

# NEWS & VIEWS



An award-winning publication of the California Department of Parks and Recreation

Spring 2007

## State Park and Recreation Commission

### **Powerlink Tour Attracts a Crowd**

#### **BORREGO SPRINGS —**

Members of the State Park and Recreation Commission spent more than four hours bouncing across the desert following the path of the proposed Powerlink electric lines through Anza-Borrego Desert State Park. On this same day, January 8, 2007, the Commission spent another three and one-half hours listening to nearly 100 speakers from a packed room of about 500 people tell them what they thought of that proposal.

► **POWERLINK:** Page 3



**Members of the State Park and Recreation Commission and others stand before a circle of stones thought to be placed by Native Americans thousands of years ago. This archeological wonder sits near a power pole where a 135 foot steel tower is proposed.**

### **Rangers Vital to Visitor Safety**

**By Lindsay Oxford,  
Communications Office**

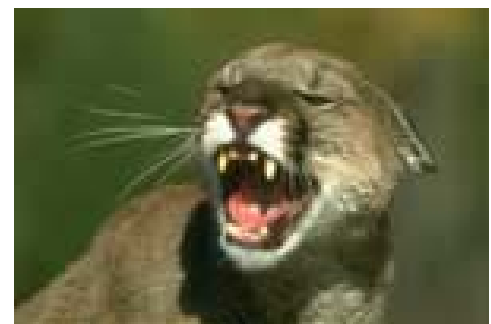
The January 24 mountain lion attack on Prairie Creek Redwoods hiker Jim Hamm has highlighted the importance of rangers in educating park visitors. After fighting off the mountain lion that attacked her husband, Nell Hamm credited park rangers with providing her and her husband the information they needed to survive.

The Hamms, experienced hikers who walked park trails several times a week, had learned

from rangers and material at park visitor centers that fighting back provided their best chance for surviving a mountain lion attack.

“(Mrs. Hamm) would go into the visitor’s center and talk to the ranger staff and find out what they should be aware of on some of the trails and what to do if they ever encountered a mountain lion,” said Prairie Creek Supervising Ranger Maury Morningstar. “She had been told you don’t run. You yell, you scream at it, you stand up and be as tall as you can be. And, you fight back if it attacks you.”

So, when her husband was pinned to the ground with part of



his head in the lion’s mouth, she beat the lion with a branch until it let go. It was a hard fight, as the mountain lion ignored her first attempts, which led her to pull a pen out of her husband’s pocket and stab the animal in the eye.

► **MOUNTAIN LION:** Page 19



**Director  
Ruth  
Coleman  
It's Budget  
Season  
Again**

During the spring, we defend our budget before Legislative subcommittees. Thus far, we have been well treated by the members who understand the importance of parks in their district. Whether that means we'll be able to hang onto our baseline budget as currently proposed remains to be seen, but thus far things look positive. In the meantime, our current year budget will allow for a one-time increase of \$100,000 for each district due to salary savings from some new positions approved in July, but not yet filled. This should help with seasonal staffing levels and other challenges currently faced in the field. While I would like to say that times will be

better in the future, one never knows. So for now we are managing our funds carefully to ensure that we expend all that we have, but make sure we end the year in the black.

Next week the California State Parks Foundation will stage the annual Advocacy Day. Many of our cooperating organizations as well as volunteer groups and the CA State Park Rangers Association come out and talk to their legislators and remind them how much the public values our parks. It is always really heartwarming for us to see such a show of support. The number of attendees increases each year. The old adage – “all politics is local” – really holds true. Having constituents come to Sacramento to meet with their legislators is a powerful reminder to members of how important our programs are to voters. It helps to build support for our budget and reduce the odds of cuts. Nothing ever guarantees a secure budget, but the stronger the support, the better we fare. At the end of the day, these parks belong to the people of California and it's up to them to defend and protect them. They are the ones who make the difference.

## Proposed 2007- 08 State Budget

The Governor's proposed budget for the Department of Parks and Recreation for the fiscal year 2007/08 proposes to expend \$493.8 million and fund 3,221.2 permanent positions. It should be noted that this is a proposed budget that must yet go through the legislative process with the final budget due for adoption by June 30.

Deferred Maintenance – Due to constraints on the General Fund, the Administration is proposing a \$160 million reduction to the \$250 million that was appropriated earlier for a six-year deferred maintenance program. The Department will retain \$90 million, the amount that State Parks staff can effectively plan to encumber during each yearly budget cycle. State Parks plans to use the \$90 million on the most critical priorities within the system, mainly the water and waste-water treatment facilities that are 30 to 60 years old and failing.

Empire Mine –The proposal requests six positions and \$4.1 million for continued environmental work at Empire Mine State Historic Park in Grass Valley. The work is critical to the protection of public health and safety, as well as to the natural and cultural resources in the park. State

Parks and Newmont USA LTD, a mining company, are well underway with an extensive monitoring, soil sampling and remediation program for employee and visitor areas of the park. This is a legacy of the gold mining era in California that was inherited by State Parks with the purchase of what is now Empire Mine State Historic Park.

Capital Outlay – A total of \$67 million is proposed for the continuing phases of eight previously approved construction projects, the initiation of one new major construction project and various minor projects, and acquisition funding in the Habitat Conservation Fund and Off Highway Vehicle (OHV) programs. The following is the detail supporting the Department's 2006-07 proposed Capital Outlay budget:

- \$63.5 M for the “continuing phases” projects, which include:
- \$3.0 M - Big Basin Redwoods SP: Wastewater Collection/Treatment System Improvements.
- \$3.4 M - California Indian Museum: Master Plan and Phase 1 Development.

## ► **Powerlink:** From Page 1

If you are interested in the score for the evening, a total of 87 people testified before the Commission. Seventy-two of them said a clear “no” to the Powerlink proposal. Thirteen said they supported it, and it just wasn’t clear what the other two were saying.

Jim Avery, a Senior Vice-President for San Diego Gas and Electric Company, the proponent of the Sunrise Powerlink transmission line, had the courage to be the first speaker of the evening. He began by saying, “I am the reason you are here tonight.” He described how Powerlink was needed because of shortcomings in the system and a lack of reliability. He said the towers were not as bad as advertised and that going through the park on the existing right-of-way was the only viable alternative.

