

NEWS & VIEWS

The Employee Newsletter of California State Parks for Over Six Decades



Summer 2011

New State Park Campground, Beach & Hiking Access to Open at Crystal Cove SP

Just in time for the 4th of July holiday weekend, California State Parks opened the much-anticipated Crystal Cove State Park Moro Campground and beach day-use area.

Located in the heart of the spectacular Orange County coastline, the campground opened for reservations in mid-June, and by the end of June all campsites were booked solid for the 4th of July weekend.

Crystal Cove State Park Superintendent Todd Lewis told us that “The new Moro



Visitors to the newly opened Moro Campground at Crystal Cove State Park can take in the scenic views of the Orange County coast and enjoy over 60 campsites.

►Campground, Page 9

Raley’s NickelAid to Generate Seed Money to help State Parks



Governor’s Mansion SHP - Jennifer Teel Wolter, representing the Raley’s Family of Fine Stores throughout Northern California and Nevada, announces the “NickelAid” Program. She was joined by Director Ruth Coleman, Capital District Superintendent Cathy Taylor; members of the California State Historic Governor’s Mansion Foundation joined in support of the program.

The Raley’s supermarket chain has teamed up with California State Parks to help raise money to keep parks open.

At a press announcement Friday, July 1, Raley’s and California State Parks unveiled a program called NickelAid. Through NickelAid, every time a shopper uses a reusable grocery bag, or brings back a used paper or plastic bag to any of Raley’s Family of stores, the company will donate 5 cents to a special California

►Raley’s, Page 11



Director Ruth Coleman California's Cathedrals

I recently spoke to a group of park advocates and described our budget situation. One of the attendees turned out to be a visiting scholar from Italy. After my talk, he told me “When we Italians think of America, we think of your park system. When you Americans think of Italy, you don’t think of our parks, you think of our cathedrals. So you Americans closing your parks would be like us closing our cathedrals. Unthinkable!”

Unthinkable indeed. Right now, we wonder how on earth we can even be contemplating closing our “California Cathedrals.” And yet, here we are...

In a recent effort to get our heads wrapped around this new “normal,” I recently convened a group of senior staff to talk about how we would cope in this new world order. The first thing we all had to do was recognize that this is in fact our new reality and we have to accept it.

We have lost \$22 million in public dollars and we

must find a path through that to continue to preserve these resources for the future. We are grieving, but we know that bargaining, getting angry, living in denial, or getting depressed will not allow us to move forward. Only acceptance of our loss will give us the will to figure out a new way of doing our job. We can either allow the outside world to dictate our future to us or we can shape it ourselves. We must find new ways to fund our parks and that requires innovation, a willingness to try new things, and the ability to see our role in a different light.

During our few hours together, we agreed that State Parks is often the “Department of NO.” Sometimes one person will dissent and bottle up a new idea or project. Other times we just never make a decision about a new idea and it dies from neglect. In this new reality of ours, saying “no” won’t work anymore.

We will have many new ideas put to us and we will generate many new ideas ourselves. We must change our internal culture from one of resisting change to one that embraces new ideas from ourselves, from non-profits, from the private sector, and from park advocates.

We must test those ideas, try them out, and adopt those that work. We must avoid the urge to judge each other and

to accuse our colleagues of “selling out” simply because they are open to new ideas.

Keep your eye on our Core mission: protecting California’s natural and cultural resources and providing recreation opportunities to all Californians. Recognize that we can allow a whole lot of fun things in parks that will appeal to emerging populations and to our children and youth which will generate revenue that we can then re-invest in our parks.

I’m asking you to say “Yes” not “No.” To ask “Why not?” rather than “Why?” To say “And,” not “But.” We already know that every new idea poses challenges; seek to overcome them rather than being immobilized by them.

We have 65 million visitors who are our customers. Serving those customers to the best of our ability is not abandoning our values but is, in fact, the best way to ensure that our parks will be here forever. The more satisfied customers we have, the more likely the public is to support our mission.

