

The CSPRA



Wave

VOLUME 18, NUMBER 4

Newsletter of the CALIFORNIA STATE PARK RANGERS ASSOCIATION

Autumn 2018

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

Commemorating Rangers Killed in the Line of Duty

World Ranger Day



A section of California Highway 1 was dedicated as the State Park Ranger Patricia M. Scully Memorial Highway. Patricia Scully was the first (and to this day the only) California state park ranger killed in the line of duty.

World Ranger Day was celebrated at Anza-Borrego's Sister Park, Ikh Nartiin Chuluu Nature Reserve in the Gobi Desert of Mongolia. The Ikh Nart rangers attended the world conference in Colorado and are planning on traveling to the next one in Nepal. The Ikh Nart rangers have reduced poaching of Argali Sheep and Siberian Ibex as well as illegal mining to almost zero.



The event in Mexico appeared to be the largest World Ranger Day gathering held in the western hemisphere to date. Rangers from 15 Mexican national parks and from seven nongovernmental organizations were in attendance. Photo by Jazmin Benitez Reyes.



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President's Column

By Mike Lynch, President

It is hard for me to believe that almost two years has passed since I was elected CSPRA President. It seems



like a blur. In just the last 12 months, I have been directly involved on CSPRA's behalf with the following:

Major Efforts

in the past 12 months:

- Co-organizer of the Sept 2017 CSPRA Conference at Fort Tejon
- Edited the **Charles Mehlert** book on his state park career
- Ranger Foundation (RF) establishment and serving as RF President
- Partnership with the Redwood 100 Year Anniversary of the Save the Redwoods League, various activities
- California Parks Training Conference in March 2018, CSPRA representative
- By invitation, attended the dedication of the reopening of the Mariposa Grove, after a major rehab which began immediately after the 2014 CSP and Yosemite 150th anniversary event at the grove.
- June 2018 - Cadet Graduation - CSPRA displays & memorabilia table
- Park Threats issues - including meetings with department in Hdq & Sonoma.

- World Ranger Day event on July 31, 2018, Co-organizer
- Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs (FWOC) Conference (August 2018) hosted by CSPRA - Co-organizer
- Sept 2018 CSPRA Conference Mono/Bodie - Organizing Committee
- Four CSPRA Board Meetings
- Four Ranger Foundation Board Meetings

I have thought long and hard about whether or not to seek another term as CSPRA President. When I mentioned all this to my wife **Patsy**, she commented, "It's a lot of work, but you are doing a good job." OK, I said to myself, that is probably true, but should I continue or pass on the mantle? In the end, it really came down to the CSPRA team of officers I would have in a new term, namely VP **Ann Meneguzzi**, Treasurer **Tom Bernardo** and incoming Secretary **Jeff Price** (who I roped into the job as a sort of condition of my staying on as President).

I know they (and the Board of Directors) will do a great deal of beneficial work in the operation and actives of CSPRA, and that does make a lot of difference and it tipped the scale in favor of serving another term. So, I am a candidate for another term as CSPRA President. No one else has come forward for the position, so my chances of election are looking pretty good. Thanks everyone for your support the last two years.

President's Commentary: **Eight Years Later**

It appears to me that the Governor's Office primary concern for state parks, over the last eight years, has been, simply put, fiscal restraint and avoiding bad press. This overriding emphasis has often diminished and/or precluded field operations from carrying out many basic functions of service to the public, maintenance of facilities, education, public safety and protection of the resources.

Another aspect is that it seems the department was in a kind of receivership for five or six years with basic functions and services on hold while waiting for Transformation Management Services (LLC) to develop and then install a new management system in California State Parks.

The Transformation effort concluded in May of 2017, and now nearly 18 months later, it is pretty hard to see any apparent major changes (except for the "moving the same old peas under new pods" reorg) that would not probably occurred on their own.

In the meantime, the woe-fully under-staffed and funded field workforce continued and continues to toil to keep some semblance of service and operational standards, hoping year after year that the department would hit bottom and start back up.



