

The YELLOWSTONE

News



August 29, 1994

NPS Employee Newsletter

Next Deadline: September 12

Heartfelt Thanks

With all my heart I want to thank everyone for contributing to the great sense of comfort, love and support my family and I felt during our times of immense confusion and sorrow over the loss of Ryan. During the past month, language has felt such inadequate a means to accurately communicate how I am feeling. I've grown to believe there are some situations and experiences for which words will never be found. What can I say so each of you will know how grateful I am and how fortunate I feel to be a part of an extended family of individuals who have, and continue to, willingly and unconditionally offer help in easing the pain and challenges of Ryan's unexpected passing? I've been deeply touched by your thoughtful words and actions. My memory will never blur the multitude of ways I saw you express "I care."

On behalf of my family and with great appreciation, I thank you!!!!

~ Ursula ~

Celebrity Among Us

Our own Ann Rodman, Soils Lab, Mammoth, is one of the women featured in a book entitled, "Women & Work: In Their Own Words" by Maureen R. Michelson. In the book Ann states, "I have a great job in one of the most beautiful places on earth." For a copy of the article, please call extension 2203.

Llamas in Yellowstone

by Toni Fazzari, West Entrance Ranger

Llamas have been used as pack animals for more than 5,000 years in the Himalayan mountain ranges of Tibet, among other places. This summer in the Bechler sub-district, the services of this "minimum impact" pack animal are being employed on a trial basis.

As members of the Cameloid family, llamas have a padded foot and two toenails and seem adaptable to the Yellowstone environment. The foot structure of the llama, along with its size and weight bearing load, makes for low impact use on park trails. Because of their eating habits, these animals also do less damage to local vegetation than traditional stock. They are browsers; feeding on pine needles, bark, grasses and plants, and as such do not inflict as much noticeable damage to a specific area. One can tell where horses have been grazing, not so with llamas however.

According to Bechler volunteer employees, llamas have many advantages as pack animals, the most important of which include:

- they are much smaller than a horse, therefore much easier to pack;
- they can carry up to 120 pounds, about one-third of their body weight;
- although they aren't as fast as a horse or a mule, they basically travel at your pace;
- they are of mild temperament, and can be handled even by a novice with only a few hours of training; and,
- they are more agile in difficult terrain and don't spook at much of anything.

Although llamas seem to be an excellent addition to the Bechler stables, they also come with some drawbacks. Because of their size they are unable to carry long objects such as sign posts. These objects create a problem when the llama lays down to rest, and the posts create a hazard as they attempt to regain their feet. The animal cannot, of course, carry the pay load of a pack horse.

One often-misunderstood characteristic of the llama is their propensity for spitting. While it may seem quite unsavory to most, spitting is a means of establishing social order among the herd. They generally only spit on each other or another animal. "It is rare for one to spit on a human," said Bechler volunteer Rory Richards.

As this summer of trial and test of the llama at Bechler winds to a close, the outlook for long-term use in Yellowstone appears to be promising.

New Regulation for Highway 191

A new special regulation related to the commercial use of U.S. Highway 191 through the park was published in the Federal Register on August 25, 1994, and went into effect on August 26th.

Approximately 20 miles of U.S. Highway 191 traverses the northwest part of the park. This regulation authorizes use of commercial vehicles on this section of U.S. Highway 191, and prohibits the transportation of hazardous materials with limited exceptions. Hazardous materials are those substances that require the transport vehicle to be placarded in accordance with federal Department of Transportation regulations; those most commonly transported on U.S. Highway 191 include gasoline, propane, fuel oil, and hot asphalt. The Superintendent is authorized by the regulation to issue permits to trucks making local hazardous materials deliveries in the West Yellowstone area.

Personnel News

by Vanessa Ford, Personnel Staffing Specialist

Belated congratulations to **Gary Nelson** on his promotion to a Law Enforcement Park Ranger position.

Congratulations also to **Teresa Gragert-Kelsch** on her June appointment into a permanent Communications Technician position.

We'd also like everyone to know that while **Ron Harvey** is doing much better, he is still in need of leave donations to cover his time without pay. Everyone's support so far has been greatly appreciated. Please contact Mary Heller at extension 2047 for donation forms.

Bison Poached in Park

A large bull bison was shot and killed in the park sometime between the evening of August 26 and the morning of August 27, 1994. The carcass was discovered at 11:30 a.m. Saturday, August 27, about 150 yards west of the park's Grand Loop Road approximately one eighth mile north of the junction to the Lake area.

