

NEWS & VIEWS

An Award-Winning Publication of California State Parks



Spring 2008

M*A*S*H* Reunion at Malibu Creek Brings Out the Stars

By Zan Dubin Scott, President
ZDS Communications

Just 24 hours before this year's Academy Awards show, California State Parks hosted a celebrity gala of its own, thanks to some Oscar-worthy volunteer efforts that brought the lime-light to a patch of Malibu Creek State Park where television history was made.

Actors Loretta "Hot Lips" Swit, Mike "BJ Hunnicutt" Farrell, and William "Father Mulcahy" Christopher starred in this production, which feted the "M*A*S*H" TV series and, more to the point, CSP's restoration of the famous site



The newly-reconstructed M*A*S*H* signpost will be on display every weekend following the efforts of docent Brian Rooney and others.

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"Good Morning America" Visits Anza-Borrego



Good Morning America Weekend visited Anza-Borrego Desert State Park on March 19 to do a story on...wildflowers (what else?). Environmental Services Intern Paul Johnson and Interpreter Gail Sevrens accompanied the crew of three—a producer, camera operator, and sound technician—on an odyssey throughout the valley, including a spectacular Font's Point sunrise, a near-miss of the Swainson's hawk lift-off, Henderson Canyon Road, and Coyote Canyon. Although wildflowers were the topic du jour, other issues touched on included geology, photography, International Dark Skies, the Sunrise Powerlink, caterpillars, Split Mountain, ocotillos, and protection for future generations. To see the Good Morning America Weekend clip, visit <http://abcnews.go.com/Video/playerIndex?id=4552306>

Adapted from Tracks, the newsletter of the Colorado Desert District



Director Ruth Coleman

I recently had the opportunity to be on a phone conference call with a man who runs some of the most successful restaurants in New York City. He has suffered through several economic downturns during his career, so I asked him how he weathered those tough times and what advice he could give to me as we contemplated closing 1 in 5 state parks. He gave me three points to think about. First, he said you have to communicate with the staff frequently and to be totally honest with them. Second, never compromise the quality of your product. Metaphorically speaking, he said “never put paper on the tables if you have been using linen.” Third, he said you must fight like heck for market share and never give up.

His advice was useful in that it succinctly laid out a strategy. Interestingly, we have already been moving in that direction. First, those of us on the “14th floor of the Sacramento headquarters” will continue to be as open and frank as possible in our communications with all staff. We will continue to work to update you regularly on the results of budget hearings and any other events that might have an impact on our budget, even if it is to say we still

don’t know. Secondly, our decision to close some parks rather than further degrade all the parks is completely consistent with the notion of “never put paper on the tables.” As painful and heartbreaking as the decision was to close some units, the alternative would have so reduced the quality of the state park experience for so many that we knew we would suffer even more in the long run. Finally, we are fighting like heck for market share. Despite our inadequate resources, staff have continued to schedule special events and create opportunities for expanding volunteers to the parks, all of which help build up our base of support.

The State Parks Foundation and others continue to highlight the importance of parks and to seek creative solutions to our long-standing problem of inadequate funding. Their expression of the public’s concern for State Parks is heartening and much appreciated. You can learn more of what they are doing at Save Our State Parks (www.savestateparks.org).

I think the best advice of all was the charge: “never give up.” We have the most dedicated and creative staff in the State and we manage resources that inspire us. Even when times seem the darkest, we will pull through.

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Railyard Deal Goes Through



Sacramento Railyard - Artist's drawing of proposal for Railroad Technology Museum.

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger announced in a press release on December 8 that an agreement had been reached among California State Parks, the California State Railroad Museum Foundation and Thomas Enterprises regarding the Downtown Sacramento Railyard. As a major component of the agreement, State Parks will receive two historic buildings in the railyard, under certain conditions, for use as the new Railroad Technology Museum.

"I applaud all parties involved for coming together to reach an agreement that will pave the way for a major transformation of the Sacramento Railyard. Under this agreement, the

development of an internationally renowned museum on a truly historic piece of property is possible," said Governor Schwarzenegger.

As part of the agreement, Thomas enterprises will transfer two historic buildings, the Boiler Shop and the Erecting Shop, to State Parks for use as a proposed Railroad Technology Museum.

"We can now begin moving forward on a 25-year dream to build a railroad technology museum that will explore cutting edge innovations in transportation while preserving and re-using some of the most significant industrial heritage facilities in the West," said Ruth Coleman, director of California State Parks.



Lane Family Makes Generous Gift

California State Parks Foundation founding member L.W. "Bill" Lane, Jr. and his wife, Jean Lane, have donated \$20,000 to the foundation "with a priority for the well-being and morale of the 136 men and women [proposed to be] terminated by the budget cuts." California State Parks thanks Mr. and Mrs. Lane (pictured here at Mount San Jacinto) for their generous donation.

Plumas-Eureka Longboarding Revives 150-Year Tradition



The conclusion of a men's heat; these racers are exhibiting the historical stopping method by using the single pole as a brake.

**By Scott Elliott, Supervising Ranger
Plumas-Eureka State Park**

Behold the great placenames in ski racing history: Tromsø, Norway; Mürren, Switzerland; the Plumas-Eureka area of California...

Uh, say that last placename again...?

It all started in May of 1851, as nine prospectors, wandering in a somewhat aimless fashion along the Sierra crest, discovered a ledge of gold-rich quartz along a steep 7,447-foot peak situated some 50 miles northwest of Lake Tahoe. Their discovery created a rush to the area, as well as the establishment of one of the highest-elevation mining camps in California. Heavy snowfall closed the mines seasonally, and the restless miners began to pass the winter months by strapping on "longboards." These skis were fashioned after the models used by Snowshoe Thompson, the famous Norwegian mail carrier who made his way from Placerville to Carson City, Nevada on skis that weighed around 25 pounds and were ten feet in length.

So, in the mountains of Plumas County, the very first ski races in the Western Hemisphere are said to have occurred. Miners raced for a purse often in the hundreds of dollars. Considering that a miner's daily wage was around \$2, the competition must have been intense. Racers topped 90 miles per hour in a straight shot down the northern slope of Gold Mountain (now Eureka

Peak). They typically had one "pole" which was used as a brake, and alternately as an occasional device for impeding the progress of competitors.

