



The CSPRA

# Wave

Volume 24, Number 4

Newsletter of the CALIFORNIA STATE PARK RANGERS ASSOCIATION

Autumn 2024

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

## Parks Hiring Improvements

Since 2020, we've expressed concerns and offered suggestions about employee hiring and retention rates and inadequate budget support. We sent this letter to Assistant Deputy Director **Jennifer Crockett** after she presented recent numbers to the State Parks Commission:

*Since our meeting with you and other headquarters staff in April 2022, the California State Park Rangers Association officers and board have followed progress on hiring and the "Live the Parks Life" campaign. On Thursday September 13, 2024, we participated remotely in the State Parks Commission meeting and heard your encouraging update to the Commissioners. As an organization that is concerned about employee turnover and vacancy rates for California State Parks, the hiring and recruiting update was very encouraging. Many of the revised hiring procedures and policies you are implementing will greatly improve and address the human resource workforce issues we all were*

*recognizing.*

*Particularly we are encouraged about:*

*Overall vacancy rate down to 17% from 23%*

*Expedited Peace Officer transfers from other agencies*

*An upcoming Ranger/Lifeguard cadet class with 50 in the academy class*

*Streamlining and reducing the Peace Officer hiring process and timeline*

*Creating permanent position hiring lists across all DPR professions with 3 ranks so all candidates are reachable for interviews*

*Bridging and creating new career path opportunities for our seasonal staff to possibly attain a full-time position in all of the State Parks System's professional fields*

*These are examples that stood out in your report, and we are encouraged by your leadership role and the direction you are taking the*

*Department.*

*Congratulations. We applaud your efforts. As you reported, the present high vacancy rate in our Maintenance Supervisory and Management series remains a major goal.*



Just a few days later we received this reply from Jennifer: "Thank you so much for the words of encouragement. My team has been working hard to tackle some of these long-standing challenges and it feels great to be recognized for the progress we have made. Look forward to even more positive updates in the future!"

And then, this, from Sergeant **Shane Scoggins** from the Training Section: "Thank you for the eloquence and clarity of your letter. It serves as a bit of a vindication for the Training Section staff. Simple gestures like yours go a long way and seem to land on the right desks. We hope to continue to provide the parks and public with competent, mission-oriented rescuers, stewards and officers."



# CSPRA LEADERSHIP

### PRESIDENT

Dave Carle, Retired Ranger  
dave@cspira.com

### VICE PRESIDENT

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

### SECRETARY

Joanne Kerbavaz, Environmental Scientist,  
joanne@cspira.com

### TREASURER

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

### DIRECTORS

Sal Goshorn, Ret Lifeguard  
sal@cspira.com

Jean Rhyne, Interpreter,  
jean@cspira.com

Cindy Begbie, Maint. Chief, Ret.  
cindy@cspira.com

Steve Ptomey, Interpreter,  
steve@cspira.com

Jonathan Irwin, Ranger SPPO,  
jon@cspira.com

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

Rich Rozzelle, Superintendent, Ret  
rich@cspira.com

### PAST PRESIDENT

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

### MEMBER SERVICES

Betsy Anderson  
betsy@cspira.com

### INTERNET COMMUNICATIONS

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

### The CSPRA Wave

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

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

**Deadline for next issue  
December 15**

# Bean Counter's Report

By Ron Krueper, CSPRA Treasurer

We just closed our Fiscal Year 2023/24 on June 30, 2024 and have currently filed all appropriate tax returns. I'm happy to report that CSPRA is financially sound as we go forward in the next Fiscal Year. Our proposed budget for FY 2024/25 is \$44,500 which will adequately cover CSPRA's projected expenses and many programs we sponsor. As always, if you have any questions or would like additional details, please contact me.

## CSPRA 2023/2024 Treasurer's Report

12 month report as of 6/30/2024

### Balances 6/30/24

Checking:	\$40,947.67
Savings:	\$103,508.16
PayPal:	\$0
Total:	\$144,455.83

Income for FY 2023-2024: \$35,186.03

### Expenses for FY 2023-2024:

Administration	-\$11,208.11
Member Services	-\$22,741.48
Total Expenses	-\$33,949.59

FY 2023-24 Budget: \$45,610\*

Income/expense difference: +\$1,236.44

Nelle Lyons recently retired from State Parks in 2022 and has been a CSPRA member since 1997. She realized that after retirement she did not have the monthly CSPRA dues automatically deducted, but wanted to continue as a member. Nelle sent CSPRA \$120 to catch up for the 2 year lapse as a retired member and then decided to pay all future dues and contributions as a Benefactor member. Welcome Nelle to an elite membership group of CSPRA and thank you for your continued support.