We don’t have to accept the unthinkable prospect of losing our cathedrals. We do have to accept that we have lost \$22 million and that we have to find another way to fund ourselves. We can do it together.

North Coast Redwoods Completes New Accessible Viewing Areas at Patrick's Point State Park

By Michelle Forys,
Environmental Scientist,
North Coast Redwoods District

On September 6, 1999, the dredge M/V Stuyvesant (the "Stuyvesant") spilled at least 2,100 gallons of Intermediate Fuel Oil 180 (IFO-180) into the Pacific Ocean near the mouth of Humboldt Bay causing damage to birdlife and their habitats as far north as Patrick's Point State Park. The Stuyvesant Oil Spill Mitigation

Fund Trustee Council awarded the North Coast Redwoods District (NCRD) funds to install accessible viewing areas and interpretive signs at Palmer's Point and to monitor the rocky intertidal habitat found below. The NCRD completed the installation of two new accessible viewing areas and interpretive signs in February 2011.

The two new viewing areas give all visitors the opportunity

to view the Pacific Ocean and the rocky shoreline of Patrick's Point State Park. The project also included five new interpretive panels, two accessible benches, and an accessible trail. The interpretive panels discuss the geology of the park, the differences between the seals and sea lions found along the park shoreline, grey whale migration, and the intertidal community found below Palmer's Point.

The planning and installation of the project was a joint effort between NCRD Resource Management, Interpretation, Roads and Trails, and Maintenance staff. Resource Management staff managed the project. Roads and Trails staff designed the accessible trails and viewing areas. District Interpretation staff designed the interpretive panels and Maintenance staff from Patrick's Point State Park installed the trails, viewing areas, benches, and interpretive panels.

In addition this grant provided funds for the development and printing of a park specific rocky intertidal community brochure.



The North Coast Redwoods District was able to build new viewing areas and interpretive panels after being awarded funds from the Stuyvesant Oil Spill Mitigation Fund Trustee Council.

Earth Day A Smashing Success at State Parks!

This past Earth Day at state parks all over California, volunteers picked up shovels, rocks and weeds to help beautify the beloved parks in their backyards. With logistical help from local staff and the State Parks Foundation, many parks were able to benefit from these simple acts of volunteerism.

Afterwards, accounts came pouring in and spoke of all the great accomplishments by volunteers and of the astounding number of youths that participated.

Activities ranged from picking up trash on the beach, to replacing dilapidated facilities, and everything in between.

Los Angeles State Historic Park celebrated in a unique way with Earth Day Latino—a two-day camping event that featured recreation, a movie screening, lectures, tree planting and more.

Seventy-five families participated and many borrowed tents from FamCamp, the California State Parks program that takes families on camping trips in state parks across California.

The event even got a visit from the Obama Administration as Nancy Sutley, Chair of the White House Council on Environmental Quality stopped by to show her support.

She later spoke of the importance of these types of events in her [White House Blog](#).

La Purísima Mission State Historic Park

La Purísima Mission SHP had its first-ever Earth Day work project. A group of volunteers worked on removing invasive vinca from the historic garden.

The group was small but very hardy and what once was a sea of nasty vines choking out the intended plants is now a clean and pristine-looking garden.

Many thanks goes to the California State Parks Foundation who made the process from beginning to end smooth and simple.



Earth Day Latino at Los Angeles State Historic Park featured a unique series of events, as local families were able to participate in a two-day camping event in the shadow of one of the largest cities in the world.



From left to right: Nancy Sutley, Chair of the White House Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ); Mia Lehrer of Mia Lehrer and Associates; Councilman Ed Reyes; and Director Ruth Coleman.

Photograph by Robert Garcia, The City Project

Photograph by Fabian Wagemister, UCLA Professor

Continued: Earth Day A Smashing Success Palm State Beach

By Linda Hitchcock,
Interpreter III, Santa Cruz
District

Last Saturday, April 16th, Friends coordinated a work party at Palm State Beach as part of the local commemoration of Earth Day. Barbi Barry, State Parks Maintenance Supervisor, helped plan the event, which was sponsored by the California State Park Foundation and PG&E.

