



Winter 2010

Veterans Day Marked by Newly Dedicated Bench at Mt. Tamalpais SP

California State Parks has dedicated a special place to the Veterans of California and the nation as “A Place for Healing.”

Located near the peak of Mt. Tamalpais, in Mt. Tamalpais State Park, Marin County, a park bench at the end of a new and accessible trail now has a newly installed plaque. It shall serve as a symbol of the invitation from State Parks to all veterans to seek out parks as places for reflection and healing.

In recent years, various studies have indicated that



On the Old Mine Trail, overlooking the Pacific Ocean and the San Francisco Bay, a bench with a plaque honoring all veterans is dedicated. The plaque was installed by (from left to right) Marin District Superintendent Danita Rodriguez, Director Ruth Coleman, and J.P. Trembly, Deputy Secretary Department of Veteran’s Affairs.

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Russia’s Renova Group & State Parks Seal-The-Deal For Ft. Ross



San Francisco - After signing the Fort Ross Compact Agreement, State Parks’ Director Ruth Coleman and Renova Group representative Jay Haft seal the deal with a handshake.

In the Grand Ballroom of the Fairmont Hotel in San Francisco, State Parks Director Ruth Coleman and Jay Haft, representing the Renova Group, signed the official Compact Agreement for assistance to Fort Ross.

In June of this year, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Renova Group of Companies to establish the framework for the public-private partnership. That cleared the way for California State Parks to begin a discus-

sion on the specifics of what the Renova Group of Companies could do in support of the park.

On Thursday, October 21, California State Parks and Renova Fort Ross Foundation signed the formal agreement. It lays out a number of provisions for how the Renova Fort Ross Foundation, created in the agreement as a nonprofit organization, will be involved in future restoration and use of the historic park, located along the Sonoma Coast north of San Francisco.

►Renova, Page 8



Director Ruth Coleman New Supporters Give New Year's Hope

impossible for the 'Yes on 21' campaign to get their message out to voters.

We once again must try to reconcile our mission with our fiscal reality. We must evaluate our core values, really focus on what is most important, and recognize we won't be able to do all we want. This is a daunting but incredibly important task for us all.

I am deeply inspired that, despite all this bad news, State Park employees continue to find creative ways to keep moving forward:

New Connections: We recently made an unusual connection to a new group: our nation's veterans. In both southern and northern California, we worked with the military to invite veterans to our parks. The article elsewhere in this issue describes the Northern California event where we took an existing bench and ADA trail and dedicated it to our veterans. In southern California, our Orange Coast District provided free Veterans Day access for all veterans and active duty service members to six of the district's beaches.

Power Line Removal: Chino Hills SP achieved a major goal for the park and the Department: removal of power lines which had crossed the unit for years and had major impacts on view sheds. The now un-wired

park looks fantastic!
Los Angeles SHP: This month staff from Angeles District and Acquisition & Development Division re-started the major development effort at Los Angeles State Historic Park as they re-ignited the EIR team and held our first public project meeting in years. They will now move forward to build out Phase 1 of the development project for the park. That Phase will offer lots of opportunities and venues for special events which will generate the revenue needed to maintain the park.

As one way of continuing to move us forward, each of you should review this list (http://isearch/pages/321/files/FINAL_Parks_Current_List_of_Supporters.pdf) of the 750 organizations that said 'Yes' to State Parks and endorsed Proposition 21.

That list represents future partners who can work with us to create new ways to keep our parks open and meaningful to the public. They represent individuals who care about parks and will be willing to voice that support.

If a group is near your park, call them, set up a meeting, find a common goal and agree to pursue it. By building on the momentum of Prop 21, we will weather this budget storm.

The failure of Proposition 21 in last month's election left us all feeling a bit shocked if not actually depressed.

I know that many of you worked hard on your own time to help it pass and that many of our non-profit partners put their funds on the line for the campaign.

In the aftermath, many of us are asking "What happened?" and "What went wrong?"

Most of the post-mortem analyses note that the unprecedented level of campaign spending (particularly in the Governor's race) led to more advertising than anyone had ever seen, most of it extremely negative.

The high level of spending also bid up the cost of advertising for the 'Yes on 21' Campaign, and low levels of trust among voters exacerbated the situation. These factors made it all but

Elephant Seals Return to State Parks on California Coast

If you have not seen this annual ritual, you have missed one of the truly magnificent events of the animal world that is comparable to some of the more famous animal migrations found throughout the world.

And here is the truly great thing about this wonder of nature.

It is within the backyard of California, so to speak, just hours away from wherever your home is located.