San Diego Gas and Electric Company is proposing to replace the existing line of some 275 wooden poles about 40 to 60 feet high, with 141 steel towers as tall as 135 feet. To do that, they would need 50 feet of width added to their existing right-of-way through the park. That means the State Park and Recreation Commission would have to amend the existing General Plan for the park to allow for the extra right-of-way width. In addition, where the line goes through designated wilderness within the park, the Commission would have to de-list about 73 acres of wilderness. State Park attorney Brad Torgan said he was not aware of any precedent for doing so, meaning it appears no Park Commission has ever done it before.

Following Avery, it was mostly the opposition that took over the microphone before the Commission and as indicated from the score, speaker after speaker made it clear they were not even close to being in the Powerlink camp. Here are some of the quotes recorded for the evening:

“The power company is telling us we need to forfeit our State Park for a power line.”

“We need your leadership (Bobby Shriver) to not allow this line across this park. Please talk to your brother-in-law Arnold to oppose this.”

“We need reliable water and electricity.”

“A steady supply of power is needed.”

“It is a real obscenity to be here to talk about de-classifying wilderness.”

“I am concerned about the precedent of removing wilderness.”



**During a Powerlink tour of Anza Borrego Desert State Park, Carmen Lucas, 71, speaks from personal experience about the land’s value to Native Americans. As an elder of the Kwaaymii (‘k-why me’) Laguna Band of Mission Indians, she has worked to protect ancestral lands for most of her life.**

“Anza-Borrego should not be the first state park in the nation to make a mockery of the wilderness act.”

“What do you want your legacy to be? The ones who ruined the crown jewel of the park system?”

“If San Diego Gas and Electric is successful, every park in the nation is unsafe.”

“De-designating wilderness has never been done. It could open the door across the country.”

“Several years ago, I donated \$1-million to buy Vallecitos Ranch. It was given for permanent preservation, not for a bank for future developers.”

“You have an opportunity tonight to take a stand, for unborn future generations. Please be their heroes.”

At the end of the evening, Commission Chairman Bobby Shriver told the audience the testimony for the evening would be delivered to the State Public Utilities Commission for their decision on this issue scheduled for early in 2008. Shriver also said that the State Park and Recreation Commission may or may not have the power to act on this issue, that there is a question as to whether the decision is within their authority. Because of that, he urged everyone to work with their elected representatives by writing letters and making visits. “Go further, make yourself heard,” Shriver said.



# Volunteers Restore Habitat at Tijuana Estuary



Photo by Phil Roullard, Env. Services Intern

**Volunteers pause in their work to pose for a photo. In the front with their blue shirts and yellow logo is Cub Scout Pack 805. Also in the crowd are California State Parks Ranger Jon Irwin and Sarah Emerson, volunteer coordinator for the Tijuana River National Estuarine Research Reserve.**

## **By Sarah Emerson, Volunteer Coordinator**

**IMPERIAL BEACH, CA** — The Tijuana River National Estuarine Research Reserve hosted 106 enthusiastic volunteers who came from across San Diego County to restore habitat by removing invasive species and planting native vegetation. Recreational Equipment, Inc. (REI) helped to recruit the impressive crowd that included staff and members of REI, area Cub Scout packs, local students, and others.

“I get excited when people show up for an event like this,” said Reserve Manager Clay Phillips, State Parks Superintendent, San Diego South Sector. “Not only do we make progress in restoring important habitat, but we get to teach more people about this wonderful resource and add to the number of advocates who recognize this estuary as a jewel of the San Diego region.”

Volunteers on Saturday, January 27 helped to revegetate nearly two acres with more than 600 plants. Collectively, they donated 318 hours of community service. They planted several species of succulents and other scrubland plants, which comprise a fast-disappearing plant community called maritime succulent scrub. Maritime succulent scrub, found in extreme southwestern California and northern Baja California, supports numerous rare plant and animal species.

This volunteer event was the result of a unique partnership between REI, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service - Refuges, California State Parks, the National Estuarine Research Reserve System, and the Southwest Wetlands Interpretive Association. The association is a nonprofit organization dedicated to wetland acquisition, preservation, restoration, and education in the Tijuana River Valley. Other partners included the San Diego-based RECON Native Plants Inc., which contributed more than 500 plants to the project, and Chula Vista’s East H Street Starbucks, which donated coffee and snacks to fuel the volunteers.

Tim Szlachetka, Outreach Specialist for REI in Chula Vista, was impressed by the turnout: “It was refreshing to see such a diverse group of volunteers show up and share their energy and passion for stewardship in our local communities. We were also extremely excited to see a large number of young people turn out for the project as they are ultimately responsible for keeping this passion alive for the next generation.”

For more information about the Tijuana River National Estuarine Research Reserve’s Volunteer Program, contact Sarah Emerson, Volunteer Coordinator, at 619.575.3614 or [semerson@parks.ca.gov](mailto:semerson@parks.ca.gov).

# Major Highway 1 Repairs Close Steep Ravine

**Mt. Tamalpais State Park** – California State Parks closed the popular and much-in-demand Steep Ravine cabins and campground for the five months ending on March 31, so Caltrans could close Highway 1 and repair extensive damage from the 2005 winter storms.



Photo by Thomas Frazier, State Park Ranger

Mt. Tamalpais State Park and the Steep Ravine cabins/campground site are located along the coast of Marin County, north of San Francisco on Hwy 1, about 2 miles south of the town of Stinson Beach. In 2005/06 this highly visited unit of State Parks generated over \$206,000 in revenue and was used by nearly 20,000 visitors.

**Much-needed repairs to Highway 1 closed the roadway for five months.**

In mid-November, State Parks had to cancel the 527 reservations that had been made for this time period by calling each reservation holder and refunding fees already paid.

“Most of the visitors who lost their reservations understood that it had to be done for safety,” said Jim Luscutoff, who heads the Concessions, Reservations and Fees Division.

The storm did serious damage to Highway 1 both north and south of Steep Ravine

campsites and cabins. In some locations, only one lane remained. To prevent catastrophic road failures, Caltrans closed Highway 1 and began making repairs in the vicinity of Mt. Tamalpais State Park. These repairs will return Highway 1 to a safe, passable route of travel and prepare it to sustain another heavy winter. Caltrans has also been assisting State Parks with upgrading the parks water system as well as other infrastructure enhancements.

The Caltrans project on Highway 1 has seven construction sites over a ten-mile zone south of Stinson Beach. Cost estimates for the four projects that are within Mt. Tamalpais State Park are more than \$22.6 million.

“It was unfortunate that access to one of our most popular parks had to be closed, but it was necessary in order for Caltrans to complete the road construction,” said Luscutoff.