This year, Friends received a grant of \$2,900.00 from the California State Parks Foundation to fund this effort. (Our 5th consecutive

year!) Almost 100 volunteers, including 26 kids, worked on and completed several projects. They planted 140 native plants and trees, scraped and painted the gate, installed concrete footings for a new sign at the park entrance, weed-whacked the picnic area, and removed almost 150 pounds of garbage and recycling from the beach. A small crew tore the roof off the bathroom and, directed by parks staff and a PG&E employee (who installs roofs in his spare time), installed new rafters and got ready to put on the new roof

surface. Parks maintenance staff, including Barbi Barry, Patrick Courtright, Bill Holland and Joe Smith, ably directed the large crew of workers and kept things running smoothly.

Interpreter Jeff Barnes was on hand to supervise the beach cleanup and provide many interpretive moments—including the difficult task of explaining to several small Girl Scouts why they should leave their prize shells for others to enjoy. A big thanks to Friends board members Georgann Scally, Jim Toney and Don Nielsen, who all pitched in!

San Elijo State Beach



At San Elijo State Beach volunteers picked up 17 pounds of cigarette butts and plastic, and painted parking lot lines.

Wildwood Canyon State Park



At Wildwood Canyon State Park, 400 feet of the planned 500 foot of lodge pole fencing was installed,

Continued: Earth Day A Smashing Success Torrey Pines State Natural Reserve

By Diane Greening, Senior Park Aide/
Interpreter, San Diego Coast District, Torrey
Pines State Natural Reserve

Torrey Pines State Natural Reserve welcomed over 120 volunteers on April 16th to weed out invasives, prune overgrowth and replace a worn rope fence. Native plants and endangered nesting birds both gained from the volunteers’

efforts as 187 loads of weeds were hauled away and 500 yards of new rope replaced the aging, frayed fence that protects the Los Peñasquitos Lagoon Preserve.

Volunteers also pruned the walkway and parking lot island edges and swept sand away from curbs, improving the aesthetics for Reserve visitors.

Photograph by Diane Greening



Volunteers cleaned back an impressive amount of weeds and overgrowth.



Torrey Pines Docents Steve Rose and Sheldon Krueger make final adjustments on the fence.

Photograph by Diane Greening

Sonoma Coast State Beach



Volunteers and park staff used canoes and jetskis to clean up trash at North Jenner Beach at Sonoma Coast State Beach.



Continued: Earth Day A Smashing Success

Saddleback Butte State Park: 17th Annual Earth Day Cleanup

Jean Rhyne, Interpreter I, Tehachapi District, Mojave Sector

For Earth Day 2011 the Antelope Valley Conservancy rounded up sixty-eight volunteers who cleared dozens of bags of litter from Saddleback Butte State Park, a desert park that preserves Joshua tree habitat in the Mojave Sector of the Tehachapi District.

Groups came from Edwards Air Force Base, Girl Scout Troops 932 and 5822, Cub Scout Pack 86, Lockheed Martin Corporation, Antelope Valley Freethinkers, and many community members came on their own.

Litter is a constant problem along the western boundary of the park, where strong desert winds frequently blow trash out of the backs of trucks driving down the adjacent road. This results in unsightly bags, cups, and other items getting tangled up in the Joshua trees and creosote bushes.

Volunteer Camp Hosts and other volunteer groups are of great assistance to the maintenance staff in staying on top of the problem, and keeping up our park's image.

The Antelope Valley Conservancy, a local environmental conservation organization that has been a loyal supporter of our local state parks, has organized cleanups of the habitat and trails every Earth Day for almost two decades at Saddleback Butte State Park.

Their self-motivated assistance to the park during our peak season is greatly appreciated by park staff (who are stretched across all five state parks in the Antelope Valley) and includes staffing a department booth at the City of Lancaster's popular Poppy Festival on Earth Day weekend.

The organization has also helped by raising community awareness to stand up against projects that negatively affect the ambiance of our other parks, such as a recent proposal to develop a vehicle racetrack one mile away from the Antelope Valley California Poppy Reserve, which was ultimately defeated due to community resistance.