We are talking about the fall return of the Northern Elephant Seals to the coastline of California. That return happens mainly at two major locations at two different California State Parks. One is located at Año Nuevo State Park along the San Mateo Coast south of San Francisco.

The other is Hearst-San Simeon State Park and the elephant seal vista point located about 5 miles north of Hearst Castle along the coast of San Luis Obispo County.

Go to either park between

mid-November and mid-January and you will be startled, impressed, excited and hungry for information about this remarkable annual occurrence unfolding before you.

About now, the dominant bull elephant seals are returning, displacing the sub-adult males who have been on the beach for weeks practicing their gladiator skills in hopes of competing against other giant bulls for the affection of the females.

But there is no contest. It is a battle where the sub-adults see the 5,000-pound size of the mature adults and retire to another beach in short order.

Then the giant bulls begin the fight for the right to carve out their harem of females and begin the mating ritual.

So is this a small-time show on the beach? No. consider this: At San Simeon State Beach they are expecting about 18,000 elephant seals to crowd the four-mile stretch of beach. Año Nuevo will likewise

Dates

December- Bulls continue to return. Females arrive. The first birth is usually mid-month.

January- Females continue to arrive. Peak of births is usually the last half of the month.

February- Births continue. The peak of the mating is around Valentine's Day. More females begin leaving.

March- Last adults leave. Weaned pups teach themselves how to swim.

get thousands of seals. And it will not be a quiet visit to the beach by these giants of the ocean deep.

It will be loud choruses of bellowing and grunting seals locked in deadly serious battle.

It will be a chaotic scene of thousands of bulls pairing off and all fighting at once, most of the day, with only the lesser males giving ground to the monsters of the beach.



Left: Año Nuevo SP-Elephant seals begin the ritual of competing for the females. Right: Hearst-San Simeon SP-Visitors to the elephant seal boardwalk enjoy the sights and sounds of the sub-adult males returning to the beach. The big bulls will come later.

Power Lines Removed At Chino Hills SP



In order to maintain environmental integrity with the park, crews used a helicopter.

By Ron Krueper, District Superintendent, Inland Empire

From the beginning, when Chino Hills State Park was first established to today, planning efforts have included natural visual aesthetic improvements and components for the 14,102-acre park surrounded by a “sea of urbanization” in heavily populated Southern California.

One improvement has now finally been realized with the removal of seven miles of deactivated transmission lines and 40 associated metal lattice towers that use to dot the hills and obscure vistas that park visitors enjoy so much.

Visitors now will have a much improved view of things!

The story begins long ago in the early 1980s when the local “Hills for Everyone” park advocacy group, which helped

to establish the park, reached a settlement agreement with Southern California Edison (SCE). The agreement consolidated existing electrical easement corridors and reduced power line tower heights in a new easement.

The agreement and tower height reduction cost savings (\$441,000) was a funding source for SCE’s removal of the now unneeded power lines and relinquishment of easements.

Removal discussion plans between DPR and SCE continued in the ensuing years, and for too many reasons to review here the project never got off the ground (e.g. actual removal costs, energy deregulation, entrance road planning, CEQA mitigation, etc.)

In 2009, 28 years later, SCE’s large Tehachapi Renewable Transmission Project (TRTP) involving a new 144 mile long

500 kv electrical transmission line for wind renewable energy commences.

DPR and park staff found itself immersed in a battle to ensure that an alternative route was not considered through the park. Instead, it follows an existing and preferred power line easement in the nearby City of Chino Hills.

During long, drawn-out discussions, CEQA reviews and comments, and negotiations that included a specific \$50 million offer to offset park impacts and make improvements, it was revealed this pre-existing agreement had not been fulfilled by SCE.

Finally, in December 2009 the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) concluded the preferred route would be



Crews worked diligently at Chino Hills SP to remove 44 power line towers.

through the City of Chino Hills instead of the park. There was immediate direction to SCE to coordinate with DPR the long-overdue removal of these deactivated transmission lines.

The CPUC decision on TRTP resulted in a 2 for 1 favorable outcome for DPR and the park:

- 1) Validation of park and natural open space importance.
- 2) The final tipping point for the removal of these

deactivated, unneeded power lines!

This current \$2 million power line removal project was specifically designed to limit the amount of environmental impact and avoidance primarily through the use of helicopters. Many of the towers dating to 1929 did not have roads leading to them allowing conventional dismantling.

The park is home to many threatened and endangered

species, and through the dedicated and efficient oversight of Environmental Scientist Alissa Ing and cooperation of SCE staff, this project was a tremendous success environmentally as well as for visual aesthetics.