---

---

# President's Last Message

My two terms as CSPRA President are nearly complete. I look forward to supporting a new President and new Board members as we move into 2025. This has been an interesting, challenging 4 years, and an unexpected honor for me, after two decades of retirement. But staying involved through CSPRA is important for all California State Park Professionals, active duty and retired. And for those of us that do stay involved after retirement – if I may speak for that group – that choice recognizes that this is a very special agency that deserves our continued support, as we “Add Our Voices” to strengthen CSPRA’s impact.

Since 2020, we’ve addressed threats and issues to Anza-Borrego Desert SP, Big Basin SP, San Onofre SB, Los Angeles SHP, Jack London SHP, Red Rock Canyon SP and legislative bills affecting state parks. We’ve participated in the annual World Ranger Day gatherings and will be representing CSPRA at the IRF World Ranger Congress in France this October. And after the COVID year of 2020, we successfully brought back

the annual CSPRA State Park Rendezvous each fall. We had 67 signed up for the luncheon at this year’s Rendezvous on the North Coast Redwoods. It would have been nice if more active-duty members had shown up, but all of us attending had a great time. I particularly appreciated the past-CSPRA Presidents being there, **Mike Lynch, John Mott, Dave Nelson, Denzil Verardo, Ron Breen, Bud Getty, and Victor Bjelajac**, who I hosted for dinner on Tuesday evening. **Bill Beat’s** presence was also notable, as he served as the North Coast Redwoods District Superintendent way back in the day when the partnership with local Tribes was in its infancy.

CSPRA functions with 4 officers and 7 Directors, plus an immediate past President advisor. We have contractors to manage dues (**Betsy Anderson**), the WAVE newsletter (**Brian Cahill**), and our internet presence (**Jeff Price**). Except for those three contractors, all other positions are handled by volunteers. Thank you, VP **Ann Meneguzzi**, Secretary **Joanne Kerbavaz**, Treasurers **Tom Bernardo**

and **Ron Krueper**, Advisor **Mike Lynch**, and current Directors **Cindy Begbie, Jean Rhyne, Jon Irwin, Greg Kania, Sal Goshorn, Rich Rozelle, and Steve Ptomey**. Previous Directors I worked with included **Erin Gates, Sue Neary, Rob Pickett, Neill Fogarty and Miles Standish**. We partner with and assign liaisons to a long list of organizations and have committee members that include **Lynn Rhodes, Rodi Lee, John Mott, Kim Preston, and Dr. Jarrell Jackman**.

If you have ever considered getting more involved with CSPRA, this list of special people should help motivate you to add your voice by running for election or volunteering. It has been an honor to be associated with everyone listed here.

We have well over 400 members, about half active-duty and half retired. That number should grow. Spread the word. Read your quarterly newsletter, then share them by leaving them somewhere visible in park offices.

What a moment at the Rendezvous, when Ann surprised me with a plaque with many details about accomplishments of the last four years. Thank you everyone, for allowing me to serve these two terms as CSPRA President.



**Dave Carle, CSPRA President**



*John Mott, Ron Breen, Victor Bjelajac, Bill Beat, Dave Carle, Dave Nelson, Mike Lynch, Denzil Verardo, and Bud Getty.*



---

---

# CSPRA Redwoods Rendezvous



CSPRA celebrated our 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary in grand style at the recent CSPRA Rendezvous. District Supt. **Victor Bjelajac** welcomed us and shared some of the fascinating work they are doing up there. The district has strong partnerships with local tribes and is doing impressive restoration work with their “Redwoods Rising” initiative. Thanks to District Planner **Roz Litzky** for the tour and to Dep. Supt. **Shelana DeSilva** for making us welcome.







Retired State Park Director Russ Cahill (above) had some great stories to tell and shared a few tips for aspiring storytellers and authors. Tribal Elder Walt Lara (right) was honored as this year's Honorary State Park Ranger.



