

CLEAR TEXT:
WASO Ranger Activities'
Electronic Newsletter

April 8, 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: April 22, 1994
Submission deadline: April 20, 1994

RANGER CAREER MANAGEMENT

Phase one of Ranger Futures is over, and we are now actively implementing the new ranger system. From here on in, we will be referring to ranger careers.

Last week, all ten regional ranger careers management (RCM) teams met in Albuquerque with Washington Office staff to go over the new ranger career conversion instructions. Those instructions are now being printed for Servicewide distribution, and will be sent to each park as soon as they get back from the printer. Our target is to have them arrive in the parks on or shortly after April 15th. The date for Servicewide conversion to the new system is July 10th - the first full pay period in July.

The level of concern for and commitment to the success of Ranger Futures is best demonstrated by the following, which is an excerpt from the signed performance agreement between Secretary Babbitt and President Clinton for 1994. Director Kennedy recently made the section on strengthening the commitment of the NPS to employees and the American public available to NPS employees:

"The Secretary will delegate to the Director of the National Park Service responsibility to finalize the Ranger Futures concept and initiate comparable employee career development activities for other Park Service employees by the end of FY 1994."

Other parts of that section, incidentally, commit the Secretary to addressing "the problems of inadequate employee housing" through an initiative to fund needed housing improvements through private sector partnerships, and to developing a mechanism to provide seasonal and temporary employees with greater benefits "commensurate with the contribution they have made to the National Park Service."

RANGER ACTIVITIES DIVISION STAFF CHANGES

There have been a couple of staff changes in our WASO office.

Tony Sisto, who's been responsible for regulations, special park uses and related issues, left last week for Portland, Oregon, where he'll be the

Service's representative on an interagency Pacific Northwest ecosystem management team. Mike Johnson, chief ranger at Fredericksburg/ Spottsylvania, has come in on a six-week detail to fill the slot until further action can be taken.

Tim Stone, chief ranger at Sitka, has been selected as the fee program coordinator and will be starting here in the near future. Since Wes Kreis retired this past winter, the fee program has been managed by three detailees - John Townsend from MWRO, Mark Forbes from PNRO, and, at present, Bill Sturgeon from SERO, all ably assisted by the other seven regional fee coordinators.

LAW ENFORCEMENT MOU WITH FOREST SERVICE

The Department of Interior has just concluded a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the Forest Service which will allow the Forest Service to work more closely with the NPS, BLM, Park Police, BIA, Fish and Wildlife and Reclamation on law enforcement issues of mutual interest.

The signing of the MOU is a milestone in land management law enforcement relations and culminates an intense effort over the past year to develop an agreement that will best serve all federal land management law enforcement officers who work together on a daily basis in the field.

We will have particulars for you in the near future.

YOUNT AWARD

As was recently noted in the Morning Report, the National Park Service has just established the Harry Yount Award, a peer award which will be given annually to that individual whose overall impact, record of accomplishments, and excellence in traditional ranger duties has created an appreciation for the park ranger profession on the part of the public and other members of the profession.

Through the establishment of this award, we seek to not only recognize and honor outstanding national park rangers, but to also:

- * encourage high standards of performance;
- * foster an especially responsive attitude towards public service;
- * enhance the public's appreciation of the ranger profession; and
- * build esprit de corps and further the spirit of the art and science of "rangering."

Through programs such as the Freeman Tilden Award, the National Park Service Safety Achievement Award, the Director's Awards for Natural Resource Management and Science, the Appleman-Judd Award, and the Julie Y. Cross Memorial Award, those who have excelled in specialized components of traditional ranger duties have had the opportunity to be recognized. Likewise, programs such as the Association of Government Accountants' Distinguished Leadership Award, the Federal Environmental Engineer Award, and the Interagency Committee of Automatic Data Processing Awards, offer Service employees in a wide range of disciplines the opportunity for recognition of outstanding achievements.