Today, the nonprofit Plumas Ski Club has recreated the historic ski races with the Historic Longboard Revival Series. Participants must use historically-accurate replica skis, they must walk their own set to

the top of the run, they must dress in period costume, and they must not engage in "cheatin' or spittin'." There is no word to date from race officials that use of the pole against competitors constitutes "cheatin'" There is also no purse today; the winner is merely entitled to bragging rights of being the WORLD CHAMPION longboarder.

And so, on January 20, the fifteenth year of the revived racing series began. The event was held again on February 17 and March 16. The Plumas-Eureka Ski Bowl, within Plumas-Eureka State Park, not only serves as the venue for the event, but is the likely terrain for one of the first recorded ski races in human history... Now that's living history.



Racers and spectators gather at the historic warming hut in the shadow of the longboards.

Plane Lands at Oceano Dunes SVRA



Local fire department personnel help guide the plane off the beach.

Park folks are used to dealing with off-highway vehicles, campers, boaters, people with tents and sleeping bags, those being too noisy in the camp grounds and other situations too numerous to mention. But on Monday, February 4, some of our folks at Oceano Dunes State Vehicle Recreation Area (SVRA) looked to the sky and thought..."that plane seems to be coming to our beach for a landing. What?"

What happened, as reported in the San Luis Obispo Tribune, is that a Pismo Beach man had just taken off from the nearby Oceano airport and was airborne for less than five minutes when the engine on his Mooney Mite just quit. As pilots are trained to do, Richard Reibel, 63, quickly looked around to find a place to land and there below him was a long stretch of vacant beach, so he put her down safely.

Our parks folks and the local fire department came out to ensure all was ok and then helped Reibel push his aircraft off the beach. The plane was not damaged and no one was injured. But some of our parks folks can add an airplane story to their list of stories about RVs, off-highway vehicles and motorcycles.

News & Views

Spring 2008

Ruth Coleman,
Director

Communications Office

- Roy Stearns, Deputy Director
- Sheryl Watson, Editor
- John Arnold, Assistant Editor
- Lindsay Oxford, Associate Editor
- Carol Cullens, Proofreader

*Interpretation and Education Division

Submit articles to newsandviews@parks.ca.gov

Please include the topic in the subject line.

Submit captions and photographer's name with all photographs.

Photographs need to be in TIFF or JPEG format.

Please keep article length to 400 words.

The next submission deadline is May 5, 2008.

OHV Officially Opens Heber Dunes SVRA

By Kathy Dolinar
Superintendent
Ocotillo Wells District

On December 13, California State Parks, OHMVR Division officially added the first SVRA in eighteen years to its list of parks. The park was previously owned by Imperial County and operated by Ocotillo Wells SVRA for the past eight years under a lease agreement. Imperial County supported the idea and worked closely in partnership with us to turn the plan into a reality.

On January 28 Daphne Greene, Deputy Director OHMVR Division, and Phil Jenkins, OHMVR Division Chief, cut the ribbon to officially open Heber Dunes SVRA. All members of Ocotillo Wells District team attended the event. The staff from Heber Dunes SVRA, Supervising Ranger Vic Herrick, and Maintenance Workers Charlie Gravett and Manuel Rodriguez, along with their camphosts, hosted a tour and a barbecue.

Although the park was operated by us in the past, now that we have title to the property we are able to make improvements to move us ahead



Dale Web, Camp Host/Heber Dunes

OHV Deputy Director Daphne Greene and OHV Division Chief Phil Jenkins officially open Heber Dunes SVRA as Ocotillo Wells District staff look on.

in our mission. New shade ramadas and picnic areas are being installed. An ATV Youth training facility will be built in the spring. A contract has been entered with CCC for extensive trail work and tree trimming. We are really excited to get these improvements on the ground. Community outreach and educational programs are scheduled.

Heber Dunes provides recreational opportunity to a diverse population who utilize the park for picnicking and an off-highway experience. It is an ideal

location for the communities of El Centro and Calexico who would not otherwise be able to visit a California State Park. Heber Dunes is in their backyards as it sits directly adjacent to both urban areas. The area has a huge potential for California State Parks to provide educational programs to at-risk youth.

We are thrilled to have met this goal and are looking forward to being a valued team with our partners in the area to provide sustainable recreation and resource management programs.

Calendar

Spring Planting Day

Wilder Ranch SP, April 19

Help plant the heirloom vegetable garden as it would have been c.1900. Also enjoy composting and gardening information and children's garden crafts. The event is held on the grounds of the Wilder Ranch Cultural Preserve. 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. For more information, please call (831) 426-0505.

Bug Day

Henry Cowell Redwoods SP, May 3

Come on kids, let's go buggy! Make new discoveries about a wide variety of bugs through interactive games, puppet shows, art projects, nature walks, and displays. 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. For more information, please call (831) 335-7077.

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100th Anniversary of Colonel Allensworth State Historic Park Celebrated in New Exhibit Kick-Off at State Capitol



Senator Mark Ridley-Thomas addresses the crowd at the opening of the Allensworth exhibit at the State Capitol Museum.

State Senator Mark Ridley-Thomas and fellow State Senator Dean Florez officially kicked off the Centennial Celebration of Colonel Allensworth State Historic Park in a reception at the State Capitol on February 6. Both Ridley-Thomas and Florez made note of how the park had just about everything possible thrown at it over the past year, a reference to the proposal to build a dairy farm near the park that was resolved when State Parks reached a land-use agreement with the dairy farmer. However, both also said the battles of the past year brought public attention to the value of the park, with Florez saying, “This is a place where the dream still lives on.”

At the State Capitol, the Allensworth historic exhibit will be on display from February 5 through March 31. It consists of

a 22-panel exhibit that includes a number of artifacts and a wide array of pictures from the period when Allensworth was a thriving community. Allensworth is known for being the town that was founded in 1908 as the only town founded, financed and governed by African-Americans.

State Parks Director Ruth Coleman spoke at the kick-off celebration, interviewed by Comcast Television, telling the gathering that State Parks is extremely proud of this park. She said all within the room needed special thanks, plus hundreds more, for rallying to the cause to reach a settlement in the dairy farm case to preserve and protect the integrity of the park. Said Coleman: “Without the commitment of all of you, there would very likely have been a much different

outcome and the character of this historic community would have been changed forever.”

