



CSPRA OFFICERS

PRESIDENT

Dave Carle, Retired Ranger
(760) 709-1181 dave@cspra.com

VICE PRESIDENT

Ann Meneguzzi, Retired, Sup. Rgr.
(209) 373-9844, ann@cspra.com

SECRETARY

Joanne Kerbavaz, Environmental Scientist,
(650) 720-5007
joanna@cspra.com

TREASURER

Tom Bernardo, Retired Ranger/Supt.
(916) 990-2009, tom@cspra.com

DIRECTORS

Miles Standish, Retired Ranger
(831) 466-9789, miles@cspra.com

Jean Rhyne, Interpreter,
(661)753-6233, jean@cspra.com

Cindy Begbie, Maintenance Chief,
530-225-2067, cindy@cspra.com

Erin Gates, Interpreter,
(916) 704-5762, erin@cspra.com

Jonathan Irwin, Ranger SPPO,
(619) 575-3613x337, jon@cspra.com

Neill Fogarty, Supervising SPPO
(707)364-5173, neill@cspra.com

Rob Pickett, Supervising Ranger
(661)618-6924, rob@cspra.com

PAST PRESIDENT

Mike Lynch, Retired Ranger/Supt.
mike@cspra.com

MEMBER SERVICES

Betsy Anderson
(707) 884-3949, betsy@cspra.com

INTERNET COMMUNICATIONS

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

The CSPRA Wave

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

Published by CSPRA, PO Box 3212
Bowman, CA 95604-3212

*Deadline for next issue
October 15*

Retirees Recognized

Former CSPRA Board Member **Donna Pozzi**, left, presents a CSPRA retirement plaque recognizing more than 26 years of State service, including 18 years with State Parks, to past CSPRA President **Gail Sevrens** in front of the State Capitol in June.



Gail began her State career at the Tijuana River Estuary/Border Field State Park as a volunteer interpreter, seasonal park interpretive specialist, state park interpretive assistant, and state park interpreter I; then served as district interpretive specialist in the (former) Bay Area District; as an associate park and recreation specialist at the Northern Service Center, and as a state park interpreter III, senior park and recreation specialist, and district superintendent at the Colorado Desert District. Gail served on DPR's Equal Employment Opportunity Committee.

She also served with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife as an environmental program manager I with the South Coast Region and finished her career in a career executive assignment (CEA) overseeing CDFW's Salton Sea Management Program in the Inland Deserts Region.

During Gail's tenure as CSPRA President 2007-09, CSPRA joined with other nonprofit organizations to successfully defeat many proposed threats to State Parks, including

proposals for a toll road through San Onofre State Beach, transmission lines through Anza-Borrego Desert State Park, mega dairies adjacent to Colonel Allensworth State Historic Park, the last gasps of the proposed Auburn Dam, and power lines through Chino Hills State Park. CSPRA and these coalitions also fought budget cuts and proposed Park closures. Gail was inspired by CSPRA's tradition of advocacy such as the successful Save Bodie campaign of the 1980s and 90s.

Gail urges all CSPRA members to be involved and actively support the organization in efforts to combat ongoing and future threats to State Parks including climate change; create equity and inclusion for all employees and visitors, and to support achieving sustainable, adequate funding for the State Park system in perpetuity.

Rich Rojas Honored

*By Christian La Mont,
Latino Outdoors*

At the start of this year, Latino Outdoors and Hispanic Access Fund set out to amplify and celebrate the success and achievements that the Latinx community has done for conservation for the 8th annual Latino Conservation Week. After a year of being isolated and socially distanced from our counterparts, we wanted this year's LCW to uplift, empower, and engage our community as we reflected on a year where outdoor access and mental health were at the forefront of everyone's mind.

As we explored what that meant to our community as a whole and to us, it became obvious that we needed to celebrate those who have paved the way, those who are currently trail breaking, and those up and coming conservationists that will continue the fight long into the future. From that, the first-ever Latino Conservation Week Achievement Awards were created.