California State Parks is very grateful for their continuing attention, especially in these trying times.

Photograph by Wendal Reed, Volunteer, Antelope Valley Conservancy



Groups picked up blown trash from among creosote bushes and coreopsis.



Volunteers registering under the day use area picnic ramadas.

Photograph by Wendal Reed, Volunteer, Antelope Valley Conservancy

Columbia State Historic Park



Projects at Columbia State Historic Park included cleaning exhibits, picking up trash, raking leaves, pulling weeds, cleaning out a water trough, and washing all windows and exhibit glass throughout the park. Left to right: Gary Davis, Melissa Horton, and Donna Underwood.

Continued: Earth Day A Smashing Success

North Coast Redwoods District: “Outdoors Cool!” on Earth Day

Marnin Robbins, Interpreter II, North Coast Redwoods District

The North Coast Redwoods District and its partners celebrated this year’s Earth Day by releasing to local news media outlets a series of public service announcements urging children to get outdoors.

The “Outdoors Cool” campaign features eight 30-second video PSAs featuring local kids recreating outdoors. They can be seen on the Outdoors Cool website www.outdoorscool.com.

The PSAs, which describe outdoor adventures and where to find them, will be shown during children’s TV programming through the summer and fall.

Additionally the PSAs will be shown as “trailers” in area movie theaters. The project’s website is an integral part of the campaign, providing a Humboldt County map with links to more than 50

recreational hot spots on the North Coast. The site also suggests recreational opportunities, gives directions to recreation sites and includes a calendar of upcoming outdoor recreation events.

Funding came from the Bureau of Land Management’s “Take it Outside” program, which encourages healthy lifestyles through activities on public lands. Partnering with California State Parks are the

BLM, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Friends of the Dunes, the National Park Service, City of Arcata and the Sequoia Park Zoo in Eureka.

The partners embarked on the project to spread awareness of the natural wonders on the North Coast.

These include groves of the world’s tallest trees, miles of pristine beaches, the coastal mountain range, and six wild and scenic rivers.



Park staff and local youth help celebrate the “Outdoors Cool” campaign on Earth Day in the North Coast Redwoods District.

Chino Hills State Park



Volunteers and staff fill parking lot islands with new river rock at Chino Hills SP.

By Kelly Elliot, Superintendent II, Inland Empire District, Chino Sector

Fifteen tons of river rock were placed by 103 volunteers in the parking lot islands of the new \$3.5 million Discovery Center of Chino Hills SP. Keeping the green theme of this new facility, we chose water-wise landscaping which complimented the modern design of the building. Volunteers from Home Depot, So Cal Gas Company (Sempra), and a local engineering firm URS, covered 500 sq. ft in record (not to mention back breaking) time. The Discovery Center Parking lot and restrooms will hopefully be open next month for the public’s use. The interior interpretive exhibits are currently being fabricated and installed with a planned Spring 2012 Grand Opening.

Campground Brings New Sites, Revenue Potential

►FROM PAGE 1

Campground is up and running! Our opening weekend went very well, with only a few small glitches to report. It was very gratifying to see a campground full of happy, satisfied people who have been waiting for this for many years. Kids running around the campground, riding their bikes, and playing on the beach was icing on the cake.”

“As of now, we’re either full or close to it from now through mid-August, so we’ll have plenty of people visiting the park and providing comments. Reaction from the community has been very positive, and recent media articles have echoed that,” added Lewis.

It may seem odd that a new campground is opening at a time when State Parks is proposing to close some parks due to budget reductions. However, this park is located in one of the highest demand areas of the state and park officials are projecting about \$1 million in annual fee revenue from this park. That’s enough to fund park operations, maintenance, public safety and visitor services at this park and provide additional funding for other parks within the system.

“This is an exciting and long-awaited milestone for full public use and enjoyment of one of our treasured California State Parks” said Ruth Coleman, director for California State Parks.

“Not only will this park generate revenue to sustain this park and others, it will bring an economic boost to the Orange

Coast.”

