



The CSPRA

Wave

Volume 22, Number 4

Newsletter of the CALIFORNIA STATE PARK RANGERS ASSOCIATION

Autumn 2022

"State Park experts and professionals advocating for State Parks since 1964."

Dave's Update

It has been too many years since we were able to come together, enjoy each other's company, meet old friends and make new ones, and recharge the enthusiasm batteries of our shared professional energies. After years of COVID challenges, after last year's wildfire evacuations and this year's worrisome, but manageable smoke impacts, after all that – 3rd Times a Charm – we gathered together again September 12 -15 (see pages 3 to 7).

We are grateful to the Sierra District and Sierra State Parks Foundation (SPPF) for hosting us at Donner/ Truckee. The interpretive experiences they provided us were very impressive. It is good to learn that park visitors to the Donner Lake and Tahoe park units are receiving such high quality interpretation. And the SPPF puts on great hospitality hours. I must give high praise to conference coordinators, **Mike Lynch** and **Ann Meneguzzi**.

Preparing for the Rendezvous, I reread the CSPRA 50th Anniversary booklet from 2014. Many

members provided statements back then about the importance of this organization to them as park professionals, pointing to our defense of the park system's integrity and our advocacy for park values, and never-ending efforts to secure appropriate support. Many of them also mentioned fond memories generated at these annual conferences.

One page written for that booklet was by **Doug Bryce**, who served as our Executive Manager from 1968 to 2001, for 33 years! Doug died a few weeks ago. He wrote, "CSPRA went through organizing pains and became a strong advocate for California State Parks as well as a conscience for the Department of Parks and Recreation." When I was elected to this position, I reached out to Doug for advice. He stressed the need for CSPRA to continue advocacy, to demonstrate respect for the park philosophy, and to remain the agency "conscience."

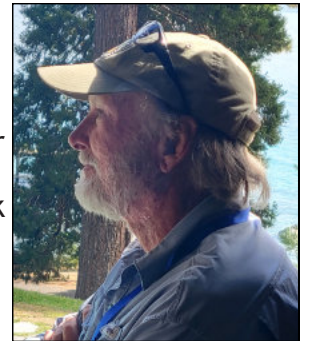
This will be my last newsletter report before CSPRA members elect

another slate of officers and directors for 2023-2024. Time to look back...

With the pandemic raging in early 2020, our Board and officers met via Zoom each quarter to conduct business. It was not until April 2021 that we finally got to meet in person in Folsom. As I near the end of this term as President, I sincerely thank our dedicated leadership group. Every newsletter lists those officers and directors (see page 8). You can also follow the "Contact Us" tab at cspra.com for the full list of liaisons, committee chairs, and contract staffers. What a diverse, talented, and knowledgeable group.

We still have unfinished business, though, after 22 months. There always will be more facing us, of course. However...

CSPRA's finances are healthy. Our website is filled with worthwhile information, kept up to date by **Jeff**



Price. Our quarterly newsletter, the WAVE is colorful, at times quite beautiful, always worth reading and its editor, **Brian Cahill**, depends upon your contributions.

It has been my honor to meet each quarter since January last year with State Parks Director **Armando Quintero** and several of his staff. We also had to meet via Zoom during these pandemic years, until we finally shook hands at the World Ranger Day (WRD) event last July.

Representing CSPRA has taken me here-and-there in person, to that San Diego WRD event, to Parks Advocacy Day in Sacramento, to Los Angeles State Historic Park to see firsthand the threat of an inappropriate gondola incursion, to Red Rock Canyon SP to tour a mine site inside the park that should never be reactivated. We commented on and continue to follow such issues. In October I will speak at the annual conference for CALPA, the California League of Park Associations (another in-person gathering!). I've corresponded for CSPRA with the International Ranger Federation, with the Mongolian Ranger Association, with Panamanian and Mexican rangers. And all along I have used CSPRAnet to keep you informed via email.