There was also a chance to catch up with old friends and socialize. Thanks to Frank Padilla for the tri-tip feast (seven hours in the smoker). Photos courtesy of John Mott, Joanie and Brian Cahill and Janet and Dave Carle.





---

---

# World Ranger Day 2024



This year, East Bay Regional Parks hosted the event for California with 152 people from 30 agencies and four associations attending.

The program included a pipe and drum corps, honor guard, multi-agency helicopter flyover, and remembrance of those we've lost. We were honored with a Japanese National Park Ranger in attendance.

On World Ranger Day, the international ranger community stops to recognize the critical role that the ranger profession plays in maintaining life on earth. If it were not for rangers unwavering commitment and passion for conservation, many species would already be extinct, and our ecosystems in a more degraded and perilous state than they currently are.







Photos by Janet and Dave Carle. Group photo (below) taken by EBRPD volunteer and photographer Carl LaRue.

Your CSPRA Board took advantage of the gathering and held our quarterly Board meeting the day before.



---

---

# Wave Goodbye

## Bill Briner

Bill Briner served as Director of California State Parks from 1983 to 1990, and as Deputy Director in



1972. Briner faced the daunting task with not enough money. Briner said it was “tough and very complicated. You try to run it like a business, but you can’t do that in California.” He was a member of the Placer County Board of Supervisors from 1961 to 1972, and continued to serve in important ways, bringing changes that continue to serve local communities and the region today.

He worked with the Placer County Water Agency on the Middle Fork Project, a project ultimately responsible for saving 200,000 acre feet of water for Placer County landowners each year, a point of county pride.

Bill also started Sunnyside Lodge in 1946, the Bi-Tri Group that became the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency and worked with the Tahoe City Public Utilities District until 1983.

Briner lied about his age to join the Navy at 17 and fought in World War II in the Navy Submarine service between 1944 and 1946.

## Christian Lambert

Christian Lambert began his Parks career as a Lifeguard Seasonal I in Santa Cruz in 2006. He also worked for Santa Cruz Fire Department Lifeguard Branch. Lambert graduated from BVST Academy 33 in May 2009.



He worked in Huntington State Beach as a permanent lifeguard from 2009 until 2015. In November 2015, he transferred to Santa Cruz District, where he worked the Pajaro Coast until February 2021. Lambert finished out his career in Half Moon Bay, on the San Mateo Coast. Chris finally retired in April 2023 as he was battling cancer for a second time.

His first bout had been in 2020, when he was diagnosed with stage 4 cancer. He tenaciously bounced back after only eight months and was in remission until early 2022. In the last couple years, he lived in a residence on the beach and had an idyllic sunset to his career. He was able to enjoy the beach, daily swims in the ocean and cherished the unobstructed sunsets. Chris loved lifeguarding and being a part of the lifeguard community.

## Jim Davis

Jim was born and raised in Culver City, California. Early on he found his first passion in the rodeo working at stables in high school, riding broncs and bulls.



In 1942 he found his second passion accepting a job with the National Park Service as a forest fire fighter. In 1943 the Army came calling and he joined the war effort. He was assigned to a Military Police Battalion to escort POWs from Europe to US soil. In 1944 he was re-assigned to the 1204th Engineer Fire Fighting Platoon stationed in Italy.

After completing his service to the country, he found his third passion, Nan Carolyn Hamlett, who would become his wife in July 1948. The spent their first married days at Lassen National Park while he worked to join the California Department of Beaches and Parks.

In 1953 his final passion was realized with he joined the department assigned to SP Taylor State Park.

Throughout his career he was stationed in many places but the one he loved most was, Big Basin State Park. He always said that is where he learned his trade and was happiest.

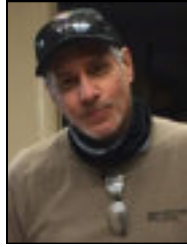


---

---

# Raymond Peck

Ray Peck graduated from Christian Brothers High School in 1980. During the 1990s, he settled into a fulfilling career as a skilled maintenance worker.



Ray first worked as a Park Aide at Big Basin RSP during the early 90s. He lived in Jay Camp seasonal housing. He eventually got a permanent position as a PMA at Butano SP in Pescadero. A few years later, he settled into a PMW I position at New Brighton SB, where he also resided, until his retirement in May 2021. He covered the South Sector. He met and married his wife Kerith Hamm in 1997 while working together as park aides. They had one son, Max Peck, who continues to live in Santa Cruz and recently graduated from Arizona State.

