



The CSPRA

# Wave

Volume 25, Number 1

Newsletter of the CALIFORNIA STATE PARK RANGERS ASSOCIATION

Winter 2025

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

## Aerial Gondola Project Advancing

By Ron Krueper

As reported in the spring 2024 WAVE, LA Metro adopted the Los Angeles Aerial Rapid Transit (LA ART) Final EIR for a privately funded aerial gondola transportation project to connect Union Station to Dodger Stadium through Los Angeles State Historic Park (LASHP). CSPRA, along with several other organizations, had submitted comments last February 2024 identifying "fatal flaws" in the deficient analysis of impacts to LASHP in the FEIR. Los Angeles Park Alliance and the California Endowment both challenged the FEIR with a lawsuit in August 2024. Unfortunately, the court found that LA Metro satisfied the basic requirements of CEQA in approving the aerial gondola project. Both LA Park Alliance and California Endowment have since appealed this ruling and are still awaiting a determination by the Appeals Court.

CSPRA has actively advocated during past public comment periods at Parks and Recreation Commission



meetings about the potential precedent setting concerns if a privately funded interest were to take a portion of a State Park.

In the meantime, LA ART has contacted California State Parks and its Planning Division to start the process of a General Plan Amendment (GPA) needed to the LASHP General Plan to allow a gondola loading station onsite and aerial cable rights through 2 acres of the 32 acre Park. A LASHP GPA is just one of several approvals still needed before the project can move forward, by the City of Los Angeles, Caltrans and State Historic Preservation Office. However, depending on the Appeals Courts findings, this move to consider and even start a GPA process by parks is surprising and alarming given previous stances taken by the Department against past threats to other State

Parks (i.e. a Toll road through San Onofre SB and new electrical transmission lines through Anza-Borrego and Chino Hills).

In November CSPRA participated in the initial public input meetings held at LA Union Station in Los Angeles. This is the first step in the GPA process where options will be reviewed and considered before a Draft GPA for further public review is developed. Of course the last step is a Final GPA for public review which would be considered and voted on by the Commission. The timeline for a possible Commission vote is Sept. 2025. CSPRA hopes that through its comments along with many other groups and individuals that parks considers a "NO" to the GPA process and it never is presented before the Commission. However, the trajectory parks is taking with the GPA process suggests a "NO" will probably not happen and they will likely defer to the Commission for a decision. CSPRA will take every opportunity to weigh-in during the coming year.



## CSPRA LEADERSHIP

### PRESIDENT

Steve Ptomey, Interpreter III,  
steve@cspra.com

### VICE PRESIDENT

Ann Meneguzzi, Retired, Sup. Rgr.  
ann@cspra.com

### SECRETARY

Joanne Kerbavaz, Environmental  
Scientist, joanne@cspra.com

### TREASURER

Ron Krueper, Retired Ranger/Supt.  
ron@cspra.com

### DIRECTORS

Sal Goshorn, Ret Lifeguard  
sal@cspra.com

Jean Rhyne, Interpreter,  
jean@cspra.com

Greg Kania, Park Maintenance Chief,  
greg@cspra.com

Rich Rozzelle, Superintendent, Ret  
rich@cspra.com

Riley Budd, Ranger SPPO  
riley@cspra.com

Jeremy Lin, Interpreter III  
jeremy@cspra.com

Dan Kraft, Ranger SPPO  
dan@cspra.com

### PAST PRESIDENT

Dave Carle, Retired Ranger  
dave@cspra.com

### MEMBER SERVICES

Betsy Anderson  
betsy@cspra.com

### INTERNET COMMUNICATIONS

Jeffery B. Price, Webmaster  
jeff@cspra.com  
www.cspra.com

### The CSPRA Wave

ISSN 0087-9176  
Brian Cahill, Editor  
Brian@cspra.com

Published by CSPRA, PO Box 1667  
Big Bear Lake CA 92315

**Deadline for next issue  
March 15**

# President's Message

As my first message to the members of CSPRA I would like to start off the year thanking **Dave Carle** for his



service as President for the past two terms. His experience and insights have helped CSPRA immensely. I would also like to congratulate Secretary **Joanne Kerbavaz** and Director **Jean Rhyne** being re-elected and welcome aboard new Directors **Jeremy Lin, Riley Budd, and Dan Kraft**. I also want to acknowledge the continuing service of Vice President **Ann Meneguzzi** and Treasurer **Ron Krueper**. I would also thank the outgoing Directors **Jon Irwin** and **Cindy Begbie** for their service! I want to also acknowledge and thank **Mike Lynch** for his years serving as Board Advisor as well as **Jeff Price** and **Brian Cahill** for their continued and unwavering support behind the scenes keeping the webpage and newsletter running.