The before and after photos at the bottom of this page of the Lower Aliso Canyon Overlook speak for themselves, and for the improved view park visitors now have.



With oversight from Parks and Southern California Edison, Chino Hills SP is now free of power lines. At bottom are the before (left) and after (right) photos of the Lower Aliso Canyon Overlook.

Mt. Tamalpais Overlook Dedicated As Invitation to All Veterans To Seek The Healing Effects Of Nature

►FROM PAGE 1

veterans suffering from nightmares, anxiety, anger, depression, and other ailments associated with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), have been helped by an immersion into the calming effects of nature.

“We ask a tremendous amount from our veterans and we must care for them in their time if need,” said Ruth Coleman, director of California State Parks.

“We at State Parks have some of the most beautiful natural places in the world and we wish to invite all veterans to take advantage of the healing that can come from these special places,” Director Coleman continued.

The debilitating symptoms of PTSD are the unseen wounds. Treatments for PTSD include everything from drugs to intense therapy. Not all treatments work for persons.



This picture shows the bench with the park forest and meadows in the foreground and the San Francisco peninsula in the background. In this picture, Director Coleman is being interviewed by KPIX TV, the CBS news station in San Francisco.

The difficulty in finding effective treatments has led doctors, therapists, veterans and their families to reach out for other methods that help. And that is where recent discoveries in healing have found something simple within reach of all veterans; the calming effect that comes from recreation in nature.

At the Veterans Affairs Health Care Campus in Palo Alto, it was discovered that many veterans needed a place to escape besides their hospital rooms. The hospital produced a healing garden on the grounds of the

campus. The workers at the Health Care Campus, families of veterans, and veterans themselves, discovered that after structured therapy and medical appointments, veterans responded to the calming effect of the garden. A story by KTVU Television in Oakland said, “It’s a quiet oasis of trees, ferns, roses, where veterans cooped-up inside can get outdoors and release the pressure they may be feeling.”

Other reports are also citing the healing effects of the quiet surroundings of nature. USA Today reported on a group of veterans who are finding healing in such outdoor activities as hunting and fishing, activities in places that take the mind away from the physical and mental wounds and the hospitals and sterile rehabilitation centers, and into the therapeutic embrace of



The dedicated bench at Old Mine Trail, which faces the Pacific Ocean nature. From this USA Today story came a quote that seems to put the calming effects of nature into perspective. One of the program members said, “You can see their whole attitude change.”

In yet another program, the Natural Bridge Olympic Park Institute hosted military veterans and their families in the Operation Purple Healing Adventure Program. As reported in the Sequim Gazette newspaper in Washington State, veterans and their families were given a chance to reconnect as they spent time together relaxing, fishing, boating, and enjoying adventures led by experienced outdoor educators. All of this

occurred within Olympic National Park.

In the article, Kent Chappie, Olympic Park Institute Field Science Educator said, “One of the most important things I feel that we do here is to provide a positive transformative experience on these young people through immersion in nature.”

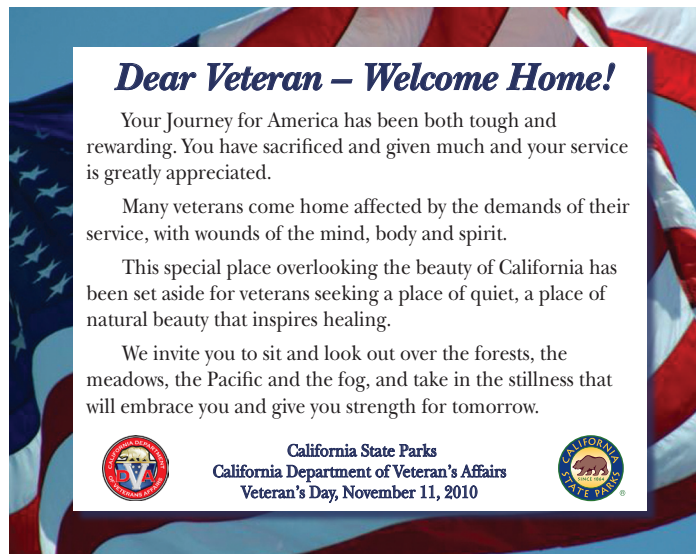
In addition to the Mt. Tamalpais event, all veterans and active duty military service members were honored on Veterans Day by being invited to free day use and an open house at six Orange County state parks, including: San Onofre State Park, Huntington State Beach, San Clemente State Beach, Doheny State Beach, Crystal Cove State Park,

Huntington State Beach and Bolsa Chica State Beach.

