Navigating New Waters

Ranger Rendezvous XXVIII
Dec. 4 - 8, 2005
Charleston, South Carolina
Letters

Multi-functions of rangers
I hope that the article (Ranger, Fall 2005, by Ernie Quintana, director of Midwest Region) will help refocus some of our protection rangers on their multi-functions. Some hold their three functions as important and try to balance their jobs, but there is a lot of peer pressure to be “law enforcement rangers.” Thank you, Ernie, for sharing your personal thoughts.

— Ken Mabery
Farmington, Pennsylvania

Welcome to the ANPR family!
Here are the newest members of the Association of National Park Rangers:
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Paul Carson ........................................... Blacksburg, SC
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Sarah Lawson ......................................... Weymouth, MA
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Larry Parker .......................................... Louisville, KY
David Quincey ....................................... Harpers Ferry, WV
Joshua Reyes .......................................... Oyster Bay, NY
Richard Ring .......................................... Bethesda, MD
Michelle Schonzeit .................................. Crater Lake, OR
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Curt Treichel .......................................... Tucson, AZ
John Tucker .......................................... Mount Pleasant, SC
John Walsh ............................................ Auckland, New Zealand
Dick Zahn ............................................. Cheyenne, OK
Abra Zobel ............................................ Tulelake, CA

Missing Members
We’ve lost track of these members! Please send information to ANPR, P.O. Box 108, Larned, KS 67750-0108; anprbusiness@anpr.org
John Krambrink .................................. Eatonville, WA
David Parker .......................................... Saint Augustine, FL
Jon Radtke ........................................... Phoenix, AZ
Daniel Swank ........................................ Grass Lake, MI

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Editor’s note: This issue of Ranger was delayed so we could provide complete coverage of the Rendezvous Dec. 4–8, 2005, in Charleston, South Carolina.

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Ranger (Spring issue)
deadline ........................................... Jan. 31
Ranger (Summer issue)
deadline ........................................... April 30
Theme: The Antiquities Act
Ranger Rendezvous XXIX ........................ Nov. 11–15
Coeur d’Alene, Idaho
Coming next issue: The Power of a Place — Significance of Parks to Visitors

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President’s Message

The recently concluded Ranger Rendezvous in Charleston was a great success. There were more first-time attendees present than I can recall from the past several gatherings and there was an abundance of positive energy and ideas. The entire membership owes the Rendezvous coordinator, Dan Moses, and agenda chairperson, Erin Broadbent, a collective thank you for their hard work.

The State of the Association address can give those unable to attend a picture of where the association currently is so I will not repeat the points I made there (see page 3).

I would like to take this time to look forward to the next Rendezvous in Coeur d’Alene. I urge the membership to continue to support the association by attending the next Ranger Rendezvous in November 2006. Make plans now to save time and money so we can all meet to renew friendships, make new ones, learn something new and work to make ANPR better.

We are still seeking individuals to serve as agenda chairs and to assist with all the behind the scenes tasks necessary to make an event successful. If you are interested in helping with the next Rendezvous contact Dan Moses or me for more information. The facility in Coeur d’Alene is perhaps the best to ever host a Rendezvous, so please give serious thought to attending or helping.

Something I would like the whole membership to think about between now and November is the direction ANPR needs to go in 2007 and beyond. I say that because nominations will be open in November for three extremely important positions on the ANPR Board of Directors.

The first is the position for fundraising. I am sure all of you realize how important this position has become as we strive to find new sources of revenue to keep operations going. The second is the position for membership. Now that we are stable financially this is the area I want to concentrate on the rest of my term. We need to attract new members from all disciplines if we are to continue to grow and gain strength. The third is the position of president-elect. Despite my term running through 2007, the incoming president serves one year as a non-voting member of the board before assuming office in 2008. So please think about these important positions now.

We need to continue the momentum I witnessed in Charleston and project it well into the future. That will require dedicated and competent people to fill these positions to ensure that ANPR will continue the work of helping parks, visitors and each other.
Southern hospitality takes precedence during annual gathering

Old Southern charm and lots of new ideas came together for a successful Rendezvous of ANPR members Dec. 4-8, 2005, in Charleston, South Carolina. Some 120 participants attended the gathering, with workshops and activities centered on a theme of “Navigating New Waters.”

Several dozen first-time attendees joined the seasoned attendees for this traditional mix of professional and social meetings. The annual Rendezvous serves to let National Park Service employees from the various park disciplines talk about ideas, gain support from each other and learn new things.

Charleston was decked out in holiday fare for the Rendezvous, and town events included a craft and food fair in the historic square just outside the Francis Marion Hotel, culminating in a Christmas parade with throngs of local residents.

And while much of the country was gripped in either sub-zero weather or snowy conditions, ANPR members enjoyed relatively mild temperatures in which to explore the surroundings. Field trips include a tour to Fort Sumter graciously hosted by the park staff, an additional tour to other area Civil War sites or a local tour of the Gullah low country. The latter tour included a short visit with famed master blacksmith Philip Simmons, 93.

Once again Eric Epstein of Harpers Ferry Center brought several of the newest park films for viewing at the annual FilmFest, including ones on John Muir and El Malpais. The evening always proves to be one of the most popular nights.

Workshops were grouped over two days and offered varied topics from interpretation to consular immunity to authors’ presentations and book signings.

A dinner cruise in the waters around Charleston provided a stunning setting for the presentation of the prestigious Mather Award by the National Parks Conservation Association (see page 9).

In between events many attendees enjoyed sampling local cuisine and walking around the historic, well-preserved neighborhoods of Charleston.

As usual, the ANPR Board of Directors hosted the annual newcomers’ breakfast for first-time attendees, attracting nearly 20 members to the early-morning meal.

ANPR members, as always, enjoyed visiting with old friends and making new ones—a unique arrangement that allows NPS employees from around the country to meet colleagues in a friendly setting.

Turn the pages of this issue of Ranger magazine to read about and see images from the five-day gathering. And plan to attend the next Rendezvous Nov. 11-15 in Coeur d’Alene, Idaho.
State of the Association

ANPR President Lee Werst made these remarks Dec. 4, 2005, at the annual Rendezvous in Charleston, South Carolina.

Good morning and welcome to Charleston and the 28th Ranger Rendezvous. Those of you who were in Rapid City last year might recall that I like to be brief and to the point. That will hold true for my State of the Association this year as well.

I am pleased to inform you that the position of the association has improved in relation to one year ago. As you all know from reading Ranger and the special mailings sent out over the past year, our financial position has stabilized and I anticipate a slight increase in the treasury going into the next fiscal year.

Since taking office the finances of the association have been my first concern. In order to establish stability the Board of Directors made several critical decisions over the past year. The executive director position was not renewed last spring, resulting in a significant savings. The board also adopted a budget based upon realistic revenue expectations while expenditures have been closely monitored. After Ranger Rendezvous we will have a more accurate picture of this year’s expenditures, but right now it looks as though we will come in under our established budget. The association’s investments have also had a good run recently and we can expect to make slight gains in that area as well. The situation overall shows that we have stabilized and look forward to increasing our treasury through investments and fundraising.

We had a slow start this year in working on membership. Due to work and personal commitments, the board member for membership stepped aside recently. Kale Bowling-Schaff has accepted an appointment to finish the term of that position and has made a start in turning membership around. The Board of Directors is considering a plan to reinstitute the old regional reps, renamed field reps, to help the board in maintaining closer communication with the field. These positions will help in putting a face on recruitment and retention.

In November, for the first time in ANPR history, we staffed a booth at the National Interpreters Workshop in Mobile, Alabama. The objective of this project was to recruit members and exhibitors while also marketing our Lost but Found video and Live the Adventure booklet. This effort was very successful. Over the next year we will seek out similar opportunities in order to further promote ANPR. A new recruitment brochure was also developed last month with the assistance of several members. In addition, the board is looking into simplifying our dues structure to make it more user friendly.

ANPR has also continued its role in advocating for parks and employees. In May we appeared before the Senate National Parks Subcommittee concerning park funding. It was a very positive experience. We are also currently soliciting member comments on the proposed management policies.

In conclusion, I believe we have made strides toward becoming a stronger and better association, but there is still work to be done.

Four positions on the Board of Directors — Treasurer, Internal Communications, Education and Training, and Strategic Planning — are open for nominations. The association also needs to find agenda co-chairs for the next Ranger Rendezvous in Coeur d’Alene and volunteers for the new field rep positions.

If you care about our organization I urge you to consider assisting any way you can. Together we can make ANPR a respected and relevant voice for parks, visitors and each other.

(continued on page 10)
Workshops

Fifteen workshops during five sessions over a two-day period gave many choices to Rendezvous participants. Several are detailed here:

Consular Notification: Obligations When Dealing with Foreign Visitors

This 90-minute presentation by James A. Lawrence, U.S. Department of State, covered legal requirements when arresting or detaining a foreign national, and a discussion of diplomatic and consular immunity. With millions of recreational visits to national parks each year, park rangers face all manner of law enforcement issues, from traffic violations to serious felonies. Rangers also lead search-and-rescue operations and would be the authorities responsible for notifying a foreign consulate of an accident involving a foreign national resulting in death or serious injury.

Several attendees stayed after the presentation to talk about ways in which they could help the Department of State spread the word about this issue, including a ranger assigned to the U.S. Park Service’s training unit at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center in Glynco, Georgia.

For further information on this topic, and to order free training materials, please visit the Department of State’s consular notification and access website: http://travel.state.gov/law/notify.html.

Arlington House Applied History Program: From Intern to Seasonal Ranger

For the last four years, Arlington House The Robert E. Lee Memorial has participated in an innovative and highly successful partnership with West Springfield High School. The site hosted its first interns in 2002 from the high school’s Applied History Program.

The brainchild of award-winning history teacher James Percoco, the Applied History Program is a competitive, two-semester course available only to seniors. The students selected for the course spend the first semester in the classroom, completing exercises in critical thinking and taking fieldtrips to historic sites. The second semester consists of an internship at a historic site of the student’s choice.

To date, 29 students have completed internships at Arlington House. The interns receive training in interpretive techniques, site history and SOPs. The students select their projects from a long and diverse list.

Most spend the majority of their time assisting with interpretive operations, including station interpretation, guided tours and special events. In addition, interns have developed original interpretive programs, conducted PAC programs, assisted the curator with inventories and curatorial housekeeping, and completed research projects. The interns’ participation in the interpretive operation has provided rangers with critical support during the busy spring season, which brings a remarkably high volume of visitors to the park.

The Applied History Program is managed by the site historian, who trains and supervises the students. Arlington House has been a consistently popular site with West Springfield students. In 2004, 50 percent of the class selected Arlington House as their first choice among the sites participating in the program.

The park’s record of success can be attributed to several factors. A flexible work schedule is essential when working with students who have multiple extracurricular activities. Arlington House interns are given interesting and meaningful work assignments that further develop their history skills. Staff enthusiasm for the park’s history and the Applied History Program itself has played a key role in attracting students.

Perhaps the greatest benefit to result from this partnership is the opportunity to recruit seasonal staff. At the semester’s end, the top three interns are selected to apply for employment through the Student Temporary Employment Program. Students are hired as visitor use assistants and are eligible to work as needed during their college years. This avenue of hiring seasonal staff offers several distinct advantages over hiring from a “cert.” Unlike “cert” candidates who sometimes accept a position and later decline it at the last moment, every student who has been offered employment at Arlington House has accepted. The quality of performance and work ethic is known in advance and is given great weight in selecting students for employment. Interns have already completed significant training by the time of hiring. As STEP employees, they are eligible to return for multiple seasons as long as they remain in good academic standing with a full course load. At present, several STEP employees are completing their third season at Arlington House.

The Applied History Program at Arlington House can serve as a model for success for other parks. It remains one of the park’s most successful and rewarding partnerships. The program is mutually beneficial to the NPS and the students. Its measure of success can be summed up in the words of one of the program’s graduates: “Working at Arlington House is an experience I’ll remember for the rest of my life. My internship lived up to my high expectation.”

— Karen Kinzey, Historian, Arlington House The Robert E. Lee Memorial
Katrina and the NPS — Family Helping Family

Liz Roberts, chief of administration at Sitka, gave a presentation on the impacts of Hurricane Katrina to Gulf Islands National Seashore in Mississippi. She spent the month of October as finance section chief with the incident management teams assisting with hurricane recovery.