With 60 overnight campsites and 200 day-use parking spaces, the park will attract an influx of local and out-of-town tourists traveling to the area, buying gas, groceries and other supplies, and taking advantage of local restaurants and other tourism businesses, added Coleman.

The \$15 million campground and park improvement project was funded by Proposition 12 in 2000, which was voter-approved bond monies, and completes a major component of the publicly approved 1982 Crystal Cove State Park General Plan. The new campground is

the first coastal campground to be added to the State Park system in roughly twenty years. Its completion is doubly important, as it will be offering new camping and affordable overnight lodging opportunities in an urban area where the demand for coastal camping spaces has far outstripped the supply.

Given the popularity of coastal park camping, it will likely be sold out year round. In 2006 the parklands were dedicated as part of the Irvine Ranch National Natural Landmark, and subsequently received California Natural Landmark status.



Park Aide Niall Schafhauser happily greets visitors during an open house on June 30.



The campground has accommodations for 200 day use vehicles, so should be able to handle the crowds in peak seasons.

New High Sierra Crossing Museum Built



This artist rendering gives an idea of what the new museum is slated to look like.

The preliminary work for the construction of a new High Sierra Crossing Museum at Donner Memorial State Park got underway last month. The museum is to be expanded to tell the greater Sierra story and to draw more historic tourism visitors to the area.

“This new Visitor’s Center has been in the works for many years now,” said Acting Superintendent Scott Elliott. “After all the planning meetings with community members, it is exciting to see that this is now going to get underway. This represents a great opportunity for the park and the community to better exhibit the amazing history of Donner Pass and the whole region.”

This preliminary work includes the removal of about 100 trees in the area of the parking lot. This work will be a noticeable, albeit temporary, change to the character of the area, however, it is necessary in order to expand the existing

parking lot to accommodate increased visitor demand as well as provide for appropriate bus and RV parking. When completed, the site design calls for forest trees to be planted to surround the monument and screen out views of passing cars and neighboring commercial development.

The new museum, which will begin construction later this year, has been carefully planned and sited to respect the Donner Memorial. The larger museum planned will greatly expand what there is not room for in the old museum, providing added information on the Donner Party, but also including new information covering the historic experiences of other people and events. This will include:

- Native American History of the region
- Natural resource history through time
- History of the railroad

development through the Donner Pass

- The construction of Interstate 80 and how transportation played a role in the development of California fifteen

One of the major benefits possible with the expanded museum is that it will become more attractive to meet the growing demand for historic tourism. Many tour companies are now marketing such tours and a first-class museum that tells the greater story of life and events in the Sierra.

Funding for the project is separate from the current State budget crisis and cannot be used for things other than the kind of project proposed for the museum. Funding is provided by the Federal Highway Administration under the Inter-Model Surfaces Transportation Enhancement Act grant administered by CALTRANS. Funds will also be provided by the 2002 State Park Bond.

Raley's Aims to Aid State Parks with Campaign

►FROM PAGE 1

State Parks fund.

“Northern California and Nevada have been Raley’s home for more than 75 years, so we know how important our state parks are to our customers and to our employees. Our company has a long history of giving, so when we learned that nearly one quarter of California’s state parks are slated for closure, we immediately explored a way for Raley’s to help,” said Mike Teel, president and chief executive officer of Raley’s Family of stores.

“The Raley’s NickelAid campaign is a small but important first step in helping our state parks address this huge financial challenge,” added Teel.

The company has committed up to \$75,000 to California State Parks and up to \$25,000 to Nevada State Parks for the 2011/12 fiscal year.

Raley’s will absorb all administrative costs related to the program so that all of the money raised will be contributed to the park fund. While \$75,000 is not enough to take any one park off the closure list, the goal of this campaign is to generate other supporters.

“It is our hope that this seed money campaign will cause other businesses and individuals to follow Raley’s lead and join this effort to help save our State Parks,” said Director Ruth Coleman. “We thank Raley’s for their partnership and for this innovative solution to help raise funds for California State Parks,” she added.

