



Winter 2014

Stonewall Sentinel

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Winter 2014

January

4th- CRSPIA Board Meeting

February

1st- CRSPIA Board Meeting

March

1st- CRSPIA Board Meeting

Check the website for events at:

<http://www.crspia.org/events.php>

Photo by
Michele Hernandez



CRSPIA: Cuyamaca Rancho State Park Interpretive Association

Our mission: CRSPIA supports the mission of California State Parks, Cuyamaca Rancho State park and Palomar Mountain State Park through educational and interpretive activities to enhance the experience of visitors.



President's Message January 2014

Greetings to all supporters of the Park and welcome to CRSPIA's new and redesigned Quarterly Newsletter, the Stonewall Sentinel. We on the CRSPIA Board of Directors decided that it was time to put a fresh new look in style and substance to the newsletter we use to keep you, our Members and Friends, informed about what's going in your Park and your Association. Park volunteers are familiar with the lively and colorful monthly Volunteer newsletter, Trails & Tales edited by volunteer Susan Russo. Susan has graciously agreed to give editing the Sentinel a try and I think that you'll agree that your Board made a great decision.

Unfortunately, 2 of our Directors have decided to move on to other pursuits and challenges and this leaves us with a couple of vacancies on the Board. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Doreen Harlow and Nancy Ujzowski for their long time service to CRSPIA. Doreen has served as the Association Treasurer for several years. The Treasurer's job is a difficult and time consuming responsibility. The Treasurer is responsible for not only keeping accurate track of all Association income and expenses; she is also expected to provide a number of regular financial reports to the Board and to the Members. Doreen came to us with an accounting background and her attention to detail and well organized record keeping (to say nothing of her ironclad, no compromise policy of enforcing Association policies regarding expenditures) has proven to be an invaluable asset to CRSPIA. Hers will be very large shoes to fill for whoever steps up to be our next Treasurer. Nancy is very active in public events in her community and she finally realized that there are only so many hours in the day. Nancy served as the Association Secretary and her well organized and

detailed Minutes of our meetings have left us with an accurate record of our meetings. A heartfelt thanks to both Doreen and Nancy for their dedicated service to our Association.

We just completed our annual Board of Directors election where you, the members, get to choose who will run your Association. One of my goals for the coming year is to reach out to our members to get more participation in CRSPIA business. With the departure of our 2 Board members, we now have 2 vacancies. Serving on the Board of Directors is very rewarding. You have access to top Park management and are usually the first to know about upcoming park events and new policies. If you would like to serve on the Board, please let me know and we can talk about it.

Speaking of top Park management, the Montane Sector now has a new permanent Supervising Ranger. Ranger Adam Borello comes to the Sector from Ocotillo Wells SVRA. Adam has also been assigned the task of CRSPIA's liaison with the Department of Parks and Recreation. Welcome aboard Adam and we look forward to working with you. Look for a message about Adam elsewhere in this newsletter.



Photo by Jason De Mendonca

President's message continued on page 3



Photo by Jason De Mendonca

President's message

Finally, we are always looking for volunteers to help out. We especially need volunteers to help staff the Park's Gift Shop. The work is easy and you meet all sorts of nice people who come in to the Visitor Center. We provide all training and the hours are flexible. If you would be interested in helping out, please contact our Gift Shop Manager, Barb McCoy at BMcCoy@crspia.org. We are also looking for someone who can help provide our Webmaster with material for CRSPIA's web page. If you are interested in filling some or your spare time helping the Park, please let me know. We can find work for just about any interest or skill level.

I hope you enjoy our "new look" Newsletter. Please let me know of any suggestions you may have for future editions. Also, all are welcome to write an article for the newsletter.

Dave McClure; President
DMcClure@crspia.org

RECENT EVENTS

On Nov.23, despite nasty weather and even more dire forecasts, a happy group of "old time friends" gathered in Cuyamaca's Visitor Center to greet and congratulate Greg Picard and his daughter, Wendy, on the publication of their books.

Greg has penned a memoir that tells all. His adventures as a park Ranger/Superintendent paint a delightful picture of the quirks one encounters while trying to preserve the wilderness, keep the public safe and the higher ups satisfied. Titled "Captain's Log Uncensored", the series of incidents is sure to keep readers laughing while enlightening them to the delicate balance a public servant needs to strike.



"Old Bones" by Greg and Wendy is a novel most everyone who loves the backcountry can relate to. Filled with familiar place names, a single father's angst and a headstrong daughter's quest for independence, the story carries the reader into uncharted territory. The mystery ends leaving one wondering if a visit to Julian isn't the perfect Sunday adventure?

Staged at the Visitor Center, Greg and Wendy's book signing was a warm reminiscence of times shared with friends and volunteers. Those who worked with Greg when he was stationed in Cuyamaca brought tales of happy deeds and pranks while visitors to the Center listened and laughed. Everyone was encouraged to partake of the sparkling cider, cheese and crackers, cookies and candy. CRSPIA's (member) songstresses, The Pony Tales, provided music befitting an enchanting day. The multi-talented Greg joined the Harlow sisters and Mary McGerald upon borrowing a guitar. Music filled the Center and the gloomy weather outside dissipated.