Even though WASO's Honorary Park Ranger Award is the "highest NPS award granted to citizens or private organizations," those park rangers skilled in traditional, generalist ranger duties who have formed the "cornerstone of every park organization" heretofore have not been recognized. The Harry

Yount Award fills this void.

Here's how it will work:

- * Each Region will advertise the award on a Regional basis each April.
- * Each Region will select (but not announce) their Regional winner by June 30th.
- * Each Regional winner will become that Region's nominee for the national award.
- * National award nominations will be sent to the WASO Ranger Activities by July 7th. Accompanying these nominations should be a copy of the media release prepared by each Region to announce their Regional winner.
- * By July 10th, Ranger Activities will copy the nominations and send them to the selection panel with a copy of the rating and ranking criteria.
- * The panel for the national winner will be made up of the Chief of Ranger Activities, WASO; the Associate Director of Operations, WASO; a Regional Director (selected by lottery); an NPS alumni (selected by the E&AA); a Regional Chief Ranger (selected by lottery, but not from the same Region as the Regional Director who is on the panel); a field Chief Ranger (selected by lottery, but not from the same Region as the Regional Director or the Regional Chief Ranger who are on the panel); and a person from outside the ranger profession (e.g., someone from NPCA or a similar organization who is not a ranger, but understands the ranger profession).
- * Panel members will review, rate and rank the nominations and return their rankings to WASO-RAD by July 31st.
- * Ranger Activities will total and average the rankings to determine the final rank. In case of a tie, nominations of those who tied will be returned to the committee members with instructions to re-rank them.
- * Ranger Activities will then prepare notification memos and letters, prepare a media release, order awards (all nominees will receive a certificate of nomination), and get it all to the appropriate Regional Director.
- * The Director will make the announcement of the national winner on August 25th or the closest working day preceding August 25th (i.e., if the 25th is Sunday, the announcement is made on Friday the 23rd).
- * Each Regional winner will receive an engraved plaque containing detail from a copy of William Henry Jackson's photograph of Yount and a cash award of \$1,250. Nominees, other than the winner, should receive a framed certificate of recognition. These recognitions will be funded by each Region. The Midwest Region will coordinate the manufacture and distribution of the plaques.
- * The national winner **will** receive a bust of Yount and a cash award of \$2,500 in addition to their Regional award. Nominees, other than the national winner, will receive a framed certificate of recognition. These recognitions will be funded by Ranger Activities.

Nominations will be judged against the following criteria: "The total impact of the individual exceeds normal expectations and reflects initiative, imagination, perseverance, competence, creativity, resourcefulness,

dedication, and integrity. His or her record is one of substantial, significant ability, performance and capability which results in both tangible and in-tangible benefits to the park ranger profession. His or her excellence in traditional ranger duties fosters an appreciation for the art and science of the park ranger profession on the part of the public as well as other members of the profession." Specific nomination criteria are contained in the memo which is being issued to all areas.

NATIONAL PARK RANGER RESOURCE PROTECTION FUND

Last year, we received several inquiries about the National Park Ranger Resource Protection Fund, Inc., a non-profit organization incorporated in the Commonwealth of Virginia which has been established to assure the protection of national park resources nationwide. The questions pertained to the group's fund-raising activities, which at the time involved phone calls to residents of West Virginia and northern Virginia.

The fund's activities are legitimate and are endorsed by this office. We are, in fact, in the process of working out an MOU with the fund. Their membership drive has recently moved into the rest of Virginia and North and South Carolina. Their contracted fundraiser will be employing tele-marketing and informational mailouts to seek members and donations. No pressure tactics or credit cards are involved in this fund raising endeavor, and all scripts and printed material are screened by the Fund's president, Bob Martin, a ranger at Shenandoah NP, prior to use by the fundraiser. The fund reports that they have already received over 4,000 pledged memberships thus far.

For information about the Fund or to report any complaints you may receive, call 1-800-223-1173 or write the National Park Ranger Resource Protection Fund at Route 3, Box 314, Elkton, VA 22827.