To see the remarkable exhibit, one does not have to journey to the State Capitol. The display will become a traveling exhibit that will circulate throughout California before finally traveling to the park for the Rededication Day in October. Leading up to the Rededication are a number of other noteworthy events commemorating the 100th Anniversary, to include: The Celebration of Black History Month in February, the Old Time Jubilee in May and the Juneteenth Celebration. The public is invited to these events and is encouraged to visit year-round for the town tours and the living history days.



Director Ruth Coleman explains the value of Allensworth to a Comcast reporter.



Left to Right: Charles Dubin, Director. He directed 44 episodes, more than any other director.; Mike Farrell, Actor, Capt. B.J. Hunnicut ; Loretta Swit, Actor, Maj. Margaret “Hot Lips” Houlihan; Gene Reynolds, Director; William Christopher, Actor, Lt. / Capt. Father Francis J. Mulcahy; Burt Metcalfe, Director; Jeff Maxwell, Actor, Pvt. Igor Straminsky; Ron Schafer, Angeles District Superintendent; Al Pepito, Malibu Sector Superintendent.

where it was filmed. Docent Brian Rooney spearheaded the yearlong renewal project that culminated in a news conference and public celebration timed to coincide with the 25th anniversary of the show’s final episode in 1983. “Your support was the reason this show existed and continues to exist in the hearts of so many,” Farrell told the 300-strong crowd of enthusiasts. They had trekked two miles to the archaeological site of a Chumash village that doubled for South Korea for 11 years (and was spared by last year’s fires).

Actor Jeff Maxwell, who played the part of Igor the cook, also attended the sun-drenched Feb. 23 ceremony,



A large crowd braved the two-mile hike to be part of the day’s events.

along with Charles S. Dubin, who directed a record number of episodes, one of the iconic show's producers, Burt Metcalf, and its creator, Gene Reynolds.

“M*A*S*H’ again is going to serve this community,” said Reynolds, who, like his colleagues, happily obliged requests for autographs and photos with fans.

Rooney, a marketer for Penske Motor Group by day, supervised restoration of the M*A*S*H camp's helicopter pad, brush removal that revealed the set's vintage ambulance, and installation of ropes and stanchions outlining some of its tents. The show's familiar signpost pointing to Coney Island, Seoul, Burbank and other soldiers' hometowns was rebuilt from scratch by two other volunteers, Mark Rackow and Anielka Gallo.

Los Angeles District Superintendent Ron Schafer told the crowd that CSP wanted to restore the “MASH” site “as part of the cultural history of America” as The Los Angeles Times reported. News of the event was carried around the world by AP and UPI, featured in several other California newspapers and on local TV and radio news. One Mashie, as the show's followers are sometimes called, posted his own coverage on YouTube. Click here:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q-f85hcm0Bk>.

The site's restoration will continue with regular maintenance to avoid overgrowth and a proposed “mini visitor's center” in the form of an aluminum shed painted with military colors, according to Rooney. The center



Brian Rooney, Malibu Creek docent, details the efforts he and other volunteers took part in to pay homage to M*A*S*H* on its original set.



Malibu Sector Superintendent Al Pepito (left) and Angeles District Superintendent Ron Schafer pose in a military jeep.

would be staffed by docents on weekends, which is when the signpost will be displayed.

Malibu Creek State Park's 6,000-plus acres have served as the backdrop for thousands of movie and TV scenes since 1927, according to The LA Times, including those from such films as “Lost Horizon”

and “Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid.”

But, Times reporter Bob Pool wrote, “it is “M*A*S*H” that matters most to park visitors, who come from all over the world to see for themselves the Korean wartime world inhabited by Hawkeye, Hot Lips, BJ, Trapper John and the others.”

Public-Private Partnership to Increase Recycling on State Beaches



State Parks Director Ruth Coleman (second from right) joins Jean-Michel Cousteau (far right), President and Chairman of Ocean Futures Society, Sharon Kneiss (second from left), Vice President, Products Division, American Chemistry Council, and other dignitaries, at Leo Carrillo State Beach in Malibu to announce the public-private partnership for the placement of new plastic recycling bins on selected state beaches.

California State Parks has entered a partnership to combat litter and marine debris.

The public-private partnership formed recently between California State Parks, the American Chemistry Council (ACC) and Keep California Beautiful (KCB) is working to increase access to recycling on public lands and help the state divert recyclable plastics and other materials from landfills.

It also is fulfilling Governor Schwarzenegger's call for expanded partnerships between the public and private sectors.

At no cost to Parks, new recycling bins and signage are now appearing on state beaches with the message "Plastic is too Valuable to Waste - Recycle." This message is designed to encourage Parks visitors to recycle materials that otherwise might end

up in the trash can, or worse, as litter.

Recent press conferences to announce the partnership at the Oceano Dunes State Vehicular Recreation Area and Leo Carrillo State Beach generated numerous TV, radio and newspaper stories. State Parks Director Ruth Coleman and Jean-Michel Cousteau of the Oceans Future Society joined local officials to launch the partnership.

Plans are underway to expand the program to other public lands throughout 2008. The next launch event was in San Diego at Torrey Pines State Beach on April 2. Similar events will be scheduled later in the year for State Beach sites in Monterey and Santa Cruz.

By the end of 2008, the ACC will have invested more than

\$100,000 in recycling bins and educational signage for state beach sites.



At no cost to California State Parks, the American Chemistry Council is placing these new plastic recycling signs and bins on selected state beaches.

Winter Interpretation Takes Lake Tahoe Sector by Storm

By Susan C. Grove, Lake Tahoe Sector Superintendent

Winter presents some unique opportunities for interpretation in snowy Lake Tahoe Sector. Both Donner Memorial SP and Sugar Pine Point SP are open year around, lending themselves to skiing and snowshoeing adventures. Rangers, volunteers and seasonals are all involved in our interpretive efforts, which draw locals and tourists alike. In summer, most of the interpretive program attendees are campers, but in winter campers are few, so we advertise in the local newspapers and as a result, attract people who might not otherwise visit the parks. We discovered that folks really come out in large numbers when we offer something unique and in that light, we're doing less programs, but have higher attendance overall.

Ranger Don Schmidt, a self-described railroad buff, takes snowshoers through the abandoned train tunnels that are located in Donner Memorial SP. One tunnel is over 1600 feet long! Visitors bring headlamps or flashlights and listen to Don describe the amazing human feat that was the construction of the tunnels over Donner summit. Other programs at Donner Memorial SP include snowshoe hikes about Donner Party History and Winter Adaptations for Plants and Animals.