The open house was held at the 1930s era historic San Clemente cottage and visitor center located on the ocean bluff at San Clemente State Beach. It was co-hosted and sponsored by the San Onofre Foundation, the park’s official non-profit cooperating association partner.

Jim Kempton, the Foundation’s president said the event was a chance for the community to show their appreciation for local veteran’s while enjoying refreshments, meeting neighbors, and learning about the park’s local history, including the proud connection to the neighboring Marine base, Camp Pendleton.

“We were honored to extend a heartfelt “thank you” to the many veterans in our community who have served in our country’s armed forces,” said Park Superintendent Rich Haydon, who oversees the south county state parks, including San Onofre State Beach, which is operated under a long-term lease between the U.S. Navy and Marine Corps base Camp Pendleton.



This is the newly installed plaque at Mt. Tamalpais.

News & Views

Winter 2010

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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.

Renova Group Finalizes Support At Fort Ross



Renova commits to helping retain the beauty of Fort Ross.

► FROM PAGE 1

“What better way to enhance a former Russian settlement than with a public-private partnership with this company from Russia and the people of Russia,” said Ruth Coleman, director of California State Parks. “This agreement will help us continue the restoration and provide for the enhancement of the programs that will help bring the history of this former Russian settlement to life.”

Renova’s representative from the New York office, Jay Haft, told the group from State Parks and the Fort Ross Interpretive Association, that Renova intended to proceed in a reasonable and practical manner, helping first with those projects that need immediate attention as a high priority.

He said if the roof of the Rotchev building at Fort Ross is failing, then we need to fix it

The new Compact Agreement will help preserve, restore and tell the story of Fort Ross, a

trading outpost established by Russian settlers in 1812. Some of the specifics of the agreement are as follows:

- Substantial financial support to help with long-term budgetary problems.
- Establishment of the Fort Ross Renova Foundation to serve as a key organization for private and public funding and fundraising.
- Support for historical, cultural, natural and educational programs.
- Support for ongoing maintenance and capital improvement projects.
- Scientific programs, student exchanges, cultural events and other initiatives for enhancement of Fort Ross.

In the agreement, State Parks does not give up its management responsibilities for the park, but retains sole discretion as to which projects and programs occur, and the scheduling of such projects and programs.

To compliment that, the Fort Ross Renova Foundation shall

retain sole discretion over which of the projects on the State Parks’ list are selected for use of its funds. It is an agreement wherein both parties agree to cooperate, coordinate and maintain good communications with each other regarding their efforts for the preservation, protection and enhancement of Fort Ross.

Never before has California State Parks entered into an agreement with a business group from a foreign nation for such a partnership.

In this case, Governor Schwarzenegger’s push for public-private partnerships has resulted in the creation of a cutting-edge program that serves the people of California and opens an important cross-cultural exchange between Russia and California.

Beyond the financial help, this partnership is especially fitting because the park is Russian in its origins and there is a strong attachment to the park from the Russian community living in California.

Fort Ross was established by the Russian-American Company, a commercial hunting and trading company chartered by the tsarist government, with shares held by members of the Tsar’s family, court nobility and high officials. It is located in Sonoma County and is one of California’s oldest state parks.

The Fort, historically used as a Russian trading outpost and resupply depot for Russian’s Alaskan outposts, was inhabited from 1812 to 1841.

Social Media In California State Parks

By Lindsay Oxford,
Social Media Analyst,
Communications Office

The communications opportunities offered by sites like Facebook, Flickr, Twitter and YouTube are changing the way citizens interact with their friends, with businesses—and even with government.

California State Parks has been using innovative ways to connect with Californians for years.

For example, Interpretation and Education Division’s Parks Online Resources for Teachers and Students (PORTS) program offers students who might not otherwise get to experience the outdoors a chance to attend sessions with park staff via video-conference.

In keeping with Parks’ creative communications strategies, many of our districts, parks and programs have a presence on sites like Facebook, Twitter, Flickr and YouTube.

Recent state and department policies task the Communications Office with coordinating social media activities performed on behalf of the department. In response, the Communications Office released DN-2010-03, the California State Parks’ social media policy.

The policy, along with the department’s Social Media Handbook, will help employees with the ins and outs of running an authorized account on behalf of their district or park.

If you’re interested in

running a Facebook page for your unit (or are already running one you created before you became aware of the policy), get Superintendent permission and view the documents linked in the sidebar to get started.