We are still working on restoring the State Park System's first fire truck and moving it from the

Department archives back to Angel Island. A restoration estimate has been received and a fund-raising effort will come next. Stay tuned.

We are still working on outreach to potential members who too often think that CSPRA is "just for rangers." You know, or may not know, that the ANPR serves all National Park professionals. And PRAC serves all local and regional park professionals. Of course CSPRA is intended for all state park professionals, from whatever job category, and whenever a member speaks as a representative of the "Park Rangers Association", whatever their actual job title, their voice is accorded immediate respect. Every new member, active duty or retired, strengthens CSPRA's voice. Please help spread the word to all state park professionals that this organization is their way to be part of the "big picture," to be connected to the mission of a very large park system. It is possible to lose sight of that in each day's work tasks, but it is the core of our philosophy-driven professional organization.


We are still working on helping the State Park System emerge from a crisis of staffing vacancies, a billion-dollar maintenance backlog, and the need for longterm, stable, dedicated funding for park operations. It appears that "saving the system" will take a bit longer to achieve.

This last effort may sound impossible, just pie-in-the-

sky, but the needs have been identified, officially, for decades. Such shortfalls frustrated every CSPRA administration (just read the past-Presidents' reports in that 50th anniversary booklet). Getting this done will take public awareness and acceptance. It will take the support of affiliate organizations that share our concern for state parks. It will take political support. We must be well organized.

One of my Supervising Rangers, during an annual evaluation, told me that I was "sometimes too idealistic." He wanted me to ease off on pressure to keep doing more at the Mono Lake Tufa State Reserve. Yet, in my mind, that criticism was one of the best compliments I ever received.

We have a bit more than three months left in 2022. Let's see how much we can get done, realistically and, yes, idealistically, to protect and preserve the values of California's State Park System.



Election Nears

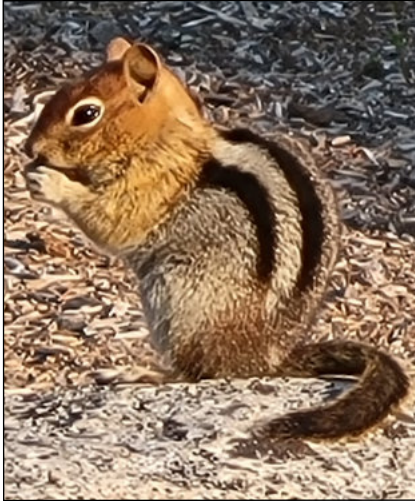
The CSPRA Nominating Committee is finalizing a slate of member candidates. Any last minute nominations go to committee chair **Ron Krueper** ron@cspra.com, The deadline is October 10.

Rendezvous Recap



Rendezvous participants experienced historic transportation corridors over the Sierra; wagon trails, an 1864 railroad tunnel and the Lincoln Highway





Thanks to Heidi Doyle and the Sierra State Parks Foundation for insider's tours of the Ehrman Mansion and Vikingsholm on a spectacular Tahoe day.