Our increasingly popular moonlight snowshoe tours are in their third year at Sugar Pine Point SP. Many different classifications of staff have



Ranger Don Schmidt

been front-line interpreters during these programs: District Interpretive Specialist, Sector Superintendent, Supervising Ranger, Ranger, seasonal interpreter and volunteers. Our most recent program attracted 71 participants and our highest attendance ever was over 90 participants! Visitors learn about the history of the Hellman/Ehrman estate while snowshoeing in the moonlight along the magical west shore of Lake Tahoe. Snowshoes are provided for participants by a local business in a positive partnership with State Parks, and participants are asked to make a donation to Sierra State Parks Foundation.

Another popular program at Sugar Pine Point SP allows visitors to cross-country ski in the path of Olympians. Few people realize that during the 1960 winter Olympics at Squaw Valley, the Nordic events and the biathlon took place at what is now Sugar Pine Point SP. A local volunteer who is an expert on Olympic history, aided by a ranger, leads visitors on a memorable ski tour on what were some of the routes used by Olympians 48 years ago. Other interpretive programs at Sugar Pine Point include snowshoe hikes on Animals in Winter, and Early Settlers at Sugar Pine Point.

We're proud to say that interpretation is alive and well on a year-round basis at Lake Tahoe Sector. If your travels bring you to Tahoe this winter, join us on one of our programs. It will be a special experience that you won't soon forget.



Ranger Schmidt leads a group of snowshoers.

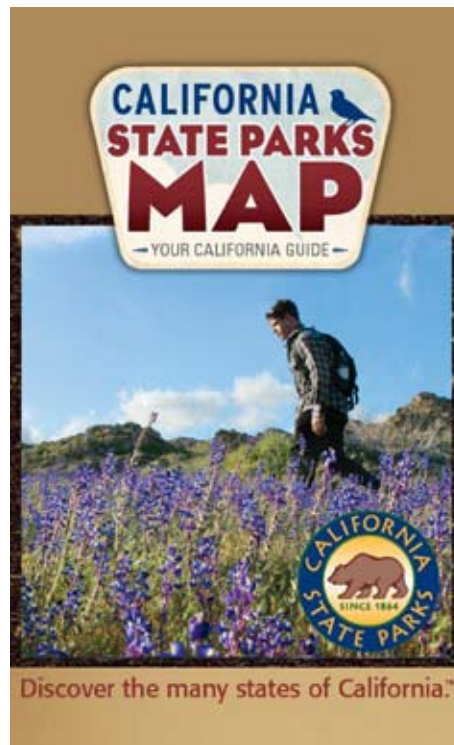
The New 2008 California State Parks Map

By Brent Reed
Deputy Director
Partnerships and Consumer
Strategies

I am proud to announce after months of collaboration between field and headquarters support staff, a new California State Parks Map will soon be available.

For many years, California Escapes was our official guide. Unfortunately, however, we recently had to discontinue it because our previous publisher could no longer afford to cover its high costs and we could not afford to subsidize its production. Facing this challenge, we set out to develop a new publication that would carry on the spirit of California Escapes but do so in a financially viable way.

We looked to other publishers like Sunset Custom Publishing and American Park Network to recreate a similar 64-page handout. None are willing to take on an “Escapes-like” publication unless our Department, like so many other state park systems, agrees to underwrite a large portion of the production costs. We clearly do not have this as an option given our current budget constraints.



Fortunately, Government Solutions Group stepped up to the plate in 2007 and partnered with us to develop at no cost an entirely new publication, the Park Visitor Welcome Kit. After surveying the field we decided to convene a group of staff members in November to evaluate the new design. The work group determined the publication was unnecessarily complicated and contained too many loose parts. We brainstormed several solutions and the group later decided

a larger, more user-friendly fold-up map would simplify the publication and better serve the needs of our visitors and staff.

This year the Park Visitor Welcome Kit will be replaced with a 24 x 37.5 fold-up publication that contains a full-sized map of our system, activity grids, and “Ranger Recommendations” offering up specific park highlights. The advertising inserts will be discontinued and incorporated into the content in a way that provides helpful information to the park visitor. We believe you and our visitors will find this creative design to be simple and intuitive, with the added bonus of 20 percent of the map’s proceeds returning back to our parks. There will be plenty of copies so please hand out as many as you like.

While we will all miss California Escapes, we should all be excited about the opportunity we have to build on its legacy in a way that is both visually and financially innovative. When you get a moment, pick up a copy of your 2008 California State Parks Map. Take a peek. We hope you enjoy it as much as our visitors will.

Calendar,

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Mother’s Day Walk: Women of Big Basin

Big Basin Redwoods SP, May 11

Celebrate Mother’s Day in the park by honoring the spirited women who lived in, worked in, and fought for the Basin throughout its history. 2:00 PM. Wheelchair and stroller accessible. For more information, please call (831) 338-3944.

Columbia Diggins 1852

Columbia SHP, June 5-8

The staff and volunteers of Columbia State Historic Park recreate the 1852 town of tents and shacks which sprung up in the wake of the

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Celebrating the West on the Move: 150th Anniversary of Overland Mail



Gary McClintock portrays James E. Mason bringing the first overland delivery of mail to San Diego on pack mules in 1857.

By Karen Beery
Interpretation and Education Manager
San Diego Coast District

Telephone, email, text message—what was life like before instant communication? Can you imagine the thrill of the people in San Diego when the Overland Mail first arrived on August 31, 1857? Labor Day weekend this past year cel-



Old Town Descendants, dragons, and horse drawn wagons were part of the parade.

brated that event in Old Town San Diego State Historic Park with horses, mules, anvil firings, period food and entertainment, and more.

In 2007, several agencies in the southland had events to commemorate and memorialize the 1857 completion of the San Antonio and San Diego Mail Line (SA&SD). The SA&SD was the first intercontinental communication link, joining the newly-won western territories with the Midwest and East Coast of the United States.

The activities in Old Town San Diego began with the reopening of Seeley Stable. New exhibits on the ground floor tell the story of the daily challenges posed by 19th-century commercial transportation. Vehicles from the Roscoe E. Hazard collection help illustrate the nature of travel and its evolution. The exhibits include two recently conserved tandem freight wagons that were owned by Leroy Little, a pioneer teaming and hauling operator in Arizona, California, and Baja California. Guests attending the opening

Annual Safety Awards: And the Winners Are . . .



