of this office.

Ken Patrick was on early morning poaching patrol at Point Reyes on August 5, 1973 - the second day of deer season - when he made a car stop on a vehicle occupied by several men. Unbeknownst to Patrick, some of the occupants were former Black Panther members and all had criminal records. Patrick was shot point blank in the chest by Bowers, who was armed with a 9mm handgun, and was shot again before he fell to the ground. Patrick's assailants drove away, but returned and shot him two more times. His body was not found until later that day after a search had been begun for him when he failed to return from his patrol. The suspects were apprehended after a lengthy investigation, and Bowers was sentenced to life in prison.

(If you'd like a copy of Paul's book, which, incidentally, he prepared on his own time, send him a note on cc:Mail. He is listed by name on the directory).

FIELD NOTES

North Cascades

The park is testing a new fee collection contract wherein the park sends SeaFirst Bank the self-registration fee envelopes from the campgrounds. The bank opens the envelopes, counts the money, and deposits it in the federal treasury. This system has been in effect at Olympic and Coulee Dam over the last two years and works well. There have been no real complaints from other bank branches regarding this process, but the main branch in Seattle does not like counting NOCA's money because it literally stinks. The campground envelopes are in the iron rangers for a week, exposed to the weather, then are placed in plastic bank bags and mailed to SeaFirst. During that time, money and envelopes are "processed" by Mother Nature. Despite the problem, the system appears to be working well. [Mark Forbes, RAD/PNRO]

Denali

The 1993 climbing season on Mount McKinley is over, and a record has been set for the most climbers attempting to reach the summit of the continent's highest mountain. A total of 1,108 climbers attempted the peak; 670 of them were successful. One person died on the mountain this year. Americans made up 58% of the climbers, but there were climbers from a total of 31 countries.

[John Quinley, PAO, ARO]

Gateway

A record total of 190 competitors representing 37 lifeguard services from seven states participated in the ninth annual All-Women Lifeguard Tournament held at the Jacob Riis Park ocean front in Gateway on July 28th. The tournament - the only one of its kind exclusively for women - consists of competitive events that test for speed, stamina and skill in aspects of surf-lifeguard work, such as running, swimming, rowing and paddling a surfboard. Since its inception in 1985, when 55 women took part, both the number of competitors and the range of areas sending representatives have steadily increased. This year, there were competitors from as far away as California and Hawaii. Vying for individual team recognition at the event were two dozen NPS lifeguards - eight from Cape Cod, four from Fire Island, and twelve from Gateway (four from the Breezy Point Unit, six from the Sandy Hook Unit, and two from the Staten Island Unit). NPS lifeguards placed in the top five in team competition and did very well in individual competition as well. Gateway hosts this annual meet to increase public awareness of the high level of fitness and skill that women bring to surf lifeguarding and to encourage others to consider this non-traditional line of work for women. [Ginny Rousseau, RCR, RAD/NCRO]

PARK EXCHANGE

Big Bend

The park is looking for a donation of some good field horses to be used for trespass livestock roundups and patrol in a desert environment. Contact Jim Northup, the chief ranger, at 915-477-2251.

Gulf Islands

The park is currently conducting scoping activities in preparation for writing a backcountry/wilderness management plan. The main emphasis of the plan will be on the park's four offshore barrier islands, two of which - Horn and Petit Bois - are designated wilderness areas. They are seeking information on backcountry management in areas of intensive, localized day use. On weekends, these areas actually look more like high visitor, frontcountry areas than remote islands. Since the surrounding waters are a favorite target for myriad commercial proposals (drilling, aquaculture, etc.) and the islands are so slender (generally less than three-quarters of a mile thick), they are also vulnerable to a wide array of possible impacts. The park staff is therefore interested in ideas/alternatives for wilderness management under day-use pressures, and is seeking legal citations, case law, and related information concerning intangible wilderness values such as visibility, night sky conditions, acoustic conditions, and solitude as they relate to impacts originating outside of park/wilderness boundaries. Replies can be sent to the park either through regular mail or cc:Mail directed to resource management. Responses will be greatly appreciated. [Riley Hoggard, RMS, GUIS]