Please note that the documents apply only to those running official Parks pages. Many of us in Parks are proud of our jobs and our department, and may want to express that online. You’re free to do so, as long as it’s clear that your opinion is your own. Here are some quick tips to keep in mind:

- Work resources are only to be used for work purposes, not for personal communications. That includes your computer and your email address—so please don’t use your @parks.ca.gov email address on Facebook, Twitter, or other social networking sites.
- When giving a personal opinion, clarify that this is your opinion, not that of your employer. If you haven’t been designated as a spokesperson for your park, make it clear you’re not speaking on behalf of the department.
- The logo and uniforms are only to be used when representing the department in official capacity. Please do not use the department logo or photos of yourself in uniform as your profile picture on personal pages.

Social Media Quick Links

• Find authorized Parks accounts at <http://www.parks.ca.gov/socialnetwork>

• See statewide social media policy at http://cio.ca.gov/Government/IT_Policy/pdf/SIMM_66B.pdf

• View department social media policy at http://isearch/default.asp?page_id=164 and http://isearch/default.asp?page_id=972

• Register your page at <http://isearch/registerMedia/>

• Questions about the program can be sent to media@parks.ca.gov

• Remember—regardless of where you work, if you’re posting about your bad day or irritating co-worker on Facebook, there’s a good chance it could get back to the person. Either through loose privacy settings or indiscreet friends, your heat-of-the-moment wall post could come back to haunt you. Think before you post, and if you absolutely have to vent, make sure your privacy settings are secure and filtered properly.

Antelope Valley Indian Museum SHP Re-Opens



Tribal Winds dancers performed. The dancer in the foreground is Alex Littlebow.

By Peggy Ronning, Museum Curator, Tehachapi District, Mojave Sector

Our Grand Reopening Celebration on October 2-3 was a great success, despite a couple of brief thundershowers.

Hereditary Chumash Chief and elder Charlie Cook graciously led the blessing ceremony on October 2 with the assistance of Dennis and Ted Garcia. District Superintendent Kathy Weatherman and I then introduced local dignitaries who came out to congratulate California State Parks on the museum's reopening.

These included former State Assemblyman Larry Chimbole, Dr. Charles Rozaire, former curator Edra Moore, L.A. County Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich's Representative Richard Grooms, Lancaster

Council Member Sherry Marquez, Lake L.A. Rural Town Council Member Elizabeth Andrew, and Miss Lake Los Angeles and her court.

The dancers are always one of the most popular parts of the celebration. On Saturday, the Simunu Dancers and Singers danced despite the rain. This group, which has been together for about five years, drums and dances to original Chumash songs they have created. The singers are Dennis Garcia and Paul and Bobbie Sanchez. Their families joined them in the dancing.

On Sunday, local dance group Tribal Winds demonstrated traditional intertribal dancing. Tribal Winds members live in the Antelope Valley and represent the Apache, Cherokee, and Choctaw tribes. Alex Littlebow encouraged the audience members to join him in several friendship

dances and couples dances. Mojave Sector Superintendent Rick Reisenhofer and his wife Misty gamely joined one of the couples dances.

While I knew the visitors would like the dancing, I hope they learned to be equally enthusiastic about storytelling. Brothers Ted and Dennis Garcia shared Chumash stories interspersed with original Chumash songs they wrote to complement the stories. On Sunday, Ted Garcia told the story of Bear and Owl twice especially for Ranger Tom, who had missed hearing it the first time, as Ranger Tom is a big fan of bears.

Cecelia Begay's family fulfilled everyone's cravings for frybread and Indian tacos. I heard many people raving about Cecelia's wild rice salad. I personally was unable to resist her frybread with strawberries and cream. Yum!



The ribbon cutting for the reopening ceremony. From left to right are Museum Curator Peggy Ronning, Hereditary Chumash Chief Charlie Cook, Friends of the Antelope Valley Indian Museum President Cy Crites, and Tehachapi District Superintendent Kathy Weatherman.

Photograph By Tom Gunther

I would like to thank all the vendors who shared their art and knowledge with our visitors. They included author and photographer Valena Dismukes, gourd artist Nadiya Littlewarrior, bead artist Marty Meeden, jeweler Jake Runsbuffalo, craft artists Alex Littlebow and the Begay family, Chumash material culture researcher Tim King, and the Antelope Valley Archaeological Society.

The event would not have been possible without the support of our cooperating association (Friends of the Antelope Valley Indian Museum), the State Parks volunteers, and State Parks staff.

The Friends of the Antelope Valley Indian Museum board members helped plan the event, provided the beverage booth and the chairs, and sold



An inside view of Antelope Valley Indian Museum SHP.

guidebooks and memberships.