The Raley’s company is comprised of four chains - Raley’s, Bel Air Markets, Nob Hill

and Food Source—with 133 stores located in Northern California and Nevada.

Individuals interested in helping State Parks can visit: www.raleys.com/nickelaid for more information.

This campaign is one more example of how California State Parks, in a time of decreasing State budgets, is reaching out to explore and test new ideas for generating funding to sustain the system.



Television, radio and newspaper reporters were on hand to hear the announcement of the Raley’s “NickelAid” Program for California State Parks.

News & Views

Summer 2011
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Director

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**Interpretation and Education Division*

Submit articles to newsandviews@parks.ca.gov

Please include captions and photographer’s name with all photographs.

Photographs must be TIFF or JPEG format. We cannot use pictures embedded in Microsoft Word documents.

Please limit article length to 300 words. Articles may be edited for clarity and length.

We accept articles on a rolling basis.

Empire Mine Wetlands Remediation Begins

The latest phase of the toxic cleanup of Empire Mine is now underway at the historic mine in Grass Valley. What is remarkable is that this phase will use environmental mechanics that will blend in with the natural environment and be complimentary to the residential neighborhood, instead of constructing a large, industrial treatment facility that would be an eyesore in the wooded area surrounding Empire Mine.

The issue here is the Magenta Drain, where water drains from the 367 miles of flooded and abandoned mine shafts under the mine and the town of Grass Valley. It drains into a small creek that sends the polluted water downhill through the

City's Memorial Park and into South Wolf Creek, then into Wolf Creek and on to the Bear River.

The major problem is the high concentration of manganese in the water. Initially, State Parks had planned for a full-scale, active, industrial-strength treatment plant of concrete and steel placed on a large footprint within the quiet residential neighborhood. However, studies showed that a passive system could do the job just as well, for a lot less money and no big industrial plant.

The passive system is essentially a series of two successive wetlands that will be constructed to receive water flowing from the

Magenta Drain.

After the first wetland, the parts per billion (ppb) of manganese will drop from the tested range of 900 to 3,000 ppb, to an estimated 78 ppb, and after the second wetland, to zero ppb. The result is that the unsightly industrial plant proposal goes away, the \$8 million costs go away for construction and yearly maintenance over 30 years go away, and the truck traffic for hauling in chemicals for the plant and hauling out the toxic sediment goes away.

What the neighborhood has instead is two wetlands with new vegetation and trees and very little ongoing maintenance costs. But best of all, first and foremost, it is a treatment



The Magenta Drain at Empire Mine, which is currently under construction, will safely disperse the water through a series of wetlands, which will act as a passive system. This site will safely and effectively resolve the issue.

A Fitting Memorial to Bill Lane

By Ranger Allan Wiegman,
North Coast Redwoods
District, Humboldt Redwoods
State Park

On the weekend of March 19th 2011, over 100 friends joined Bill Lane's family to plant Coastal Redwood trees in Humboldt Redwoods State Park, as a memorial to this great man.

While northern California received a winter storm with heavy rain and wind, the group remained upbeat. Sunday morning everyone met at an old decommissioned roadway (road pull) where the importance of the road pull was explained. The group started up the road pull and planted over 150 redwood trees. A mountain of Scotch Broom (a non-native invasive species) was pulled and piled up for later removal. A break in the rain was helpful and mostly held back until the planting was finished.

But who was Bill Lane? He received the Pugsley Medal in 2006 in recognition of his contributions to parks and conservation. He served in many leadership positions on a host of national and regional boards, advisory committees and was a personal philanthropist. His advocacy also advanced through his proprietorship of Sunset Magazine and being on the board of the California State Parks Foundation.

His philanthropy to park and conservation causes has been extensive. Prominent among recent contributions were \$100,000 in 2003 to

the California State Parks Foundation relief fund for state park employees whose homes were damaged or destroyed by Southern California Wildfires.