Bleak it has been during these last eight years is an understatement.

But has the department finally hit the bottom? The Park Bond did pass, and State Parks did get some money. The gas tax, if not repealed in November, has significant designated funds for State Parks.

Reportedly, the department, (after workforce cuts and/or vacancies approaching 50% over the last years), is getting about 350 new positions. It could take several years to actually fill these positions. For instance, CSPRA was told that there are currently 90 vacant Ranger & Lifeguard SPPO positions and the gas-tax money resulted in 54 new positions, for a total of about 140 slots. The department is currently training about 30-35 SPPOs a year, so it is easy to do the math and see that it could be five years before all these positions (and the

ones that will become vacant) could be filled!

In any case, I am a bit hopeful. What is now needed and crucial, is a new emphasis by the top leadership in the department. In this regard, CSPRA (John Mott and I) recently met with Lt. Governor Gaven Newsom's office, and put forward the following points:

Future Leadership at California State Parks

- State Parks morale is at a very low point. CSPRA is hoping for fresh leadership who will promote the mission of the Department and will inspire park professionals and park supporters.
- Candidates should have a background in parks and recreation at either the national, state or local level
- Candidates should have a commitment to return the CA State Parks to a respected leadership position in parks and recreation.

CSPRA also requested to have input regarding any future executive appointments at California State Parks, should the Lt. Governor be elected Governor.

Mike Lynch, CSPRA President

California State Parks Breast Cancer Awareness Month

California State Parks (CSP) has announced that in October 2018, CSP will be participating in a project for Breast Cancer Awareness Month. The Pink Patch Project (#PinkPatchProject) was started by the Los Angeles County Police Chiefs Association several years ago as a public awareness campaign designed to bring attention to the fight against breast cancer and to support breast cancer research and treatment organizations in combating this devastating disease.

The program centers on a pink version of an agency's uniform patch. These patches have been specially designed by each participating agency specifically for the Pink Patch Project campaign.



Employees at each of the participating agencies may wear these pink patches on their regular uniforms for the entire month of October during "Breast Cancer Awareness Month."

The pink patches and other related items are intended to stimulate conversation with the community and to encourage public awareness about the importance of early detection and the on-going fight against this disease.

Individuals can support awareness by purchasing and wearing items from CSPRA/CSPAC, with the point of contact being Scott Liske or Mike Lynch at cspac150@gmail.com, at personal expense.

The CSP logo, dubbed the pink bear, will be available as a patch and as a lapel pin. A SPPO badge, featuring the design as a center seal, is also authorized. The patch, pin and badge are authorized by CSP to be worn by uniformed staff during the month of October and the lapel pin at any time by non-uniformed staff.

Assuming the success of the program this year, it is California State Parks intention to have this recur for the month of October in future years.



John Mott (r) and Mike Lynch (l) met recently with Tina Andolina (Senior Policy Consultant for Senator Ben Allen) presenting a pink bear patch. Also pictured, Scott St. Blaze, a state park supporter.

Jeff Ohlfs Honary Ranger

By Carl Chavez

Jeff Ohlfs was honored as the recipient as our 2018 Honorary Ranger. Jeff has done something that no one in DPR past or present has ever done. Jeff has been to every unit of our state park system and tracked down and visited every California State Historic Landmark.

Jeff has spent more than 37 year in the park management profession. His experience has included policy development, law enforcement, fire, search and rescue and emergency medical services as well as natural and cultural resource management, fee collection, special park uses, wilderness safety and interpretation. He epitomizes the role of the Generalist Ranger many of us would like to see again in DPR.

In this role Jeff has worked in city, county, state, national and foreign parks. Jeff retired as Chief Ranger of Joshua Tree National Park but that is not say he took it easy as he returned to Federal Service as a Task Force Leader for FEMA disaster operations.