Roberts provided an overview of hurricane damage, including the complete loss of four housing units, major damage to the park’s visitor center, offices, boardwalks, docks and more, and loss of a significant portion of natural resources. She then provided a photo documentary of the work accomplished by the assisting parks, states and other agencies.

More than 72 parks sent staff and equipment to help in the recovery effort. Workers cleared trees from roadways and trails, repaired boardwalks and docks, cleaned the muck out of historic Fort Massachusetts on West Ship Island, salvaged artifacts and cleaned debris out of buildings, and rehabilitated several park residences. Workers also installed temporary modulars to serve as office space, a visitor contact station and public restrooms. After just two months of assistance, the park was well on its way to being self-sufficient and fully operational once again.

— Liz Roberts, Sitka

BEFORE & AFTER: Scenes of the Davis-Bayou campground kiosk at Gulf Islands after Hurricane Katrina. Photos provided by Liz Roberts.

BOOK AUTHORS: Top photo, park ranger Nancy Muleady-Mecham autographs her book, True Stories from a Ranger’s Career in America’s National Parks, following her presentation. Jordan Fisher Smith also signs his book, Nature Noir, for several dozen Rendezvous attendees. Extra copies of these autographed books are available through ANPR. To order see page 32. Another author, NPS retiree Wayne Landrum, also sold and autographed his book, Fort Jefferson and Dry Tortugas National Park, in the exhibit hall.

Other Workshops & General Meetings

• Great Moments in the History of Interpretation — Corky Mayo
• Partnerships/National Park Foundation — John Piltzecker
• Liberty Square — Carlin Timmons
• Environmental Crimes Related to Wildlife — Fred Burnside
• The National Park Service and Asset Management — Tim Harvey and Mary Hazell
• Negotiated Rulemaking & Collaborative Environmental Problem Solving — Barry Sullivan
• Servicewide Training & Development — Mike Watson
• Volunteering for ANPR — Lee Werst
• NPS Visitor and Resource Protection Issues — Pat Buccello

Standards of Interpretation for Living History Programs

This session by Bert Dunkerly explored issues related to running living history programs. Costumes are an important part of an accurate interpretation and clear guidelines are required for living history programs. Beginning with a brief overview of the development of living history and re-enactments, this presentation discussed how historic sites approach standards of appearance. Dunkerly also discussed how programs must be tied to park themes.

Dunkerly currently is an interpreter at Kings Mountain where he is the park’s black powder officer and supervises the park’s living history program. He holds a master’s degree in historic preservation. He has worked at other parks including Colonial, George Washington Birthplace, Gettysburg and Stones River.

Gullah Geeche Resource Study

This workshop included an overview of the Low Country Gullah Culture by Cynthia Porcher, a demonstration of the Gullah art of sweetgrass basketmaking by Vera Manigault, and a discussion of integrating heritage into the classroom by Michael Allen.

Porcher is an independent research consultant who works with the National Park Service. Her recent work as field investigator on the Low Country Gullah Special Resource Study led to the introduction of the Gullah/Geechee Cultural Heritage Act by Rep. James Clyburn, D-S.C. She wrote the successful nomination for the Gullah/Geechee Coast to be named to the National Trust’s 11 Most Endangered List for 2005.

Manigault is a Mount Pleasant sweetgrass basketmaker and NPS volunteer, while Michael Allen, educational specialist at Fort Sumter, has been on the staff for more than 20 years.
‘Decent and Dignified Lives’

Editor’s note: Former NPS Deputy Director Deny Galvin gave this address Dec. 8, 2005, in Charleston, South Carolina, at the closing of ANPR’s annual Rendezvous. It is reprinted here in its entirety.

T
this is the fourth time that I have addressed the Rendezvous. The first was at Jackson Hole in the late ’80s; Ronald Reagan was president, Bill Mott was director, James Watt had just left Interior, Don Hodel was secretary.

Most memorably, I was on the program with the writer Barry Lopez. He told the group, “You are storytellers, you tell stories so that people can recognize patterns, patterns that help them to lead decent and dignified lives.” At least that’s what I remember him saying. I have always liked that view of a ranger. I’ll admit I hadn’t thought too much about its meaning. The storytelling part seems pretty straightforward, but what about “patterns” and “decent and dignified lives”?

One of the pleasures of my retirement has been the opportunity to visit parks. Those experiences provide the starting point for today’s reflections.

For the past five years my wife has worked at a summer camp near Delaware Water Gap. As I traveled back and forth I found the best route there took me past Gettysburg. The return home placed me there about mid-morning. Eventually I stopped there many times. I have walked all the battle lines, done the cyclorama and the electric map, gone on interpretive walks, talked to other visitors, bought books in the bookstore. All these experiences were positive. The opportunity to sink into that landscape of conflict and consecration was enhanced by all the “stories” provided by the National Park Service.

But, the most memorable thing I experienced happened one morning in the cemetery. I watched a father walk his two children, four and six years old I would guess, up to the bust of Lincoln on the south side, near the entrance. Below Lincoln is the text of the Gettysburg Address. As the kids stood there, the father translated those words into their native language.

Will those children remember that? Will they lead better lives for it? Who knows? Certainly I am better for having witnessed that touching moment. Yet it will grace no interpretive report. No press release was issued. No staff meeting discussion followed. The moment passed. The incident flew under the radar. Yet it demonstrates the potential of the park story to illuminate and enrich.

Antietam wasn’t quite on my return route but my experience at Gettysburg was so fulfilling that I detoured to hike there. Again I spent the days walking and reading, attending programs, watching the visitor center film. I climbed the observation tower near the sunken road one afternoon. At first I viewed the scene alone. Footsteps clunking on the stairs announced another visitor. He wore a butternut Confederate cap. As we looked out he asked if I had had relatives who fought there. I answered that my relatives were still tilling the green fields of County Cork in 1862. His wife arrived. Both their great-grandfathers had fought there. I said, “There are lots of ghosts on these battlefields,” meaning metaphorical ghosts. He replied, “You ever been to Cold Harbor?” I said no. “There’s REALLY ghosts there.” Later I was discussing this conversation with a colleague who has a deep interest in Civil War battlefields. “He’s right,” he said matter-of-factly.

Such an experience defies analysis. Still, these visitors brought an emotional connection and abiding interest to this place, and a capacity to link it to other places, perhaps to form a “pattern.”

On a plane trip once, a seat mate noticed I was reading something topped with a National Park Service letterhead. Subsequent conversation revealed that he was a world-class wilderness kayaker when that was rarer than it is now. Where did his interest in the wilderness begin? He grew up adjacent to Morristown. He experienced that park in a way not envisioned by its creators, who were commemorating a Revolutionary War event. That open space, available to him as a boy, provided a life-shaping experience.

I mentioned that my wife worked at a summer camp near Delaware Water Gap. Her residency gave me the opportunity to explore that park in some depth. It is a wonderful place. Split by Interstate 80, close to Philadelphia, New York and Newark, it remains serene and beautiful. On weekends people flock to it from those urban areas.

At Kittatinny, in the heart of the Gap, the river slides by and the interstate traffic races in a space less than one-half mile wide. A heavily used trailhead, I began a hike there on a Sunday morning. The large parking area was nearly full. When I returned that afternoon it was full. My return to the car took me through the picnic area. It too was full. Extended families, kids and old folks, enjoyed the river and the shade and each other. I heard the language spoken—Spanish. I started to listen for English; never heard it. The license plates were New Jersey and New York. How will these lives be influenced by their Sunday in the park? Will one of those kids become a world-class something or other; hiker, climber, kayaker? I wouldn’t bet against it.

All of us have observed such potentially life-shaping visitor experiences, but the parks
also shape those of us who work in them. Lon Garrison used to say, “The parks make us better than we are.”

My wife and I drove to Houston to share Thanksgiving with our kids. As we traveled I thought of other trips, official and otherwise, through that land; the great valley of the Shenandoah, the Blue Ridge to the east, up there Skyline Drive and Great Smoky, the Cumberland Plateau, Chattanooga, the Civil War, geology, the rich diversity of this country. Four decades of national park work deepened my understanding of it all. Think of all the places we’ve lived, the colorful and interesting people we’ve met, the memories they provide, the “stories” they tell.

So, these days when I visit parks I also visit parts of my biography.

The board of the National Parks Conservation Association recently visited Gateway. I worked in New York City when that park started. On January 1 we had three employees and nothing else. By May 30 we were expecting to host 100,000 beachgoers at Riis Park. In a blur of activity we hired and trained lifeguards, offered jobs to people elsewhere in the system, (most of them turned us down!), brought in the Park Police and assembled equipment. On Memorial Day, by just a hair, we were ready. It rained all weekend, but we were ready.

So to return there 30 years later and find a park with over 300 employees and a budget of $21 million was gratifying. Even the Robert Moses designed bathhouse, after 30 years of neglect, was ready for occupancy.

The board also toured Floyd Bennett Field. We walked through a hangar filled with classic aircraft being rehabilitated by a group of volunteers. Many of them were World War II veterans. Nearly all were over 70. Some came straight to the park from their jobs at Kennedy Airport. Remarkably, one of their projects is to reconstruct the plane that took Wiley Post around the world in 1933. We were witnessing an act of love and dedication. I imagined those World War II guys cursing their way through an Army Air Corps assignment, and here they were finding something very important in a national park. What is the National Park Service providing? The hangar, a volunteer coordinator, and, most important of all an opportunity.

I started my career at Sequoia in 1963. Years before in the 1920s, Colonel White, the original civilian superintendent, had written that the facilities in Giant Forest should be removed. In spite of his insight, the development remained and we continued to cut the roots of 3,000-year-old trees to save a dilapidated and inferior, but extensive development.

Fifteen years after I started, my assignment at the Denver Service Center put me in a position to assist in removing it. Fortunately, the late Boyd Evison was superintendent and he was committed to the same goal.

With the support of Director Russ Dickenson, we began the phase out of facilities. And were there phases! We were still funding the project when I retired in 2002. So it took us about 20 years. But they are all gone, with the exception of the historic general store, converted to a museum. In the fall of 2001 I walked through that forest. More than 200 buildings had been removed, roads obliterated, utilities removed. Where the lodge had been there was only a trail; where a campground, only silence. The big trees will no longer be attacked by our feeble facilities.

Colonel White’s dream has come true and our debt to his vision is paid.

For sure, projects like the Riis Park bathhouse, Giant Forest, Ellis Island, Yosemite Valley take too long. But if we, the National Park Service, persevere, they frequently get done. The agency has the advantage of being around for a long time. I mean a long time as a government agency and a long time as a career service. For career is the time given to each of us to struggle with these problems. Look back at an inspirational moment, a problem you solved, a little progress you made. Think of Colonel White’s vision. Maybe a future generation will help.

So let’s return to Barry Lopez’ address to you from 20 years ago. It’s been nearly a generation. Few sitting in this room heard him.

Of course what I have been doing is telling stories. As I have grown older I have become more impressed by their power. Even stories based on facts that are elusive have an influence on us. Think of the Odys-
Judge Tim Bommer, Professor Brett Wright addressed Rendezvous crowd

Other keynote speeches at the Rendezvous included retired Magistrate Judge Tim Bommer of Wyoming and Clemson University professor Dr. Brett Wright. Both addressed general sessions at the Rendezvous.

Bommer said his position as a prosecutor in Teton County and later as a federal magistrate judge has brought him full circle in his interaction with the National Park Service. He served as deputy county and prosecuting attorney in Teton County, Wyoming, from 1970-74 and as a U.S. magistrate judge from 1976 until his retirement in 2004.

"We have a common bond — the NPS. It makes it easy to talk to you," he said. "You are making a difference and it's what we're all about in our profession. At the end of the day we all ask, 'Have I made a difference?'"

He reminisced about how now-retired Frank Betts directed a major rescue operation at Grand Teton. He also thanked Mike Finley, Walt Dabney and Tim Setnicka for making a difference in the parks.

Bommer spoke of the NPS mission of conserving the scenery, protecting resources, providing enjoyment and preserving for future generations.

"It's a balancing act," Bommer said. "I hate to see it become political. Really it is up to the resource manager and it is different in every park."

He gave kudos to Sen. Craig Thomas of Wyoming, chairman of the National Parks Subcommittee. Bommer called him a "realistic" friend of the NPS who holds to a policy of balancing conservation with public use.

He also called seasonal rangers the backbone of the NPS who work tirelessly during the influx of visitors to the parks.

And he offered these words of wisdom: "If you make a mistake and make an arrest by mistake, don't try to take care of it yourself; let the judge do it because the judge will protect you."