I thought immediately of **Richard Rojas, Sr.** LO Board Chairperson, as being a champion for the voices that were missing from the mainstream outdoor conversation and coverage, for fighting for access to the outdoors, and for dedicating his life to finding and lifting up the next generation of outdoors leaders.



As a Park Ranger, then Supervising Ranger, Park Superintendent, Chief Ranger, and as District Superintendent for the Channel Coast District of California, Richard is a true example of community, conservation, and culture. I nominated Richard via the form provided by HAF, and the LCW Awards Committee voted. **Richard Rojas, Sr.** won the "Elders Achievement" category, **Noah Moctezuma Cortez** won in the "Youth Achievement" category, and **Aura Vasquez** won the "Movers and Shakers" Achievement category.

In addition to Rich's work with Latino Outdoors he serves as a Court Appointed Special Advocate volunteer assisting kids in foster care, has served as Goleta City Parks & Recreation Commissioner, and continues to serve on a variety of historic preservation, parks, open-space and youth oriented community organizations. He and his wife Ophelia live in La Habra, CA.

Got Funds?

CSPRA may have what you need

*By Rob Pickett,
(CSPRA board member)*

What the heck is a PDG? It's a Personal Development Grant! This, as well as scholarships, are just one of the many perks of being a CSPRA member. The scholarships and PDG's are up to \$500 for Active Members and up to \$250 for Active Retired Members.

Funds can be used for things like professional and career development courses, conference or seminar fees, or similar career enhancement endeavors that fit the goals of California State Parks for Active members, and for conferences and courses that fit with the mission and goals of CSPRA, for Active Retired Members.

There are other rules/criteria that apply. For more information and to apply, please go to: <http://www.cspra.com/scholarships.html>. Your application will be reviewed to make sure the criteria is met, and if so, your check will be sent out. If you have any additional questions, let me know: rob@cspra.com

Story of an Evacuation

By Rosanna Petralia

We've decided to stay home until we get the official evacuation order.

It's 9:20pm. I am in the bedroom with my three dogs and two cats, texting family and friends, and checking Twitter for fire updates. I have done my best clearing out dried grass, brushes, and duff around the house. I am dead tired, but who can sleep? The fire is nearby, maybe a mile away. Gazos Canyon has already been evacuated, but we haven't even received a warning. I am worried, but feel hopeful. Perhaps the wind is blowing the fire away from us and the authorities don't think we are in danger.

My older dog, a Great Pyrenees named Jaz, isn't so sure. She is lying down at the foot of the bed and starts emitting short and low tone barks. Curious, I step out into the back yard. The sky is bright red and just up the hill behind the house a very intense red ball. Is that the fire? Are those explosions I'm hearing? In a horrifying instant I realize: it is the trees! The water inside the trees is turning to steam, and they're bursting from the inside.

I rush to Andy, my husband, "We are not waiting for the evacuation order. Let's get out of here, now!" We load the cars with our daughter, our pets, instruments, camping gear, and essential items. On the way out I randomly grab a dear



Rosanna Petralia was born in Sicily and has lived in California for the past 24 years. She is a retired park interpreter from California State Parks. Her home was lost along with large parts of neighboring Año Nuevo and Big Basin Redwoods State Parks, to the CZU Lightening Complex Fires on August 18th, 2020. A year after the fire, she is still living in a rental and working on habitat restoration and fire protection plans to prepare to rebuild. She was the recipient of two of the Park Rangers Foundation Grants, which allowed her to buy a 1,550 gallon water tank and a wood chipper. Pictured above Fire fighting in the hills above Año Nuevo, August 17, 2020

friend's sketchbook, the plush rhino I bought before my daughter was born, and my grandma's silverware that I'd brought from Sicily. I close all the windows, turn on the lights. The hose is already stretched out, the ladder against the roof. The firefighters will need them to defend our home.