Jeff was a member of the World Commission on Protected Areas and International Association of Chiefs of Police Environmental Crimes Committee. Jeff was Vice President of the Park Rangers Association of California (PRAC) and a board member for 7 years on the International Ranger Federation. He was



a delegate to all eight World Ranger Congresses and the last Park Congress in Sydney. Along with CSPRA President **Mike Lynch** Jeff co-chaired the highly successful 2014 California Parks Conference in Yosemite celebrating the 150th Anniversary of California's first state park, Yosemite as well as liaison the 8th World Ranger Congress in 2016.

One of Jeff's proudest accomplishments is his establishment and recognition of World Ranger Day, highlighting the work park rangers do around the world. As if this were not enough, Jeff is a benefactor to the recently

established Ranger Foundation, formed by CSPRA and he is a board member of the Foundation.

You can see Jeff is a man of many hats in our profession. It is our normal practice to bestow upon our Honorary Rangers with a Stetson but knowing that Jeff already proudly has worn a ranger hat throughout his career, CSPRA has opted to present Jeff Ohlfs with a state park hat band for his NPS ranger hat and this plaque to commemorate his induction as the 2018 Honorary state park ranger, joining a distinguished list of previous recipients.

Leadership is a Verb....

*By Sue Neary
Supervising State Park Peace
Officer*

I recently had the honor of attending the Women's Leadership Institute for Law Enforcement in Culver City, California. It was made possible through a generous scholarship from CSPRA for which I am very grateful. As a strong supporter of women in law enforcement, CSPRA helps women in their leadership roles to meet the challenges of 21st century policing. The Institute, which is sponsored by the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP), places a focus on what is important to women in public safety. The dynamic, science-based curriculum integrates the art and science of leadership with professional and personal development strategies.



The instructors and panelists consisted of the most inspiring and successful women officers one could ever expect to meet under one roof. We totaled the collective years of law enforcement experience between participants and instructors at just under 900 years. Officers represented an astonishing six countries and 32 agencies, from ATF to the Customs Administration, Republic of Macedonia.

The lead instructors included: Colonel **Deborah Campbell** (retired), Deputy Superintendent, New York State Police, 32 years; Deputy Commissioner **Ramona Prieto** (retired), California Highway Patrol. 38 years; Major **Dawn Layman** (still serving), Lenexa Kansas Police Department; SWAT Officer **Jennifer Grasso**, LAPD, 21 years still serving; Police Chief **Jackie Gomez-Whitely** (retired), Alhambra Police Department, 30 years; Deputy Chief **Debra McCarthy**, LAPD, 30 years, still serving; and Chief of Police **Janet Davis**, (retired from Bart Police), over 30 years in law enforcement.

All of these women forged their way to the top of some of the largest law enforcement agencies in the world and during a time when few women pursued a path in a law enforcement. They all admitted that their journey up the promotional ladder was not an easy one, but it was clear that their challenges were not unique. Challenges including, but not limited to: discrimination, sexual harassment, bullying, difficulty in promoting, and an uphill battle in earning respect from both

their male counterparts and the public in general.

These women fought long, hard battles to get where they are today. Along the way though, each and every one has proven that they are dedicated leaders committed to ethical leadership practices and are sworn to a life of public service. Through their own struggles, they are able to help law enforcement agencies overcome their own faults in the treatment of women officers—intentional or not.

They do so by actively promoting professionalism across all levels of law enforcement and continually encouraging the promotion of women in law enforcement careers. It was apparent among these inspiring leaders that they are wholeheartedly dedicated to creating higher standards for the treatment of female officers in both their agencies and provide an exemplary example of what other agencies should aspire for. They all agreed though that the keys to a successful agency include: strong leadership, not just promoting people who are loyal comrades and friends; zero tolerance for discrimina-

These women were able to make a difference in some of the largest law enforcement agencies in our nation



tion and sexual harassment; holding people accountable; strong communication; and the immediate need to address misbehavior and retaliation.

Even more impressive was that many of these women were able to make a difference in some of the largest law enforcement agencies in our nation—agencies that currently employ several thousand Officers. So, the question remains, why are more agencies not able to tout such successes, especially when many are on a much smaller scale?