I would like to share with you all some of my priorities in this coming year: Membership, Mentorship and Making things happen. As an organization we need to grow, in the past few years we have seen fewer new members and the passing of many of our retired members (Gray Bears). We need to focus on growing the ranks of CSPRA, across all classifications and levels in the department. I would

like to put out a challenge to all our current "active" members to try to recruit at least one new person this year.

This brings us to the second part of this proposed plan; Mentorship. With so many "new" staff joining the department as well as a the large number of retirees over the past few years, there is quite the need for CSPRA members to help the new generation embrace the Parks ethos and the core mission of CSPRA: Support, Protect, and defend the integrity of State Parks, Advance the highest principles of public service, Serve as the conscience for the department, Maintain the integrity of natural, historical and cultural heritage.

Lastly, making things happen. With the budget shortfalls the department is facing this fiscal year (and probably next) this is our opportunity to help make things happen by sponsoring scholarships to professional meetings, training, publications and grants to help fund special projects. I hope all of us can work together and pull from the literally hundreds of years of combined park expertise to help State Parks be the best it can be.

Thank you for your support and all your efforts in making CSPRA the voice of the park professional.

**Steve Ptomey, President**



---

---

## Elliott Retires

**Matt Green** presents the CSPRA retirement plaque to **Scott Elliott**. Elliott started with State Parks at Plumas-Eureka State Park in 1989.

Elliott joined the academy in March 2001, with BVST-19, graduating on Aug. 31, 2001. He started his first assignment in the Santa Cruz District, before transferring to Big Sur and later Sierra District, working at Lake Tahoe.

In 2016, Elliott came to the Law Enforcement and Emergency Services Division, eventually promoting to deputy chief. Up until his retirement, he has been working on various projects at LEES Division.



## Malta Ranger Unit

The Malta Ranger Unit is an NGO funded group working for the park and environmental protection of Malta. **Mike Lynch** from the International Ranger Federation Executive Committee and **Ann Meneguzzi**, both retired California state park rangers, met with the Malta Ranger Unit and learned of the good work they are doing in conservation education and protection in Malta.



---

---

# World Ranger Congress 2024

By Ann Meneguzzi

The South of France in October was a beautiful setting for the recent 10th World Ranger Congress (WRC) in Hyères on the Mediterranean's Giens peninsula. There I joined more than 400 other attendees from parks and protected areas on six continents. The International Ranger Federation (IRF) organizes a World Ranger Congress every 3-5 years so people can come together from many



*The North American contingent from California and from USA (Natl Parks and Forest Service).*



places to share fellowship, experiences, and ideas.

The theme of the 10th WRC was about “Rangers” being an essential part of the internationally agreed upon plans to protect 30% of Land, Waters, and Seas by

year 2030. IRF recognizes that “Rangers” throughout the world may have different names and perform a variety of roles in the work of preservation including law enforcement, biodiversity monitoring, environmental education,

community engagement and other jobs as well. IRF acknowledges and respects all who perform these duties. IRF wants the world to recognize that without “Rangers” – nature’s protectors – the 30 by 30 goal is unachievable.

It was great to be with so many people from place and settings very different from what is familiar to us in California. Both in and out of presentations and meetings, friendly encounters and conversations were common. Sharing tables during mealtimes was great fun even when different





languages were a slight handicap. During the four days of presentations, meetings, and activities, it was clear that those there shared a commitment and dedication to parks and protection of natural, cultural, and historic resources.

One specific presentation was given by the Indigenous Women Rangers Network of Queensland, Australia. Since 2018, this group has created a way for indigenous women rangers to connect with each other in order to learn new skills, explore career paths and opportunities while helping to protect their country and culture. They also visit schools to talk with young students about resource protection and how it can be a future career possibility. How excellent that these women have been able to reach and inspire young students to study towards a career as a ranger!