## ► **Budget: From Page 2**

- \$1.5 M - Columbia SHP: Drainage Improvements.
- \$10 M - Crystal Cove SP: El Morro Mobile Home Park Conversion.
- \$2.5 M - Donner Memorial SP: Construct New Visitor Center.
- \$4.3 M - Fort Ross SHP: Reconstruct Historic Fur Warehouse.

- \$3.9 M - Millerton Lake SRA: Rehabilitate La Playa Day Use Area.
- \$9.2 M - Pfeiffer Big Sur SP: Park Entrance and Day Use Redevelopment.
- \$11.1 M – Railroad Technology Museum: Rehabilitation and Facilities Plan.
- \$ 5.1 M - Silverwood Lake SRA: Campground

and Day Use Improvements.

- \$1.5 M - Samuel P. Taylor SP: Install New Water Reservoirs.
- \$5.0 M - Supplemental federal funding for various projects.
- \$3.0 M - Supplemental reimbursement funding for various projects.



# Crystal Cove: Going Strong

By Kenneth Kramer,  
Superintendent

Since June 26, more than 12,000 lucky souls have shared a slice of paradise on the Orange County coast, enjoying spectacular sunrises and sunsets framed by the cool blue Pacific Ocean, glimpsing dolphins frolicking feet from their front porches, and drifting to sleep with a lullaby from gently crashing surf. Who are these privileged folks? Movie stars? The rich and powerful?

Nope, just average Californians (some from well beyond) experiencing the rustic beachfront lifestyle of early cottage dwellers at the Crystal Cove State Park Historic District.

March 2006 marked the completion of a complex and challenging two-year, \$14.2 million public works project to restore and rehabilitate the first half of the forty-six cottage National Register site. It also triggered the State Parks effort to deliver the best possible plan for operation and management of the public lodging and food service components of the park's Preservation and Public use Plan (General Plan Amendment). Thanks to a creative team approach from

headquarters, acquisition & development, concessions, the service center, district staff and many others, the cottages opened to great fanfare and a popularity that has yet to slow.

The thirteen overnight rental cottages, with an average price of about \$175 per night for a family of four, have remained at

nearly 100 percent occupancy since opening and is fully

Shack on the bluff along the Pacific Coast Highway, and the popular Beachcomber Cafe which has served over 50,000 meals to satisfied customers. The success of the concession agreement, which has produced gross revenues of \$2.4 million in the first six months, is a testament to solid planning and the strength of effective partnerships. As a result of that partnership, State Parks is able to put back into its budget 14.1 percent of those revenues, including a portion dedicated to

cottage improvements. Another surprising and welcome success story is the popularity of the park interpretive store which sits in the heart of the historic district behind the park visitor center. Dubbed the "little store with a big heart," the 400-square-foot space is



**Before and after shots show that the renovation of cottages have helped make Crystal Cove one of the most in-demand vacation spots in the State Park System.**

booked through Labor Day. Reservations are managed by ReserveAmerica, while the lodging service is operated and managed by our twenty-year concession partner, Crystal Cove Alliance.

In addition to the lodging component, the alliance also manages the Crystal Cove Shake

operated by the cooperating association and features traditional educational items as well as a casual art gallery that celebrates works by some of the area's finest plein-air artists. The art community, with deep roots in Crystal Cove's early history,

► **CRYSTAL COVE: Page 7**

## ►Crystal Cove, From Page 6

generously donate proceeds from painting sales accounting for a majority of the more than \$250,000 gross annual sales projection.

Another much anticipated park project, the El Morro Public Use Conversion, is on the horizon and will ease the strain of limited cottage rental inventory. The El Morro project is expected to go to bid this summer and will, when completed in 2009, deliver another sixty spectacular coastal campsites to the State Parks inventory, in addition to another 200 day use parking spaces. The next phase for the historic district, which is yet unfunded, is to finish restoring the remaining 24 cottages, which will boost the overnight public rental inventory from 13 to 30. A big challenge for sure, but the opportunity to offer a total of 60,000 affordable cottage rental nights a year appears to be more than worth it!

### **Crew's Quarters.....**

*The shower has leaks,  
the double-bed squeaks,  
the blinds allow peeks.*

*You might think we're complaining,  
but contrary to say we spent every day  
in the sun and at play;*

*we're happy it's not raining.*

*A ten dollar room,  
a bathroom-size-tomb,  
but wave crashing boom makes  
for sleeping sensation.*

*The state's creation in this  
great location, fills us with elation,  
we'll be back for another vacation.*

*~Bill & Louise Gilfillans*

**An entry into the Crew's Quarters journal at the visitor center on shares the ruminations of one couple's stay at Crystal Cove. The journal is kept at the center where guests can leave a note for future visitors to enjoy.**

## NBC Today Show Broadcasts Hearst Castle Nationwide



Photo by Richard Tanner, guest

**Museum Director Hoyt Fields gives a tour of the refectory (dining room) at Hearst Castle to NBC Today Show reporter Peter Alexander. Segments of the tour aired on televisions across the nation in January.**

California State Parks got a nationwide audience when the top-rated morning show in the country, the NBC Today Show, featured Hearst Castle® in their morning program.

The program that aired January 17, was not just a quickie story, but a five-minute segment that included old film clips and music melded together in a superb snapshot of the Castle's history.

Hoyt Fields, Hearst Castle® superintendent and museum director, did an excellent job of hosting NBC reporter Peter Alexander. For the local area, the Today Show telecast was a noteworthy event. There were two different days when reports about the program were on the front page of the local newspaper, the San Luis Obispo Tribune.

In a newspaper report, Jonni Biaggini, executive director of the San Luis Obispo County Visitor and Conference Bureau was quoted as saying, "There is absolutely no budget in the Central Coast --let alone in the rest of California—that will pay for the coverage this segment will provide."

The Castle is a major part of the local tourism industry. For the county visitor's bureau, this story was a shot-in-the-arm that may attract new visitors from all across the country. The news segment is available for viewing on the Today Show Web site at <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/12065856/>.



## First Lady Applauds PORTS Program

During the festivities celebrating the inauguration of Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, Director Ruth Coleman provided First Lady Maria Shriver with a personal demonstration of the State Parks PORTS program — Parks Online Resources for Teachers and Students.

California State Parks was one of several organizations invited to participate in an outdoor public fair on the State Capitol grounds on January 4. The PORTS program was selected as one of several examples of how the Governor has taken a positive stand with his accomplishments on environmental issues.

During the festivities, Interpreter Brian Cahill spoke with Shriver and her children from 500 miles away in Anza-Borrego Desert State Park. He utilized a satellite vehicle that sent his image and voice out to a satellite and back to earth, then through the Internet.