Wright, who chairs the Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism Management at Clemson University, was introduced by Clemson graduate and longtime ANPR member Scot McElveen.

On a humorous note, and acknowledging that he must have missed the memo on the dress code, the tie-bedecked Wright offered these southern tidbits:

Sweet tea is actually one word, grits will be on your plate for breakfast, make eye contact on the street, y'all is a singular pronoun and all y'all is the plural.

Joking aside, he told the audience that as a young boy in Kentucky he learned parks were something special.

"It's easy to focus on the resources," he said, "but there is something bigger — the ideal of the national park."

He called the premises in George Hartzog Jr.'s Battling for the National Parks perhaps second only in importance to liberty itself.

In a fast-paced presentation, Wright looked at social trends that point to the so-called Baby Boomer generation beginning to turn 60 in 2006. He said travel is their No. 1 activity, yet 72 percent of that generation also spend 10 hours a month volunteering.

In contrast, he said the current generation is four to five generations removed from the land and "their toys don't go there."

"The only things in shape are their fingers (from Xbox, computers) and they have little contact with nature," he said.

While he has found fewer students expressing interest in park management, he stressed the need to find replacements for the many professionals now retiring.

He stated that resource protection "should and must be given priority" over use. But he added, "Recreation is going to happen. You can choose to manage it or get run over by it."

— Teresa Ford, Ranger editor

Exhibitors support ANPR

As is typical each year at the Rendezvous, exhibitors help support ANPR financially by their participation in the exhibit hall. Please thank them by supporting them.

- Americorps NCCC
- Black Rhino Recycling
- McDonald & Woodward Publishing Co.
- Motorola
- National Association for Interpretation
- Space Telescope Science Institute
- Think Safe Inc.
- Tour-Mate Systems Canada Ltd.
- VF Imagewear

RECYCL ED PRODUCTS: At left is Keith Brody of Black Rhino Recycling Inc., a firm that sells longlasting plastic composite products for decks, retaining walls, campsite, trail borders and more. He is visiting with a Rendezvous attendee.
Thanks for a successful Rendezvous!

Each year many people donate their time and energy to stage a successful Rendezvous. The 2005 effort in Charleston, South Carolina, was no exception. Thanks to these organizations and people for their efforts:

VF Imagewear - reception with exhibitors
All workshop presenters and keynote speakers
Host superintendents — assistance and field trips
Erin Broadbent — program chair
Wendy Lauritzen — exhibits
Erin Broadbent, Teresa Ford — logo, T-shirt design
Lisa Eckert and Dave Anderson — judges
Rick Gale — bailiff
Eric Epstein, Gary Candelaria — FilmFest
Dan Greenblatt, Dave Anderson and Dan Moses — Super Raffle
Meg Weesner, Alden Miller, Dick Zahm, Fran Norton and Carlin Timmons — registration
Alden Miller, Dick Zahm — regular raffle and silent auction
Jean Sigafoos, Bill Supernauagh — sale of ANPR products
Nancy Ward — hospitality room
Teresa Ford — photography contest
Erin Broadbent — special tours, onsite support
Dan Moses — overall Ranger Rendezvous coordinator

J.T. Reynolds wins Mather Award

The National Parks Conservation Association has bestowed its prestigious Stephen T. Mather Award on Death Valley Superintendent J.T. Reynolds for his leadership and unwavering dedication to the long-term protection of the national parks. At Death Valley and throughout his career with the National Park Service, Reynolds has demonstrated the strongest possible commitment to park resources, staff and volunteers.

"Superintendent Reynolds has worked tirelessly to bring attention to the wonders of Death Valley, and confront challenges to park stewardship," said NPCA Senior Vice President Ron Tipton, who presented the award Dec. 6 at the annual meeting of the Association of National Park Rangers. Also attending the award ceremony, held during a dinner cruise in Charleston, was NPCA's Vice President for Government Affairs Craig Obey.

Reynolds’ wife, Dot, joined him in Charleston for the presentation.

For nearly 35 years Reynolds has embraced the principles of the founders of the NPS. In June 2005 NPCA's Center for State of the Parks released a comprehensive assessment of the health of Death Valley and its neighboring parks, Joshua Tree and Mojave.
ANPR's finances are stable and the budget is on track. Declining membership remains a concern, as now more than half of current members are life members.

Volunteers are needed to replace the following outgoing coordinators:

- Rendezvous Exhibitors (Wendy Lauritsen)
- Election Committee (Barry Sullivan)
- Super Raffle (Dan Greenblatt)
- Regular Raffle
- Rendezvous coordinator and hotel contracting starting with 2008 (Dan Moses)

Kendell Thompson – ANPR Music Cd Project

As a membership recruitment and fundraising project, Kendell has been collecting music from NPS employees for the past year. By the Rendezvous he had received 32 submissions for 28 hours of music. The Rendezvous participants will help make the final selections of music.

Action: ANPR music CD will be available for sale in 2006.

Celebration Task Group – Dave Anderson

This ANPR task group is just starting work on the Centennial celebration, leading to the 100th anniversary of the NPS in 2016. Details of the initial plan are in the Fall 2004 issue of Ranger magazine.

Action: Focus on 1-3 specific contributions from ANPR that will complement NPS work.

Contributions Policy & Acknowledgment

After a discussion about what ANPR currently does for contributors the board agreed to make changes in the policy and to formally recognize contributors, including members who support Rendezvous fundraising activities. The fundraising board member and treasurer will have primary responsibilities. ANPR will need a financial review in order to solicit larger donations.

Actions:

- Sean is the lead for developing a tracking and recognition plan.
- Lee is the lead for developing sponsorship categories.
- Jim will research cost for a review and inform board of what steps are needed.

Rendezvous Reports – Dan Moses

The same percentage of members still attend the Rendezvous, but as membership has declined so has the number of Rendezvous participants. Costs of rooms and all support costs will increase as our participation at Rendezvous declines. We need 250 people to get the best rates with hotels. Rendezvous 2006 will be in Coeur d’Alene, Idaho, starting with the board meeting on Nov. 10, with the Rendezvous from Nov. 11-15. Excellent hotel and terrific room rates of $75. Rendezvous 2007 will be in Park City, Utah, starting with the board meeting on Oct. 6; Rendezvous is from Oct. 7-11. Room rate will be $79. Rendezvous 2008 is still in the ideas stage. Sites suggested so far: Albuquerque, Flagstaff, Williamsburg, Asheville.

Action:

- Sean will take responsibility for finding sponsors of the Rendezvous and for portions (breaks, hospitality room) of the Rendezvous.
- Dan will identify and select two program co-chairs early in 2006 so they have at least nine months to work on the program.
- Dan will get the contract signed for 2007 Rendezvous.

Pre-Ranger Rendezvous training

No training was scheduled for Charleston, based on past participation. While the training has been successful, participants do not stay for the Rendezvous. The board recognizes education is part of ANPR’s mission but what is the niche for the association?

Action: Bill Supernaugh will talk to Maia Browning about ANPR having some role in offering Fundamentals training to those who will not get it through NPS.

Marketing Coeur d’Alene Rendezvous

President Werst presented a range of actions for marketing the 2006 Rendezvous, with the goal of increasing attendance. Board members will be assigned responsibilities for actions such as inviting the Canadian Park Wardens Association and life members, developing a low cost brochure to distribute at the Scotland Congress and to recruit speakers and new participants.

International Scholarship Funds – Tony Sisto

- ANPR has traditionally sponsored directly or raised funds for Latin American rangers to attend the IRF World Congress. For the Scotland Congress ANPR also has established the Muir Fund for ANPR members who are fairly new to the organization, as a way to get new involvement with ANPR and IRF.
- The Muir Fund has $2,650 which is enough to pay for three registrations to the June 2006 Congress in Scotland (includes meals and lodging for the week of the Congress).

Actions:

- Kale will develop a proposal for using the Muir Fund for also sponsoring future Rendezvous participants.
- Tony Sisto and Deanne to continue work to find sponsorships for Latin American rangers.

Election Committee – Barry Sullivan Submitted Written Report

For 2005 the election committee received 193 ballots. Nomination forms are on the web and when completed online they go directly to the election committee chair and the editor. Positions open for upcoming election: Treasurer, Education & Training, Strategic Planning and Internal Communications.

MOTION: Bill Supernaugh moved that
Carlin Timmons, interpretive park ranger at Fort Sumter, took ANPR members on a half-day insider's tour, including Liberty Square and the new Fort Sumter Visitor Center, with discussion about sensitive topics and partnering efforts. She also traveled with the group by tour boat to Fort Sumter and gave a historical perspective of the site.

Nominations to be closed on Dec. 19. Motion passed unanimously.

New Membership Matters - Kale Bowling-Schaff
Kale and Dick Martin presented several membership issues for the board to consider. Main action areas center on updating and revising the membership brochure and the membership web page; establishing field representatives to provide a link from the members to the board and to invigorate park and office involvement with the Association; and development of a recruitment message and incentives.

Actions:
- Kale will develop a proposal for simplifying number of membership categories, and a plan for recruitment incentives.
- Kale will develop structure, roles and guidelines for new field representative positions.

Website e-mail Service - Tom Bowling-Schaff
Proposal for using Front Range Internet, current host of the ANPR website, to provide services for managing membership communication through e-mail at a cost to the Association of $10/month. Members can elect to unsubscribe from the service.

MOTION: Sean McGuinness moved that the board approve initiating such a mailing list service subject to review by the board three months after initiation of the service. Seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Online Sales Of Merchandise
Proposal by Bill Supernau to explore offering ANPR sales items on the web. Merchandising planning is needed and a “scope of sales” - to cover future addition of items such as books.

Actions:
- Teresa will help research web page options.
- Jim VonFeldt will research the state tax issue.

Corporate Sponsorship
Board discussion on the value of finding appropriate sponsors for the Rendezvous and for ANPR. Identified a need to develop a plan with guidelines.

Action: Sean will put together a scope of sponsorship that can be used to do further outreach to environmentally friendly and park friendly companies.

Archive Storage
ANPR has files stored at Delaware Water Gap that need to be sorted and moved. A desire for developing an administrative history of ANPR was also discussed.

Actions:
- Jim will check into storage costs at Larned.
- Kendell will check with Yellowstone curator for storing at the Ranger Museum for a fee so they remain ANPR records and not part of the museum.

Next meeting scheduled for March 7, 2006, after new members are elected. E-mail will be used until that meeting. Lee asked the board to consider suspending board conference calls during the summer. For next fiscal year, board will consider budgeting again for a second board meeting.

Action: Lee will draft guidance on travel reimbursement policy.

Meeting adjourned 5:45 p.m.

Dec. 6, 2005
President Werst called a special session of the board to order at 9:30 p.m. when a quorum was reached. Voting members present: Lee Werst, Wendy Lauritzen, Fred Koegler, Kendell Thompson, Ed Rizzotto, Bill Supernau, Dave Anderson, Sean McGuinness. Past President and Acting Secretary Deanne Adams was also present.

President Werst briefed the board on a call he received from the chief ranger of Olympic asking the board for assistance in providing a temporary loan to the family of Jim Schlinkmann, ANPR member who was recently killed in a car accident on his way back to Great Basin from working on a hurricane recovery incident team (see page 30).

MOTION: Dave Anderson moved that the board support the family once adequate research has been conducted to verify ANPR is the best source of quick support; and that the loan be limited to $3,000. The motion was seconded.

Discussion points: IRF has established a dependent’s fund for families of rangers killed in the line of duty. This loan is in line with that vision. Motion passed unanimously.

Action: Jim VonFeldt will draw up an agreement. Lee will work with the chief ranger.

Meeting adjourned at 9:50 p.m.
RENNDEZVOUS
in CHARLESTON • DECEMBER 2005
The annual Ranger Rendezvous encompasses a variety of activities, so we'll let the pictures do the talking. Some of the places and faces of that week included the youngest, Zane Thompson, 1½, and the oldest, Philip Simmons, Charleston's master metalworker, 93.