It seems that in the larger agencies, the impetus for change was supported and enforced by the highest levels of echelon; and that they had a zero-tolerance policy for any deviance

from the mission to create an equitable work environment for all. So maybe the implementation of strong policies like these are the key to improving the inclusivity of women in law enforcement.

It was obvious from the presentations that many law enforcement agencies are looking for solutions to help break up the invasive, good-old-boy culture within their departments. They are imposing filters that start at the basic application/interview and continue through every promotional level. It is recognized that the requirement of having a higher education requirement for an entry level officer is not always the best solution. However, it is an important filter for promotional opportunities and other specialized training

opportunities.

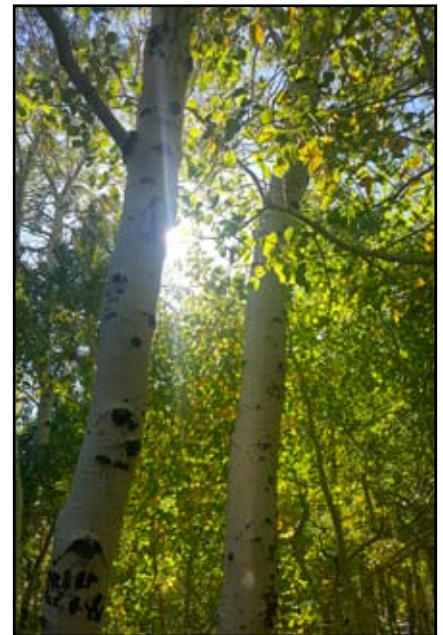
I have served California for almost 26 years, and it is frustrating to realize the limitations women continually face when trying to promote within our department. Compared to some of the largest law enforcement agencies in the United States we are very much behind the times. Anyone that says, “That’s just the way it is...,” only further proves that there is a persisting problem throughout law enforcement that needs addressed. This culture reflects negatively on our department, law enforcement as a whole, and negatively affects the community’s trust.

Leadership is a verb. It’s not who you are, it’s what you do. So do it well.

2018 Meeting & Rendezvous

Our Annual Meeting at Lee Vining was a huge success. Thanks to **Janet and Dave Carle** and the whole team that helped make it happen.

Judge Alsup gave a fascinating presentation on his work supporting the “Save Bodie” effort. **Dave Van Cleve** presented his new book “Greatness of Spirit”. Great food and fellowship were shared all along the way.





Tours included the Mono Lake tufa, Bodie State Historic Park and a very popular beer tasting and birdwatching tour.



Plan to join us next fall at Anza-Borrego for the 2019 Rendezvous

Hosted by CSPRA and Alpine Club

Great Program at FWOC Conference

CSPRA shares an affiliation with the Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs. This year CSPRA partnered with the California Alpine Club to host annual FWOC conference in Los Altos. With a theme of “The Write Environment: Writers and Writings Promoting and Protecting Outdoor Values” we enjoyed a



variety of excellent speakers. **Mike McCloskey** of the Sierra told the fascinating stories behind some of the biggest environmental battles. **Jordan Fisher Smith**, **Mark Jorgensen**