Director Coleman explained that the technology allows State Parks to take students on guided,



**Director Ruth Coleman shows First Lady Maria Shriver how PORTS connects parks with remote viewers.**

remote field trips without ever leaving the classroom, trips that most schools would never be able to make in person.

PORTS provides video conferencing and online materials that enhance biology, ecology, science, paleontology, and government curriculum. The program has enabled students to see elephant seals of Año Nuevo State Reserve in San Mateo County, the tide pools at Crystal

Cove State Park in Orange County, and the paleontology center at Anza-Borrego Desert State Park east of San Diego. It has also provided them with the opportunity to see the historic offices in the State Capitol while speaking with legislators. With enough support, the PORTS program will be able to bring just about anything found in any state park into any classroom in the state.

---

## Watch Out for Invasive Quagga



The invasive Quagga mussel that has caused billions of dollars in damage — logging water pipes,

decimating fish habitat and destroying boat motors in other parts of the country — was discovered in California for the first time on January 17. It was found in Lake Havasu in San Bernardino County on the California-Arizona border and later on the California side of the Colorado River near Needles.

Immediately after the discovery, the Department of Fish

and Game (DFG) established an incident command post, produced public education materials and worked with a multi-agency task force to assess the scope of the state's mussel population.

The role for California State Parks has so far been at Lake Perris SRA and Silverwood Lake SRA, where they have assessed substantial resource needs of possible boat inspections. The scope of the problem is still being assessed. According to DFG, emergency cursory inspections throughout Southern California waterways have not revealed any additional Quagga. As inspections

grow north, the search in state parks is anticipated to grow with it.

Microscopic Quagga can travel from one water body to another in a drop of water on boat engines. Adult Quagga, the size of a kidney bean, attach to boats. Boaters are advised to thoroughly inspect and clean their boats after leaving the water, keeping them dry for five days before entering freshwater elsewhere.

There is no known way to eradicate the mussels, so focus is on slowing population growth. For boating tips and more, visit <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/>



# California State Parks Establishes Tehachapi District



**Superintendent Ron Krueper, the first district superintendent of the new Tehachapi District, Southern Division, leads a tour of parks staff members through the Cudahy Camp area of Last Chance Canyon at Red Rock Canyon State Park in Kern County.**

**By Ron Krueper,  
Superintendent, Tehachapi  
District**

Greetings everyone!!! As the first superintendent of the new Tehachapi District, I'd like to take this opportunity to share our progress and goals. California State Parks embarked on a path to establish the district on November 1. With this addition, the Department has now grown to 20 Districts along with five OHV Districts to oversee 278 park units.

The Tehachapi District was carved out of the southern portion of the Central Valley District and the northern portion of the Inland Empire District. Geographically, it stretches across the entire Mojave High Desert from the Colorado River/Needles area west to beyond the Bakersfield area. It covers the counties of Kings, Tulare and Kern, as well as parts

of Los Angeles and San Bernardino counties.

Having a district office closer to these counties, the new district will be centrally located and better situated to provide for the growing populations, increasing public service needs and in specific the needs of park staff. It

will also relieve the Central Valley and



Inland Empire districts of having to serve such large geographic areas.

The Tehachapi District Office will be located in Lancaster at the Mojave Desert Information Center. The two Sector Offices located at Silverwood Lake SRA and Fort Tejon SHP will oversee 11 park units.

The Silverwood Sector will include Silverwood Lake SRA and Providence Mountains SRA/ Mitchell Caverns. The Mojave Sector will include the Antelope Valley California Poppy Reserve, Antelope Valley Indian Museum, Arthur B. Ripley Desert SP, Tomo-Kahni SHP, Red Rock Canyon SP, Saddleback Butte SP, Colonel Allensworth SHP, Tule Elk SR and Fort Tejon SHP.

I'm excited about the opportunity to establish this new District. We have already started down the road to fill two key positions. There are 50 existing permanent personnel covering a wide variety job disciplines. We are also identifying and establishing essential infrastructure needs for the new Tehachapi District to be fully functional by July 1.

Until that happens, we will continue relying heavily on the Inland Empire and Central Valley Districts for support during this transition period especially with personnel and accounting services. I would like to thank district superintendents Gary Watts and Scott Wassmund and their staff for all that they have done for us. I and my existing staff remain committed to protecting the significant natural and cultural resources found within these parks and to providing the best possible interpretive, educational and recreational experiences to the visiting public.

So until next time (and hopefully within a year), we as a District will reflect on what we have accomplished so far and we will continue to strive in making the Tehachapi District the best it can be. Stop by and say hello anytime.



**Santa Maria Police Officer Dan Begg teaches students the skills necessary to safely operate their all terrain vehicles.**

## **Hungry Valley SVRA Pilots Three-Day Outreach Program**

**By Pete Yarbrough, Superintendent,  
Hungry Valley District**

This past November 27, 28, and 29, Hungry Valley SVRA hosted a three-day program that partnered Hungry Valley SVRA, the Santa Maria Police Department, Santa Maria public schools, Santa Maria City Parks, Connie McGuire from Santa Maria High Schools Community Liaison office, and the Santa Maria Future Farmers of America to bring eighteen young adults to Hungry Valley SVRA for a multifaceted, outdoor-oriented outreach program that utilized CAL Pals and elements from FamCamp and FFA .

This program was result of CAL Pals instructor and Santa Maria Police liaison officer Dan Begg's desire to work in the Santa Maria area. Working with Hungry Valley staff for the past year, Dan came up with a program that brings teens to the park for a three-day, multifaceted learning experience. Three groups of six rotated through several classes that exposed participants to environmental management, ATV (all terrain vehicle) operation, motorcycle and ATV maintenance, and historic park management.

Hungry Valley employees Kim Matthews, staff environmental scientist, and Kathy Sanders,

environmental crew member, taught the environmental management portion of the program. Many participants had never been in an undeveloped area before. Matthews and Sanders explained how the elements of the parks environment fit together into a system in which human beings play a part.

Officer Dan Begg taught three youths at a time how to safely and responsibly operate an ATV. The training incorporated rider etiquette and respect for the environment. Techniques for low impact on the environment are part of the course. The others that were in officer Begg's group visited Fort Tejon SHP. At "the fort" the group toured a military installation of the 1850s. Many thanks go out to sector Superintendent Joe Ramos and his staff for their support in this program.