Local area park employees discovered the 1,500 pound bison carcass and alerted rangers. Preliminary investigations indicate that the animal was shot with an unknown caliber weapon and then decapitated.

Anyone with information should contact the park's 24-hour Communications Center at (307) 344-7381. All information is confidential and individuals are not required to give their name.

Horn Hunters Found Guilty

Five men in three separate court proceedings have been found guilty and fined for collecting elk antlers in the park.

Arthur Cline, 39, and his cousin, Dwaine Cline, 34, both from Bozeman, were arrested on May 9, 1994, after rangers noted their vehicle at the Fir Ridge trailhead, and witnessed the two men carrying and moving antlers in a resource management closure. The two claimed they were just carrying walking sticks, but rangers located approximately 42 pounds of elk antlers nearby. On August 23, Arthur Cline pled guilty before U.S. Magistrate Judge Stephen E. Cole in Mammoth to entering a closed area and collecting elk antlers. Cline was fined \$25 for entering the closed area, \$1,500 for collecting the antlers, assessed a \$10 victim/witness fund fee, placed on three years probation and banned from entering the park during the probation period. Dwaine Cline, currently incarcerated in the Gallatin County detention center on state probation violations, will be summoned into court after his release in December.

James A. Hutchings, 36, of Gardiner, appeared before Magistrate Cole on August 25, 1994, and pled not guilty to the charge of disturbing natural features. Hutchings was arrested on March 30, 1994, after rangers with a spotting scope watched Hutchings from a distance of about three miles as he picked up an elk antler, carried it a short distance, and then stashed the antler in a hiding place, camouflaging the location with tree branches. Rangers retrieved the antler a few days later. In his August 25 trial, Hutchings claimed that because of the distance involved, rangers could not have seen any activity or been able to identify him. Magistrate Cole ruled that the ranger's testimony of keeping Hutchings in sight, and the retrieval of the antler, proved that Hutchings had moved and hidden the antler. Hutchings was found guilty and fined \$1,000 (\$500 suspended), sentenced to 90 days in jail (suspended), and banned from the park for three years.

On April 1, 1994, rangers saw three men carrying elk antlers near Coyote Creek in the Hellroaring area. When Matthew J. Young, 25, of Pray, Michael J. Young, 21, and Dennis H. Alverson, 22, both of Livingston were contacted, they dropped more than 56 pounds of elk antlers they were carrying and ran. On August 25, 1994, all three men appeared before Magistrate Cole with their attorney and pled not guilty. After a four-hour trial, all three were found guilty of illegally collecting elk antlers and failing to obey lawful orders. Convicted for a third time for horn hunting, Matthew Young was sentenced to 6 months in jail (with all but 30 days suspended), fined \$2,500 (plus the \$10 victim/witness fund fee), and banned from entering the park for five years. Michael Young and Dennis Alverson were both sentenced to 90 days in jail (suspended), fined \$1,500 (plus the \$10 victim/witness assessment), and placed on three years probation; they are not to enter the park during their probation period.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

► Youth Music Performance Class

There will be a Music Performance Class beginning in September for students from 5th grade through high school. For more information, call Maureen Hinckley-Cole at 344-7488.

► Ladies Barbershop Chorus Performance

The Yellowstone Harmony Chorus, Sweet Adelines International, will present a concert entitled "Harmony Our Way". This ladies four-part barbershop chorus from Cody, Wyoming, will sing in the Gardiner School Multi-purpose Room on Saturday, September 17, at 2 p.m. and then at the Mammoth School Gym at 7:30 p.m. that same evening. Advance tickets sales are necessary to help defray expenses: \$3 adults, \$2 children 12 and under. Tickets are available at the Gardiner Bank or by calling Debbie Keller at 848-7690.

► Charity Bike-a-Thon

"Wheels for Life" Bike-a-thon will be held on September 10, (rain date: September 17) from 8:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. at a location to be announced. All residents and businesses are encouraged to lend their support to St. Jude's non-profit Hospital by making a contribution or by becoming a rider. Bicycle or tricycle riders should contact event coordinator Christy Sankey at 344-7306 to receive an official consent and sponsor form. Any adults willing to volunteer, please give Christy a call as there are quite a few areas one can assist. If no answer, leave a message. Thanks for your support!

► Second Park Employee Alumni Reunion

On the weekend of September 17 and 18 Mammoth Hot Springs will be the site of the second park employee alumni reunion.