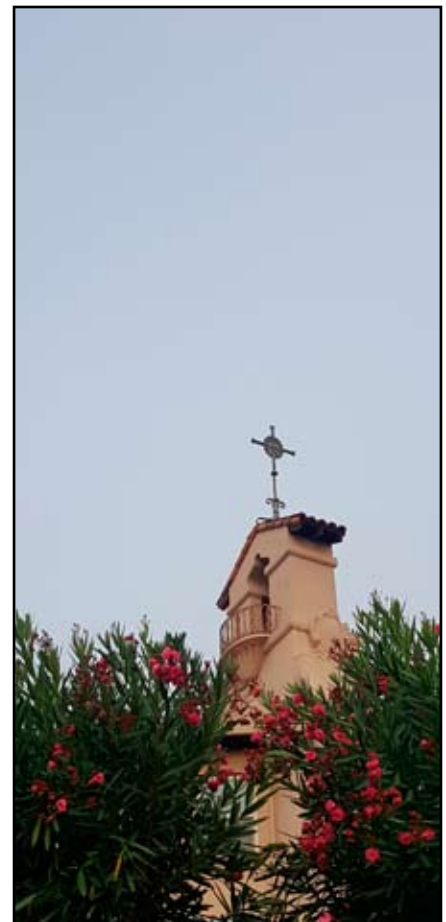
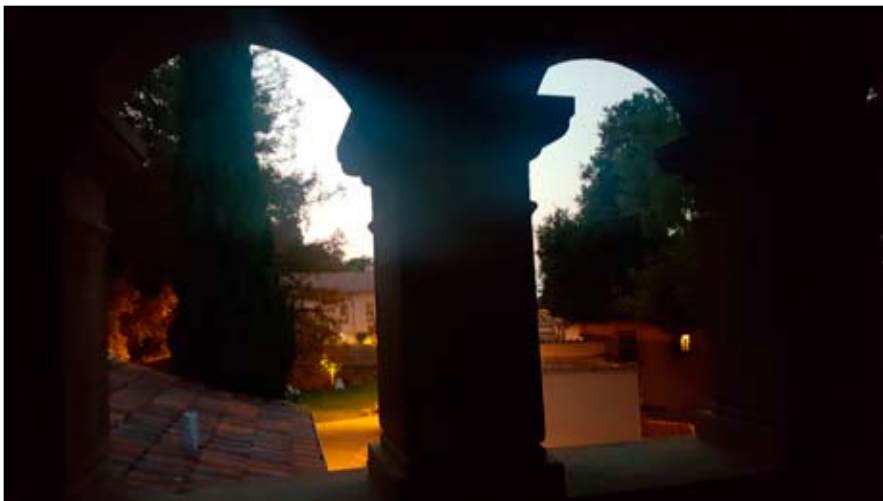
and other writers shared their stories and insights. **Jason Mark**, Editor in Chief of the Sierra Club Magazine offered perspectives on environmental communication.



CSPRA members participating in the FWOC Conference



The Jesuit Retreat Center, tucked in the Los Altos hills provided comfortable accommodations, a spectacular meeting space and tasty meals along with a million-dollar view of silicon valley.



A Wave Goodbye

Ron Erickson



Ron Erickson was born in Antioch CA, August 27, 1932 and died June 5, 2018 in Hollister, CA

After serving in the Army in the Korean War, he attended Humbolt State and Sacramento State College studying Park Management to become a California State Park Ranger He retired in 1987 after 30 years.

He married **Ruth Anthony** in 1968 and their son, Jon, was born in 1980 in Hollister. He will be missed by his wife, Ruth, son, Jon, sister, Luann (Edward) Domingo of Lincoln and his nephews, nieces and cousins.

He was honored at a good old fashioned potluck and received full military honors.

Elaine Price

Elaine Mae Elizabeth (Ericson) Price passed away at the age of 94. She was a Benefactor Member of the California State Park Rangers Association.

She was born on May 19, 1924, in Turlock, California, the second child of Swedish parents Martin and Elizabeth (Larson) Ericson. Elaine grew up in the Sacramento area. She graduated from Grant Union High School in 1942 and attended Sacramento Junior College.

Elaine spent most of her adult life living in Santa Paula. She was active in various service groups: Ventura County Area Agency on Aging Advisory Council, Women of the Moose, Toastmistress Club and served as President of Santa Paula Junior Ebell Club. She served faithfully at the First Baptist Church in many capacities. She lived for a time in Los Osos where she served as an educational Docent in the Morro Bay History Museum



Edra Moore



Edra Moore was born Dec. 13, 1929 Olathe, Colorado, passed away May 21, 2018 Lancaster, CA. Edra had a tremendous passion and served as as the state's first museum employee with the Antelope Valley Indian Museum. She soon became the curator.

Edra grew up in Colorado, worked and raised her family in the San Francisco Bay Area, and lived in the Antelope Valley for 28 years. Edra passed away peacefully surrounded by her family after a brief illness. She was a loving, warm, beautiful, intelligent, and lively lady.