Photos contributed by Warren Bielenburg, Mike Connolly, Teresa Ford, Bob Krumenaker, Ken Mabery, and Liz and Clair Roberts.
1ST PLACE
"Breakfast at Brooks Camp"
Katmai
Clair Roberts

3RD PLACE
"Batching It"
Denali
Clair Roberts
Twenty-two images were submitted to ANPR's annual photography competition. Winners received certificates of recognition and gift certificates to an online company. Please consider entering your photos from work or travel in the 2006 photography contest.
Employee assistance after Katrina

Story and photos by Adam Prato
Gulf Islands

While Hurricane Katrina pulverized the Mississippi Gulf Coast early on Monday, Aug. 29, I visited the little shotgun shack in Tupelo where Elvis Presley was born. I waited out the diminishing storm that night with a friend in Oxford as it passed through northern Mississippi. Though I was having an uncommonly good week hanging out with graduate students at Ole Miss, the inability to communicate with the coast was maddening. I didn’t drive the six hours back to Ocean Springs until Saturday, when I knew that an NPS recovery team was in place and I’d have a regular supply of drinkable water. I wasn’t sure of the condition of my apartment but had heard third-hand on Friday that it was “fine.”

I found my apartment building more or less intact. After cleaning rotten food from my refrigerator I returned to work. Some of our staff had hacked a path through the fallen slash pines on the road to the district headquarters at Davis Bayou. Saw teams were working on widening the passage. The incident command team was setting up at our maintenance compound, the only usable buildings left. I started work with Tom Clayton, our carpenter, going to our employees’ or their families’ homes to cut down fallen or hazardous trees, and set up generators. Tom and I drove around visiting employees and looking for chainsaw parts. The coast was a mess and it was two or three days of this before I started to get over the shock.

I then worked with Type 2 fire crews from Virginia and Puerto Rico to provide employee assistance. There were obstacles and progress was slow at first. I didn’t have addresses for many of our volunteers. Telephones, both cellular and land, didn’t always work. We needed more vans and pickup trucks to move the firefighters from home to home, and we didn’t have enough street maps. The fire crews weren’t particular about who they helped, so they continued their work at employees’ neighbors’ homes while I checked on other employees.

An NPS tree removal team from Tennessee brought a bucket truck, a chipper and dump truck to cut down and haul off the more problematic hazardous trees. I enjoyed watching them size up the tree from every angle, devise a solution, and then set to work taking it apart. “How did you get that tree down?” I asked Larry Evans, the crew boss. “One piece at a time,” he answered with a smile.

The most difficult work for the employee assistance group was removing household items from flood-damaged homes. They gagged on the smells of moldy carpets and putrefying refrigerators (later ameliorated by Vicks VapoRub applied around the nose). They waited patiently while the owners salvaged personal items from their waterlogged belongings. They had roofers in their ranks and patched some roofs as well.

We had full support from the incident teams. They helped me get the supplies and equipment we needed. Once we had enough street maps and vehicles, we were able to split the Virginia crew and work in multiple neighborhoods. Peer-support teams speeded up the process of contacting employees and assessing their needs. I drove whichever van or truck I could borrow to check on folks and to deliver generators, gas, fans, water and cleaning supplies. Mary Chandler from the Midwest Regional Office spent a full month in Mississippi processing compensation claims and helping our staff navigate financial assistance channels. Chip Davis, the employee assistance coordinator, convinced me to spend some time filling out unit logs and recording GPS coordinates. I didn’t want to bother with this at first, but it helped document and track our progress. Chip also opened up his own suitcase and gave some clothes to my friend who had lost all of his uniforms.

I felt good about helping people, but I felt proud for doing it in an NPS uniform. We helped hundreds of households, not just park employees and volunteers but former employees and their neighbors and relatives. Dave Stone, the crew boss of the Virginia state crew, remarked to me, “I like being able to say to people, ‘I’m from the government and I’m here to help’ and mean it.” I agreed. Is there any alternative?

Adam Prato is an interpreter at Gulf Islands. He grew up on Long Island, New York, and misses the bagels but not the traffic.
It takes advocacy to protect parks

By Bryan Faehner

One of my favorite quotes on national parks comes from Wallace Stegner, who wrote in 1983, "National parks are the best idea we ever had. Absolutely American, absolutely democratic, they reflect us at our best rather than our worst." Too often, however, I think we take for granted the necessary energy to establish national parks and the vigilance to protect them.

Since the creation of Yellowstone National Park in 1872, Americans from all walks of life have worked tirelessly to protect significant places that contribute to the American story. Early park advocates, like painter Thomas Moran and photographer Ansel Adams, brought the beauty of potential parklands to Congress and the president. Sierra Club founder John Muir wrote profusely on the mysteries of the Sierras and the spiritual value of wilderness that rallied the country to promote national parks. Another park advocate, Minerva Hamilton Hoyt, worked with her garden club to protect what would later become Joshua Tree National Park.

Still, other park advocates used their financial resources and political clout to purchase and set aside lands for parks. Perhaps the most famous of all park philanthropists was John D. Rockefeller, who purchased and donated most of the lands that make up Grand Teton, Acadia, Great Smoky Mountains and Virgin Islands national parks. A lesser-known philanthropist was David McConaughy of Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, who went to work immediately after the great Civil War battle by purchasing, and later donating, much of what would become Gettysburg National Military Park in 1895.

Our country has also been blessed with a number of presidents who have viewed national parks as great national assets, and made their protection a national priority. As our nation's greatest conservation president, Theodore Roosevelt doubled the number of national parks from five to 10. He took full advantage of the 1906 Antiquities Act and created 18 national monuments that include Devils Tower, Muir Woods, Grand Canyon and Mount Olympus (which later became Olympic National Park in 1938).

While all of these park advocates have played major roles in the preservation of our national parks, none have been as vital as Park Service founder Stephen T. Mather, who worked tirelessly to establish a professional agency of public servants to manage the evolving park system. By working with Congress, the business community and park advocates, he helped ensure that national parks would forever play a central role in American society.

Few people realize that Mather helped found what would become the National Parks Conservation Association just a few years after the passage of the 1916 Park Service Organic Act. When explaining the proposed association to friends, Mather said, "I cannot urge too strongly the importance of getting it under way at once," as this association "will play an important part in their [the Park Service's] success." Mather even donated $5,000 to the organization to support fellow park advocate Robert Sterling Yard who became the association's first secretary.

When Mather helped create NPCA, he envisioned a national organization that would be able to protect parks from the political ambitions of presidential appointees, members of Congress and others who sought to weaken park protections. NPCA, along with countless other park advocates, have been largely successful at protecting places that preserve America's greatest treasures.

Today, however, the National Park System is threatened by various measures that combined or independent of one another, could be disastrous for parks. In 2005 a proposal in a draft budget reconciliation bill sought to sell 16 national parks that make up 23 percent of the Park Service's total acreage. The proposal's author was Rep. Richard Pombo, R-Calif., chairman of the House Resources Committee, whose committee has jurisdiction over legislation related to national parks. Many Americans were offended to learn that ironically, one of the parks identified for privatization was Theodore Roosevelt National Memorial in Washington, D.C. The radical proposal also included provisions that required new commercial advertising on park maps, guides and vehicles— not to mention corporate sponsorship of park visitor centers, trails, amphitheaters and other facilities.

While the congressmen's office later explained the proposal was a "joke" and was drafted to make up "lost" revenue if the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in Alaska is not opened to oil and gas exploration, Pombo's dangerous proposal should not be disregarded. Instead, park advocates should be on full alert, especially since Rep. Tom Tancredo, R-Colo., put forth a similar bill that same week to sell 15 percent of the Department of Interior's lands to pay for Hurricane Katrina relief efforts.

While the final reconciliation bill that passed the House had no language on selling or commercializing parks, it did include a measure that would lift the current moratorium on patenting mining claims on public lands. Though the bill states that it doesn't apply to national parks, it does allow an exemption for "people who have valid existing rights in those parks." Because Death Valley, Mojave and other parks contain extensive claims, park advocates are extremely troubled by the bill's potential ramifications.

Another ongoing issue that is causing concern among park advocates is the Park Service's proposed revision to its Management Policies, which provide park managers with specific guidelines on day-to-day operations of the parks. In the past, revisions have taken place about every 10 years. The last two revisions took place during the Reagan (1988) and Clinton (2001) administrations and included broad public input. NPCA, the Coalition of NPS Retirees and other park advocates believe that the recent revisions have been rushed and, most importantly, would weaken existing policies on air quality, soundscapes, wilderness, use of motorized off-road vehicles and livestock.

Despite statements from Park Service leaders, the proposed policies appear to provide less clarity than existing policies, with important sections being deleted altogether. One of the most distressing eliminations is the statement that appeared in the first chapter of the...
When there is conflict between conserving changes are needed in the first place, remain a question, along with why these broad policy description of the Park Service's mandate? This ate steps, including scientific study and public involvement, to resolve those concerns.

So why would the Park Service propose removing such an important and clear description of the Park Service's mandate? This question, along with why these broad policy changes are needed in the first place, remain unanswered.

While ill-conceived ideas are circulating in our nation's capital, the physical integrity of national parks continues to be plagued with air pollution, traffic congestion, invasive species, external park development and crumbling historical infrastructures. Confronting these challenges has become all the more overwhelming due to an estimated annual shortfall of more than $600 million for park operations. This chronic underfunding has resulted in shrinking staffs that are increasingly overburdened with mounting responsibilities. While the Park Service has done an incredible job of doing "more with less," park rangers are becoming an endangered sight within national parks.

One of the Park Service's greatest hopes in recovering its faded glory lies in the passage of a bipartisan bill in Congress known as the Centennial Act, which was developed to commemorate the 2016 centennial anniversary of the 1916 Park Service Organic Act. The House of Representatives and Senate versions of the bill would, over an 11-year period, eliminate the Park Service's multi-billion dollar maintenance backlog, provide funding for the Natural Resource Challenge, and create and fund a Cultural Resource Challenge. The Centennial Act would expire after 2016.

The act would meet these goals by creating a National Park Centennial Fund, financed in part by a voluntary check-off on federal income tax returns. This innovative approach already has the support of 60 members of the House and is split about evenly between Republicans and Democrats. The Centennial Act is not intended to replace annual appropriations, but is instead meant to allow Congress to focus future park appropriations bills on solving the annual operations shortfalls in parks.

The American public also appears to be supportive of the check-off concept. In a recent poll conducted by Zogby International on behalf of NPCA, 61 percent of probable voters expressed the likelihood of making a donation to national parks if given the opportunity. The poll also found that one in four voters would likely donate $20 or more if given the option.

Luckily, members of Congress are increasingly showing their support for passing on a healthy and vibrant National Park System to future generations. One of the country's greatest national park advocates is Rep. Mark Souder, R-Ind., who is among the lead sponsors of the Centennial Act in the House. Souder is also using his chairmanship of a Government Reform Subcommittee to hold a series of field hearings around the country on the funding and management challenges facing national parks. By the end of 2005 Souder conducted seven hearings—from Gettysburg to Hawaii—accepting testimony from NPCA, park friends groups and other organizations that support or work closely with national parks.

Thanks to the hearings, media outlets and citizens, a growing number of Congress members are becoming aware of the challenges facing our nation's parks and joining Souder in supporting the Centennial Act. It is critical to point out, however, that the success of these hearings has been and will continue to be dependent on dedicated Park Service employees sharing their accomplishments and their challenges with the public. Without transparency, park advocates will be less empowered with information to help the parks meet their full potential as uniquely American treasures.

Our national parks not only protect living libraries that allow us to experience our natural and cultural history; they also unite Americans under one flag and a shared heritage to safeguard these special places.

Our parks will only be able to play this critical role as long as dedicated public servants and park advocates alike continue to stand up in their defense.

Bryan Faehner worked as a seasonal interpretive ranger at North Cascades. He currently is analyzing park funding and policy issues for the National Parks Conservation Association, America's only private, non-profit advocacy organization dedicated solely to protecting, preserving and enhancing the National Park System. NPCA was founded in 1919 and has more than 300,000 members.
'Full Speed Ahead' at NIW 2005

By Adam Prato
Gulf Islands

The National Association for Interpretation held its annual National Interpreters Workshop in Mobile, Alabama, last November. I've been a member of the NAI since 2002, but until this year I haven't made much use of it. This was my first NIW. The motto for this year's NIW was "Full Speed Ahead," as Admiral Farragut is supposed to have said while invading Mobile Bay during the Civil War.

I went to the NIW fearing that interpretation in the NPS is coming to a dead stop. I often ask myself, "Is this working? Are we really getting people to care about these places?" But I resolved to keep my gripes to myself and my ears and eyes open so I could find out what was going on.

My NIW started with the NPS agency meeting. We got some updates on the changes to and future plans for ParkNet, coming standards and tools for developing junior ranger programs, and (glory be!) how we'll be getting a new volunteer-in-parks brochure. Not only is the current one out of date, it also an illustration of an über-white male ranger smiling paternalistically at his volunteer underlings, all of whom are shorter than he is. The new brochure will feature photos of real people volunteering in their national parks.