Chuck Combs, Training Officer

Left to Right: Andy Vasquez, Administrative Officer, accepts the First Place award on behalf of the San Diego Coast District; Julie Humann, Maintenance Worker, accepts the Second Place award on behalf of the Ocotillo Wells District; Safety Bear displays the plaque of Grand Prize Winners.

By Ulf Jonas Ekeroth Department Safety Coordinator

As Safety Bear will tell you, at State Parks safety is our business! Or, as our safety motto goes, “No work is so important that it shall be undertaken in an unsafe manner.” The awards were presented at the annual Safety Coordinator Workshop held at the Marconi Conference Center. The theme of the event was “Our Safety Program: Let’s Take it to the Next Level.” The Department’s annual Safety Award is given to districts that have demonstrated superior achievements when it comes to safety. San Diego and Ocotillo Wells have shown that they take the safety

motto seriously and received awards for fulfilling the following criteria:

- A low annual injury rate
- A clear improvement over the last year
- A positive trend over the last 5 years
- A well-managed injury trend relative to district size and the diversity of classifications utilized
- A fully-implemented Injury and Illness Prevention Program

Congratulations, San Diego and Ocotillo Wells! You are an In addition to the Safety

Awards, topics covered at the conference were: Elements of a Successful Safety Program; Material Handling Ergonomics; the State Fund Back Connection (a system designed to control back injuries); Accident/Incident Investigations; Chainsaw Safety; Electrical Hazards; the Benefits of Modified Work; and Confined Space. Participants also had the opportunity to break into groups to brainstorm about safety problems and explore solutions. And, as always, the event provided Safety Coordinators from all over the state a chance to network!

Calendar,

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discovery of gold. 10-5 each day. Call 588-9128 for details.

Festival at the Cement Ship

Seacliff SB, June 7

Celebrate the unique history of the WW1 Concrete Ship Palo Alto. 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. For more information, please call (831) 685-6444

Full Moon Madness

Henry Cowell Redwoods SP, June 14

Join a moonlit guided tour of the redwoods and moon gaze through telescopes. For more information, please call (831) 335-7077.

Columbia’s History Mysteries

Columbia SHP, June 28, July 19, July 26, August 16
Families are invited to solve an actual crime that occurred in Columbia in the 1850s. Reservations: (209) 588-9128.

Discovering the Hidden Treasures of the Freeman Property



Environmental Scientist Joe Hopkins (standing) explains to park visitor Noah Ebert how Native Americans used grinding stones to prepare mesquite flour that was used in food cakes that could then be stored for future use. Environmental Scientist Steve Quartieri (seated) looks on.

By Steve Quartieri, Environmental Scientist

The Ocotillo Wells District staff led park visitors on a 3-hour expedition into the newly acquired Freeman Property. The program was titled “Discovering the Hidden Treasures of the Freeman Property,” and focused on the Native American culture of the area. As part of the tour, visitors explored rows of ancient Native American fish traps, ground mesquite seed pods using traditional grinding stones, tasted mesquite pods and flour, and discovered how Native Americans used various plants for everything, including food, medicine and shelter.

Visitors commented about their desire to attend more programs in the future. It truly was a magical day in the desert.

This was the inaugural interpretive program conducted in the area by the Ocotillo Wells staff. For more information about upcoming events, please contact Steve Quartieri at (760) 767-1331.

Children in Nature Campaign

By Nina Gordon
Senior Policy Coordinator
Interpretation and Education
Division

Remember some of your favorite times as a child playing outdoors? Whether you enjoyed climbing over logs, exploring trails and hills near your house after school, or building forts, children growing up today will not be fortunate enough to have such visceral memories.

In a 2006 interview, Richard Louv, author of “Last Child in the Woods,” stated, “After tens of thousands of years of children playing and working primarily outdoors, the last few generations have seen such interaction with nature vanish almost entirely. The implications -- for children’s physical

and mental health... -- are immense.”

The implications for the future of California State Parks are immense as well. In one generation we face the prospect of losing that vital connection and appreciation of the natural world that provides impetus for supporting open space and park preservation. A 2006 study by Dr. Louise Chawla, international coordinator of UNESCO’s Growing Up in Cities project, shows that children’s outdoor experiences shape the ways they interact with the natural world as adults.

California State Parks is launching a “Children in Nature Campaign” to encourage and inspire all California children to



appreciate and interact creatively with our natural environment. California State Parks plays a vital role in what is now a national movement to combat “nature deficit disorder,” a term first used by Richard Louv.

The Campaign serves to tie together and promote current state park programs and activities that introduce children to their natural and cultural heritage. These include some

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Promotions

Accounting Administrator III
Dorothy J. Kroll
Administration/Accounting
12/1/07

**Associate Governmental
Program Analyst**
Rachel A. Bristow
Administration/Budget
12/11/07

Barbara L. Learn,
OHMVR Headquarters
01/15/08

Administrative Officer I
Gayla M. Swann
Channel Coast District
12/17/07

Graphic Designer I
John P. Underwood
Park Operations/Interpretation
& Education
01/14/08

Guide II Supervisor
Terry A. Cook
Capital District/State Capital
12/01/07

Interpreter Assistant
Kathleen V. Sanders
OHV/Hungry Valley
01/01/08

Interpreter I
Lisa M. Bradford
Monterey/Asilomar
11/30/07

Interpreter III
Gail K. Sevrens
Colorado Desert District
01/01/08

**Management Services
Technician**
Valerie A. Duda
Sierra District
01/01/08

Shirley J. Jones
Colorado Desert/Montane
Sector, 11/30/07

Patty J. Plumlee,
OHV/Hungry Valley
01/01/08

Lenita J. Reeves,
Inland Empire District
11/30/07

Lisa K. Zamecki,
OHV/Hungry Valley
01/01/08

Office Technician (Typing)
Caroline A. Parker,
OHV/Twin Cities District
11/16/07

Almeda K. Plank
OHV/Hollister Hills
12/16/07

Park & Recreation Specialist
Lisa G. Allen
Orange Coast District
01/01/08

Park Maintenance Chief I
Brian T. Gaudet
San Diego Coast/North
11/15/07

**Park Maintenance
Supervisor**
Ernesto A. Moises
Marin District/Marin Sector
11/30/07

Park Maintenance Worker I
Rosalie I. Keena
Central Valley District/
Calaveras Sector, 11/16/07