Having advanced degrees in Speech Pathology and Anthropology, she touched many lives. She will be greatly missed by her family and many friends. Edra is survived by her children Monica, Michele, Mark, grandchildren Sean, Cassie, Sarah, great grandchild Dylan and her beloved cats, Colby and Sam.

Casey Buchter

Francis Cornelius Buchter grew up with a family that owned ranches across the Salinas River Valley and for recreation they would hunt and fish. Being a part of nature was both expected and ingrained in his upbringing. Casey, right out of law school, obtained an attorney position and within 8 months became the chief legal counsel for the state parks.

For the next 30 years, he was in charge of all of the land transactions and administration of all aspects of the legal rights and obligations of the largest landowner in the state of California with the exception of the Federal Government.

Casey did take a break from his role as Chief Legal Counsel for 3 years. In 1972, the people of California passed proposition 20 and thereby enacting the precursor of the California Coastal Commission, which was fully established in 1976. From 1973 to 1976, Casey Buchter acted as the Executive Director of the California Coastal Zone Conservation Commission of the south central region.



Ted Jackson



Long-time State Parks employee and manager **Theodore “Ted” Jackson** died while pursuing one of his passions. Ted collapsed while on a hike to climb Mount Goddard in the Eastern Sierra and could not be revived.

A 30-year veteran of State Parks, Ted served as Deputy Director of Park Operations from 2004-2009 and was Southern Division Chief from 2002-2004. Prior to that he was Superintendent of the then San Joaquin District.

Jackson joined State Parks in 1981 as a ranger cadet. He spent the first 10 years of his career assigned to the Southern California region, including four years in the Angeles District. He transferred to Folsom Lake State Recreation Area in 1990.

He is remembered by parks employees for his passion for the outdoors, his sense of humor, his constant encouragement, for advocating for field staff and delivery of services for the public.

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

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



The International Ranger Federation is a non-profit organization established to raise awareness of and support the critical work that the world's park rangers do in conserving our natural and cultural heritage.



Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs was established in 1932 for Mutual Service and for the Promotion of the Proper Use, Enjoyment and Protection of America's Scenic Wilderness and Outdoor Recreation Resources.



Association of National Park Rangers is an organization created to communicate for, about and with National Park Service employees of all disciplines and to provide a forum for professional enrichment.



Are you Moving?
Please let us know.
Betsy@CSPRA.com

Mixed Metaphors and Malaprops

by Jeff Price, Seriously Retired

Mixed Metaphor: a figure of speech combining incongruous metaphors. Malaprop: the mistaken use of a word in place of a similar-sounding one. Send along any overheard slips of the tongue to malaprops@cspira.com.

Pound away slugger!

Russia is trying to bat way above their weight class.

. . . and a tall hill over which to jump.

After that evidence from the prosecution his lawyers have a steep hurdle to climb.



Justice is blind!

Illegal immigrants caught voting should be stripped of their citizenship.

Handy!

You could count the number of minorities at his rally on one finger.

Not a chunk of free-floating ice?

What we know about this investigation is just the tip of the glacier.

Promoting abandonment?

I don't necessarily abdicate this idea, but here's what I heard . . .

Sounds like PC 5150.

He wants to take your guns even if you haven't been committed for a crime.

. . . or maybe in basketball?

This Russia poisoning thing in England should be as they say in the spy business, a slam dunk.

CSPRA President's Award

Ann Meneguzzi was honored with the CSPRA President's Award at the recent gathering in Lee Vining. Serving as CSPRA's Vice President, Ann is always there making things happen for this organization.

The Award reads "In recognition of Sustained Effort in furthering the goals of CSPRA and the California State Park System, and Dedication to the Tradition of Excellence in Public Service"

Previous recipients include Donna Pozzi, Margaret Whitehead, Doug Bryce and Rebecca Brown.





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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 GrayBears 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 # _____ (required for payroll 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*



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 cancelled 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.