The NIW offered a lot: pre-workshops, exhibitors, dozens of breakout sessions, field trips, speeches and awards. NPS underwater archaeologist David Conlin, despite malfunction of his multimedia keynote address, managed to communicate a compelling personal story of his experience recovering the H.L. Hunley. The breakout sessions were of most interest to me, though, since they didn't involve additional cost or applauding every five minutes. It was hard to choose which sessions not to attend. The NIW has a solution to this: with registration you get a sourcebook, so if you miss a presentation you can read the presenter's summary and references.

In my search for something different, I found myself listening to an academic researcher of interpretation. Doug Knapp of Indiana University discussed his inquiry into the elements of successful interpretation in national parks. But park visitors were not his subjects, interpreters were. He interviewed them, reviewed their program outlines and observed them in the field. One of the things he found was that although many of them demonstrated knowledge of proper interpretive program development and techniques, they didn't put them into use during their programs. I wanted to run home and review my fort tour.

I also attended a topical and relevant presentation by Wendy Langhans: interpreting the land after a disaster. In her experience it was a wildfire, but I will put her approach to use at my hurricane-obliterated district. She recommended having an "interpretive disaster plan," researching the beneficial effects and documenting nature's renewal. I imagine myself in 2006 exploring the flattened dunes of West Ship Island with visitors, looking for emerging sea oats and reveling in the absence of nutria tracks.

I was relieved to find plenty of interpreters at NIW who care about improving the profession as much as they care about the things they interpret. The NAI's membership comes from many different agencies in and out of government, but the largest group comes from the NPS. With its high profile, good reputation and innovations like the Interpretive Development Program, the NPS is a leader in the field. I'd hate to see that diminish, but this year's workshop was not as well attended as the past. I was lucky that Mobile is a short drive from my home or the park would not have sent me. Dwindling opportunities for career mobility mean that national and regional workshops/training courses need to be more accessible to NPS interpreters, otherwise the flow of ideas will be strangled.

Adam Prato, an interpretive park ranger at Gulf Islands, attended both his first National Interpreters Workshop and ANPR's Ranger Rendezvous in 2005.
First Lady Laura Bush participates in ceremony for new junior rangers

By Joan Guilfoyle
Mississippi National River and Recreation Area

First Lady Laura Bush, honorary chair of the National Park Foundation, visited the Mississippi National River and Recreation Area last summer to help swear in 24 new junior rangers.

“The junior ranger program encourages children to visit national parks and explore what each one of them has to offer,” the first lady said. “National parks, located throughout the country, tell a special story about the United States and its heritage.”

The junior ranger swearing-in ceremony took place at the Science Museum of Minnesota in the capital city of St. Paul. The museum is a key partner of the MNRRA in many projects in the river corridor, including co-locating the National Park Service’s Mississippi River Visitor Center. NPS Director Fran Mainella and Park Superintendent JoAnn Kyral also participated in the event.

Park rangers, partners and volunteers-in-parks staffed activity stations for the junior rangers in a “Day of Discovery” prior to the swearing-in ceremony. The young people, ranging in age from 10 to 17 and primarily from Hmong and Ojibwe communities, learned about Mississippi River mussels, macro invertebrates and traditional gardening of local Native Americans. Most of the youth have also been transforming 27 acres of contaminated dump and brownfield into a haven for wildlife and plants. This project, called the Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary, is located within the MNRRA boundary. It has been underway for the last three years, with financial and technical assistance from the NPS and many local partners, and substantial sweat equity from the youth.

MNRRA’s junior ranger program, a component of the Mighty Mississippi Passport Program, opens the door for families to explore the many natural areas and activities provided by the NPS and a wide variety of park partners. MNRRA has sworn in about 120 new junior rangers within the past year. More information about the junior ranger program and the Mighty Mississippi Passport Program can be found at www.mississippipassport.org.

Many of the new junior rangers stated their interest in pursuing careers as park rangers. They are expected to assist younger children in their pursuit of the coveted junior ranger badge, certificate and, especially, the hat!

Joan Guilfoyle is a supervisory park ranger and Mississippi National River and Recreation Area. Park ranger Ami Thompson contributed to this article.
Hey! How does this bottle open?:
That was the challenge to Tom Bowling-Schaff and Todd Stoeberl as they picked up free (and newfangled) water bottles at the booth of VF Imagewear during the Rendezvous in December.
Check back on page 8 if you missed the list of exhibitors at the Rendezvous. Please support them for supporting ANPR.

Why write for Ranger?

- Shares ideas; say it where 1,200 readers will see it
- Viability for your thoughts and issues
- Improves your writing skills (peer reviewed)
- Adds "published writer" to your résumé
- Be creative beyond day-to-day government writing style
- Professional recognition among your peers

We are looking for good articles/ideas in these areas:

- Philosophical/ethics discussion
- "News you can use" events from which we all can learn
- Topics of interest to park employees (i.e. housing)
- Travel of interest to park employees
- New technology/new ways of doing business
- Special places — discoveries you’ve made
- Photos, photos and more photos!

Contact the editor or editorial adviser for more information or with your ideas:

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What can ANPR membership do for you?

The Association of National Park Rangers is an organization looking out for your interests for more than 28 years. As a member, you have access to many benefits. Included are:

- Quarterly Ranger magazine with thought-provoking articles
- Employee voice to upper management and Capitol Hill
- Social functions with all disciplines from NPS
- Sponsored training with discounts to members
- Annual Ranger Rendezvous with professional workshops and other venues
- Access to partner organizations
- Sales items that enhance pride and morale
- Sponsored detail opportunities to international parks
- Facilitated mentoring program

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The Professional Ranger

Administration

Most Effective & Efficient Park Administrative Operations — For the past three years I've been a member of the Pacific West Region's (PWR) Administrative Advisory Committee. The committee's mission is to enhance communication among the regional office, the regional leadership council and park areas in order to improve understanding, efficiency and productivity.

The committee's primary purposes are:

1. To advise the regional director on regionwide administrative operations.
2. To serve as subject matter experts in providing advice and assistance to the regional leadership council.
3. To enhance the delivery and execution of administrative functions throughout the PWR.

The committee serves as a source of information regarding administrative procedures and their overall impact and effectiveness; provides input on policy, direction, standards and programs for the PWR; enhances the professionalism and competency of personnel engaged in administrative duties; and assists new administrators in the transition to the PWR and new methods of accomplishing administrative functions.

Many other regions in the NPS have similar committees. These committees have been a strong advocate and voice for administrative employees in the field, both inside and outside of the employee's park. One of the items our committee has frequently discussed is the future of administrative operations and employees in the parks. We've all heard about consolidating and centralizing administrative functions, and with actions taken in some parks, there may be some managers who would be supportive of getting these administrative operations out of parks.

For example, in Sequoia and Kings Canyon, the administrative officer position was abolished. This also occurred at Channel Islands and Canyonlands. Other NPS areas may follow this trend if the value of the administrative officer is not realized. It may be that self-directed work teams/groups like those at the above named parks are a better way to conduct administrative duties, eliminating a leader of the administrative division at parks.

Another example of changing administrative operations happened where I work (Yosemite)—the Human Resources Office was removed from the administrative division and now reports directly to the park's deputy superintendent. We still have an administrative officer, but the functions traditionally provided by that division have changed, with the HRO no longer a part of the division.

I'm not sure what the two examples mean for the future of administrative operations in parks, but with the funding shortfalls many parks are experiencing, administrative functions are certainly one of the first and hardest hit of park operations. The administrative professionals need to take a hard look at what we do and ensure we communicate and demonstrate our importance so we can continue to be valued members of park staffs. We also need to be involved in the variety of changes occurring in our professions.

If you have other examples to share with Ranger readers about evolving administrative operations, please send them to me at heather_whitman@yahoo.com, and I can write a follow-up article in a future issue.

— Heather Whitman
Yosemite

Interpretation

Knowing your audience: It's easier than you think — According to the interpretive equation, three elements must be combined in order to create an interpretive opportunity: the interpreter's knowledge of the audience, knowledge of the resource and the application of interpretive techniques. Interpreters have ample practice in the application of interpretive techniques and are judicious at researching their topics, spending hours in the library or speaking with resource specialists to construct a cohesively developed program. Knowledge of the audience is, unfortunately, a bit more elusive.

Knowing one's audience is more than just taking a cursory glance at the people on your program and assuming their socioeconomic backgrounds from the types of clothing or hiking boots they are wearing. It is more than just asking folks where they are from or why they have chosen to visit your park as you warm up your group before marching up the trail. While it is true that every visitor is unique, many visitors come to parks and attend programs for similar reasons (just as many visitors choose not to visit parks or attend programs for similar reasons of their own). What are these reasons? Well, there is really only one way to find out—a visitor survey.

The words “visitor survey” seem to strike fear and hopelessness into the hearts of the uninformed. I still recall the first time I wanted to conduct such a survey and was notified by someone organizationally above me that any such survey had to be approved by the Office of Management and Budget. The general vibe I got was “Good luck. But don’t be too crestfallen when your survey is rejected,” as if a divine hand from on high would reach from the clouds and send a lightning bolt to incinerate my meticulously crafted questionnaire. But in actuality, this attitude could not be further from reality.

The NPS social science program exists to provide parks with technical guidance and expertise throughout the visitor survey process. The program serves as the liaison between parks and the OMB. Contrary to the prevailing opinion, OMB is not some ogre whose sole purpose is to kill worthy surveys. In fact, with the expedited approval process, the time between submitting your survey instrument to OMB and the time it is approved is generally one month or less. The expertise provided by the social science program has produced surveys of a consistently high quality and with a consistently high approval rate.

Not sure what kinds of questions you want to ask of your visitors? The social science program can help. There are seven broad categories of questions you may ask of visitors ranging from demographic information and questions relating to their trip to directed questions about management decisions and policies and the perceived value of fee-for-service park experiences. The social science program staff will suggest helpful wording to remove the ambiguity from your questions and will steer you away from questions that raise OMB's hackles.

These surveys can help your interpretive operation in myriad ways. You can discover where your visitors generally spend their evenings (such as in a campground or a gateway community), which will help target your program advertising. You can find out where most of your visitors are coming from and perhaps market your park or park programs more effectively to underserved groups. You can learn about repeat visitation trends and ask visitors why they have chosen to visit your park or your interpretive program. And with a reasonable sample size, these questions can yield meaningful data that can pay immediate dividends to interpreters and park managers with a high level of confidence against sam-
pling bias. The possibilities for information collection are limited only by the attention span of your survey audience and the number of public burden hours you wish to incur.

So, if you feel that your knowledge of your audience is lacking or you need to hear the voice of the masses to inform your interpretive management decisions, perhaps a visitor survey will cure your proclivity for a "shoot from the hip" interpretive management philosophy. For more information, visit the NPS social science program website at www.nps.gov/socialscience and know that the staff of the social science program is there to help you collect the most meaningful data through the best survey instrument and research designs possible.

— Rick Kendall
Death Valley

Protection

Backcountry Patrol: Be Prepared — Rangers are more than cops. We are, among other things, stewards of wild places.

Any time we head into the backcountry, we should carry equipment that will address the following basic needs, and we need to be skilled enough to use it.

1. Shelter. An army poncho, poncho liner and small hammock can provide relative comfort next to a fire in the event of an unscheduled bivy. They are small, lightweight and carry easily in a daypack.

Clothing is shelter, too. Remember: cotton kills. So wear synthetics and layer them. Keep a cap in your pack, too. You lose a lot of heat through your cranial vault.

2. First Aid. Everything changes once you’re injured, and pain affects everything you do in a survival situation. So carry a well-put-together med kit. Include strong pain meds, splinting materials, field dressings to stop arterial bleeding, antiseptic cleansers and epi. Always! And know how to use them. This is probably one of the least mastered traditional ranger skills among rangers as a whole. Carry flagging too. Its uses are manifold.


Carry at least three means to make it. Dry matches, Bic lighters, flint and steel, a high-quality magnifying glass, and 0000 steel wool with a 9-volt battery all work well. Hint: don’t carry the steel wool and the 9-volt in the same bag.

Carry dry tinder with you, too, such as needlesscast, woodshop shavings, shish-ka-bob skewers, dryer lint, cotton balls and candles.

4. Water Procurement. All living things need water. Plan on a minimum of a gallon per day, and double that if you’re laboring heavily.