Park Maintenance Worker II
Brenda F. Hemond
Angeles District/Topanga
Sector, 01/01/08

Scot A. Martin,
Colorado Desert District
12/16/07

Donell J. Surratt
Channel Coast District/
Carpinteria Sector
01/09/08

Dennis R. Woodworth
Angeles District/Malibu Sector
01/01/08

Ranger Supervisor
Victor Herrick
OHV/Ocotillo Wells
11/08/07

Mark A. Hudgens
Inland Empire District/Perris
Sector, 01/10/08

Kathryn A. Wilson
Monterey District/Big Sur
Sector, 11/15/07

Senior Civil Engineer
Suzanne M. Lahitte
A & D Division/Southern Service
Center, 12/14/07

Skilled Laborer
John R. Klinger
North Coast Redwoods District,
01/01/08

Melody Vaughn
North Coast Redwoods District
01/01/08

Overland Mail

►FROM PAGE 13

were treated to a signature ice cream “Stage Stop Snap and Swirl” created for the event.

On Friday night the plaza shimmered in lantern light as guests enjoyed an alfresco dining experience with outstanding regional chefs including those from the restaurants in the park and members of Slow Food San Diego. They prepared dishes based on or inspired by recipes of early San Diego. The entertainment included a silent auction and historically-inspired music by Yale Strom and Hot Pstromi.

The activities on Saturday began with an old fashioned parade that went through the Old Town community and ended in the park with a reenactment of the delivery of the first overland mail. Historically, the two riders were hailed on the plaza by two anvils firing 50 times. Thanks to the efforts of state park staff, volunteers, concessionaires, cooperating association, and other park partners the park was alive with living history activities, music, period entertainment, equestrian acts, and several anvil firings.

On September 5, 1857 the San Diego Herald wrote of the arrival of the mail as being:

“The most important event which has ever occurred in the annals of San Diego, and undoubtedly constitutes an epoch in the Pacific Coast of the Union, which will be recorded and remembered with just pride, long after the mails will



Lorena Warner-Lara helps a young visitor create a traditional corn husk doll.

have been transported on the great continental railroad, the first rail of which may be thus said to have been laid.”

While our event may not warrant such claims, it is an example of the exciting, entertaining and compelling events coming to Old Town. The list of people and organizations that participated to make this celebration a success would take up several pages. To each and every one we extend our heartfelt thanks, and we look forward to working with our current and new park partners to create memorable visitor experiences that reflect life in early San Diego.

Promotions Continued

Staff Park and Recreation Specialist

Henry S. Arroyo
Angeles District/Angeles Sector
11/30/07

Superintendent II

Garratt D. Aitchison
Inland Empire District/San Jacinto Sector, 01/08/08

Cristina K. Sanguino
OHV/Ocotillo Wells Sector
01/25/08

Morgan W. Zeitler
Mendocino District/Mendocino Sector Superintendent
01/01/08

Superintendent III

Sean A. Woods
Angeles Dist/Los Angeles Sector
11/01/08

See Page 5 for News & Views Submission Information!

Supervisor Cultural Resources

Wendy W. Franklin
AHM Division/Museum Collections,
11/15/07

Training Officer I

Summer J. Kincaid
Administration/Training Unit
01/01/08



John Arnold's Mailbag

Greetings! I was the leader for a motorcycle ground camping trip to the Salton Sea Recreation Park... My group and I had such a nice time and the park's rangers were just great! Kudos to Ranger Gary and Rose! They went beyond the norm to be sure we were comfortable and having a good time! Thank you!

We camp exclusively at Thornhill Broome because it is close to us and works out well with our disabled daughter in her wheelchair.

We will be there next week and an issue arose when I realized I will not be able to get back to the campground before the gates are locked at 10:00 pm.

I spoke with Darryl, a ranger, and he will be on patrol that evening and provided me with his contact phone number so I can call when I get to the gate and he can then meet me to allow me entrance.

With our daughter's disability, we sometimes need to run our generator after hours for equipment and we even purchased a special generator that is quiet so we don't disturb others. We also inform the rangers of this need and they have always been very accommodating.

What I am getting at is that I want you to please pass this mail onto the pertinent supervisor so he/she can know what a great job the employees at Point Mugu do. They really



"Our many thanks to your Park Rangers and Staff who secured evacuation of campers at Seacliff State Beach on January 4th 2008. At the time, I think we questioned why evacuation was necessary, but we followed direction. We walked back down to our campsite the following morning and realized the amount of damage the storm had caused. Attached is a photo of the damage we saw. As always we are blessed to have such employees working for State Parks."

make us feel welcome, keep the grounds in great shape and are very sympathetic to our daughter's needs.

We use these facilities at least 8 times a year and when we are there it's like we are home.

Thank you to you and your staff!!

I just wanted to say thanks for all your work at Mammoth Bar. The new track is awesome and well maintained and you

can't beat the price!
Keep up the good work!

"We were recently evacuated from our ranch and spent 5 days in San Clemente Beach. The accommodations were great & staff wonderful. We can't thank you enough for making room for us and our 8 dogs & cat. It was as pleasant as an evacuation could possibly be. Thanks again!

Dear Mr. Von Hermann,
I am a fourth grade teacher at Balboa Gifted Magnet in Northridge, CA. I just wanted to take the time to tell you how much my students and I are enjoying the

videoconferencing sessions we have had with the park rangers. Ranger Jeff at Ano Nuevo did a great job showing us the elephant seals and teaching us about animal adaptations a little over a month ago ... The teachers, students, and parents all love the program and the learning opportunities it provides.

This morning, Ranger LuAnn Thompson at Anza Borrego Desert completely mesmerized my class with a custom-tailored lesson on rocks, minerals, and

landforms... My students, who are eager learners, but not always easily impressed, were firing off questions at her and she handled them all beautifully.

Ranger LuAnn put together a kid-friendly, challenging and informative lesson from start to finish. She grabbed the students' attention with her "horseback" entrance and kept them engaged until the moment we had to say goodbye. She was willing to spend extra time with us to answer all the kids' questions so we are hoping that you will consider giving her a big raise! The best part of PORTS is the ability of rangers like LuAnn Thompson to open up new worlds to our students through these videoconferences.