Also attending WRC were 8 rangers from different countries in South America



*Ann enjoys chatting with a few Queensland Indigenous Women Rangers of Australia during a field trip break.*



*Mike Lynch introducing the Gordon Miller Lifetime Achievement Award recipients*

and the Caribbean. Generous gifts to the Ranger Foundation (RF) grant fund from some individual CSPRA members, the Tennessee Rangers Association, and the Association of National Park

Rangers paid their way. To meet all of them at WRC was heartwarming. They were so happy to be there and to express sincere thanks because there was no other way they could afford to attend.



*Janet Carle shares a moment with two South Korean rangers*

The 2027 WRC is being planned to take place at Iguazu Falls in Argentina. Iguazu Falls actually stretch into Brazil as well and are the largest waterfall system in the world! That will provide a spectacular destination and field trip possibilities for the next Congress. Hope you will think about being there. Remember CSPRA Scholarships are available to help with the expense.

---

# New Book Released

**The Island Effect**  
By David H. Van Cleve  
\$19.95, Paperback

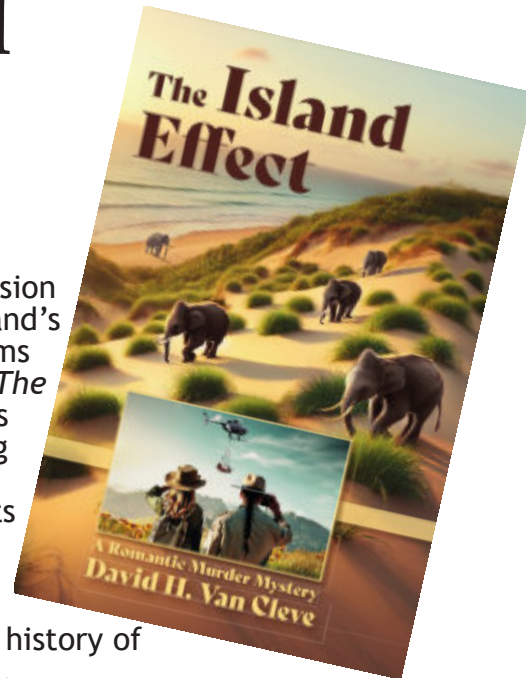
Charlie McAdams, a seasoned park superintendent, thought he'd seen it all – until he's assigned to manage the breathtaking Santa Maria Island State Park, largest of the Channel Islands off the coast of Santa Barbara, California. But this rugged paradise comes with its own set of challenges that test Charlie's resolve at every turn.

This gripping, romantic murder mystery is packed with humor, suspense, love, and an off beat yet brilliant set of characters reminiscent of Richard Osman's *The Thursday Murder Club*. From an impending resort development threatening the park's pristine landscapes, to a herd of feral cattle spreading deadly diseases, to the discovery of the skeleton of a pygmy mammoth, Charlie's plate is more than full. As if the environmental crises weren't enough, Charlie finds himself caught between the affections of two captivating women, while dealing with a local deputy sheriff of questionable integrity.

Just when things couldn't get more complicated, the island's peaceful facade is shattered by murder. Charlie must unravel the truth behind the crime while

continuing his mission to protect the island's delicate ecosystems and rich history. *The Island Effect* offers not only a thrilling ride but also fascinating insights into the unique biogeography, geology, paleontology, and history of Santa Maria Island.

**David Van Cleve** is a retired California State Park Superintendent. After his state service, he worked as an Ecoregional manager for the Nature Conservancy. David has also served as Board Chair for a minority-owned community bank, a lay leader for his Church, and as an officer of the Anza-Borrego Foundation. His interest in the Northern



Channel Islands stems from his graduate work at the University of California, Santa Barbara, and his time at the Nature Conservancy. Dave has written two non-fiction books about park rangers and is working on a guidebook for children on the magnificent Anza-Borrego Desert State Park. He lives in Southern California with his wife.