Filters, iodine tablets, Clorox bleach and boiling are all effective methods for making water safe to drink. Boiling only works if you have a metal pot, so carry one.

5. Signaling (Auditory and Visual). There will be times when you cannot rescue yourself, in which case, you’ll have to signal for help.

For visual signals you can’t beat a mirror whose flash can be seen from more than a mile away. Carry a high-quality one, such as the type issued to Air Force pilots as part of their ejection/survival vests.

Three fires built in a row (three of anything is the universal SOS signal), flare guns and strong flashlights, especially strobes, also send excellent visual signals.

A high-quality whistle is your best bet for an auditory signal. A powerful whistle blast will carry farther than you might think. Some whistle manufacturers even claim their products work under water, and this quality is vital in a survival whistle.

For you gun-toting rangers, if your situation is dire enough, remember you have a cannon on your hip. It makes a pretty effective auditory signal. Remember, three shots in a row.

6. Land Navigation. If you’re able to move, and rescue seems unlikely, then move you should, and it will be nice if you have at least a clue where you are and where you’re headed.

GPS units are great, but they sometimes fail. Always carry topo maps and a high-quality compass with you in the backcountry. Always! And know how to use them. This is probably one of the least mastered traditional ranger skills among rangers as a whole.

8. Light Source. If I had a buck for every family I had to "rescue" from the backcountry because they forgot a light source, I’d be a millionaire. Astonishingly, these same folks always had a cell phone and a camera, whose flash they tried employing as their light source.

Headlamps, Surefire, LEDs, mini-mags—whatever works. Just carry one. No, carry three light sources and backup batteries. Just don’t use your camera flash.

9. Parachute Cord. This stuff is indestructible, can hold 550 pounds, and like a knife, its uses are virtually boundless in the backcountry.

Beware the wanna-be stuff—it’s not nearly as useful as the authentic parachute cord. You can “gut” true p-cord and use the inner strands for sewing, equipment repairs and fishing.

10. Food and Food Procurement. Carry slow-release carbs if possible, like granola bars and energy bars, and for overnight patrols, pasta and rice can’t be beat.

If the food you carry runs out, you’ll have to procure more from your surroundings. Remember that cannon and knife? Another obvious use for both.

Snare wire is great, but it only works if you know how to build a good trap, so learn. Carry a few fishing lures and hooks, too. Plus, you can fashion a gill net with the p-cord.

Experiment with vegetation. More of it is edible than you think, but remember, too, that much of it is not. Crush it between your fingers, smell it, taste it and ingest small samples at first. Wait 24 hours. If no adverse signs present, ingest a little more. Remember, some vegetation has to be cooked before it is digestible.
Much of this is common sense. But sadly, it's been my observation that common sense regarding woodsmanship skills is often not common among rangers. If you already know most of this, terrific; you're probably an outstanding ranger in the backcountry. Pass on what you know to your fellow rangers.

If much of this is new to you, that's OK, too, but begin carrying what you need on your very next backcountry patrol. Buy a book on wilderness survival or better yet, take a class. You'll learn a tremendous amount of cool stuff, and you'll become a better ranger in the process.

As rangers we head off into the backcountry on a regular basis. Carrying the right loot will usually keep us out of a tight spot, but when the unavoidable finally happens and we find ourselves in a fix, that same loot will exponentially increase our odds of making it out alive.

So whenever you do leave the security of your patrol vehicle and beat feet into the outback—and I hope that's a frequent thing—be sure to shoulder your pack and, like the Boy Scouts, “Be prepared.”

Kevin Moses
Big South Fork

Resource Management

Have you heard of the initiative to analyze "Core Operations"? Parks in the Intermountain Region have begun the process, and as I understand it, more in that region and others will begin in the new year. Core operations analysis involves looking at primary work activities done by staff in parks (or central offices), how much time/FTE is devoted to them, and the type and amount of funding. Units complete a "budget cost projection" model for out-years that includes defined assumptions about how fixed costs, such as permanent employees' salaries and utility bills, will rise with inflation, step increases and other factors. Activities are analyzed as to whether or not they are core to the park's mission, in critical support of the mission, or less associated with mission goals and objectives as defined by and for that unit by legislation, a general management plan, and/or this analysis process. Units are then armed with information to help them make decisions on what to emphasize or de-emphasize if expected costs exceed available funds.

The jaded might look with suspicion on this latest way to address tightening budgets. I, however, remain optimistic that it's a long-overdue way to engage NPS staff in reconsid-
the CSRS program to the government. And that's why FERS employees can (now) put in 15 percent with a government match of 5 percent while the CSRS employees can (now) only put in 10 percent with no government match.

I have been retired from the NPS now for over 25 years. When I retired there were no IRA or 401(k) (TSP) plans. We knew we had to go back to work, which we did. A 6(c) retirement sure helped also. And we knew we would have to invest our savings aggressively in order to make ends meet in our old age.

Our words of advice to employees (particularly the FERS employees) are that the TSP is their retirement plan. They must invest in the TSP aggressively while working and then carefully transfer their TSP funds into IRAs where they must reinvest all of it into equity investments with both growth and income goals. They must keep the TSP in that venue and keep it whole and working for them in order to survive the 20, 30 and hopefully more years in retirement. Just the pension (particularly FERS) isn't going to make it. You worked hard for your money, now make it work hard for you! 

— Frank Betts

IRF Update

Hosting International Rangers — One of the important aspects of ANPR membership in the International Ranger Federation is serving as a support for members of other country ranger associations to travel to our national parks, and share experiences and knowledge with U.S. park staff. IRF Vice President Juan Carlos Gambarotta from the Asociacion de Guardaparques del Uruguay was a representative from IRF at the Eighth World Wilderness Congress in October in Anchorage, Alaska. NPS park rangers (and ANPR members) Deb and Jay Liggett hosted him at their house in Anchorage. Afterwards, Gambarotta spent time in Denali, hosted by Superintendent Mike Tolleson, and other park staff. She also spent a week visiting parks in Hawaii hosted by Arizona Memorial Superintendent Doug Lentz.

Earlier in 2005, Gordon Miller, past IRF president and executive director, while visiting in California, made a PowerPoint presentation to NPS staff in the Pacific West Regional Office about his recent IRF visit to parks in the Democratic Republic of Congo and Uganda.

Such sharing of ranger expertise and knowledge across countries strengthens our mutual understanding of the world protection and management of protected areas. If you have similar experiences in sharing international ranger resources, please feel free to share them with me for future inclusion in Ranger.

IRF Actions

IRF President David Zeller attended the first Great Apes Survival Project (GRASP) Inter-Governmental Meeting in September in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo. Following this meeting, he spent 10 days visiting officials and park rangers in several DRC and Ugandan parks.

Zeller also attended the first Latin American Park Ranger Congress in October in Santiago, Chile. Among other things, the Association of the Indigenous Peoples Tiriyo, Kaxuyana and Txikiyana (APITIKATXI) of Brazil was accepted as the newest member of the IRF. A declaration was also agreed to by the rangers from the 11 attending countries. You can read more detailed reports of these meetings, as well as other reports from member associations and rangers from other countries, at the IRF website: www.int-ranger.net. Click on IRF News at the bottom of the home page.

Scotland 2006

The Fifth IRF World Congress takes place June 14-21 in Sterling, Scotland. Any ANPR or CSPRA member is eligible to attend. Please see the Congress website at www.int-ranger.net/congress.html to register. ANPR is offering free registration through the Muir Fund for at least two ANPR members to attend this important meeting. Please contact me at tissto47@aol.com, or review past IRF Updates in previous issues of Ranger for more information. 

— Tony Sisto
Alpine Climbing: Techniques To Take You Higher

Reviewed by Jim Deterline
Rocky Mountain

Alpine Climbing is yet another installment in the excellent Mountaineers Outdoor Expert Series of instructional mountaineering skill books published in recent years by the publishing arm of The Mountaineers Club, one of America's largest and oldest climbing clubs. The Mountaineers Outdoor Expert Series has produced volumes of self-help for budding technical climbers, but this is the first volume of any series that I have seen devoted specifically to alpine climbing.

Alpine climbing is a sport, or perhaps most accurately an obsession, which takes all of the different disciplines of climbing (such as rock climbing, glaciers, ice climbing, high altitude) and combines them into one complex game fraught with both objective and subjective hazards. Imagine going to your local climbing gym, climbing partly up the wall with a large pack, occasionally dealing with holds breaking off and falling rock, a fan with a refrigeration unit blowing hard at you, and with some of the metal bolts on the artificial holds connected directly to the AC current to simulate the frequent lightning charges, only to have the lights turned out before you reach the top. Now that would give you a good idea of a typical alpine climb!

Alpine Climbing is organized into just seven chapters, with numerous subtopics between those chapters. The beauty of this book is in this organization — the first two chapters are devoted totally to safety and risk assessment. This hopefully will make a big impression on theclothesline and sneakers do-it-yourself instant mountaineer audience, as the real challenge of alpine climbs is not their relative physical difficulty, but rather assessing and safely mitigating the numerous risks inherent to the alpine environment. Houston and Cosley offer practical advice rarely seen on the printed page but more often learned the hard way by the seasoned alpine survivor, such as "work on routefinding," "balance multiple risks," "recognize and correct errors," "remember that 'speed is safety'," "estimate the time needed," and "consider boldness, recklessness and the role of luck." The first four chapters also discuss assessing the numerous types of alpine hazards, assessing weather, climbing in a low environmental impact state-of-mind, preparing in both physical and mental aspects, choosing equipment and routefinding (a topic that has caused much misfortune for budding alpinists).

Alpine Climbing describes the basic mechanics of alpine climbing in chapters five, six and seven with descriptions of techniques commonly employed for ascents on rock, snow, ice and glaciers. Use of specialized equipment, movement in the different types of alpine terrain, descent techniques, and construction of safe anchors and belays are among the many topics discussed here. Most of these techniques are the same as those explained in other books on those individual specialties or in general mountaineering books. However, the techniques are explained and illustrated quite well in Alpine Climbing. There are also other techniques peculiar to alpine climbs, such as the proper use of rock horns for moving and static anchor points, that are not covered in other books. For this reason Alpine Climbing becomes an invaluable reference for both the expert and the novice.

For those who skimmed through all seven chapters without absorbing any information, there is an appendix in the back on rescue. Having served on approximately 900 rescues, mostly in the alpine environment, during my Park Service career, I really appreciated the authors' approach to rescue. They emphasize staying calm and "keeping the big picture in mind," while considering strongly the possibility to have the party rescue itself. They also emphasize communications, probably the most important aspect of rescue, which seemingly has deteriorated in recent years with the advent of the cell phone crowd (oh, I'll just call this mess in to someone else and leave!). The authors give brief but sage advice on rescue matters, letting the nuts and bolts of advanced rescue logistics and techniques up to those who will hopefully pursue this education properly by joining their local search-and-rescue team.

The authors also attempt to curtail a problem that I have worried about for years. I call it the "Julie Andrews Phenomena," wherein the joyous party-to-be-rescued comes dancing a la "The Sound of Music" across the alpine tundra into the rapidly whirling, unseen rear rotor of the helicopter. More than one rescue ship has quickly lifted off to avoid this! Perhaps the reading of Houston and Cosley's rescue appendix section on helicopters will lessen this.

Other appendices include sections on mountain guides (clothesliners take a hint!), how to rate climbs, a glossary on the unique vocabulary of alpinists, and a bibliography on where to find additional useful information.

Alpine Climbing is a useful book for inexperienced and experienced alpinists, alpinist wannabees, armchair mountaineers who wish to understand their most serious Krakauer works or laugh harder at movies such as "Cliffhanger," and rangers involved with the alpine environment as a resource.

Numerous national and local park units in North America include alpine terrain and
alpine climbers. It is incumbent upon each ranger stationed in such an area to be as prepared as possible. After all, the risks of the alpine environment are just as brutal to the ranger as they are to the visitor, as we experienced last summer in the alpine terrain of Rocky Mountain National Park with the loss of Jeff Christensen, a skilled alpine ranger.

As I watch the cotton-clad multitudes equipped with their bookbags, miniature toy carabiners and plastic ponchos take off up the Longs Peak Trail to grasp blindly at their dreams and instead realize their worst nightmares, I just wish that they had bought a copy of *Alpine Climbing* from our ranger station. It just might be the most important work for the alpinist since Darwin’s theory of natural selection.