We hit the road at 9:40pm. It is 4.3 miles of dirt road down to Highway One. There is a strong, hot wind blowing seemingly from all directions. The trees are

swinging wildly as if they want to uproot and run away with us. "I am so sorry to leave you behind," I tell them with branches falling all around us. Some neighbors rush to get away. I prefer to go slow. I have three dogs and two cats on board and the road is bumpy. If I hit something, how am I going to make it out of the canyon with all of them? The silverware tub overturns leaving the dogs stomping around on spoons, forks and knives.

We are almost out of the canyon when we cross a CalFire pick up. A pick up? Where is the water tanker? Where are the firefighters? Then it hits me: I might never see our house again. The beloved Red Baita. Built in 1948 with old growth redwood by a German immigrant, Gus, a sign maker. Renovated by a retired English teacher, Marianne, avid smoker, who died there of lung cancer. Bought by our family in March 2011, the day after the Fukushima nuclear disaster.



Rosanna's home in Whitehouse Canyon, (pictured above before and after) was lost along with large parts of neighboring Año Nuevo and Big Basin Redwoods State Parks, to the CZU Lightening Complex Fires on August 18th, 2020.

We reach the bottom of the road at Highway One and join our neighbors in the beach pullout looking back in disbelief at what we left behind. The fire covers the ridge both to the north and the south and is raging westward down our canyon.

We check if everyone is present. A couple of neighbors are still back in the canyon, trying to save vehicles or equipment. Most people are silent, some people talk, others cry. We hug. We need each other more than ever.

Five sheriff cars arrive from the north. A couple of them park across the road blocking it. The others drive into the fiery canyon to make sure everyone gets

out. There is no going back. No more deck for Jaz to keep her sentinel watch. No more hints of cigarette smell in the hallway closet. No more home. We have just raced out of our sanctuaries and been tossed out for who knows how long into a world infested by a deadly virus.

It's 10:18pm. We receive our evacuation order.

In March, 2021, Deputy Chief Ian Larkin declares "Make your home a stand alone structure that is

defensible and then, leave." Lesson learned. CalFire crews do what they can, but this is the state of things: there just aren't enough resources to stop these huge fires. All we can do is try to get a step ahead of them by creating a defensible space around our structures and infrastructure and supporting regenerative practices to keep the soil moist and limit the fire danger. In the end, though, the earth we share is the most important home we can care for.



State Parks Rendezvous

CSPRA and State Park Retirees
Donner Memorial SP, Truckee
September 13-16, 2021
Program (Tentative)



Sunday Sept 12: Very Early Arrivals – informal gatherings.

Monday Sept 13: Early Arrivals Tours

Optional Tours (Tentative)

Lincoln Hwy and Old Hwy 40 auto tour by Greg Palmer. Time TBA

Donner Summit Guided Hike by Don Schmidt - Time TBA

5pm Informal Hospitality Session, Location TBA

Dinner on your own or possible potluck.



Tuesday Sept 14: Field Trips (Tentative)

9:30am Donner Party Historic Camp (USFS) tour by Don Schmidt & Greg Palmer.

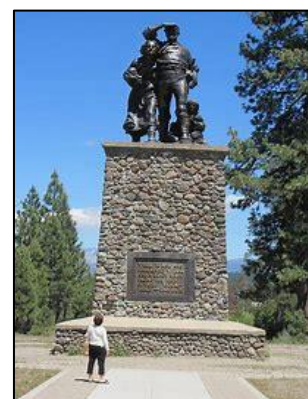
Lunch on Your Own

1pm - Insiders Vikingsholm Tour – by Sierra State Parks Foundation.