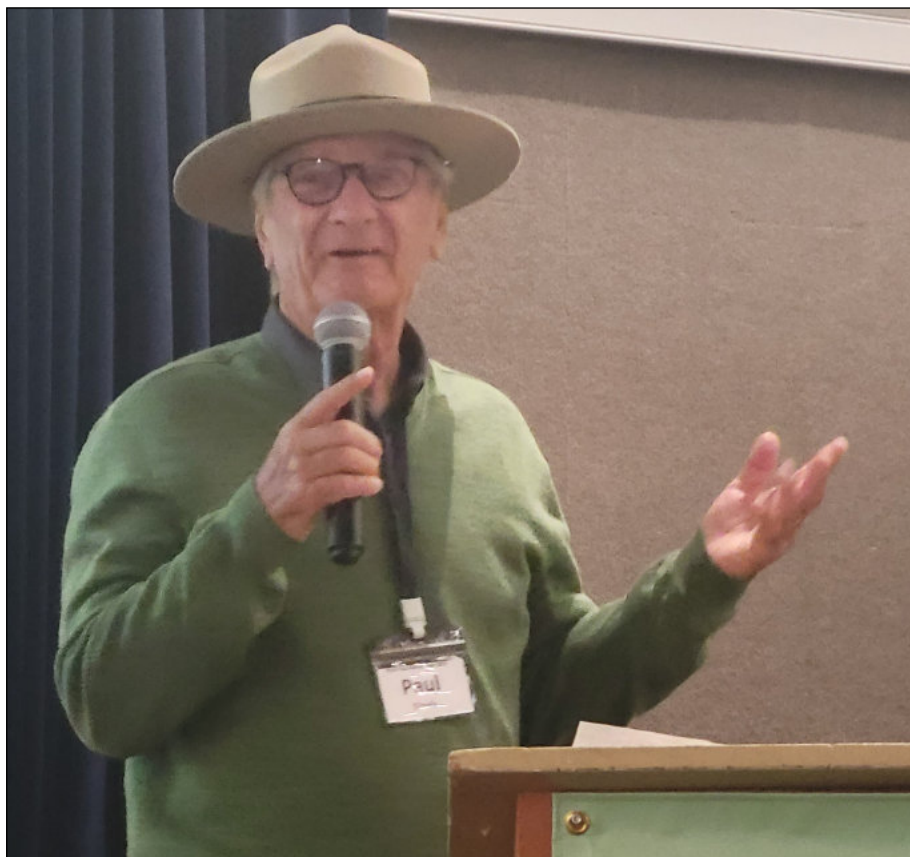
Sierra District Environmental Scientist **Courtney Rowe** gave a provocative presentation on fire ecology and fire management in parks (right). Nearly 70 CSPRA members participated in the Rendezvous.



Fire restrictions would not allow **Frank Padilla's** famous smoked TriTip dinner, but his last minute carne asada was quite tasty. Thanks to Frank and his team.



2021 Honorary California State Park Ranger Paul Slavik



At long last we were able to award our 2021 Honorary Ranger to **Paul Slavik**. OHV Deputy Director **Sarah Miggins** spoke of his many accomplishments.

Paul helped create the OHV Volunteer Program in the San Bernardino National Forest. He was also on the steering committee that produced the California OHV Program's 25th Anniversary. He was appointed to the OHMVR Commission where he served for 12 years. While on the Commission Paul helped form the partnership between California State Parks, OHMVR Division and National Youth Project Using Minibikes. NYPUM uses youth sized off road motorcycles to teach positive behavior to children.



2022 Honorary California State Park Ranger Paul Rogers

Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist **Paul Rogers** was honored as CSPRA Honorary Ranger for 2022. Paul has been a tireless supporter of not only parks, but of honest reporting on environmental issues which effect parks and public lands.

Paul's acceptance speech really resonated. He says "Looking back, nobody ever says 'We saved too much of Big Basin.' 'Mount Tamalpais would have been better covered with gated subdivisions.' 'Big Sur could really use a six-lane freeway.' As the writer Wallace Stegner wrote decades ago: 'What is a resource worth? Anything it costs. ...We have been too efficient at destruction; we have left our souls too little space to breathe in.'"



Book Review

Review by J.R. Quirk

With his debut *title*, *Stories from Sea Level*, many readers likely concluded Ed Vodrazka had published the definitive work on California Lifeguarding. These readers (myself included) were wrong as his second book, *One Guard Out*, clearly provides a wholly different perspective in a study of uncharted waters.

This book reminds me of David Van Cleve's collection of California State Park Rangers, *A Greatness of Spirit*, in that it looks in depth at a small sampling of dedicated California State Park professionals and the commitment to their craft. Van Cleve looked exclusively at rangers who mostly chose to stay at the field level through their career, some at the same location, and their motivations.