Indiana Dunes

The park is seeking information from other areas who have had contact with the "Kind Project" as a result of an incident that occurred in the park's Mount Baldy area on July 24th. The Kind Project had arranged a "pirate party" at that location and invited locals to attend. Since they had no permit, rangers dispersed the group. Pirate parties involve an organizer who

locates an abandoned building or uncontrolled area, then arranges to have a party at the site. The organizer will normally provide music and food and charge a fee to attendees. Costs are kept down by illegally using an area without the owner's permission. Announcements for these parties are done by brochure and potential participants are requested to contact organizers via telephone to determine the location, date and time of the next party. During its investigation of the group, the park learned that the Kind Project has been involved in suspected occult activities at a nearby state park. Printed brochures were found with phone numbers in Chicago and in Wisconsin. Calls placed to the numbers revealed recorded messages about the group and their planned activities at Indiana Dunes. Any other parks with information on the Kind Project are asked to contact criminal investigator Joe Wieszcyk at 219-926-7561 extension 312. [Joni Jones, ACR, INDU]

PARK VACANCIES AND OPM REGISTER OPENINGS

The following comes to you courtesy of Mike Shaver, a ranger at Prince William Forest. Our thanks to Mike for his efforts in putting this together:

Within the past year, two federal computer bulletin board systems have come on-line to provide federal job listings and vacancy information useful to park professionals.

The first is the Federal Job Opportunity Board (FJOB), an electronic bulletin board operated by the Office of Personnel Management staffing office in Macon, Georgia. This system provides a summary of 1,500 to 3,000 federal positions listed by all area OPM offices.

To reach the FJOB, set your modem and communications software to data bits = 8, parity = 1, stop bits = 1. Next dial 1-912-757-3100. The system can take 1200 to 9600 bps modems. After a short, user-friendly registration process, FJOB provides a menu in which the first choice reads "Opportunities for Federal Employment - Files and Messages".

Under that heading, the "<F>ederal Job Opportunity Search/Inquiry" will be your next choice. Then select to see merit promotion (M), open competitive/all sources (O), or a combined list (C) of job listings.

At this point, FJOB will tell you the number of vacancies open on that day and will allow you to search by occupational title (i.e. park ranger) or job series (025). The next two prompts are for grade level and state. By not selecting either (that is, by hitting the return key), FJOB will speed the search and list all positions in that series or title. The list of positions can be viewed on screen or saved while you search for more positions and download at a later time.

The second computer bulletin board system is the Department of the Interior's AVADS (Administrative Vacancy Announcement Distribution System). This system has an on-line component and a remote component. Those of you not within walking distance of your regional office can reach the remote system. To do so, set the modem and communications software at 8-N-1, as for FJOB, then dial 1-800-368-3321. If the system locks up, the help number provided is 703-648-7239.

This is a new system with some bugs, so beware that it is not always accessible. AVADS also has an on-line time limit, so work fast. The system is very simple and straightforward, but a little awkward. AVADS' best use is in downloading the file named "Index", which lists all Interior vacancies, and in taking announcement numbers to use in downloading specific vacancy announcements. Browsing is very inefficient in this system. With

one or two visits, AVADS should be easy to work.

National Capital Region and the Holocaust Memorial are regularly listing positions in AVADS and have a self service on-line system in their personnel office. The Southeast Region entered its first two positions last week.

Position	Closes	Number	Description
GS-401/408/ 150-9 8/13		SOAR-93-17	Organ Pipe Cactus: Interdisciplinary position with minimum education requirement. Applicants must also possess knowledge of UNIX based GIS to be eligible. For more info, call SOAR personnel at 602-640-5254.
GS-390-6/7	-	-	Big Bend: Supervisory telecommunications equipment supervisor (dispatch). Contact BIBE personnel at 915-477-2251 for more info.
GS-390-5	-	-	Big Bend: Telecommunications equipment supervisor (dispatch), PFT. Contact BIBE personnel for more info.
GS-390-5	-	-	Big Bend: Telecommunications equipment supervisor (dispatch), STF for a maximum of five pay periods. Contact BIBE personnel for more info.
GS-025- 7/9/11	8/10	-	Gates of the Arctic: North District ranger, duty-stationed in the village of Anaktuvuk Pass. Serves as the park's primary contact with the community. Responsible for all aspects of visitor services, including LE and interpretation. Persons with interpretive backgrounds are encouraged to apply.

CLEAR TEXT is the bi-weekly electronic newsletter of the Ranger Activities Division in WASO. It is distributed via cc:Mail to all ranger training and operations centers (FLETC, HOAL, STMA, NIFC), regional office ranger divisions, park chief rangers, and other interested parties.

Short submissions for the last three sections of the report are welcome and encouraged. The deadline for submissions for the next issue is September 1, 1993.

If you would like to get CLEAR TEXT but don't currently receive it, please advise Ranger Activities via a short cc:Mail message. Any office may receive it, including districts and subdistricts within a park. PLEASE pass it along to others in your division and park.

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