

CLEAR TEXT:
WASO Ranger Activities'
Electronic Newsletter

January 14, 1994

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 four sections of the report - Field Notes; Park Exchange; Vacancies, Register Openings and Details; and Calendar - are welcome and encouraged.

Next issue: January 28, 1994
Submission deadline: January 26, 1994

EMERGENCY LAW AND ORDER TRAINING

There'll be a training session on emergency law and order (EL&O) funding requests in March, probably in Las Vegas. It will likely be held in the last week of the month, but will not take up the entire week.

The program will consist of a "tabletop" exercise which will culminate in the actual preparation of a model accounting package. Completion of this program will result in the employee being fully versed in all facets of the EL&O funding process.

All regional law enforcement specialists, all regional budget officers with EL&O oversight, representatives from parks who've had difficulty with prior EL&O submissions, and ARM and SET team finance officers should attend.

Training costs will be charged to benefitting accounts. For further information, contact Major Dale Dickerhoof in this office.

NPS-9 REVISIONS

Work has resumed on revisions to NPS-9. Paul Berkowitz of this office and Ron DeAngelo, regional law enforcement specialist for Mid-Atlantic Region, spent much of the holidays working on the guideline, and more meetings are planned. A realistic projection for completion of the draft is some time this summer because of the magnitude of the rewrite, which will be significant in order to incorporate new policies based on the revised DM 446, many aspects of Ranger Futures (particularly those pertaining to law enforcement careers), and policies and priorities conveyed in the Service's organizational position on law enforcement. The most complicated aspect of the revision has to do with law enforcement commission issuance procedures and standards.

Although it's too soon to engage in discussion of the particulars of the rewrite, Paul does want to point out at this time that comments were solicited from all rangers involved in shooting incidents over the past several years regarding related issues in the guideline - commissioning standards, training, peer counseling, equipment, and related matters.

Anyone with specific issues of concern regarding the guideline should contact Paul via cc:Mail - he's on the mailing directory by name.

WILDLAND FIRE TRAINING AND SAFETY

Paul Broyles of the Branch of Fire and Aviation, who was on leave when our year-end "thank you" went out on December 30th, would like to extend his appreciation for the support he's received from the field this year. He's sent along the following.

As usual, a good deal of activity occurred in the world of wildland fire and safety during the year. The NPS is making its share of interagency contributions and leading many efforts. Many folks have contributed throughout the year, but I'll pick on a few here who were most noteworthy for their fine contributions:

* Subject matter experts for various interagency fire course development projects - Dave Lattimore, Yosemite; Betsy Rossini, Alaska Public Lands Info Center; Gary Benson, Rocky Mountain; Steve Frye, Glacier; Dan Buckley, Sequoia-Kings Canyon; Bill Clark and Jim Cook, NIFC.

* Development of the new NPS fire management policy video - Staffs from Herbert Hoover, Voyageurs, Acadia, Saratoga, Bandelier, Grand Canyon, Grand Teton, Sequoia-Kings Canyon, Yosemite, and Yellowstone. Jim Cook, NIFC, and Jim Sullivan, Yosemite, have coordinated production, and Jim Boyd, Albright, has been instrumental in videography and technical advice.

* Fire management safety and health issues - Dan Sullivan, MARO Safety, and Claudia Finney, WASO Branch of Los Control Management, have been excellent advisors on those issues this year, and have also been strong contributors in setting research direction for NWCG's panel on health hazards of smoke.

* Safety flagging - Doug Riley of Delaware Water Gap suggested that NWCG standardize basic flagging colors for wildland fire use to identify hazards and escape routes/safety zones. The suggestion was adopted, and biodegradable, fluorescent flagging will be available through the fire cache system in the near future.

AIRCRAFT OVERFLIGHTS

A small DOI/DOT interagency working group has been established to explore ways of limiting or reducing impacts from overflights on the parks. The working group will focus first on the Grand Canyon, where flight operations have increased rapidly over the past two decades (in 1977, there were 4,610 flights per year over the Canyon; by 1992, that number had jumped to 173,732), then look at similar problems at parks in Hawaii and elsewhere.

Secretary Babbitt and Secretary of Transportation Frederico Pena have committed themselves to developing measures that will cap or reduce overflight noise at Grand Canyon. Pena had this to say when the agreement was announced: "In the past, transportation policies and the environment were too often at odds. This Department of Transportation cares about the environment. The Grand Canyon and our national parks are some of this country's most precious resources. I believe we can provide air access to this great natural resource while ensuring a quality experience for other park visitors."

Secretary Babbitt echoed these sentiments: "Aircraft noise is significantly diminishing the national park experience for millions of visitors. Having

spent a great deal of time in the Grand Canyon, I know how intrusive and offensive such noise can be, diminishing a good portion of the enjoyment and the restoration of spirit that comes from a visit to the park."

The small working group will be meeting early this year to address problems caused by commercial tour operations by helicopter and other aircraft over the parks and will also look at other issues related to overflights. Questions should be directed to Wes Henry in this office.