This reunion, like the first held in 1986, is intended for all present and former employees of Yellowstone National Park, including NPS and concession employees (TW Recreational Services; Hamilton Stores, Inc; Yellowstone Park Service Stations; Yellowstone Park Medical Services, Montana Power Company; U S West Communications; etc.). The weekend's activities include a cowboy cookout and dance, informal discussions with park staff on park issues, and various field trips (Specimen Ridge, Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone, the Mammoth Historic District, Crown Butte Mine). Alumni planning to attend the dinner and dance on Saturday night, September 17, will need to register by September 14, 1994. For registration information or additional information on the reunion, call (307) 344-2013.

► Vet Visit

Veterinarian, Dr. Jim Murray, will be at the Gardiner Exxon on Friday, September 9, from 2:00 - 5:00 p.m. No appointment necessary. House calls available upon request. Next Visit: September 23.

CLASSIFIED ADS

Help Wanted:

Several positions available on 10-11 month basis: Payroll Lead Asst., Telephone Systems Asst., Accountants Payable Asst. Positions are in the TW General Accounting Office, Mammoth. Applications and job descriptions available in the TW Personnel Office, Gardiner, 344-5367.

AA/EOE/M/F/H/V

For Sale:

Large area rug, Mission 66 picture window curtains & rod, complete double bed, oak dresser/mirror, couch, upholstered chair, antique gate-leg table, bicycle exercise trainer, skis, kids ski boots, coffee table. Cheap prices. See Joe Alston or call 344-7468.

For Sale:

1985 Subaru GL 4-wheel drive station wagon, \$1800. See Joe Alston or call 344-7468.

For Sale:

Black Aluminum topper for a small truck, \$250 OBO. Call Cat at 242-2718.

For Sale:

1980 Honda motorcycle XL185S, new tires, sprocket, \$800. Call 646-9295 extension 2803.

Found:

Pair of prescription glasses left in the Sign Shop. Call 344-2339 to claim.

Found:

Large grey sweatshirt at Old Faithful Fire Station. Call Joe at 545-2717.

For Sale:

Carpets...the price is right. Call the Barbees at 344-7432.

Housing Needed:

Female biologist, 39, very clean, non-smoker, looking for nice inexpensive apartment (furnished, if possible) or house to share w/other female in Gardiner/Mammoth from now until end of October. Call Monika at 848-5474 and leave message.

Good Homes Needed:

Grey/white mother cat and three black 3 week-old kittens found in Mammoth. Kittens available in 2-3 weeks. Call Sarah to choose your kitten today...344-2233 (w) or 344-7916 (h).

Pen Pal Wanted:

"I'd like to know how's the real life in Yellowstone, the woods, the animals, the forest keeper's work. I'd like to have a friend there. Please write." Norma Rodriguez D. / Sector T #II / Col. Lopez Mateos C.P. 82140 / Mazatlan Sin., Mexico

SECOND
YELLOWSTONE ALUMNI
REUNION

A Roosevelt Style Dinner will be held Saturday, September 17, 1994, at the Mammoth Hot Springs Recreation Hall. The dinner will begin at 6:00 PM and the menu will include:

Ribeye Steak (adult 12 oz., children 6 oz.); Roosevelt Beans; Chuckwagon Corn; Potato Salad; Cornbread Muffins; Apple Cobbler; Watermelon and Beverages. A cash bar will be available for alcoholic beverages beginning at 5:00 PM.

The price for the dinner (including tax and gratuity) is:	Adult	\$17.85
	Child (5-11)	\$ 9.52
	under 5	free

To register for the dinner, please fill out the attached form and mail to:

TW Recreational Services
Attn: Tami Whittlesey
Special Reservations Coordinator
PO Box 165
Yellowstone National Park, WY 82190

The deadline for registration is September 14, 1994. Refunds will not be given after September 11, 1994.

Check in will be at the Mammoth Activity Desk, Saturday, September 17, 1994, 12:00 PM to 6:00 PM.

NAME _____

MAILING ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

DAYTIME PHONE () _____ HOME PHONE () _____

NUMBER OF ADULTS _____ NUMBER OF CHILDREN _____

METHOD OF PAYMENT _____
(check, money order, Visa, Mastercard, American Express, Diners Club, Discover, JCB)

CREDIT CARD # _____ EXP. DATE _____

Please make checks or money orders payable to: TW Recreational Services