The museum volunteers did an outstanding job as always, providing interpretation for the museum and touch table. The Tomo Kahni State Park volunteers were heroes for driving all the way from Tehachapi to

run the beverage booth. State Parks employees from across the Tehachapi District prepared the grounds before the event, kept it clean and safe during the event, managed the parking, sold tickets, and ran the gift shop.



Simunu Dancers sang and danced to Chumash songs.

Photograph By Peggy Ronning

Photograph By Anne Kittlitz, Friends of the Antelope Valley Indian Museum

Promotions And Appointments

Accounting Technician

Erika D. Lynn-Croy
North Coast Redwoods District
9/1/2010

Associate Governmental Program Analyst

Yasir Ali
Budgets
8/16/2010

Todd A. Decarlo
Information Technology
8/1/2010

Peter H. Lee
Budgets
8/16/2010

Environmental Scientist

Eric V. Hollenbeck
Colorado Desert District
10/11/2010

Groundskeeper

Natasha Gabrovsek
Inland Empire District
9/12/2010

Thomas D. Gomez
Inland Empire District
9/12/2010

Guide I Historical Monument

Jacqueline G. Barros
Diablo Vista District
8/6/2010

Mary J. Sturges
Monterey District
9/1/2010

Guide II Historical Monument (Supervisor)

Amber S. Drake
Northern Buttes District
8/1/2010

Aja E. Milne
San Luis Obispo Coast District
10/1/2010

Heavy Equipment Mechanic

Miguel A. Duarte
San Diego Coast District
8/10/2010

Frank R. Hicks
Northern Buttes District
9/16/2010

Office Assistant (Typing)

Stacey L. Bennett
Sierra District
9/7/2010

Office Technician (Typing)

Margaret L. Fowler
Northern Buttes District
9/14/2010

Angelina R. Healy
OHMVR/Twin Cities
9/1/2010

Park Maintenance Assistant

Jonathan E. Lechuga
Inland Empire District
9/12/2010

Kenneth E. Shier Jr.
Northern Buttes District
8/16/2010

Park Maintenance Chief II

Rachel A. Arias
Santa Cruz District
9/1/2010

Park Maintenance Supervisor

Patrick R. Caldwell
Central Valley District
9/1/2010

Brenda F. Hemond
Sierra District
9/20/2010

Bruce W. Knauss
Channel Coast District
10/1/2010

Park Maintenance Worker I

Benny J. Cox-Frankenfield
North Coast Redwoods District
9/1/2010

Jennifer L. James
Orange Coast District
9/1/2010

Research Analyst I (Geographic Information Systems)

Daniel T. Brenner
North Coast Redwoods
8/1/2010

Senior Personnel Specialist

Monica C. Duran
Personnel Services
9/1/2010

Glenda F. Peck
Personnel Services
9/1/2010

State Historian II

John T. Fraser
Cultural Heritage
10/1/2010

State Park Interpreter I

Christine L. Cecchettini
Santa Cruz District
9/7/2010

Andrew D. Fitzpatrick
OHMVR/Ocotillo Wells
8/1/2010

State Park Interpreter II

Marnin L. Robbins
North Coast Redwoods District
9/1/2010

State Park Superintendent II

Eric L. Abma
Monterey District
9/1/2010

Brian D. Barton
Sierra District
9/1/2010

Richard A. Preston
Gold Fields District
8/16/2010

State Park Superintendent III

Matthew S. Green
Sierra District
8/11/2010

Paul A. Keel
Santa Cruz District
9/1/2010

State Park Supervising Ranger

Heidi K. Doyle
Sierra District
9/3/2010

Jenny R. Gardenmeyer
Capital District
10/1/2010

Dylan H. Hardenbrook
San Diego Coast District
8/16/2010

Terry L. Kiser
Santa Cruz District
8/1/2010

Andrea L. Mapes
Russian River District
8/1/2010

Timothy P. Quandt
Mendocino District
8/1/2010

Lisa A. Remington
San Luis Obispo Coast District
8/1/2010

Donna R. Turner
Marin District
9/1/2010

Steven P. Walloupe
Sierra District
9/3/2010

Staff Services Analyst (General)