Superintendent Pete Yarbrough escaped the office to teach the motorcycle and ATV maintenance portion of the program. Participants were taught basic maintenance practices and operating principles of motorized off-road motorcycles and ATVs. This section introduced many in the group to the use of hand tools and the principles of mechanics for the first time. They emphasized hands-on learning



## Facelift Planned for “Movie Star” Steam Locomotive No. 3

By Kathy Daigle and Paul Hammond

A famous Hollywood movie star is about to get a \$600,000 facelift. Sierra No. 3 has been a movie star since 1919 when Hollywood producers first discovered Tuolumne County and its historic trains. Ever since, Hollywood has been filming this photogenic steam locomotive along the Sierra Railroad’s scenic route to satisfy America’s love affair with Westerns. Restoration of this locomotive began in February with most of the restoration work being done at Railtown 1897. Sierra No. 3 is expected to be back in action by April 2009.

Sierra No. 3 has starred in over 100 movies and television productions. After its 1919 debut in the silent serial film *The Red Glove*, Sierra No. 3 in 1929 appeared in *The Virginian* with



Railtown 1897 State Historic Park’s Sierra No. 3

Gary Cooper, the first sound movie filmed outside of a Hollywood sound stage. In the years following, it appeared in more than 30 movies, including *High Noon*, *The Great Race*, *Bound for Glory*, *Back to the Future III* and *Unforgiven*. As television became a growing presence in America, Sierra No. 3 entered living rooms everywhere in commercials and as a TV star (*Lone Ranger*, *Tales of Wells Fargo*, *Petticoat Junction*, *Rawhide*, *Death Valley Days*, *Lassie*, *Gunsmoke*, *Bonanza*, *The Wild, Wild West*, and *Little House on the Prairie*).

Since 1897, railroading has been central to community life in Jamestown. What is today the Railtown 1897 State Historic Park was the operating center of the Sierra Railroad. Steam locomotive No. 3 reportedly pulled the first passenger train to reach Tuolumne County, arriving at Cooperstown in June 1897. Sierra No. 3 is essential to the story of Railtown 1897 State Historic Park, where the Sierra Railway established its headquarters and maintenance shops in 1897.

For more information, call (209) 984-3953 or visit the Railtown 1897 State Historic Park website at [www.railtown1897.org](http://www.railtown1897.org).



### ► Hungry Valley, From Page 10

using teams of two to completely service CAL Pals motorcycles. This section introduced many in the group to the use of hand tools and the principles of mechanics for the first time.

A theme of the program in each class is the opportunities that exist for all in the employment and recreational areas. Education to achieve reachable goals was stressed throughout. The kids expressed gratitude, and the staff feels that this first program was valuable and successful. We hope to offer another program in the spring.

**Hungry Valley Environmental Scientist Kim Matthews describes the benefits of native plants that grow in the park.**

# New Leadership



## **Brent Reed, Deputy Director of Partnerships and Consumer Strategies Division**

Brent Reed was appointed by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger to the position of Deputy Director for Partnerships and Consumer

Strategies. Brent has broad experience in networking with volunteers and not-for-profit organizations to raise money on behalf of state parks. Prior to the California Parks Foundation, Brent served as the executive director for the Friends of Georgia State Parks and Historic Sites, Inc. Previously, he worked for the Corporate securities firm Securitas and Barton. Brent's work experience also includes being a treatment manager of Eckerd Youth Alternatives, Inc., a not-for-profit therapeutic residential program for troubled youth. He is a graduate at the University of Florida. He holds a bachelor's in psychology, another in criminology and law, as well as a minor in business administration.



## **Dave Gould, Marin District**

Dave Gould was appointed district superintendent of the "new" Marin District in July. The "new" is a result of the dissolution of the huge North Bay District. The seven state parks in Marin County were put back into the old configuration, hence the re-creation of the Marin District.

As superintendent of the Marin District, it is like "déjà vu all over again" for Dave, as he was a ranger at Mt. Tamalpais SP for eight years earlier in his career. Mostly recently, Dave was the sector superintendent of the Calaveras Sector in the Central Valley District. Dave's past assignments have taken him through the old Four Rivers District/San Luis Reservoir SRA, the North Coast Redwoods District out of Richardson Grove SP, and the Marin District. Dave started his career with California State Parks in 1978 as a ranger trainee in the Channel Coast District in Ventura and Carpinteria. Previous to that, he worked for the National Park Service and the U.S. Forest Service. He holds a bachelor's degree from California Polytechnic State University in Natural Resources Management.



## **Ron Krueper, Tehachapi District**

Ron was appointed to district superintendent of the brand new Tehachapi District in November. His

career began as a seasonal lifeguard at Silverwood Lake in 1975, later becoming a permanent lifeguard at Huntington State Beach. Returning to the San Bernardino Mountains, he worked as a supervising ranger at Silverwood Lake for more than 11 years until 1999 when he accepted a position as park superintendent managing the California Citrus State Historic Park and the Chino Hills State Park. For the past two years he has been the Lake Perris Park superintendent. He is a graduate of San Francisco State University with degrees in Health Science and Physical Education. (For more, see article on the Tehachapi District, page 9)





**Marilyn Murphy,  
Mendocino  
District**

Marilyn was selected as the district superintendent for the Mendocino District in July. Her career started in 1982 as a seasonal maintenance aid at Sugar Pine Point State Park. Half of

her time with the department has been as a resource ecologist and the other half has been in the law enforcement management fields. Marilyn's diverse assignments have taken her throughout the state from the Colorado Desert up to the North Coast and many places in between. Most recently, she served as the Redwood Coast Sector Superintendent. Marilyn holds a bachelor of science degree from California State University, Sacramento in Parks and Recreation, Natural Resource Management.



**Rich Rozelle,  
Orange Coast  
District**

Rich was Acting District Superintendent for eight months before being appointed District Superintendent in January 2006. He has 25 years with the department,

beginning as a seasonal lifeguard at Huntington State Beach in 1981. After earning a bachelor's degree in Political Science at California State University, Long Beach, he accepted a position as a permanent lifeguard in the Orange Coast District in 1988. He worked at Bolsa Chica State Beach, Huntington State Beach and Crystal Cove State Park. In 1993, Rich transferred to the Angeles District as an associate land agent. In 1999, he

transferred back to the Orange Coast District as an associate park and recreation specialist. Rich was promoted to state park superintendent II in 2001 and in 2004 received another promotion to state park superintendent III.



**Michael L.  
Wells,  
Ph.D.,  
Colorado  
Desert  
District**

Mike Wells was appointed in February 2006 to be the district superintendent

for Colorado Desert District. In his 31 years at State Parks, Mike has served all over the state in various capacities. He was first hired as a ranger in 1975, became a park resource ecologist in 1984, then took on the post of district ecologist for the San Diego Coast District in 1992. He was promoted to sector superintendent in 2002 and Mendocino District superintendent in 2004.