DISGUISED HANDGUN

The following info was provided to us by U.S. Park Police: The Arizona Department of Public Safety recently arrested an individual carrying a .25 caliber single shot handgun disguised to look like a penlight or tire gauge. The weapon is commercially available from the American Derringer Corporation in Waco, Texas, and some gun stores. Rangers should use extreme caution when encountering devices of this type.

CLASSIFIED STAMPS

The Department's Office of Enforcement and Security Management asks that you use stamps marked LAW ENFORCEMENT SENSITIVE to mark all sensitive law enforcement material and reports, not stamps saying CONFIDENTIAL. The latter are used in national security classifications, and we're in violation of regs when we use such stamps.

FIELD NOTES

Yosemite

Ranger Steve Stockdale has won a gold medal at the Police Olympics in Arizona for the second year in a row. Steve came in first in the 15-mile-long crosscountry mountain bike race. He gained his expertise with mountain bikes at Grand Canyon, where he initiated the mountain bike patrol program and developed a bike patrol operations handbook.

Delaware Water Gap

Leon Liscomb (ACAD, CUGA, CUIS, MACA, DEWA) will be retiring sometime before April 29th, and the park is putting together a scrap book of his history in the NPS. If you have any photos of him or any stories you'd like to share, please get in touch with Chris Nelson at DEWA (717-588-2418, or via cc:Mail at DEWA Superintendent) before April 18th. Leon hasn't yet learned of this project, so don't mention it to him....

PARK EXCHANGE

C&O Canal

The park is trying to establish a field training officer (FTO) program and would like to hear from any park with an established program that has training materials, field manuals, or related items. Please contact Steve Pittleman via his cc:Mail address or at 301-413-0720.

Lake Mead

Bob McKeever, assistant chief ranger at Lake Mead, is serving on a National Water Safety Congress committee that is working on a Coast Guard grant to develop a comprehensive guide for multiple use waterway management which will be geared toward helping managers to resolve multiple use conflicts and to meet future needs. The first step in the development of this guide is to review studies that have already been completed or plans that have already been implemented. Examples: The visitor use survey in progress at Lake Mead, a Lake Mead beach management plan with voluntary zoning of water activities, zoning on Yellowstone Lake, and water use activities regulated by a special regulation or by the superintendent's compendium. He would like copies of such plans, studies or regulations (including compendiums) from parks with recreation water resources that can be used to assist the committee. You can contact him through cc:Mail or by phone (702-293-8908), or can mail copies to him at Lake Mead NRA, 601 Nevada Highway, Boulder City, NV 89005.

VACANCIES, REGISTER OPENINGS AND DETAILS

Hotshot Crews

The Branch of Fire and Aviation Management is currently accepting nominations for the annual interagency hotshot crew detailer program. The program involves a three-week detail to one of the two NPS hotshot crews. There are eight detail slots to be filled through the fire season. This is an excellent opportunity for expanded large fire exposure for individuals at the single resource boss - crew level or trainees at that level. Applicants should submit the NPS one-page training nomination and the supplemental crew detailer program questionnaire via their supervisors to their respective regional FMOs. Announcements and forms are available from those offices. The application deadline is May 1st.

Wilson's Creek

The park has a GS-7 LE ranger opening. The incumbent is the lead law enforcement ranger at the site and is responsible for patrol activities, law enforcement program administration, physical security, structural fire, and emergency operations. This is a new position at the battlefield and an excellent opportunity for an energetic person to gain experience in coordinating a variety of park operations. The vacancy announcement number is MWRO-94-26; it opened on March 28th and closes on April 22nd. Interested

persons should contact chief ranger John Sutton at 417-732-2662.

Craters of the Moon

The park has an opening for a GS-025-4 or GS-025-5 law enforcement ranger. The vacancy announcement is available by calling 208-527-3257. The announcement closes on April 7th. The position is temporary; work will be from May 1st through October 29th. Housing may be available.