***Homicide, sex, paleontology and romance! Do these things actually happen behind the scenes in state parks? The author leads us on a romp around a fictional, but fully believable island state park situated off the coast of California. It's a fascinating picture of that world looking out from under the shade of a park ranger's flat hat. A fun read!***

**—Russell Cahill, former Director of California State Parks**



---

---

# Chilean National Park Rangers

*By Denzil Verardo*

My wife, Jennie and I visited the Atacama Desert and Rapa Nui (Easter Island) in Chile in October and November this year. The Atacama is the world's driest desert with some areas having experienced no measurable rainfall ever. It is also home to the world's highest geysers at 13,000 feet. The geysers occupy a huge footprint and represent 8% of all the geysers on earth.

While there, we were fortunate to meet a patrolling Chilean National Park Ranger who was ensuring no one went into the high elevation wetlands which occupy parts of the desert. Chile had long ago incorporated the native tribal community into managing and protecting many of its parkland and multi-jurisdictional preserves, much like



California State Parks is engaging in today.

We left the Atacama and flew to Rapa Nui (Easter Island), 2,300 miles offshore of Chile, to see the amazing Moai there. Again, we were fortunate to run into two park rangers at their headquarters. The Rapa Nui rangers are a subset of Chile's National Park Rangers in that they have their own insignia representative of the indigenous population. Rapa Nui is the indigenous name for both the island and the people.



I met with two of the rangers and we “bonded” immediately. They asked if I wanted to patrol with them but we were on a schedule. They had never met a park ranger from California or anywhere in the U.S. I gave them a State Parks patch which the Chief Ranger is proudly posting in the main headquarters. Great fun!



---

---

# Wave Goodbye

## Dennis Wright

Dennis was born in Belleville, Kansas, on December 1, 1944, and graduated from Concordia High School



and Kansas State University. He served in Vietnam, and after being discharged, moved to California, as he was passionate about the Pacific coastline and the ominous giant sequoias forests.

After several in-state moves, first working for the California State Forestry, Dennis secured his dream job as a California State Park Ranger, and was granted the seemingly unattainable residency of living virtually feet from the ocean's door, literally his dream come true, at Refugio State Beach, approximately 20 miles north of Santa Barbara. He was a State Park Ranger from 1974 to 2000.

Dennis was a diving dynamo and always put on a show for the locals when he came to visit his children, mother Evelyn, and aunt Grace in Concordia, Kansas. Dennis had a keen interest in family history, and was a member of the Cloud County Genealogical Society.

## George Rackelmann

George Oscar Rackelmann, 91, passed away peacefully on October 3rd, 2024.



George served in the U.S. Army from 1953 to 1955, and earned a Landscape Architecture degree at Iowa State University in 1955.

He worked for the State of California as a Landscape Architect, helping design several state beaches/parks, including San Onofre and Big Sur. His planning team was also actively involved with planning Malibu lagoon and Malibu Creek as well as Manzanar and Candlestick and several other units. He married his wife Peggy Ann Scott Rackelmann (who passed in July of 2024) in 1958, and raised two children.

George will be remembered for his easy going attitude and ability to see humor in all situations, and his love of family and friends who brought him great joy. In retirement he enjoyed grandkids, friends, camping, tennis, the beach house, and golf!

## Nedra Martinez

Nedra Kay Martinez, 68 years old, passed away on September 20, 2024.



Born on April 12, 1956, in San Diego, California. Nedra worked in both Northern and Southern California for the California State Parks and Recreation for over thirty years. She retired as a Sector Superintendent at Cuyamaca Rancho State Park. Nedra is remembered fondly by those that worked with her and for her. She was extremely positive and always had a ready smile. She was also very competent and handled some difficult situations as a ranger with grace and professionalism.

She loved traveling the world and the United States with her family and friends. She loved camping, and being with her Diva camping group. She never met an oyster she did not like, but knew she would have to count how many were eaten when she would have to share.

Nedra loved to volunteer at the San Diego Zoo, The Old Globe Theatre, the Forest Fire Lookout Association, ushering for the symphony, and many others.