During his 10 years as a ranger, he served at various parks, from the beaches and deserts of Southern California to the western Sierra Nevada foothills. While a resource ecologist, he managed the watershed restoration project at Humboldt Redwoods State Park, then led the fire management program for the Southern District. As South Sector Superintendent in the San Diego Coast District, he helped manage the Tijuana River National Estuarine Research Reserve.

Mike holds a doctorate in biogeography, from a program offered jointly by UC Santa Barbara (UCSB) and San Diego State University (SDSU); a master's degree in Physical Geography from SDSU and a bachelor's degree in Environmental Studies from UCSB.

His original research in the area of fire ecology has been published in the journals *Hydrobiologia*, *The Journal of Plant Ecology* and *The Journal of Landscape Ecology*.

## New Superintendents

### Superintendent III

Susan Grove  
Lake Tahoe Sector  
Superintendent  
Sierra District  
4/1/2006

Kirk Lingenfelter  
Pajaro Coast Sector  
Superintendent  
Santa Cruz District  
3/2/2006

Bruce Lynn  
North Coast Redwoods Sector  
Superintendent  
10/1/2006

Alphonso Pepito  
Malibu Sector Superintendent  
Angeles District  
9/1/2006

Jonathan Williams  
Deferred Maintenance Program  
Manager  
Technical Services Division  
10/1/06

Terese Zilke  
Museum Director/Sector  
Superintendent, Capitol Museum  
and Mansions Sector  
Capital District  
1/2/2007

### Superintendent II

Joanne Danielson  
Academy Coordinator  
Mott Training Center  
1/1/2006

Jay Sherman  
Clear Lake Sector Superintendent  
Northern Buttes District  
3/2/2006

David Matthews  
Angel Island Sector  
Superintendent  
Marin District  
1/1/2006

Linda Rath  
Russian River Sector  
Superintendent  
Russian River District  
11/1/2006

Jay Galloway  
Auburn Sector Superintendent  
Gold Fields District  
2/10/1006

Karl Tallman  
Public Safety Superintendent  
Santa Cruz District  
10/1/2006

Lee Sencenbaugh  
Limited Term  
Four Rivers Sector Superintendent  
Central Valley District  
12/1/2006

Craig Sap  
Public Safety Superintendent  
Angels District  
9/8/2006

### Superintendent I

Nedra Martinez  
Ocotillo Wells Sector  
Superintendent  
OHV Division  
Ocotillo Wells District  
1/16/2006

*Information provided by Georgia Matthews, Personnel Services Section*

## Marshall Gold Museum Reopens

After an extensive renovation of the historic exhibits, California State Parks has reopened the popular museum at Marshall Gold Discovery State Historic Park in El Dorado County. The new renovations to the museum were unveiled for the first time on January 20, during the Gold Discovery Day Anniversary Celebration of James Marshall's momentous discovery of gold in the tailrace of Sutter's Mill on January 24, 1848.

"This is an extremely exciting renovation for this park" said Mark Gibson, superintendent



for the Marshall Gold Sector of California State Parks. "With the improved exhibits, we have brought out segments of the story more vividly and more completely

than ever before and that will give our visiting school children and all others a new look into that famous day along the American River."

Marshall Gold Discovery State Historic Park is one of the most visited and revered historic sites in all of California.

Over the last ten years, the park has had more than 3.4 million visitors, averaging nearly 350,000 visitors yearly, 68,000 of those being school children on educational field trips.





Students and instructors from Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) class Group #4 held in October 2006 pose in front of the training center.

## Program Brings EMT Training to Parks

By Michelle Gardner,  
Training Specialist

For the past five years the California State Parks Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) program was run by the California Highway Patrol. Almost three years ago a team started gathering documents for our own program. This entailed writing agendas, lesson plans, protocols, etc.—a difficult, time consuming task. With support from Emergency Medical Services Authority (EMSA) in Sacramento, Mike Silvestri, John Topar and Jim Fitzpatrick got it done. Having our own program meant that we needed our own medical director to oversee it and approve protocols. Fortunately, Dr. Greg Dunnivant was willing to contribute much of his own time to get this program started and serve as medical director.

Things didn't begin smoothly. Our first EMT class was scheduled to begin Monday, September 12, 2005. As the day approached we still hadn't gotten final approval from EMSA granting certification. Then, just after 5 p.m. on the Friday before, a letter arrived and we were certified!

In addition to the 120-hour class, students needed to fulfill a 10-hour clinical requirement. Our program not only encompassed the three week class and the clinical requirement, we also set up the National Registry Test for the following Saturday. We held our first class at Huntington State Beach, thanks to lots of donated time by Dr. Dunnivant; and extra time by Lifeguards Ed Vodrazka, a registered nurse; and paramedic Dan Ferrarri. Accompanied by one of these three, students responded to medical calls at the beach.

Blood pressure check stations were set up along the pathway and quite a few people took advantage of the free check. In all, we had 27 students complete the class and 26 pass the National Registry.

Our second EMT class, and two EMT refreshers were held at the Mott Training Center. Fifteen students passed this class, with all of those passing the National Registry. It is now required for EMTs to pass the National Registry on their first attempt. In California and nationwide, the average pass rate is about 60 percent. By contrast, we can boast a pass rate of approximately 95 percent!

Congratulations and thanks to the students, instructors, and our medical director for their hard work and for making this program successful.

# CALENDAR

## **PATH OF THE PADRES HIKE**

San Luis Reservoir SRA , March 3rd until April 29th, 8 a.m. This hike is moderately strenuous and will take about 5 hours. To make a reservation, call (209) 826-1196 Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. For more information please call (209) 826-1196 or 826-1197.

## **BIRD WALKS**

California Citrus SHP, March 18, meet at the Gazebo at 8 a.m. These walks will enlighten your senses to the sights and sounds of birds in the park. For more information call (951) 780-6222.