Everyone I have met in the PORTS program has been extraordinarily helpful and great to work with... Brad Krey helped our staff set up conferences for every grade level at our school, Shawn Brown has provided tech support on various occasions, even Heather McCummins called me from Sacramento once (I think) to help me with an IP address...come to think of it, I think I called YOU once with a question about whether or not SeaCliff was the same location

as Ano Nuevo. You called me back promptly!

Needless to say, we are impressed by and thankful for the program.

President's Day weekend my boyfriend and I decided to take



"While my family was visiting Seacliff State Beach on Christmas Day, we came across an injured Pacific Loon and were delighted to see a state parks officer scramble to rescue the bird before it succumbed to the elements and a couple of hungry seagulls. We were also impressed by the officer's willingness to answer questions from my two kids (age 5 and 8) as they were quite interested in the bird's health. I've attached a photo I took of the officer loading the Loon into his vehicle. Thanks for doing what you do!"

a leisurely drive on highway 1. We were going north right by Horseshoe Point when I turned off to let faster drivers pass. As I was driving back on the road, I completely didn't see the grass filled ditch in front of me and drove right into it. Thank goodness, I was driving slowly and no one was hurt, but we

still couldn't get the car out on our own and we had no reception on our cell phones.

Plenty of kind people from the surrounding areas stopped to make sure we were ok, but a state park ranger, who introduced himself as Woody, is the one who was able to get us help. He made sure no one was injured, contacted AAA for us, and even explained the local landscape, trees, and Horseshoe Point while we waited. He definitely helped me feel more at ease despite evidence of my embarrassing driving maneuver. After a while he had to continue on, but he still came back to check on us 30 minutes later just to make sure we were ok. Eventually AAA came, towed the car out, and my boyfriend and I continued on our drive.

I do not know if this message can actually be relayed to Woody, but my boyfriend and I just wanted to extend our appreciation for how he helped us. He seems like a park ranger that loves his job and does it very well. Woody and everyone else that stopped exhibited genuine concern and kindness that is, sadly, a rarity in Los Angeles, where I am from. So from the bottom of our hearts, Thank you!!

Coastal Commission Votes No on Toll Road



On February 6, the California Coastal Commission, meeting in the largest hearing ever held in its 36-year history, voted 8 to 2 against the proposal to build the Foothill-South Toll Road through San Onofre State Beach. According to the Los Angeles Times, more than 3,500 people attended the hearing that lasted more than 12 hours.

Children in Nature

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or all of the following programs: Junior Rangers, Junior Lifeguards, Outdoor Youth Connections, and the myriad creative and successful programs presented throughout our 278 parks. An interdisciplinary team, led by Nina Gordon, Senior Policy Coordinator, is providing planning, research and other support for the field and headquarters in this critical effort. Some of the Campaign team's main goals include:

- Promoting California State Parks programs
- Focusing on regional coordination and collaboration among partners to provide seamless information and opportunities for kids to get outdoors
- Increasing the number and capacity of public, private and nonprofit organizations committed to providing opportunities that connect children with nature, and seeking additional funding in the private/nonprofit sector.

The Campaign team is providing resources and tools for use by field staff and others, including:

- A “tool kit,” which includes an issue paper, a PowerPoint presentation and annotated references
 - An updated website that lists outdoor activities in state parks that connect children to nature
 - Materials to promote the California Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights as an important initiative to further the Campaign goals
 - The framework establishing a speaker's bureau for anyone interested in participating
 - Targeted media kits, including press releases, to help promote existing activities and programs
- More information and updates will be provided in the next edition of News and Views. Please see the Campaign website at www.parks.ca.gov/cinc

California State Parks provides a vital link in this rapidly growing movement to ensure that the next generation benefits from the outdoor experiences we all enjoyed as children, and understands the need to ensure that same opportunity is there for others.

What if Disaster Strikes?



La Purísima Mission

By Linda Agren
Park Interpretive Specialist
La Purísima Mission State
Historic Park

Picture this. You're sitting quietly at your desk at Anywhere State Historic Park, when all of a sudden the "Big One" hits - an 8.5 earthquake! Windows shatter, furniture topples, and the power goes out. Fortunately, you're OK. But your historic park and its cultural collection are in peril! To top it all off, you are alone! Will you know what to do to protect the priceless collections that you manage? If you've had the foresight to prepare a Collections Disaster Plan (CDP) you will, and you'll avoid running around like the old Keystone Kops.

At La Purísima Mission State Historic Park, we realized that we needed to develop such a plan. As someone wise once said, "It isn't a question of IF a

major disaster will strike; it's a question of WHEN!" So in October 2007, Supervising Ranger Theresa Armas and I attended a WESTPAS (Western States and Territories Preservation Assistance Service) Workshop. This newly-formed organization works to assist the 14 participating states in drafting CDPs, performing salvage operations, and teaching staff about appropriate actions to take in the face of an emergency. The workshop was free to attend thanks to support from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

At the end of the first session, "Protecting Library & Archive Collections," we were given the assignment of developing a CDP for La Purísima Mission State Historic Park that included the tools to train staff and volunteers to implement it. Ten weeks later, we returned to the workshop location with

our completed CDP. As part of that plan, we had identified our nine-member disaster team and prepared a "Pocket Response Plan for Collections." The pocket plan has the names and contact information for all members of the disaster team plus contact information for additional organizations offering disaster assistance. The pocket plan folds up and slips into a credit-card-sized sleeve to be carried by each disaster team member at all times. We also prepared a 3-ring binder using templates handed out in the first workshop. The binder identifies the responsibilities of each team member and also contains a list of collection salvage priorities for La Purísima Mission State Historic Park, including photographs of items of the highest priority. Each disaster team member will be given a pocket response plan and a binder with all of this necessary information.

So that poor soul mentioned above, sitting all alone when disaster strikes, needn't worry if he or she has a Collections Disaster Plan in place. He or she can quickly and confidently call eight trained disaster team members to come help, and each team member will know where emergency supplies are kept, where pack-out supplies are, how to wrap/store delicate objects, and where to find the telephone numbers of companies offering disaster support. Doesn't this sound better than having the Keystone Kops handle your collection?