Haleakala

The park is currently advertising a GS-5 law enforcement patrol ranger position on a one to four year appointment. The vacancy announcement number is 94-02. Duties include day-to-day law enforcement, emergency response, backcountry patrol and fire protection. The position is in the Crater District, and Phil Dendel advises that there's "brand spanking new housing available."

DIVISIONAL TRAVEL

****** APRIL ******

4/6-4/10	Farrel	Structural fire program training, Golden Gate, San Francisco, CA
4/7-4/8	Henry	Aircraft overflight studies contract meeting, Los Angeles, CA
4/8-4/12	Martin	Annual leave
4/8-4/15	Gale	Type III general staff position task book development meeting, Denver, CO; dedication of Alpine IHC facilities, Rocky Mountain NP, CO; instructor at Fire Management for Agency Administrators, NARTC, Marana, AZ
4/10-4/15	Broyles	Instructor, Fire Management for Agency Administrators, NARTC, Marana, AZ
4/11-4/12	Erskine	IHC quarters inspection, Rocky Mountain NP, Estes Park, CO
4/11-4/15	Halainen	Annual leave
4/12-4/14	Farrel, Clark	National Weather Service advisory group, NPS and BIA, Santa Monica, CA
4/13-4/15	Martin	Presentation, FLETC graduation, Glynco, GA
4/17-4/22	Crabtree	IMC meeting, WASO, Washington, DC
4/17-4/22	Farrel	Wildland/urban interface program meeting, WASO, Washington, DC
4/18-4/18	Gale	Annual leave
4/18-4/23	Zimmerman	Site visit, Big Thicket, Beaumont, TX
4/20-4/21	Dickerhoof	Midwest Region chief rangers' conference, Kansas City, MO
4/20-4/22	Martin	Midwest Region chief rangers' conference, Kansas City, MO
4/21-4/22	Gale	Servicewide review of central office streamlining proposal, Denver, CO
4/25-4/26	Gale	Presentation on ICS/incident program and Hurricane Andrew response to maintenance conference, St. Louis, MO
4/29-5/6	Gale	Fire program review, Cumberland Island, Big South Fork and Congaree Swamp

**** MAY ****

5/2-5/6	Zimmerman	Fire program review, Congaree Swamp and
Big South Fork		
5/2-5/5	Broyles	NWCG training working team meeting,
Phoenix, AZ		
5/2-5/6	Botti, Clark,	
	Berg	FIREPRO steering committee meeting,
Anchorage, AK		
5/9-5/10	Botti	Review of large fire growth modeling
project, Missoula, MT		
5/9-5/12	Gale	Instructor, Managerial Grid Phase II, for
staff of Indiana Dunes, Springfield, IL		
5/9-5/13	Marriott	CISD training, Tucson, AZ
5/10-5/11	Zimmerman	Compliance review of fire behavior
research project, Missoula, MT		
5/14-5/19	Farrel	NFPA annual meeting, San Francisco, CA
5/17-5/18	Gale	IMT team exercise, NARO, Boston, MA
5/16-5/20	Clark	S-590 cadre meeting, NARTC, Marana, AZ
5/23-5/25	Hurd, Farrel	NWCG meeting, Salt Lake City, UT
5/23-5/27	Broyles	NWCG safety and health working team, Salt
Lake City, UT		

**** JUNE ****

6/1-6/2	Gale	ICS program presentations, NASAR
conference, San Diego, CA		
6/6-6/10	Gale	S-520/620 cadre meeting, NARTC, Marana,
AZ		
6/8-6/10	Zimmerman	Fire danger rating group meeting,
Ashville, NC		
6/20-6/23	Broyles	Southeast Region FMO meeting, Knoxville,
TN		
6/20-6/24	Zimmerman	Fire behavior analyst steering committee
meeting, Atlanta, GA		
6/20-6/24	Clark, Berg	Regional audit, PNRO, Seattle, WA
6/22-6/24	Botti	Southeast Region FMO meeting, Knoxville,
TN		

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

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