Ray loved his State Parks career. He was satisfied with the simple things in life. He took pride in his work, not an ambitious person. He used skills beyond his compensation for which he had no regrets. He was happy to share his knowledge and skills with entry level staff who later promoted above him. Younger Parks staff shared how much they learned from him to advance their careers. After he retired, he relocated to Folsom to live with his elderly father.

# Ronnie Cline

Ronald L. Cline, Jr, 1980 - 2024. Ronnie was a musician, hot dog cart vendor, writer, foodie and museum curator. He loved life and lived it to the fullest. He had a lot of fun.



He joined the staff at Sonoma SHP in the Bay Area District in 2016. He made the long commute from Sacramento so he could stay close to family and friends. Serving three and a half years as a Museum Tech before he was temporarily assigned as a covid-19 tracer.

He was proud to be a part of preserving and sharing our cultural heritage, keeping house museums clean and caring for the artifacts. When fire threatened in 2017 and 2020 he quickly jumped-in, to package and inventory precious artifacts. Bringing them to safe storage at the Museum Resource Center at McClellan, unloading, then reloading before returning them to the District.

He was also involved in the specialty packaging for long term freezer storage of 2,400 highly flammable nitrate photographic negatives. He even found himself working with an appraiser from Antiques Roadshow on some of the Jack London collection.

# Joe Mette

Joseph P. "Joe" Mette III died on Thursday, August 29, 2024, from complications due to a rare fungal infection that was diagnosed at the end of March. Joe passed away at the age of 76.



After brief work with the California Department of Fish and Game, Joe was hired as a State Park Ranger in 1974. His assignments included San Eljero State Beach, Cuyamaca Rancho State Park, Pfeiffer Big Sur State Park, where he worked horse patrol ranger, and Big Basin Redwoods. He later promoted to Supervising Ranger for Angel Island.

In the early 1980's, Joe was lured to Sacramento HQ, where he worked in both the Interpretive Services and Planning Divisions. He became the Chief Ranger at Calaveras Big Trees State Park then returned to Sacramento to serve as Director for the State Capitol Museum. He finished his career as Superintendent of Russian River/Mendocino District.

Early in his career, Joe gained a reputation as a talented photographer and interpreter. He developed several audio-visual programs over the years and taught many lively Interpretation Classes at Asilomar.

# Mixed Metaphors & Malaprops

by Jeff Price,  
Humor since 1984

A metaphor makes a direct comparison, substituting one thing for another. A malapropism is the mistaken use of a word in place of a similar sounding one, as in “dance a flamingo.”

It’s a communal rubbish effort.

*The trash truck came by our city park and left extra reciprocals for the 4th - good job!!*

A new armed services affliction?

*Fireworks are illegal in the city - the loud noise scares our animals and disturbs vets with post traumatic downs syndrome.*

It is getting combative.

*They are limiting voter access to the battle box.*

Transformative farming technique.

*There was quite a seed change in the number of people who voted for progressive candidates in the last election.*



Coining a new phrase.

*It can change on a dime.*

That’s spinning on the opposite end of the body!

*The defense attorney turned the prosecutor on his heels.*

Italian depths.

*Everybody knows the deepest part of the ocean is the Marina Trench.*

Jam-packed corporate citizens.

*Many companies had to go out of business from his unpaid bills - he stuffed a lot of people.*

**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](#).**



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.







Recent Valor Award honoree Ben Sweet (at the location of the rescue with Ventura pier in background). Sal Goshorn representing CSPRA and Jeff Price representing PRAC gave Ben his engraved medal on a walnut plaque for wall display (crafted by Jeff Price).

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



### 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](mailto: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](mailto:graybears@cspra.com)

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

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 City State Zip  
 Job Classification: \_\_\_\_\_  
 District / Park: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Social Security # \_\_\_\_\_ (req'd for pay deduction)  
 Phone(W) \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (H) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email: \_\_\_\_\_

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

**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**  
**PO Box 3212**  
**Bowman, CA 95604-3212**



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

*CSPRA members experience the Grove of the Titans at Jed Smith as part of the Rendezvous. See 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*