Tales from the Field

Holiday Hikes Enhance the Spirit of the Season

By Cindi Whitehead, Senior Park Aide
North Coast Redwoods District

To add to the season's festivities, my husband and I not only dined on delicious foods and visited friends and family, we hiked some of our old haunts in the San Francisco Bay Area, namely, Angel Island, Mt. Tamalpais and China Camp State Parks.

We started before Christmas, on a frosty Saturday morning with a crisp ride to Angel Island on the ferry. Mike had retired from there as a ranger after a 15-year stint. I had also been an "islander," having worked several seasons as a park aide. We brought a dear friend with us and hiked the five-mile perimeter road taking it all in. A few changes were noted here and there, but on the whole, the island refreshed our memories nicely. In the cool morning air, the views were as spectacular as we remembered. We looked westward towards the San Francisco metropolis and the engaging, monolithic Golden Gate bridge, taking note of the great divide between earth and sky: Mt. Tamalpais. We saw ferrys scurrying to and fro, large ships inching enroute to the rest of the world, and icons of Angel Island's much varied history. Camp Reynolds, Ft. McDowell, the Immigration Station and Ayala Cove stood before us, passing time and awaiting new explorers of today. After a brisk couple of hours, we were back on the Angel Is-



Mike Whitehead, Retired Ranger

Cindi Whitehead (right) and her friend Marie Beggs approach Camp Reynolds on Angel Island during a pre-Christmas hike.

land Ferry for re-entry to the mainland of Marin.

A few days later, we continued our sojourning, this time for an elevating hike on Marin Municipal Watershed District lands within the shadow of Mt. Tamalpais State Park property. This day was bright and actually very warm. Many people and a few dogs were out enjoying the vistas and getting exercise.

The day after Christmas, our last hike of this visit, we went to the shores of San Francisco's San Pablo Bay at China Camp State Park. It was another beautiful morning, with a few hikers and bikers out enjoying the multi-use paths. We crossed several seasonal streams rushing to augment the salt marshes close by and watched the many shorebirds vying for takeoff and landing privileges on the nearby bay.

Those of us employed by California State Parks consider ourselves lucky to both work in this environment and to still be amazed by all its wonder when visiting on days off. I, for one, always didn't mind when someone told me to 'Take a hike!' I usually invited them to come along on my next State Park adventure.



Mike Whitehead, Retired Ranger

Hike number three

The Heat is on...Go for the GOLD!!



Courtesy Laura Aguon

Left: Laura Aguon on Lake Natoma. Right: Laura's daughter Andrea, during the recent Northern California Outrigger Canoe Association (NCOCA) Sprint Championships.

By Laura Aguon, Associate Governmental Program Analyst, Human Rights Office

From August 1 through August 9, there will be just over 20 countries participating in the International Va'a (Outrigger Canoe) Federation's 13th Biennial World Sprint Championship races. This very prestigious event will be held at Nimbus Flats on the World-

Class waters of Lake Natoma. There will be 1,800-2,000 International Outrigger Canoe Paddlers competing with their respective country or affiliate. American Samoa, Australia, Brazil, California/USA, Canada, Cook Islands, East Coast/USA, England, Fiji, France, Germany, Guam, Hawaii, Hong Kong, Japan, Marianas, Marshall Islands, New Caledonia,

Aotearoa/ New Zealand, Niue, Pacific Northwest/USA, Palau, Rapa Nui, Samoa, Tahiti, Tonga, Wallis & Futuna, just to name a few... Come on out and enjoy the cultural diversity happening in your own backyard!! Want to be a part of it?! Volunteers are needed. For detailed information & volunteer sign-ups, please visit <http://www.IVF2008USA.info>

Wildflowers at Los Angeles State Historic Park

Spring has sprung at Los Angeles State Historic Park! This photo, taken in early March, shows that you don't always have to venture out of the city to enjoy California's wildflowers. The blooms may only last for a few more weeks this season, but even if you miss the wildflowers Los Angeles State Historic Park is still worth a visit.



Photo Courtesy of Sean Woods, Los Angeles Sector Superintendent



Wildflowers in Los Angeles State Historic Park, with the city in the background.

Winter Wonderland, AKA Ed Z' Berg-Sugar Pine Point State Park



Lake Tahoe Sector Superintendent Susan Grove captured these beautiful shots in Ed Z' Berg-Sugar Pine Point State Park. The first of these photos was taken at sunrise and the second later in the day.

Commute Subsidies Help Your Carbon Footprint AND Your Wallet

By Eric Tanner
Commute Coordinator

Would you like to reduce your carbon footprint and save money at the same time? Lee Holmes did. Holmes, a project coordinator in Capital District, enrolled in State Parks' Commute Subsidy Program last January. Holmes gets a Commuter Check transit voucher that pays for 75 percent of the cost of his Sacramento Regional Transit Monthly Pass. "I commute

each day from Folsom to the Amtrak Station. The voucher program has made it possible for me and another Capital District employee to eliminate the use of our private vehicles, taking two cars off US 50, and preventing emissions from our vehicles from contributing to global warming! It is money well spent," says Holmes.

The Commute Subsidy Program offers State Parks employees the transit subsidy available to all state employees who commute using public transit or vanpools. The program was developed to promote air quality, reduce traffic congestion, and conserve energy by reducing the number of vehicles on the road. Participants receive a subsidy of 75 percent of their monthly public transit fare or vanpool fees, up to a maximum of \$65.

Over 250 Parks employees at the Capital District, Northern Service Center, OHV Division headquarters, and department headquarters are enrolled in

the Commute Subsidy Program.

Last November, fourteen employees at Hearst Castle® started a vanpool for their 40-minute commute to work. After a month of paying their vanpool fees of almost \$90 per rider and waiting to be reimbursed for the subsidized 75 percent of their vanpool fees, they enrolled in the Commute Subsidy Program. Now each uses Commuter Check transit vouchers and spends less than \$25 a month in vanpool fees.

In Sacramento, employees enrolled in the Commute Subsidy Program use Commuter Checks to buy passes and tickets for ten different Northern California transit agencies.

If you'd like more information on the Commute Subsidy Program or have questions about your commuting options, please email Commute Coordinator at etanner@parks.ca.gov.



Commute Coordinator Eric Tanner gets his Commuter Check transit voucher from Mari McMahon of the Contracts and Asset Management Section.

Tracy Hurtig, Contracts . . .