Rocky Mountain National Park. He is an avid climber of 31 years experience, with numerous ascents on the technical climbs of four continents. He has only been struck by lightning three times.

LAKE MAGIC: An elite resort at Coeur d'Alene is the next Rendezvous site. Mark your calendar now.

**Ranger Rendezvous sets sights on Idaho for 2006 gathering**

A NPR members will travel to Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, for the next Rendezvous. The dates are Nov. 11–15 at the acclaimed Coeur d'Alene Resort.

Coeur d'Alene (pronounced core-da-lane) is a lakefront resort community in northern Idaho, the region is defined by blue skies, sparkling water and pine-forested mountains.

Once again the Rendezvous will feature a variety of workshops and field trips along with our traditional activities of raffles, receptions, hospitality room and networking with fellow rangers and NPS employees. Watch the ANPR website (www.anpr.org) for details as they evolve during the year.

The annual Rendezvous is a key fundraising activity for ANPR. Not only has it become a great way to visit old friends and swap stories, it is an opportunity for new employees to network with experienced NPS employees, discuss job opportunities, and develop lasting friendships while attending workshops and listening to professional presentations.

ANPR depends on income from attendance at Rendezvous to help supplement its annual budget. Please plan to attend the gathering and show your continued support.

The ANPR room rate at the Coeur d'Alene Resort is $75 per night. The resort, a four-star property with unbelievable views of the lake and surrounding area, is located in downtown Coeur d'Alene right on the lake. Many restaurants and shops are within walking distance.

This may be the best venue ANPR has ever booked, so make your plans now to join the gathering.

The rooms overlook the lake and marina, and some rooms have individual gas fireplaces. A large gas log fireplace highlights the lobby area of the resort.

The resort also has a world-famous golf course with a floating green, marina, indoor pool, hot tub, spa, bowling alley, simulated golf driving range, racquetball court and trailheads for hiking. Go to www.cdaresort.com for more details.

The resort conducts lake cruises on two large boats, and ANPR may schedule an evening cruise and reception. Stay tuned for specific details as they become available.

Air service is available on most major airlines into Spokane, Washington, 31 miles from Coeur d'Alene.
All in the Family

Please send news about you and your family. All submissions must be typed or printed and should include the author's return address and phone number.

Send via e-mail to fordentid@aol.com or write to Teresa Ford, Editor, 26 S. Mt. Vernon Club Road, Golden, CO 80401. Changes of address should be sent separately to the ANPR Business Manager, P.O. Box 108, Larned, KS 67550-0108.

Richard “Dick” Martin has retired after 43 years with the National Park Service in 10 areas. His last position was superintendent at Sequoia and Kings Canyon. Address: P.O. Box 58, Mineral, CA 96063.

Bruce McKeeman retired Jan. 3 after more than 36 years with the National Park Service. A native of Worcester, Mass., he graduated from Marietta College in Ohio and the University of Michigan with degrees in botany and forestry. He started his NPS career the summer he graduated from high school, and worked the next three summers in Yellowstone on a resource management crew. After a summer at workshop camp, he returned to the NPS as a campground ranger at Great Smoky Mountains. He attended training academies at Grand Canyon and Washington, D.C., and it was at the Grand Canyon where he met his future wife, Georjean Bender. She was working for the NPS at Hopewell Furnace in Pennsylvania.

Shortly after accepting a park ranger position at Tonto, Bruce and Georjean were married. Two years later they moved to Yosemite and lived in a woodstove-heated ranger cabin in the north district. A year later they moved to Yosemite Valley where Bruce served as a protection ranger and supervisor working in law enforcement, search and rescue, emergency medicine, and wildland and structural fire programs. Their two children, Jennifer and Neil, were born during their eight years in Yosemite. Their next stop for was Hawaii Volcanoes where Bruce was the frontcountry district ranger.

Later Bruce worked as site manager at Johnstown Flood, site manager at George Washington Memorial Parkway, and chief ranger at Voyageurs, where he fondly recalls his time in International Falls, Minnesota, as “eight years and 16 winters.”

He then worked as deputy superintendent at Roosevelt-Vanderbilt, and for the past three years as superintendent at Herbert Hoover.

Bruce is a life member of the Employees and Alumni Association, and Bruce and Georjean are life members of ANPR. They attended the International Ranger Federation Congress in Australia in 2003, and they plan to continue their work with these organizations during retirement.

Bruce and Georjean moved to warmer climes in mid-January. They intend to pursue hobbies, travel, visit national parks and enjoy the culture of the Southwest. Address: 3075 Cabezon Lane, Prescott, AZ 86301; herbieshome@hotmail.com

Cicely Muldoon (SITK 85-91, BUFF 91-93, GOGA 93-95, WASO 95-96, PARN 96-99, SADD 99-02, PINN 02-05) is deputy regional director for the Pacific West Region. Previously she was superintendent at Pinnacles National Monument.

John Reynolds and his wife, Bobbie, have relocated to Washington, D.C., where John is the new executive vice president for park grants and strategic alliances at the National Park Foundation. They are happy to be close again to family members Mike, Amy and toddler Grace. Address/phone: 6501 Walters Woods Drive, Falls Church, VA 22044; John’s cell, 510-219-8274; Bobbie’s cell, 510-331-7387; jreyolds@nationalparks.org.

To celebrate their 10 years together, park ranger Lori Rome (GRCA, DENA, YOSE, CORO, ORIC, DSC, EVER, MORA) and trail crew leader Kevin Dowell (GRCA, DENA, SAGU, EVER, MORA) married Nov. 23, 2005, at sunrise on the edge of the Grand Canyon with their canyon dogs Salt and Soap.

Bill Sanders, superintendent at Hopewell Furnace and a former ANPR board member, retired Jan. 3 after 33 years of service. His career extended from seasonal park technician at Morrystown to park ranger at Independence, subdistrict and district ranger at Delaware Water Gap, and chief ranger at the Appalachian Trail. He also served an extended detail as acting associate regional director for park operations in the Northeast Region during 2004 and 2005. Perhaps his most significant career contribution was his service as Ranger Careers manager in the Washington Office, Division of Ranger Activities, from 1992-1998. Guiding an inter-disciplinary team of experts from NPS, DOI, OPM and private personnel contractors, Sanders produced “Ranger Careers Volume I,” essentially reinventing position management for both protection and interpretation park rangers. A new career pathway from entry level (GS-5) through full performance level (GS-9) of the park ranger occupation was instituted. It professionalized, restructured and redefined park ranger work using Servicewide benchmark position descriptions. The benchmarks replaced hundreds of custom position descriptions and also standardized basic ranger grades and duties across the Service. Seasonal park ranger work was also redefined and standardized while most non-professional work was removed from the core duties of park rangers.

Largely through Sanders’ efforts, for the first time NPS resource protection rangers received enhanced annuity retirement coverage and status as federal law enforcement officers. Leading the conversion of an entire bureau’s existing law enforcement workforce to the enhanced annuity retirement system was another monumental task largely without precedent in the NPS.

Beyond Ranger Careers, Sanders simultaneously served as the NPS representative on other human resources initiatives within the Department of the Interior including the Performance Appraisal Team and the Awards Committee where he was instrumental in instituting major changes to the way Interior employees were evaluated and rewarded for their dedicated service. The Departmental Medical Standard for Law Enforcement was developed and implemented under his leadership. He was presented the Meritorious Service Award by the Department of the Interior for his outstanding service as Ranger Careers manager. While the official recognition was appreciated, he says his greatest honor came when fellow rangers would offer to buy him a beer for his efforts on behalf of national park rangers.

Bill and his wife, Nancy, plan to continue living in their current home in Birdsboro, Pennsylvania, while daughter Kayla completes high school.

Bob Seibert retired April 28 after 33 years of service. His last position was West District ranger at Yellowstone. He worked seasonally.
Walt Dabney receives Career Yount Award

Walt Dabney received a surprise career Harry Yount Lifetime Achievement Award at the 2005 meeting of the National Association of State Park Directors. National Park Service Director Fran Mainella presented the award to Dabney, currently the director of Texas State Parks. He is a former NPS career ranger, superintendent and national chief ranger, and a life member of ANPR.

The Yount Award is given to rangers whose performance “exceeds normal expectations and reflects initiative, imagination, perseverance, competence, creativity, resourcefulness, dedication and integrity.”

The citation for the award includes these words:

“If you visited the National Park Service’s Washington Office in 1990 and turned into the 3300 corridor—two down from the director’s wing on the third floor—you would have seen something at once unusual and perfectly at home within the Department of the Interior: a large brown and white park sign, done up by the sign shop at Yosemite and emblazoned with the NPS arrowhead, which said in large letters ‘What Have We Done For Parks Today?’

“That sign, which indicated that you’d entered ranger country within the National Park Service’s domain in the Main Interior Building, was the inspiration of Walt Dabney, then chief ranger for the entire agency. It was the motto both then and now for ranger operations in Washington and the embodiment of Walt Dabney’s philosophy—that it is the primary business of every person in the agency to vigorously support the parks, their people and the National Park Service’s mission every day and in every way possible.”

Dabney, the eldest son of a large family in Texas, attended the Cadet Corps at Texas A&M. He started his park career as a seasonal naturalist at Yellowstone in 1969. His career was a textbook example of what has been called the “renaissance ranger”—the ranger who is equally at home teaching natural history, hanging from a cliff in a

Bill Supernaugh joins the retired ranks

With his trademark handlebar mustache, Bill Supernaugh has always been a distinctive presence in the National Park Service. Now, with the mustache turned silver along with his ponytail, he has traded in his uniform for motorcycle leathers and roared off on his Harley into the sunset.

Although Supernaugh’s paperwork shows he began his Park Service career in 1967 as an intake trainee at the Grand Canyon, he actually was born into the service. His father was superintendent at Platte National Park (now Chickasaw), Joshua Tree and Organ Pipe, so Bill grew up in national parks.

He met and married his wife, Linda, in 1964 while working toward his bachelor’s degree in wildlife management at Humboldt State in California. After graduation and three months of intake training, he became a ranger at the Natchez Trace Parkway and, in 1970, he ventured to the Blue Ridge Parkway as Swannanoa subdistrict ranger.

In 1974 he moved to Glen Canyon as the park’s first natural resource specialist and then became chief of resource management. In 1980 he went to Washington, D.C., to, the Division of Natural Resources as natural resource specialist. After two years he became the wildlife biologist for the division. During this time he assisted in development of the Natural Resource Management Training Program and advancing natural resource management in the NPS.

In 1983 he went to the Mid-Atlantic Regional Office in Philadelphia to be the region’s chief of resource protection and visitor use management. In 1988 he became the superintendent of the NPS Law Enforcement Training Center at FLETC in Glyco, Georgia. He left central offices behind in 1992 and returned to the parks as the assistant superintendent at Indiana Dunes, then earned a master’s degree in park and resource administration in 1993 from Slippery Rock. He moved to Badlands as superintendent in 1997.

Bill has represented the NPS at the international level by traveling to the Republic of Georgia, Hungary, Sierra Leone and Poland to share expertise and establish sister park relationships. Representing ANPR, Bill has attended International Ranger Federation meetings in Australia and South Africa.

Through the course of his career he and Linda raised two daughters. Shortly after arriving at Badlands, Bill lost Linda to cancer. His youngest daughter Victoria Human, lives in a suburb of Atlanta and works as a customer service supervisor at Wal-Mart. His oldest daughter, Michelle Torok, continues the family association with the NPS as assistant fee manager at Olympic. Last March she gave Bill his first grandchild, James Michael.

Bill plans to stay involved with the NPS as an instructor for the Fundamentals courses and the International Technical Assistance Program.
Memorial services held for Jim Schlinkmann

Jim Schlinkmann was honored at a memorial service Dec. 2, 2005, at Queen of Angels Catholic Church in Port Angeles, Washington. A large contingent of NPS employees attended, and about 70 uniformed rangers stood at attention outside the church as Jim’s family entered.

Schlinkmann, chief ranger at Great Basin and a life member of ANPR, died in a single-vehicle accident Nov. 23 when returning from a Hurricane Wilma incident management team assignment.

Condolences may be sent to Jim’s son, Bryan Schlinkmann, and his son’s mother, Colette Schlinkmann, as well as Jim’s parents, Paul and Shirley Schlinkmann and his sister and brother-in-law, Judy and Scott Beard, care of Olympic National Park, 600 E. Park Ave., Port Angeles, WA 98362.

Memorial donations in Jim’s name may be sent to the Employee and Alumni Association of the NPS, Hurricane Relief Fund, 470 Maryland Drive, Suite One, Fort Washington, PA 19034.