Kaci M. Wong
Personnel Services
9/1/2010

Staff Services Manager III

Theodore B. Novack II
Contracts
8/26/2010

Transportation Surveyor Party Chief

Neal S. Jones
Acquisition & Real Property
Services
8/30/2010

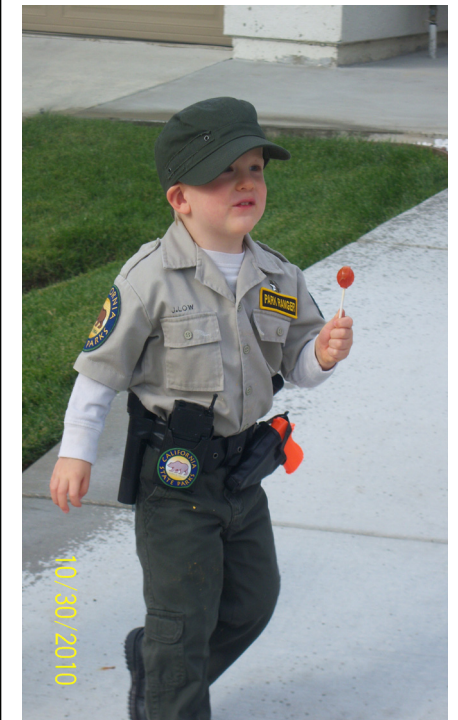
Water and Sewage Plant Supervisor

Freddie N. Heldstab
Mendocino District
8/18/2010

William R. Rea
Santa Cruz District
8/1/2010

*Promotion Information provided
by Nancy Sechrist, Personnel
Services Section*

Future Ranger Cadet



Jimmy Low III of Reservation Services snapped this photo of his son, James Low IV, who dressed as a Park Ranger for Halloween.

Contact us at
newsandviews@parks.ca.gov



John Arnold's LAST Mailbag

Hello, is topless or nude sunbathing allowed on San Gregorio Beach? Let me know, Thanks!

I was hiking at Fern Canyon (Prairie Creek Humboldt County) and came across what looked to be a wild snap pea. I ate several of the peas inside the pod and now have a rash. I was wondering if you know what kind of plant that was and if it is toxic?
-Monkey Do

My daughter is looking for a sign that she saw in a retail store in Hollister. The yellow sign says, "Clothing Optional Beyond this Point, Per Order of State of California Beaches" or something very similar. Can this be purchased somewhere?

California State Parks - You deserve a Vegas vacation!

I was wondering if there is any possibility at all to shoot a semi-nude (topless) cowgirl-styled model in your Bodie State Historic Park?
Thank you for your kind answer.

Wow! You people are really fast. Aren't you supposed to be those lazy state workers? I was hoping to get a response in a day or so, not a few minutes. Thanks for your help. I am impressed.

Good afternoon. I was hoping that someone might be able to offer some

advice to me concerning location for a camping trip that I am looking to take, as there are some less-than-usual circumstances involved. As background, I will be participating in a marathon and after taking a couple of days to eat heartily to replenish my system I plan on doing the Master Cleanse - a detoxification cleanse of a week or more in which all that is consumed is a drink made of lemons, maple syrup, cayenne pepper and water. A camping trip somewhere in the natural beauty of our state could provide the perfect environment for the Cleanse. Both because of the physical and spiritual dimensions of such an undertaking, I am hoping to limit my exposure to other people while camping and doing the Master Cleanse (for instance, I want to spare other camper from having to share a bathroom with me or from hiking while I am doing my business. The Cleanse is famous for certain un-pleasantries.) My hope is that I can find a semi-remote campsite, perhaps something a decent hike away from where I would be parking.

Hi, I am wondering if wearing a Speedo or Thong in California Public Beaches is a violation of the nudity law?
Thanks!

I have heard that the movie "Surfer Dude" starring Matthew McConaughey is being filmed at this location. We are trying

to plan a vacation out that way and I am a huge fan of his and thought it would be cool to see some of his movie being filmed.

Are there any trails in California in which nude hiking or wearing of thongs while hiking is allowed?

So, do you dudes allow campfires in your campground?

I may want to travel to California. Is there an area where we can hike and see bears and it is also warmer than 20 degrees C? (When she is cold my wife is insufferable.!) [from Germany]

I recently watched someone burying dog poop at my favorite beach. Having some professional interest in beach cleanliness, I calculated how much dog poop it would take to render the water unsafe for human contact, and force its closure under state AB411 standards. Since dog poop has 40 Million enterococcus per gram, and beach is smallish, it would only take one dog poop to close the beach. Please contact me with any questions.

I am not sure if you can help me but I am 24 years of age and for the last few years I have been hearing stories, the stories of catfish as large as a school bus down at the bottom of the Folsom lake dam.

Are you the contact for group

tours at Tule Elk Preserve? Is mid-September a good time to view the rutting season? It's not that we are into elk sex or anything. I just like the bull bugeling.

It is harder to get into your park than into a bar.