## **TREASURES FROM HEARST CASTLE**

California Museum for History Women and the Arts, beginning Friday, April 13. Hearst Castle artifacts will be on display in Sacramento for one year. Visitors will see items that Hearst collected from all over the world including Ancient Greece, Ancient Egypt, and Renaissance Europe. Among the 40 artifacts is a *Madonna and Child* created by 14<sup>th</sup> century master Duccio di Buoninsegna. The items will be displayed in galleries designed to recreate the ambience at Hearst Castle. Visitors will be able to view reproduction drawings by renowned architect Julia Morgan, pass through ornate doors that once hung in the lavish theater, walk past the original alabaster lamps from the castle terraces and over a replica of the blue and gold tile work that surrounds the castle's Roman pool. The tiles

were crafted specifically for the exhibition from original molds designed by Morgan. Museum hours are Tues.-Sat. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and Sun. noon-5 p.m. (Closed major holidays) Admission: Adults \$7.50, Students/Seniors (with valid I.D.) \$6, Children 6-13 \$5; Free for Children 5 and under. Free Parking Saturdays and Sundays. To reserve adult group tours, call (916) 653-3476 or email [dgeorge@ss.ca.gov](mailto:dgeorge@ss.ca.gov).

## **SPRING PLANTING DAY**

Wilder Ranch SP, Saturday, April 21, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Help plant the heirloom vegetable garden as it would have been c. 1900. Also enjoy composting information, gardening information and children's garden crafts. The park is located two miles north of Santa Cruz on the coast side of Highway 1. For more information, please call (831)426-0505.

## **STAR GAZING**

Chino Hills SP, Saturday, April 21, 8 p.m. Grab you telescopes and join us as we look at the night sky. Contact Ranger D.L. Stephen at (951) 780-6222 ext 23.

## **EARTH DAY**

California Citrus SHP, Saturday, April 21, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Join your community in citrus tree planting and other earth friendly activities! Meet at the Visitor Center/Museum. (951) 780-6222.

## **LIVING HISTORY**

Chino Hills SP, Saturday, April 28, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Join us for our third annual Living History event. Contact

Ranger D.L. Stephen at (951) 780-6222.

## **BUG DAY**

Henry Cowell Redwoods SP, Saturday, May 5, 11a.m. to 4 p.m. Come on kids, let's go buggy! Make new discoveries about a wide variety of bugs through interactive games, puppet shows, art projects, nature walks, and displays. Please call (831)335-7077.

## **RAILTOWN'S 2007 STEAM TRAIN OPERATING SEASON OPENING WEEKEND**

Railtown 1897 SHP, Saturday, March 31 and Sunday, April 1. Train rides depart hourly from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Join us at our opening weekend of Railtown's regular 2007 "Steam Train Operating Season" and enjoy leisurely 40-minute, six-mile roundtrip rides through the scenic Sierra Nevada foothills. Tours of the Historic Jamestown Shops and Roundhouse are available. There will be music and an old-fashioned ice cream social. Calaveras and Tuolumne County residents ride trains for free (proof of residency required). For more information call (209) 984-3953 or visit us at [www.railtown1897.org](http://www.railtown1897.org).

## **CELEBRATE EASTER AT RAILTOWN 1897 SHP**

Railtown 1897 SHP, Saturday, April 7. The Easter Bunny visits Railtown one day early! Come join our fluffy friend at Railtown 1897 on the Saturday before Easter, with music and an Easter egg hunt for children on the Roundhouse lawn. An old-fashioned Ice Cream Social takes

► **CALENDAR: Page 17**



## ►Calendar: From Page 16

place in the Railtown Depot both days. Regular steam-powered excursion trains depart on-the-hour 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. For more information call (209) 984-3953 or visit us at [www.railtown1897.org](http://www.railtown1897.org).

### **WILDFLOWER TRAIN**

Railtown 1897 SHP, Saturday, April 21. Special afternoon Wildflower Train departs from the Railtown Depot at 4:30 p.m. The train features interpretive park rangers from the New Melones Recreation Resource Center, who answer questions and point out flower groupings along the way. Tickets are \$10 adults, \$4 youths ages 6-17, ages 5 and under ride free. Reservations are suggested. For more information call (209) 984-3953 or visit us at [www.railtown1897.org](http://www.railtown1897.org).

### **PIONEER DEMONSTRATION DAY & TRADERS' FAIRE**

Sutter's Fort SHP, Friday, April 20; Saturday, April 21; and Sunday, April 22. Pioneer Demonstration Day & Traders' Faire - Shop Like An Early California Pioneer! In a unique program, vendors of merchandise of the kind found during the 1800's will set up their tents inside the fort walls. Shoppers will find clothing, house wares, toys, beads, knives and more for sale. Visitors can also witness demonstrations of crafts and skills of the era presented by costumed docents and volunteers. For more information on Sutter's Fort State Historic Park call (916) 445-4422.

### **1906 EARTHQUAKE LIVING HISTORY EVENT**

California State Capitol Museum, Saturday, April 21. 1906 Earthquake Living History Event – Museum volunteers and staff dressed in period clothing re-enact scenes in response to one of America's greatest disasters – the 1906 San Francisco Earthquake and Fire. Guided tour will run every 15 minutes from 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., admission is free. For more information on the California State Capitol Museum call (916) 324-0312 or visit us at [www.capitolmuseum.ca.gov](http://www.capitolmuseum.ca.gov).

### **TREASURES FROM THE PAST BENEFIT**

Sutter's Fort SHP, Saturday, May 5. A great event with hundreds of artifacts on display, live music, food, and knowledgeable interpreters costumed in period attire throughout the park grounds. This event is a yearly fundraiser, offering guests the opportunity to experience Sutter's Fort after regular public hours. Its goal is to increase resources for the promotion and enhancement of the Sutter's Fort Archive. Advanced reservations necessary. For more information call (916) 445-4422.

### **MOTHER'S DAY AT RAILTOWN 1897 SHP**

Railtown 1897 SHP, Sunday, May 13. All Moms ride free aboard regular steam-powered excursion trains when accompanied by a child. Regular steam powered excursion trains depart on the hour from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Enjoy an old-fashioned Ice Cream Social in the Railtown Depot. For more information call (209) 984-3953 or visit us at [www.railtown1897.org](http://www.railtown1897.org).

### **MEMORIAL DAY HISTORIC FLAG EXHIBIT**

California State Capitol Museum, May 22-May 30. The museum is home to a remarkable collection of nearly 50 flags dating from the Civil War, Spanish American War and World War I. Four of these historic flags have been undergoing conservation and have not been on exhibit for several years. For more information on the California State Capitol Museum call (916) 324-0312 or visit us at [www.capitolmuseum.ca.gov](http://www.capitolmuseum.ca.gov).

## **California State Parks**

### **News & Views Spring 2007**

### **Ruth Coleman, Director**

#### **Communications Office**

**Roy Stearns, Deputy Director, Communications**

**Sheryl Watson, Editor**

**John Arnold, Assistant Editor**

**Carol Cullens, Proofreader**

**Lindsay Oxford, Layout and Design**

#### **Submissions Welcome!**

Submit articles, photos and calendar items to [newsandviews@parks.ca.gov](mailto:newsandviews@parks.ca.gov) include the topic in the subject line.