Lane has received over 20 awards for his contributions to parks and conservation, but perhaps those of which he is most proud are the California State Park Rangers Association's "Honorary California State Park Ranger" (1997) and the National Park Service's "Honorary Park Ranger" (1999).

We at Humboldt Redwoods State Park were happy to be involved in this tree plant and getting a glimpse of the great family and friends of Bill Lane. His life and support for Save the Redwoods League and California State Parks is greatly appreciated.



Sharron Lane, daughter of Bill Lane, getting ready to plant a Coastal Redwood tree in her father's memory.



Bill Lane's friends setting out with Coastal Redwood trees to plant in a road removal.



Ranger Allan Wiegman demonstrating the effects of old logging roads on the watershed.

Photograph by Allan Wiegman

Photograph by Lori Brandt

Photograph by Lori Brandt

Surfing Bear: Ragnar Relay So-Cal

Photograph by John Anderson



Erik Burgan started the race at 12:00 p.m. with the surfboard, the icon of the Surfing Bear team, which was passed to each runner at each exchange.

John Anderson, Officer/ Lifeguard, San Diego Coast District, Silver Strand State Beach

A long while ago, in the memory of an old lifeguard's mind, there was a picture of a surfing bear riding the waves of California. The bear came alive to represent the small light of lifeguards who formed an association called California State Lifeguards Association (CSLA).

This spark has been passed down from each generation to the next to support those who have a passion for the water, physical fitness, education, and most importantly, a willingness to overcome all odds together.

It's the unspoken commitment to each other that keeps this bear alive even when the lull between the sets seems long.

The "Surfing Bear" has surfaced to become the team name used in a multi-day race called Ragnar Relay—So Cal.

On April 15-16, 2011, the "Surfing Bear" took part in a twenty-four (and then some) hour race which took them from Huntington Beach to Silver Strand State Beach.

The relay consisted of 12 runners, 2 vans, 1 surfboard, and a leap frogging pattern where each runner ran three times. Along the way, there were a variety of obstacles including high temperature, steep hills, terrain, and a very scenic view of Southern California.

In addition to the obstacles the team had challenges as they encountered a medical emergency, logistical mishaps and lost runners. But even with these setbacks the "Surfing Bear" team was able to complete the race in 26 hrs, 22 min, which gave them the overall standing of 8th place out of 479 teams and 2nd in the public safety division.

What started out to be an adventure with 12 runners soon



At exchange 30, Darby Fults runs into the glider port next to Torrey Pines State Beach to finish running two consecutive legs to make up for the down runner.

turned into a scramble as one of our team members suffered from heat exhaustion which took a turn for the worst; heat stroke & dehydration.

The mid-day run in 90-degree heat and a hill that elevated almost 1000 feet in 2.5 miles, and additional prompting by locals to ask, "why would you run that?" pushed our runner to the edge. Glad to report he survived the ordeal and the team pulled together to overcome its first obstacle.

Now down one runner and working out the logistics to compensate, the team ran into the next hurdle.

While one van waited at an exchange for 2 hours the phone call came. "Where are you guys" asked Van-2 leader Paul Andrus.

At which point team co-captain Darby Fultz realized, "Dude, we're at the wrong one." Sleep deprivation and mind overload is blamed for this mix-up. The mix-up cost

Photograph by John Anderson

the team 18 minutes, but that's part of the adventure.

At 0800 hours Saturday morning with maybe an hour of sleep in over 28 hours, and planning his third run of the race.

Brian Staudenbaur said, "When I get done with this race, I'll look like a baby horse just learning to stand for the first time."

Surfing Bear had some hurdles, had to pull together, but most of all encouraged each other to be successful. Therefore, "Surfing Bear" represented California State Parks proudly.



Photograph by Janel Anderson

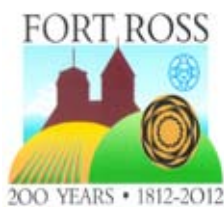
26 hours 16 minutes later the Surfing Bear finished the race at Silver Strand State Beach.