Vodrazka has chosen a similarly small sampling of lifeguards, but these individuals were motivated to relocate, largely as a team, to a desolate shoreline desperately in need of their skills. The assignments these lifeguards chose in many ways tempered that same spirit Van Cleve had tapped, or at the least fundamentally challenged it, and changed them in unexpected ways.

Rangers and lifeguards are for the most part different creatures, although there has been some successful overlap, mostly from



lifeguards migrating into ranger ranks. Given their differences it is quite remarkable that these two uniformed disciplines have historically worked so successfully side by side. This teamwork dynamic is woven into Vodrazka's tale.

With nearly half of a century lifeguarding (or more accurately stated "lifesaving") Vodrazka has seen his share of both heroics and tragedy. Inherent in the lifeguard "lifesaving" culture is their opinion that death is a result of failed heroics. That flawed, yet inevitable, perspective is the foundation of this book. As the author observes in one of the concluding chapters, "Although the guards loved the bulk of their job, their job didn't love them back".

Anyone who has ever seen California's rugged north coastline, and the scattered, isolated and insulated communities along that stretch, will completely understand how these "spirited" lifeguards were inextricably caught between a rock and a hard place.



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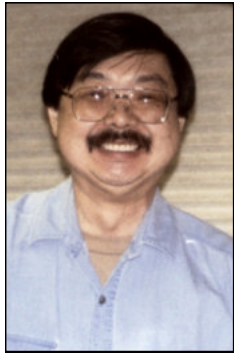
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**Deadline for next issue
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Wave Goodbye

Toshiro Komura



Toshiro 'TK' Komura passed away peacefully on July 27 with family by his side. Born in Sacramento, he was the beloved son of Toshiharu and

Sumiye Komura and grandson of Shige Yamamoto.

After graduating from McClatchy High School and UC San Diego, TK was a State Parks Interpretive Guide for nearly 30 years. He worked at several state parks, developing exhibits and brochures, and leading tours.

It was said you hadn't seen anything until you saw how TK held the attention of school kids as he explained the wonders of our natural world. Although he could be quiet in a crowd, he was quick-witted, kind, generous, and humble. He took care of his grandmother and parents, taking them on many trips around the country.

He is survived by his sister and brother-in-law, Keiko & Paul Duax, and many relatives. Condolences can be left at eastlawn.com. In lieu of koden, please visit or consider a contribution to a state or national park.

Doug Bryce

We were all saddened to hear of the passing of Doug Bryce. For years he was "Mister CSPRA" serving as our Executive Director for nearly 40 years. Here's how Doug described his career in his own words.

"In February of 1964 there was one item that was not on the agenda that was on everyone's mind. Should we create a Rangers Association? We unanimously decided to create CSPRA and a few months later when they were selecting persons to run for office they needed a token candidate to run against Paul Griffith for President. Paul had been working with CSEA and Earl Hanson and others on the creation of the Association so he was the logical choice for President. So I agreed to be the token. I don't believe I even garnered one vote.

In 1968, CSPRA needed someone to replace CSEA lawyer Phil Geiger as Executive Secretary. Board member Chuck Lyden, asked me if I would be interested in being Executive Secretary. Needless to say I said yes. I went to the May board meeting and looked for the other candidates – there were none. So I became an employee of CSPRA from June 1968 through 2002.

I worked with many fine people that were on the board, committees, and



members that were frequent helpers and advisors. My work with CSPRA led to Executive Manager jobs with PRAC, Western Interpreters Association, the Cal Ranger Foundation and 4 or 5 other organizations. I incorporated about 6 organizations. I joined the Sacramento Society of Association Executives and tried to learn how to be a top notch Executive Manager."

Doug began working with State Parks in 1955 as a Park Aide at Cuyamaca Rancho SP. His first permanent position was Park Attendant at Silver Strand State Beach. He was a ranger at Anza-Borrego Desert State Park, as well as Bolsa Chica and El Capitan State Beaches. He promoted to Supervising Ranger at Calaveras Big Trees, Park Supervisor at Marshall Gold Discovery SHP, and Area Manager at Anza-Borrego. In 1969, he became Assistant Superintendent of District One in Eureka. His last assignment was at Sacramento Headquarters in Interpretive Services, retiring as Supervisor of the Audio-Visual unit in 1988.