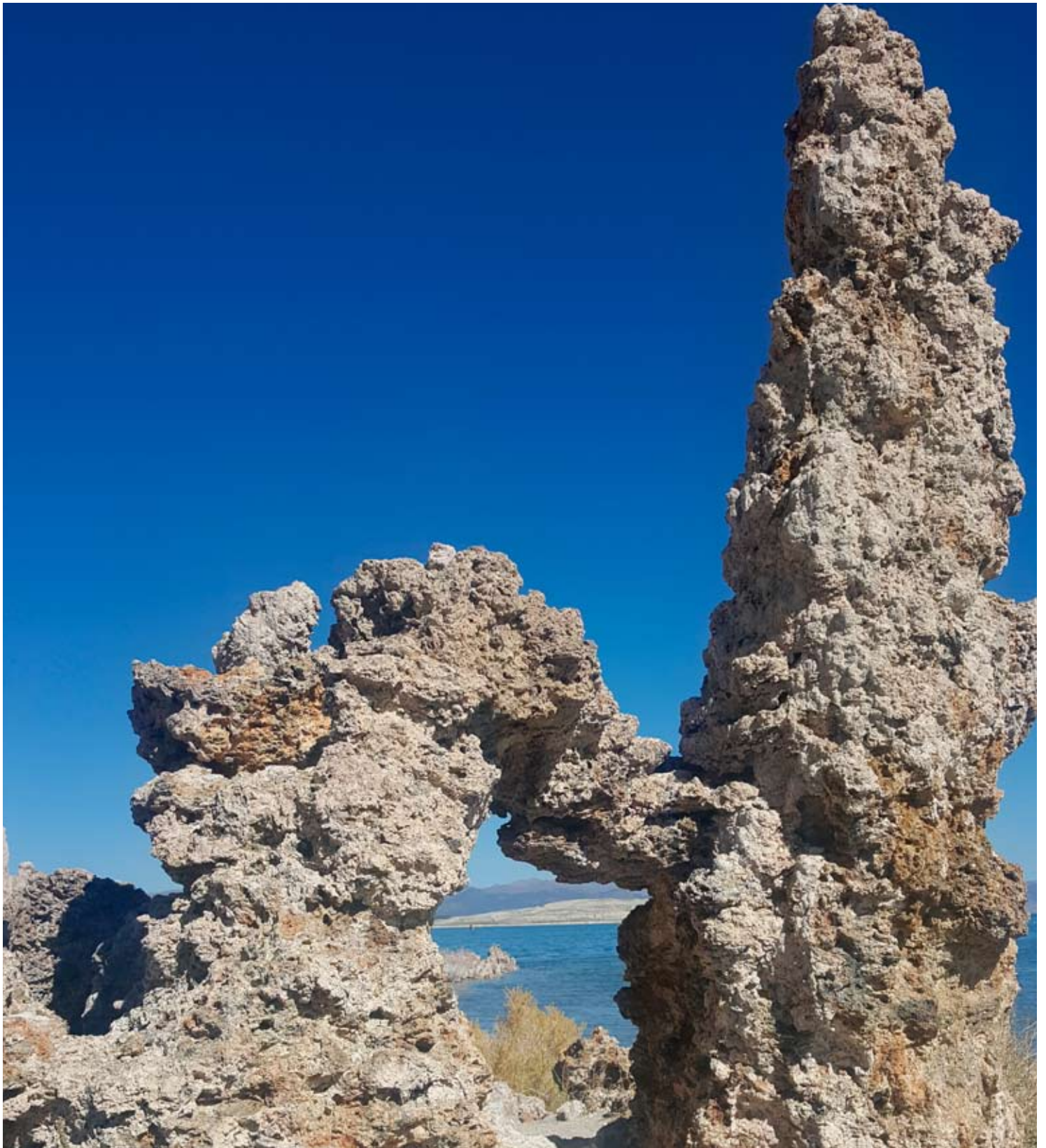
Signature _____

Date _____

Membership by Mail:

CSPRA — Betsy Anderson
PO Box 618 Gualala, CA 95445

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



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