Fort Ross to Celebrate Bicentennial

By Robin Joy, Park Interpretive Specialist I, Fort Ross 2012 Bicentennial Chair, Russian River District

The Fort Ross 2012 Bicentennial Committee is pleased to introduce the Fort Ross Bicentennial Commemoration. Each month a theme will highlight the cultural and natural history of Fort Ross. Several events will be held at the park, while a performance and lecture series will be hosted at the Presidio in San Francisco and the Sonoma County Museum each month, with concurrent exhibits showcasing this diverse history.

Please visit the website www.fortross2012.org for all updated programs and projects and to read the mission statement created by many. Although the Russian American Company stayed for just three



decades their contributions to early California society were vast—they built California's first ships and windmills, introduced glass-paneled windows, created the first brickyard, catalogued the local flora and fauna, completed detailed maps and were, by today's standards, among California's earliest entrepreneurs. Opening ceremonies are January 20, 2012 with the "Kashaya -The First People." Sonoma County Museum will host "The Tsar's Cabinet," Feb 17 - May 27th, 2012 as well as the "Portraits of Russian America in Early California" from February 17th through July 1.

February will highlight the Coast Miwok while March highlights the Native Alaskan people who played a key role at the Ross colony. In April 2012 a conference held in Santa Rosa will showcase the lifelong work of academics.

Please plan on attending.

In May we will highlight our beloved friend, the Sea Otter.

In June our Presidio partners will turn their annual event, the Posada, into a Russian themed event highlighting the relations between the Russian American Company and their Spanish/Mexican neighbors.

In July we will be host to our two-day Cultural Heritage Day. Starting in August, for the first time in history, the Russian Orthodox Churches in the United States and Russia will hold a unified church service at the Holy Trinity Chapel at Fort Ross SHP.

The Churches will also host a dedication ceremony to honor those who lived and died at Ross.

In October the hunting, gathering and agriculture will be emphasized at our annual Harvest Festival. December is closing ceremonies. Please join our Facebook site "Friends of Fort Ross State Historic Park."

2010 Director's Awards

Olmsted Award— Leadership and Vision

Valerie Bradshaw, CEA Facilities Management Division

Hill Award—Inspiration

Michael Sampson, Associate State Archeologist Southern Service Center

Drury Award—Professional Integrity

David Schaub, Environmental Program Manager I Natural Resources Division

Mott Award—Innovation

Round Valley Meadow Restoration Team, Ron Krueper, Team Leader, District Superintendent Mt. San Jacinto, Inland Empire

Green Valley Horse Camp Team Leader, Ray Lennox, Team Leader, Sector Maintenance Chief, Colorado Desert District

Dewitt

Award—Partnership

Angel Island Immigration Station Restoration Project - Angel Island Immigration Station Foundation Accepted by Eddie Wong, Executive Director

Ingenuity Award

Lyman Gray, Maintenance Chief III Capital District - State Museums Historic Parks

Special Commendations

Albert Chavez, Supervisory State Park Peace Officer

Off Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division

Mark Langner, Supervisory State Park Peace Officer Bodie State Park/Sierra District

Frank & June Nutall, Camp Host Volunteers San Elijo State Beach/San Diego Coast District

Special Act/Special Service

Elisabeth Bray & Todd Shanklin, SP Lifeguard Orange Coast District

Mauricio Contreras, Seasonal Park Aide Redwood Coast Sector/North Coast Redwoods

The North Face Promotes California State Parks

The North Face is now engaged in spreading the word about California State Parks, as they have signed on as a Proud Partner. The larger-than-life company, which has the attention of sports-minded people across the world, joins a prestigious list of partners.

The picture to the right is from the front page of a 14-page Activity Guide on Great Activities in your state parks. The promotional campaign began in May and will provide information on a number of state parks in the San Francisco Bay Area.

In addition, the campaign will provide information on tips for a better trip, hiking basics, how to reserve a campsite and leave no trace, biking essen-

tials, exploring waterways, tips for running in the outback, and why state parks should be kept healthy and available for future generations.

To take a look, go to www.exploreyourparks.com. Next, dig through your closet and find those hiking boots and follow the guide to fun.