---

# Ranger Pat Scully Remembered

The 100 Club of San Mateo County supports families of line-of-duty-deaths in its various jurisdictions through memorials, annual day of remembrance, scholarships for affected families and children. Recently late Ranger Pat Scully was honored at the “100 Club” Annual Dinner at the Basque Cultural Center in South San Francisco. Members of the Scully family were distinguished guests. Sharing the Scully table were CSPRA’s **Steve Barber, Joanne Kerbavaz, Stan Kopacz, Joe Walters, and Ann Meneguzzi.**

**Patricia M. Scully** was a state park ranger in 1975. She had passion for the outdoors and took great joy in teaching people. Her brother Tom Scully says she had a gift and could effectively communicate the world’s natural beauty to even the most recalcitrant park visitor. On May 6, 1976 at the age of 25, she was killed while on duty in a



*California State Park Ranger Patricia M. Scully circa 1975*

senseless car accident. The driver of a Corvair was driving 80 mph, trying to get airborne, succeeded, and crushed Patty in her State Park truck.

Thanks to the effort of **Steve Barber**, now a Supervising State Park Ranger at Millerton Lake, a 4.5-mile stretch of Highway One, just north of San Gregorio State Park, was

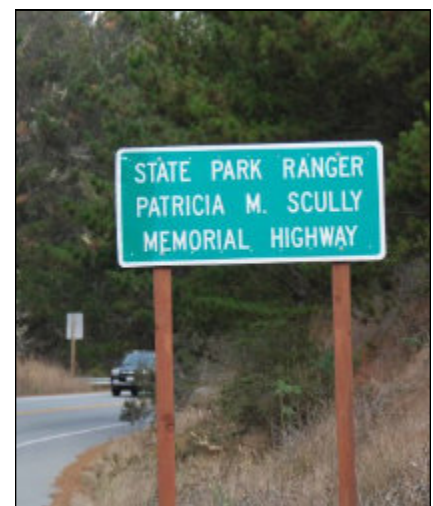
dedicated to State Park Ranger Patricia M. Scully.

This section of highway offers a celebration of her life, her dedication to educating the public, and of the State Park Service itself. Containing the accident site, it is the first memorial highway section ever to be dedicated to a California State Park Ranger. She was further honored, by being inducted into the San Mateo County Peace Officer Memorial, on September 25, 2013.

The Scully Scholarship program was created and funded by Patricia Scully's family in her memory. For many years, Scully Scholarships through CSPRA helped state park staff attend Audubon Camp of the West in Wyoming.



*Family of Ranger Scully were honored at a recent Dinner attended by CSPRA and Ranger Foundation members at the Basque Cultural Center in South San Francisco.*



*State Park Ranger Patricia M. Scully’s memorial road sign is located near the original accident site and just north of San Gregorio State Park, Highway 1.*

# Mixed Metaphors & Malaprops

by Jeff Price,  
Seriously Retired

A metaphor makes a direct comparison, substituting one thing for another. A malapropism is the mis-taken use of a word in place of a similar sounding one.

Some of these are inexplicable ...

*Unfortunately, we have now taken a path down the wrong road and gone a bridge too far.*

**Ringing levels of hierarchy.**

*That's a good idea, but certainly not the top of my rung.*

**How about the goalposts?**

*How can we ever end this if you just keep moving the football?*

**A gentle and benevolent option maybe.**

*After this investigation, I don't think he will just go kindly into the night.*



**Dental explants?**

*Politicians lie their teeth off.*

**But what about drowning?**

*... and you know Wolfe, flooding is the #1 cause of death in a hurricane.*

**That's a pretty odd penny.**

*Well, that's two sides of the same coin, but here is a third ...*

**Failure to lube?**

*They don't seem to mix well together, just like air and water?*

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 helped state park evacuees from the Hungry Valley wildfire with emergency grants. More information about how you can help [HERE](#).







www.CSPRA.com



twitter.com/@\_CSPRA\_



facebook.com/CSPRA

Are you Moving?  
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@cspira.com](mailto:webmaster@cspira.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@cspira.com](mailto:betsy@cspira.com).



## Already Retired?

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

[graybears@cspira.com](mailto:graybears@cspira.com)

### Join CSPRA Or join us online at [cspira.com](http://cspira.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



*A Park Ranger from the Congo, proudly showing his California State Park Patch - Story on page 4*

## **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*