A second memorial service honoring Schlinkmann, was held Dec. 16 at the Great Basin Visitor Center in Baker, Nevada.

Schlinkmann, 49, began his 23-year commissioned ranger career with the NPS as a seasonal park technician at Devils Tower. For the next five years he worked seasonally at Devils Tower, Joshua Tree and Denali. In 1987 he received a permanent appointment at Joshua Tree. He transferred to Rocky Mountain in 1989 and worked as a ranger for three years. In 1992 he returned to Devils Tower as the chief ranger and then transferred in 2000 to Great Basin.

Schlinkmann was an avid rock climber, and throughout his career he made enormous contributions to the NPS technical rescue program. He helped develop and for the first organized technical rescue courses at Joshua Tree and for seven years was a lead instructor for the Servicewide technical rescue course, taught annually at Canyonlands.

For the past two years he was the plans section chief for the Pacific West Incident Management Team. He was known throughout the NPS as a plans “wizard.” In addition to his contribution to hundreds of searches and technical rescues throughout his career, he recently made a significant impact on the Pacific West Region IMT.

Schlinkmann was the Mojave Network representative on the Pacific West Region Ranger Advisory Committee and was a lively contributor to that group. His breadth of experience gave him valuable perspective on issues facing modern rangers. As stated by Regional Director Jon Jarvis, “Jim never forgot his roots as a field ranger.”

A life member of ANPR, Jim will be remembered and missed for his intense dedication to the NPS, his incredible work ethic and his contagious sense of humor.
Bill Orr leaves legacy

Joseph “Bill” Lowry Orr, pioneer of the concept of a Seasonal Ranger Law Enforcement Academy, died Oct. 8, 2005.

His National Park Service career culminated in the position of chief ranger for the Western Region. His responsibility covered more than 33 NPS areas. During this service he promoted the concept of a Seasonal Ranger Law Enforcement Academy against great political resistance.

He began the groundwork for the Seasonal Law Enforcement Program in 1977 and presented the first class in 1978 through Santa Rosa Junior College as a contract employee until becoming the program director in 1988. His successful program was emulated throughout the United States and accepted by FLETC as the training model for the Seasonal Law Enforcement program that exists today.

Orr served as the Ranger Academy director at Santa Rosa Junior College Public Safety Training Center from 1988 to 2003. Even after his “retirement” he continued to teach within the Ranger Academy until his diagnosis of cancer in 2005. Through his courageous battle with cancer, even up to the week before his death, he continued to write articles for a variety of park-related publications, including Ranger magazine (see sidebar at right).

Bill lapsed into a deep sleep in early October and peacefully passed away Oct. 8 with his family at his side.

His dedication and commitment to the education of aspiring rangers was contagious. As a product of the Ranger Academy and a former ranger myself, despite a change in careers, I have been a faculty member within the Ranger Academy since 1988. I was inspired by Bill to provide the best educational opportunity possible for the students. In the honor and respect for Bill, I helped make his dream of a training scenario campground and visitor center a reality.

He had an opportunity to see the developing stages of the campground and visitor center before his health limited his travel. He called me one day shortly after that visit and expressed his joy to see the progress. He was pleased that the Ranger Academy students would finally have an area that depicted a realistic environment for their training scenarios. Three weeks prior to his passing, he had an opportunity to see photos of the progress we made. He again expressed his elation and even provided a deer head mount (lovingly named “Oscar”) for the visitor center. This was apparently the first and last deer he shot and had been hanging around with him for decades.

Bill Orr will be greatly missed, but his spirit will be with us for years to come.

— Detective Sgt. Scott Dunn
Sonoma County Sheriff’s Department
Crime Scene Investigations Unit
Santa Rosa, California
sdunn@santarosa.edu • (707) 565-3787

Facility upgrades

New visitor center and campground to help train seasonal rangers

By Bill Orr

Editor’s note: Bill Orr submitted this article for publication just one week before his death.

The Santa Rosa Junior College Public Safety Training Center is putting the final touches on a visitor center and campground in connection with the Scenario Village located on the Windsor campus. The facility is situated about 60 miles north of the Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco.

The 20-acre training center opened in 2002 to provide law enforcement, fire technology and emergency medical training. The facility combines state-of-the-art classrooms, a 50-place firing range, a physical training gymnasium, a driver’s training track, and a Scenario Village for simulating realistic situations.

Detective Sgt. Scott Dunn of the Sonoma County Sheriff’s Office, has taken the lead on the organization, development and furnishing of the life-like visitor center and campground. He has received donations of building materials, showcases, exhibits, signs, interpretive materials, picnic tables and campstoves from nearby state parks, regional parks, Corps of Engineers and the National Park Service. Trainees from these agencies will use the facility upon completion.

The SRJC Ranger Academy began training rangers in March 1978. The first three classes were completed before the heavy travel season and graduated 55 students representing 15 national parks, three national monumets, four national recreation areas and four county parks.

The number of training hours has increased six times over the years to keep pace with new and improved training methodology and equipment. The instructional cadre also has been modified to increase expertise and innovation. Approximately one-third of the instructors have been park rangers.

Through 2005 there have been 109 programs and more than 2,700 graduates. Although the curriculum has been modified many times in its 27-year history, the objective has remained the same: to provide a high-quality, affordable, basic law enforcement training program to prepare park rangers to be successful in obtaining a law enforcement commission and in doing a commendable job in the field.

Ranger Academy plans memorial for Bill Orr

Santa Rosa Ranger Academy will erect a flag pole and plaque in memory of Bill Orr, a career NPS ranger and the academy’s director from 1988 to 2003. The memorial will be placed in the front of the visitor’s center at the Ranger Academy Training Facility.

If you want to contribute, please send donations to Santa Rosa Junior College Public Safety Training Center, in care of Scott Dunn, 5743 Skyline Blvd., Windsor, CA 95403. Memorial contributions also may be made to Hospice of Petaluma, 416 Payran St., Petaluma, CA 94952.

Bill Orr, a longtime ANPR member, is survived by his wife, Vergene Orr of Petaluma, California; a sister, Betty Leeth of Dallas, Texas; his children, Jim Orr, Brad Orr, Joy Soares, Debbie Henriouelle and Lori Glass; stepchildren, Christine Rooker, Nathan Bishop and Eric Bishop; and 15 grandchildren.
### ANPR promotional products

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>ITEM</th>
<th>PRICE</th>
<th>QUANTITY</th>
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<tr>
<td>Men’s M - L - XL - XXL</td>
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<td>Women’s S - M - L - XL</td>
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<td>Colors: gray heather, white, honey gold (circle size and color)</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Colors: gray heather, sky blue, white (circle size and color)</td>
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<td>Large belt buckle, pewter, 3-inch</td>
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<td>Small belt buckle, pewter, 2-inch</td>
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<td>Ballcap, khaki</td>
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<td>T-shirts from 2003 Rendezvous in Plymouth, Mass.</td>
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<td>Long sleeves, sizes: M - L - XL - XL</td>
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<td>T-shirts from 2004 Rendezvous in Rapid City, S.D.</td>
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<td>Red with black letters, sizes: M - L - XL - XL</td>
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<td>T-shirts from 2005 Rendezvous in Charleston, S.C., short sleeves</td>
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<td>Light blue with logo on front, scene on back, sizes: M - L - XL - XL</td>
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<td>Autographed books:</td>
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<td>Barry Lopez’s <em>Resistance</em></td>
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<td>Butch Farabee’s <em>National Park Ranger: An American Icon</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Wayne Landrum’s <em>Fort Jefferson and Dry Tortugas National Park</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Nancy Muleady-Mecham’s <em>True Stories from a Ranger’s Career in America’s National Parks</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Jordan Fisher-Smith’s <em>Nature Noir</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>ANPR coffee mug (ceramic)</td>
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<td>Writing pen</td>
<td>$4.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>ANPR cloisonne pin or 25th anniversary pin, silver with relief, 3/4-in. round (circle choice)</td>
<td>$2.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mousepad, tan with ANPR logo</td>
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<tr>
<td>ANPR decal</td>
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<tr>
<td>Can koozie</td>
<td>$1.50</td>
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### Shipping & Handling (orders sent insured mail)

- Orders up to $25: $0.00
- $25.01 to $50: $7.50
- $50.01 to $75: $9.00
- $75.01 to $100: $11.50
- Over $100: $e-mail for cost

Orders outside U.S.: $e-mail for cost

### Payment by Visa or MasterCard accepted:

Credit Card # ___________  
Expiration date ___________  
Name on account ___________  
Cardholder signature ___________

Questions? Contact the ANPR business office at ANPRbusiness@anpr.org.

Send order form and check — payable to ANPR — to ANPR Business Office, P.O. Box 108, Larned, KS 67550-0108.

Name ___________  
Address ___________  
Phone ___________  
E-mail ___________
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION — Association of National Park Rangers

☐ New Member  or  ☐ Renewal / Returning Member

Name of ANPR member we may thank for encouraging you to join ________________________________

Name(s) ___________________________________________  4-letter code of park / office where you work ______ ______ ______ ______

Address ___________________________________________  (Retired=RETI, Student/Educator=EDUC, Park Supporter=PART)

City __________________________________ State ______ Zip+4 ______

Home phone ____________________________  Personal e-mail address ____________________________

ANPR will use e-mail as an occasional – but critical – communication tool. We will not share your information with any other organization. It is our policy not to conduct ANPR business via NPS e-mail or phone.

Type of Membership (check one)

Gift Membership

Name of person gifting gift ____________________________

Individual

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Membership</th>
<th>One year</th>
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<tr>
<td>Active (current &amp; former NPS employees and volunteers)</td>
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<td>$45</td>
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<tr>
<td>Seasonal/Intern/Volunteer</td>
<td>$25</td>
<td>$45</td>
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<tr>
<td>Under $30,000 annual salary (GS-4/5 or equivalent)</td>
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<td>$65</td>
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<tr>
<td>$30,000+ - $44,999 (GS-7/9 or equivalent)</td>
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<td>$85</td>
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<tr>
<td>$45,000+ - $64,999 (GS-11/12 or equivalent)</td>
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<td>$65,000+ (GS-13 and above)</td>
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Joint

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<td>Active (all NPS employees/retirees)</td>
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<td>$25</td>
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<td>$60</td>
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Associate Members (other than NPS employees)

Student

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Regular

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<td>$750</td>
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$750 | $1,000 |

Life Members (May be made in three equal payments over three years; indicate if paying in one installment ☐ or three ☐ )

Active (all NPS employees/retirees)

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Associate (other than NPS employees)

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Libra ry Subscription Rate / Non-Profit Organization Membership (two copies of each issue of Ranger sent quarterly)

<table>
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<td>$100 for 1 year</td>
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Special Supporters

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$10</td>
<td>$25</td>
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| Sponsor ($500-$4,999) | $50 | $100 |

| Old Faithful Club ($10,000 & up) | $75 | $145 |

| Ranger Club ($5,000 & up) | $100 |

It costs ANPR $45 a year to service a membership. If you are able to add an additional donation, please consider doing so. Thank you!  ☐ $10  ☐ $25  ☐ $50  ☐ $100  ☐ Other

Payment by Visa or MasterCard accepted:

Visa ______  MasterCard ______

Expiration date ____________________________

Name on Account ____________________________

Signature ____________________________

☐ I want to volunteer for ANPR and can help in this way:

____ Fund Raising
____ Membership
____ Rendezvous Activities
____ Mentoring
____ Other (list: ____________________________)

* ANPR may publish a membership directory, for distribution to members. May we publish:

☐ yes  ☐ no

☐ To assist the ANPR board in planning Association actions, please provide the following information.

____ Do you live in park housing?
____ Number of years as a NPS employee
____ GS/WG level (This will not be listed in a membership directory)
____ Your job/discipline area (interpret, concession specialist, resource manager)

Share your news with others!

Ranger will publish your job or family news in the All in the Family section.

Name ____________________________

Past Parks — Use four-letter acronym/years at each park, field area, cluster (YELL 88-90, GRCA 91-94)

New Position (title and area) ____________________________

Old Position (title and area) ____________________________

Address/phone number (optional — provide if you want it listed in Ranger) ____________________________

Other information ____________________________

Send news to:

Teresa Ford, Editor
fordedit@aol.com or
26 S. Mt. Vernon Club Road
Golden, CO 80401

or visit ANPR’s website: www.anpr.org and go to Member Services page.
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