Mixed Metaphors & Malaprops

by Jeff Price,
Seriously Retired

Mixed Metaphor: A combination of thoughts that when strung together produce a ridiculously funny effect of melded clichés.
— malaprops@cspira.com.

Some of these I can't begin to understand!

Certain economic data are guideposts that tell you how we're going to be shifting the mix of our tools in the bag as we try to land this ship on a well, in a smooth way onto the carrier.

Simian hits a spanner.

That really throws a monkey into the wrench.

Face the consequences.

Stop it, you are giving me a complexion.

Opaque page-turner?

Sometimes, life is not as clear as a book.

Destiny and beyond!

When you vote you put your hands in their fate.



Flogging the trail.

This executive home sits just off the beat and path on a shaded lot.

Jefferson Airplane song title update, "Wet Rabbit."

If we dip our toe into this pond, we will go down the rabbit hole

All quiet on the Western front?

The issue surrounding renaming Patrick's Point, is now mute.

Déjà vu all over again.

She's starting to have seconds doubts about her decision.

Don't pun-ish me.

Writing my name in cursive is my signature move.

CSPRA is affiliated with several other non-profit organizations that share our goals.

The Park Rangers Association of California is a professional organization for park Rangers and other employees of municipal, county, special district, state and federal agencies.



The International Ranger Federation supporting the critical work that the world's park rangers do in conserving our natural and cultural heritage.



Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs Promotion of the Proper Use, Enjoyment and Protection of America's Scenic Wilderness and Outdoor Resources.



Association of National Park Rangers communicating for, about and with National Park Service employees of all disciplines and providing a forum for professional enrichment



California Park Hospitality Association representing companies and individuals who provide hospitality services under contract with the California State Parks.



California League of Park Associations supporting the Non-profits that are partners with State Parks.



Ranger Foundation — Rangers Helping Rangers. Our 501(c)3 charitable organization helps rangers worldwide. Eighty-Four Wildfire Relief grants have been granted to members of our state park family. More information about how you can help [HERE](#).





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Please let us know.
Betsy@CSPRA.com



Member List Server

Sign-up for timely CSPRA news right in your inbox.

Just send your email address (no State emails please) to webmaster@cspra.com with the subject line "add me to CSPRAnet"



Retiring Soon?

If you or a co-worker will be retiring soon, please contact Membership Services Coordinator Betsy Anderson at (707) 884-3949.

betsy@cspra.com.



Already Retired?

Want to keep in touch after you leave DPR? Join Gray-Bears email ListServ - FREE and EASY

graybears@cspra.com

Join CSPRA Or join us online at cspra.com

Name: _____

Address: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Job Classification: _____

District / Park: _____

Social Security # _____ (req'd for pay deduction)

Phone(W) _____ Phone (H) _____

Email: _____

Membership Type (Check one)

- Active \$10/month
- Active Retired \$60/year (\$5/mo.)
- Supporting \$36/year*
- Organization \$50/year*
- Benefactor \$1,000/life*

* Please include check for 1 year's dues for these membership levels.

I hereby authorize the State Controller to deduct from my salary and transmit as designated an amount for membership dues in the California State Park Rangers Association. This authorization will remain in effect until canceled by myself or by the organization. I certify I am a member of the above organization and understand that termination of my membership will cancel all deductions made under this organization.

Signature _____

Date _____

Membership by Mail:

CSPRA — Betsy Anderson
PO Box 618 Gualala, CA 95445



On tour to Emerald Bay. Photo by Robyn Ishimatsu

California State Park Rangers Association



CSPRA is an organization of State Park professionals dedicated to advancement of the highest principles of public service, established to support and preserve California State Parks for present and future generations

Founded 1964