NEW STATE LAWS

One of the final 1993 issues of the **Washington Post** contained a table summarizing new state laws which went into effect on January 1st. We thought you might be interested in some of them:

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| California | * Bike helmets now required for people under 18 |
| | * Life jackets are required for children under six in boats less than 26 feet long. |
| | * Riding in open pickup trucks on public roads has been banned. |
| | * Drunk drivers under 21 with 0.01 (yes, that's 0.01) blood-alcohol levels lose their licenses. |
| New Mexico | * Drunken driving defined as 0.08 percent blood alcohol. |
| Oklahoma | * Tinted car windows will now be regulated. |
| Tennessee | * Bike helmets are required for children on state and federal roads. |
| | * Victims' rights laws include a provision requiring notification when an inmate is freed on parole. |
| | * Criminal checks are permitted for adults who work with children. |

EMS RUN SHEETS

Western Region is trying to consolidate a print order for the National Park Service Emergency Medical Services form - the NPS EMS run sheet. If they get enough orders, they can get the price down from \$.22 to \$.10. Any park that wants to participate should contact Dwayne Collier at the Southern Arizona Office (602-640-5256) or Dick Finnerty at Organ Pipe Cactus (602-387-7661).

PARK EXCHANGE

White Sands

The park, which had 46 commercial filming productions within its boundaries last year, has developed a new commercial filming policy. The new policy includes a performance bond schedule, a general liability insurance schedule, cost recovery amounts, and specific permit considerations. It also contains application requirements, a revised application form, the park's specific terms of agreement, and a revised invoice form. This new policy was the work of Kim Watson (FLAG), Carl Newman (BAND), Frank Hayes (CHCU), Bonnie Winslow (SWRO), and Bob Appling (WHS). It's based upon other park's policies, NPS-21, and the park's experiences with commercial filmers. If you're interested in obtaining a copy of this policy or have any questions, please call 505-479-6124 or leave a cc:Mail message. [Bob Appling, CR, WHSA]

VACANCIES, REGISTER OPENINGS AND DETAILS

Isle Royale

The GS-12 chief of visitor services and resource protection has been announced; it is "wide open" and all qualified candidates are encouraged to apply. There have been some problems with the announcement process. All candidates should be aware that this position is very challenging and is an outstanding growth position for a future in management. The incumbent has total responsibility for resource management, visitor and resource protection, concession management and interpretation. Isle Royale is a challenging but outstanding location for an assignment. If you are looking for a lot of work with freedom to run a highly diversified program, this may be your position. For specific information on the position, the area, or anything else, please call either Michelle Rotter, personnel assistant, or Doug Barnard, superintendent, at 906-482-0986.

Great Falls

Two vacancies are now open - both for GS-025-5/7 rangers. The announcements are NCR-93-304 and 93-308; they opened on December 30th and close on January 21st. The following type of candidate is being sought for each position: Outstanding scholar; superior academic achievement (SAA); Administrative Careers with America (ACWA); dual-career. Position 304 has an emphasis on interpretation and fee collection; 308 emphasizes emergency response and rescues (two positions to be filled). No government housing is available. For more information, call 703-285-2965.

Devils Tower

Devils Tower is currently recruiting three summer seasonal law enforcement rangers (GS-4 or GS-5) via a special vacancy announcement - DETO-94-01 - which closes on January 31st. Devils Tower receives very few seasonal law enforcement applicants on the summer register, so most positions are filled from this special register. If you'd like additional information, contact either Jim Schlinkmann, the park's chief ranger, or AO Jan Dorrenbacher, at 307-467-5283.

CALENDAR AND DIVISIONAL TRAVEL

The following Servicewide or regionwide meetings are upcoming. Please let us know if you have an addition:

1/24-1/28 MEETING: VRAP development work group, Phoenix, AZ. Topics: Wrap-up meeting. Development of final version of staffing tables, other actions. Coordinator: Larry Hakel, SHEN. Dale Dickerhoof and Joe Smith representing RAD/WASO.

1/25 MEETING: Regional fee coordinators, Tucson, AZ. Topics: Update on fee program. Coordinators: Mark Forbes, RAD/PNRO; John Townsend, RAD/MWRO.

1/26-1/28 MEETING: National Wildfire Coordinating Group's safety and health working team, Phoenix, AZ. Topics: Paul Broyles will represent RAD/Boise.

1/26-1/29 MEETING: Servicewide uniform committee, Tucson, AZ. Topics: 1993 uniform recommendations. Coordinator: Bill Halainen, RAD/WASO.

2/7-2/8 MEETING: Interior Fire Coordination Committee (IFCC), Boise, ID. Topics: DOI strategic plan, regular business. Coordinator: Doug Erskine, RAD/Boise.

2/7-2/11 TRAINING: Criminal investigator training course, Lake Mead, NV. Bob Marriott attending for RAD/WASO.

2/14-2/18 MEETING: Conservation Law Enforcement Association (CLEA), Prescott, AZ. Bob Marriott attending for RAD/WASO.

2/22-2/24 MEETING: Regional fire management officers, Boise, ID. Topics: Annual fire management issues. Coordinator: Mark Forbes, RAD/PNRO.

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.

Prepared by WASO Division of Ranger Activities

Telephone: Branch of R&VP - 202-208-4874
Branch of F&A (WASO) - 202-208-5572
Telefax: Branch of R&VP - 202-208-6756
Branch of F&A (WASO) - 202-208-5977
cc:Mail: Branch of R&VP - WASO Ranger Activities
Branch of F&A (WASO) - WASO Fire and Aviation
SkyPager: Emergencies ONLY - 1-800-759-7243, PIN 2404843