4:30pm–5:30pm - Donner walking tour by Hannah Doss, Park Interpreter

5:30pm–7pm - Hospitality & light meal at Donner Memorial SP Visitor Center

7pm – Donner Party story presentation - Bill Bowness, Park Interpreter



Wednesday Sept 15: Presentations, Awards, Annual Meeting & BBQ

8:00-8:15 am - Coffee

8:15 -11:00am - Presentations: (tentative) Wildfires in California State Parks, 50th Anniversary of the Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Program, Sierra State Parks Foundation, CalHR/SavingsPlus, Parks California, Ranger Foundation, & others.

11:15am-12 pm – Director remarks & Q&A

12:00-1:30pm - Lunch with Honorary Ranger presentation & other awards

2-4pm - CSPRA Membership Annual Meeting

5-7pm – Hospitality and BBQ Dinner at Donner group area.



Thursday Sept 16:

9:00am-11am - CSPRA Board Meeting. Location: Donner Memorial SP



Conference Lodging: Truckee Donner Lodge

10527 Cold Stream Road, Truckee CA 96161

Room rates and registration.

1 King (2 people) @\$124, 2Q@\$144 per night (4 people)

Group name: California State Park Rangers

Call: (530)582-9999 or email reservation requests to info@truckeedonnerlodge.com

Free camping at Donner Memorial SP. Contact Ann Meneguzzi at ann@cspra.com.

Partnering with Sierra State Parks Foundation

<https://sierrastateparks.org/>



Echoes

“Sad Scenes There Were”

By Denzil and Jennie Verardo

The following article was originally published in the Mountain Echo, the newsletter/journal of the Sempervirens Fund, in their Fall, 1976 issue. It serves as an historical backdrop to the Santa Cruz Mountains fire of 2020.

California Redwood Park (Big Basin) was created in September, 1902 with the purchase and donation of 3,800 acres of forest. It officially opened to campers on June 1, 1904 but what followed a few months later could not have been imagined.

Early September, 1904, had been hot and sultry—ideal weather for fire. On Sunday, September 4, a brush fire started in the Zayante-Newell Creek area and burned toward Felton and Ben Lomond. Tuesday was hotter still with the thermometer reaching 100 degrees in Boulder Creek. The stage was set for the largest fire in the recorded history of the Santa Cruz Mountains.

On Wednesday, another fire broke out in some slash below the Waterman Gap Mill while workers there were eating lunch. It quickly burned southwesterly through forests of virgin timber and by nightfall had reached the

boundary of the new park in Big Basin. By midnight, the fire was burning Union Mill (near present-day Skymeadow).

At 1:30 a.m., **Warden Pilkington** of Big Basin was notified that his park was burning. Since both his men were away of vacation, he sought help from a nearby mill owner, **I.T. Bloom**. Pilkington, Bloom’s men, and anyone else who could help, started what would prove to be a month-long battle to save what they could of the new state park.

An early Sempervirens Club member gave the following account. “For weeks the midday sun was a ball of fire in a bank of smoke. The starry heavens no more marked the night, but lurid flashes of flame accentuated the appalling darkness and stifling atmosphere.” The fire extended from the Skyline Ridge to the ocean shore, and covered a belt from one to three miles in width. The fire wasn’t subdued until rain fell on the 27th of the month. By the time the fire had ended, only the Redwood Trail area remained untouched.

After 70 years, the forest in Big Basin has recovered quite well, but this quotation from **A.A. Taylor**, an onlooker, reminds us of the devastation of September of 1904. “Sad scenes there were where once the Trail Beautiful had

led through redwoods standing breast high to the rider 150 feet above the valley below. Hot tears fell on saddles at the sight of these hundreds of coal black shafts, once the glory of the forest.”

Note: Three fires burned in the Santa Cruz Mountain in September, 1904. Besides the Big Basin, a fire threatened the towns of Ben Lomond and Felton and another began at the head of Fall Creek and eventually spread almost to the Pacific Ocean. The newspaper of the day, Boulder Creek’s original Mountain Echo perhaps summed it up the best: “Heaven deliver us.” Forest fires had never before caused such widespread destruction in the Santa Cruz Mountains.