- Please submit detailed captions and photographer's name with all photographs.
- Photographs and articles should have the same name and be noted at the bottom of the article text.
- Photographs need to be in TIFF or JPEG format.
- Please keep article length to 400 words.

**The next submission deadline is April 30.**

# Tales from the Field



The Junior Lifeguards arrange themselves to compose a “thank you” message to their mysterious donor.

## Junior Lifeguards give thanks to humble donor

**By Eric Sturm, Supervising Lifeguard**

In the summer of 2004, our Junior Lifeguard (JG) program was on a field trip to Carmel By The Sea’s beach. The kids were out having fun when a nondescript older gentleman approached one of our instructors and started asking about the program. The man was happy to see we were educating these young minds about both the dangers and wonders of our magnificent ocean. The man then left as plainly as he arrived.

A few minutes later, he returned and handed one of the instructors a personal check for \$1,000. The man only asked that we spend the money on the kids. Who was this mystery man? From the check, we learned that his name was Mr. Kissel.

Later in the day, we called Mr. Kissel and asked how we could thank him for such a generous donation. Mr. Kissel wanted nothing and would not accept any gifts of appreciation. So, of course, we sent him a Junior Lifeguard tee-shirt and ball cap. He was gracious and said thank you.

Fast forward to summer of 2006. The JGs are at the beach again, having fun, when Mr. Kissel

makes a second appearance. We have new instructors who don’t recognize him. Without announcement, Mr. Kissel strolls up, with checkbook in hand, and asks who to make the check out to. Baffled and perplexed by a man wanting to give away money, the instructor has a conversation with Mr. Kissel. Minutes later, the instructor is left holding another \$1,000 personal check. And in his style, Mr. Kissel sauntered off without any want of recognition. Wow!

We had to do something to acknowledge Mr. Kissel’s generosity. This time, it had to be better than a tee-shirt, so we decided to say thank you in a special way. The photo says it all. We framed it up and sent it off to Mr. Kissel. Not only did he enjoy it, he sent along this reply:

“Your photo of the Jr. Lifeguards will be a unique treasure to me. My ability to support your programs is a life-enhancing reward for me. My life is enriched thereby. My second career was teaching 4th grade science for 20 years. The same magic occurred there.”

Mr. Kissel, we all appreciate you and your support. Thank you.





**Chief Deputy Director Paul Romero could not resist the opportunity to get up-close and closer to a Roosevelt Elk that happened by the trail at the November State Park Commission meeting at Sinkyone Wilderness State Park, along the Lost Coast of California in Mendocino County.**



**The Sierra District headquarters received over 4 ½ feet of new snow in less than a week. The walkway is a raised walkway.**

**► Mountain Lion, Page 1**

When there was still no reaction, she picked up the branch again and eventually the lion walked away. It was later hunted down and killed to prevent any future attacks.

The incident attracted national media attention, providing a reminder to the general public that rangers are an important resource. In a telephone interview with cable news station MSNBC, Mrs. Hamm urged the public to check with rangers whenever

**Sashimi anyone?**



**Cost of living in Orange County forces park employees to become hunters.**

**Orange Coast District Superintendent Rich Rozzelle shows off his 15 lb. Yellowtail. He caught them in July under a floating kelp patty just 10 miles off the Orange County coast.**

visiting park land and not just about an animal attack, but about all types of safety measures.

“People do need to be respectful of this type of environment and they should always make contact with the ranger or any of the park staff if they go out on any of the trails,” Morningstar said. “We can inform them of any type of trail conditions and what to be aware of in terms of wildlife.”

Jim Hamm survived the attack and went home in February, saved by his heroic wife and the rangers that had prepared her to respond.



# John Arnold's Mailbag

My wife and I have been taking the Eagle Tours offered at Millerton for the past four years. We want to let you know what a great job the people there are doing in educating the public about the Bald Eagle and its return to the area.

On Saturday, February 24th, we were observers in the "making of history". For the first time since the 1980's a pair of Bald Eagles was observed building a nest!

We hope that the State Parks System will continue to support this very valuable educational program of the Eagle Tours at Millerton SRA.

---

We use your Thornhill Broome campground at Point Mugu often throughout the year. I just spoke with Lynn who answered your phone at the park office there. I just wanted you to know what a pleasure it was to deal with Lynn. She gave us information on events coming up at the park as well as suggestions to accommodate our disabled daughter.

This kind of treatment is no surprise to me because throughout the years of coming to Point Mugu, everyone has been great to deal with from the kiosk rangers to the patrol rangers that drive through at night. Personnel have always been very accommodating as well as understanding when we need to run our quiet generator after hours to power our daughter's oxygen machine when needed. Many thanks for your great service to me and my family. We look forward to our next visit next week.

---

Do you know how I can find out if a UFO sighting was reported by any persons back in Marin County in 1996? I am seeking to find if there are any witnesses to a UFO sighting above Mt. Tamalpais, Mill Valley, California, on approx. 10/13/96 in the night about 11pm. I appreciate your response and suggestions.

Hi, I was wondering if it would be okay to bring our own controlled fire ring to San Onofre SB; the fire ring is made out of an old washing machine cylinder and has a sturdy base. If you could please respond by today that would be great. Thank you.

---

I'm writing to let you know that a question about Will Rogers' ranch house is airing tonight on "Jeopardy!" in a category called Famous Americans' Homes.

- "Jeopardy!" writing staff

---

So, do you dudes allow camp fires in your campground?

---

Dear Sirs, in May we want to travel to California, Nevada and Arizona. Is there a National Park or another protected area in one of these states where we can hike and see bears and it is also warmer than 20° C? As I read in the Web, Yosemite has many bears, but is still cold in May. (When she's cold, my wife is insufferable.) I would appreciate your advice.

---

I spent 3 nights camping @ this park recently. My car was vandalized by squirrels – they ate through the insulator on all spark plug wires and ate into a cooling system hose. Repair costs: almost \$275. SUGGESTION: campers should be warned about this potential problem. If I had known in advance, I would have surrounded by [sic] car with moth balls or cotton balls saturated with oil of peppermint.

## Wanted: Your Stories and Ideas

Share with us at:  
[newsandviews@parks.ca.gov](mailto:newsandviews@parks.ca.gov)  
or give us a call at (916) 654-7538  
All ideas welcome