I want contact to Michael Jackson. Can you send me the address from him, please? I know that he is living by Santa Monica in California on Neverland Ranch but this address is not correct enough.

I desperately need some help. I am trying to plan an outing for my god forsaken family and friends. Here are my parameters:

Climate: something around 80-90s in the day. My mother, though in good health, will be most pleasant if she isn't sweating profusely.
Camping facilities: two of the people are slightly hard of hearing (they won't admit it, but I know) so I would prefer an area where the next campsite isn't ten feet away (so that at

lunch when 'pass the ketchup' is yelled we aren't disturbing other people.

I would like to know about how many campers you get about every year. This is for my science report and it is due in two weeks so I really need this information. Please. Please. Please. Please. Please e-mail me back!!

I hope the increase in income will go to the Parks Department rather than the general fund. Then again, I hope to retire early and rich, lose weight, cruise the South Pacific... Reality bites.

Dear Sir: I'm a Swedish journalist and expedition leader currently investigating a case in which two citizens of SF Bay claim to have seen, photographed and filmed sea serpents off Angel Island. 170 feet long and 30 feet high. Can you confirm there are such creatures in SF Bay? Or could they have mistaken seaweed or something else for their alleged critters? Thanking you

in advance for an honest reply from your employees.

I have a suggestion. A child star, Dakota Fanning, is turning 11 years old. She has starred in many movies such as "Uptown Girls", "Hike and Seek", "Taken", etc. She has contributed a lot in her career so far. She has won awards too. I would like to give her a unique birthday gift. Feel free to share this great idea with your colleagues. I am wondering if you could name or rename any area in your park after her.

For example, if you have waterfalls in your park you could name or rename the waterfalls "Dakota F. Waterfalls" or "Dakota Fanning Waterfalls." Please consider this unique honor.

Hello, I was just wondering if there are any policies restricting noise at your state parks? Someone recommended bringing my drum set out to a state park to play my drums because it's out in the middle of nowhere and wouldn't be a bother. Is this allowed?

News and Views Editor John Arnold To Retire At End Of Year



John and his son Evan at Mt. San Jacinto SP.

News & Views, he's compiled some of his favorites, (See pages 14-15.) John's presence in print and in our office will be sorely missed.

With such a large Parks family, News & Views has shied away from listing retirements in each issue. However, the News & Views branch of the family is quite small, and our most recent retiree is our Assistant Editor, John Arnold.

John Arnold has had a hand in News & Views since he first started with the department in 1986. As editor, he kept employees connected by printing stories on topics as varied as budgets and Bigfoot.

In 2005 we first saw "John Arnold's Mail Bag," featuring some of the most inspiring, heartwarming, or just plain strange correspondences he's had with the public. For John's last issue of

“Defense Of The Bay” Event Held At Angel Island

Story and Photos By Teri Pope, Interpreter I, Angel Island

On October 23rd and 24th, living history re-enactors from the Spanish-American Living History Association demonstrated weapons, gear, and clothing from the era of the Philippine American War.

They gathered at Angel Island’s Camp Reynolds to show park visitors how important this seemingly small conflict was to the island and to all of California.

This war, fought in conjunction with the Spanish American war, was a time of transition for many things that define the modern military. It was the first war in which the United States fought in a jungle environment against guerrilla tactics, the first war that saw an all-steel modern Navy in action, and the war that brought new technology as well. Khaki uniforms, bolt action rifles, and the field telephone were all introduced at this time.



Left: Re-enactors lounging in the Parlour; Right: Ladies dressed in attire of the time take a break from displaying hand-crank sewing machines.

Rainy weather moved most activities indoors to the Bake House and Quarters 10 buildings at Camp Reynolds, which was an actual deployment site for soldiers being sent to the Philippine theater. Those park visitors that braved the rain and wind were given an enthusiastic look at life here in the years 1899 to 1902.

In the Bake House, the soldiers, using both original and replica weapons and gear, demonstrated what a typical soldier would carry in his

pack and why weapons were upgraded to meet changing needs.

The ladies, dressed in their finery, inhabited one of the parlors of Quarters 10, demonstrating hand-crank sewing machines and cookbooks of the period.

This event was just one of several living history events that Angel Island hosts at Camp Reynolds each year. Civil War Days in June, and a historical timeline event in August, are held each year.



Seen here is the Polar Express™ train ride series at the California State Railroad Museum in Old Sacramento SHP, which runs Thursdays through Sundays on December 1-5, 8-12, and 15-19. Photos Courtesy of California State Railroad Museum & Dave Henry, photographer.