Wave Goodbye

Bob Reese

Bob was born in 1932 to Emory Reese and Fern Keller Reese, in San Diego County, where he grew up. After studying a year at UC Berkeley, Bob enlisted in the Air Force and served four years in Japan as a radio operator decoding enemy transmissions. He then returned home and finished his BA degree at San Diego State with a major in Anthropology, Archaeology and Life Sciences.



Bob began his career as a State Park Ranger but is especially known for his near four decades of work as an Historian with the California Department of Parks and Recreation, serving a region from San Francisco to Santa Barbara. His work was grounded in the belief that our rich history and diverse legacies contained blueprints of wisdom for future generations.

Bob loved the Monterey Peninsula and like the former mayor, was often heard saying "we live in paradise."

Bill West

William Scott West Jr. was born in 1943 at Fort Monroe Virginia. Bill - as his friends referred to him, was raised in the military tradition, eventually serving as an Army Ranger Sergeant while serving in the Vietnam war and later in life as a Coast Guard Chief Gunners Mate during Operation Desert Storm. Bill contributed a combined 34 years of his life to the armed services on active and reserve duties.

Bill also served 19 years as a California State Park Ranger, stationed at the Pismo Dunes State Vehicle Recreation Area. While a State Park Ranger, Bill received several heroic commendations for ocean and terrestrial lifesaving.

Bill contributed to the Pismo Dunes restoration project and managed a sanctuary for injured birds in his spare time. He lent his artistic skills to the Piedras Blancas Lighthouse Station restoration in San Simeon and other civic activities that preserved history.



Barry Jones

Barry Jones was born and raised in San Diego, California. He attended San Diego State College (now University of California at San Diego) where he earned a B.S. in Biology.



Barry began working as a Park Naturalist for Anza-Borrego Desert State Park then he and Margaret packed up and worked as park Guides for 2 summers at Carlsbad Caverns National Park. Barry continued his career with California State Parks working for various Departments: History Preservation, Off Highway Vehicles, and later became the Winter Recreation Manager for California State Parks.

Barry was also very involved with Boy Scouting. He taught Geology Merit Badge, and was the Aquatics Director for the scout camp. Barry began volunteering for the Arizona State Park System: Tonto Natural Bridge State Park, and eventually worked as a State Park Ranger at "The Bridge" as well.

Al Ulm

Allen was a California native from the Capistrano Beach area, was in the Army ASA in Korea, SDSU graduate, and had a 30-year career with the California State Parks. Allen started as a ranger in Torrey Pines, developed Lake Perris, and ended his career in regional management. Allen loved the

outdoors, fishing, flying model aircraft, and sharing his and Pat's Sierra cabin with their family and friends. He was grateful for his good and well-lived life.



Book Review

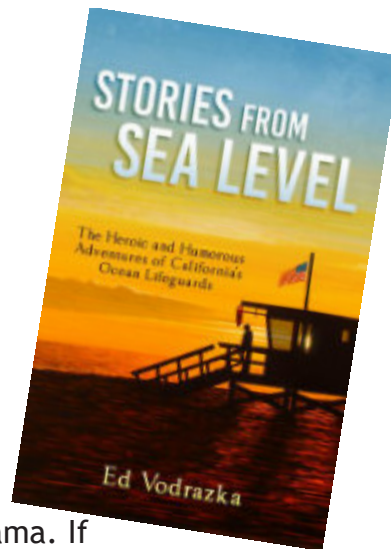
Ed Vodrazka,
Stories From Sea Level
Paperback, \$19.99
398 Pages, San Diego, 2021

It has been said that it takes humility to succeed as a writer. With forty-six years of ocean lifeguarding experience, the author could easily have cast himself as the star of this memoir. Instead he mines the heroic and very human experiences of others across a span of some fifty years. And like him, all are humble to their core yet confident and resolute in their mission.

This is not to say that Vodrazka and the subjects of his stories lack pride. They are collectively proud of themselves as a profession of “ocean” lifeguards, whose work requires so much more training and skill than “pool” lifeguards, as foretold in the book’s title. They are steeped in the tradition and camaraderie of life “saving”.

Whether recanting tales of finding mystical sandals, getting “propped”, wrestling an eel, rescuing a parrot, or calling upon an unseemly sea-bird Samaritan, Vodrazka brings readers into each scene and allows them to breathe the drama these remarkable tales of irony and heroism bring forth from both land and sea.

And, there is plenty of



drama. If you start with the first story and end with the last you might feel the drama building. Or you can read as I chose to do by starting with stories of places, times and people familiar to you. Once hooked, you will return to read all the chapters, enjoying each in its own way. Readers who know little more about ocean lifeguarding than an image of a youthful presence upon a portable beach tower are in for an awakening.

Vodrazka says he doesn’t “claim to be a writer” but rather a storyteller in the tradition of his generation of lifeguarding. This is a great and immensely enjoyable book. With *Stories From Sea Level* he does shine as a magnificent storyteller. But there is additional skill required in the writing of such stories. With this publication Vodrazka can now rightfully claim not only to be a writer, but one of high caliber.

Reviewed by J.R. QUIRK

Foundation Grants

The Ranger Foundation initiated a program to award grants of US\$500 to the families of Latin-American park rangers who perished from Covid-19.

To date, the RF has awarded 15 grants to families in Peru, Columbia, Ecuador, Chile, and Argentina. These grants have made a real difference in the lives of the surviving families, as Latin-American ranger salaries are low and there is no medical or death benefits usually available. Here is a message from one grantee: “the family of the colleague Dolores Marina García Madrid (ECUADOR) is very grateful for the support provided, which they state will be used in the education of the children left by the deceased colleague.”

Additional donations are now needed to keep the program going. We estimate another 20 request in the coming months, many of which have already been identified, but the documentation is pending. Correspondingly, the RF has set a goal to try to raise another \$10,000 for these Covid-19 grants.

Donations can be made online at: <http://www.ranger.foundation/activity.html> The Ranger Foundation is an incorporated non-profit IRS 501(c)3 charitable organization.

Mixed Metaphors & Malaprops

by Jeff Price,
Seriously Retired

Malaprop is the name for a word or phrase, derived from French, meaning something out of place. A mixed metaphor is a combination of two or more incompatible metaphors, which produces a ridiculous effect. Remember this: Keep an eye on your metaphors and an ear to the ground so that you don't end up with your foot in your mouth.

Freud's theory on affordable housing?

I'd say he has an obvious Oedipus duplex.

Torn decision.

. . . and so we haggard over the price.

Photo finish?

That really puts a picture on the face of the pandemic.

Double decker

We can't stand on the shoulders of our ancestors while waiting to vote.

Stone maybe?

Sure there's some history, but it isn't written in a tablet.

Extra punctuation.

I just won't allow it - point blank period!

Opening chess moves?

Her topics ran the entire gambit.

Don't thicken liquids always stick?

At this point his legal team is just throwing paint at the wall to see what sticks.

So, he's saying something aloud for transcription?

I just can't stand that man, he's always dictating me.



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.



State Parks Rendezvous

CSPRA and State Park Retirees Conference

Donner Memorial SP, Truckee

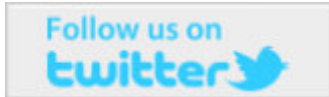
September 13-16, 2021

**Register
Now!**

See CSPRA.com for all the latest details.



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 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.



Already Retired?

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

graybears@cspira.com

Join CSPRA Or join us online at cspira.com

Name: _____

Address: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Job Classification: _____

District / Park: _____

Social Security # _____ (req'd for payroll education)

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

California State Park Rangers Association
P.O. Box 3212
Bowman CA 95604-3212

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



World Ranger Day at Mono Lake 2021

**Pass this copy along
to a friend or colleague
after you read it**

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