Jo Fritschel

Photo by Jason De Mendonca





RECENT EVENTS CONTINUED

The Mountain Bike Assistance Unit (MBAU) held their annual Benefit Ride this last October. Over 250 participants from all over Southern California attended the event. All were ready to ride on a spectacular day to help raise money for the Cuyamaca Rancho State Park Interpretive Association (CRSPIA).

The Benefit Ride consisted of about 20 miles of trail riding and a raffle that will make everyone stay all day for the festivities and food. This year a group of young athletes from Julian also participated. This group called Team Gold has riders under the age of 15. These younger athletes had a blast riding with the more seasoned riders who demonstrated great trail etiquette for the younger athletes.

The event went off with a hitch, but thanks to the many Volunteers and Park Staff all of the issues were overcome and we had a successful ride. It is worth mentioning that some Mounted Assistance Unit (MAU) and Trail Maintenance Unit (TMU) members pitched in to help the event run smoothly.

Cuyamaca Park Staff along with the volunteers had to transform the Stonewall Mine area into a venue noble enough to host the ride and post ride festivities. Picnic tables had to be brought in from all over the park, portable toilets were delivered, registration tables had to be set up, and of course the parking for all of those vehicles.

Next year's event is already in the works. The MBAU volunteers are working and scheming on new ideas to make the event even more fun... Check out <https://www.facebook.com/cuyamacambau> for more details.

Thanks again to the park staff and volunteers for making the MBAU event an exciting, smooth, and profitable event.

Chad Leptich, MBAU

Photo by Chad Leptich



Welcome Our New Supervising Ranger

We have a new Montane Sector Supervising State Park Peace Officer, Adam Borello. He was recently promoted from the State Park Peace Officer Classification, where he worked for six years at Ocotillo Wells SVRA as a field officer.

He has lived in Julian for over six years with his wife, son and cattle dog. They enjoy hiking in the mountains and their son enjoys playing soccer. His wife recently gained permanent employment with CalFire as the San Diego Unit Forester I.

We are all excited about finally having this important position filled and sure Adam will work with us in fulfilling the mission of the California State Park System.

Adam is very approachable and open to listen to your ideas. He can be reached at: adam.borello@parks.ca.gov

So the next time you see him, congratulate him and welcome him to our beautiful park.

Photo by Jason De Mendonca





Visitor Center & Gift Shop

Do you have an idea for something that you would like to see sold in the Gift Shop?

We are always looking for new things to offer in the shop, so if you have a book, brochure, or item please let us know.

The State provides us with some guidelines, it needs to relate to the Park, be interpretive and /or educational. Basically it needs to be something that enhances the visitor's Park experience.

If you have something that you think we could sell you need to give me a description or better yet a sample of the item and possibly where it can be purchased. I then research it, for its interpretive qualities, availability, the cost of the item and how many the supplier requires us to purchase. We're not a big box store so usually two or three dozen of anything is the most we buy at one time. After that I take the item to the CAL, (whoever is currently representing the Park and the liaison with CRSPIA, for approval.

CRSPIA then funds the purchase of the item and as we sell it the money, with a profit, goes back to CRSPIA to fund other projects for the Park.

Without CRSPIA to oversee the money we would not be able to have a gift shop and without your shopping we would not have a profit to return to CRSPIA. Most of our sales are to you, you are our best customers so if you see something in another Park get the information about it and come tell me and we will see about getting it.

Barbara McCoy
Gift Shop manager.



"CRSPIA President Dave McClure with Greg Schuett, Cuyamaca Outdoor School Camp Principal and Dan Falat, Colorado Desert District Superintendent. Mr. Schuett was presented with this donation of 16 canteens for the use by the School Camp staff while hiking with the students. A special thanks to Board Member Kandhy Franklin for sewing the Cuyamaca Rancho State Park mountain lion patches onto the canteen holders (visible in the photo - these nice patches are available for sale in the Park Gift Shop)."



ANOTHER NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

There was recently an item carried on San Diego's local news media regarding salaries paid to executives of local and national Non-Profit corporations. The tone of the discussion could possibly lead one to believe that most or all Non-Profit executives enjoy lavish salaries and benefits. The reality is that most Non-Profits are small organizations such as CRSPIA and are run by volunteers who receive no compensation whatsoever. I wish to assure all of our generous donors that all of us here at CRSPIA are volunteers. All of us serve for the enjoyment of helping our park and receive no salary or any other monetary compensation. In fact, CRSPIA's By-Laws specifically forbid any CRSPIA Board Member from receiving any sort of salary. You can rest assured that when you donate to CRSPIA, virtually every penny of your donation will go to the Park. Now, what do I mean by "virtually"? CRSPIA does have some small overhead expenses such as postage stamps and other minor office supplies. We do our best to keep these sorts of

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expenses to an absolute minimum; as a matter of fact, a lot of office supplies are simply donated by the Board members who use them.

If you ever have any questions or concerns regarding any sort of CRSPIA expenditure, please feel free to contact me or any other Board Member. And please accept my Thanks for your generosity in the past.

Dave McClure; President
Cuyamaca Rancho State Park Interpretive Association

Photo by Michele Hernandez



CRSPIA DOLLARS at WORK

Running events and supporting the volunteer units can and does cost quite a bit of money these days. Some of the recent events we've sponsored, such as the book signing and the Mountain Bike Benefit Ride all have expenses. That is where you, the donor comes in. Without your support, we wouldn't be able to provide these educational and fun activities. Thank you!

In the last two months (November & December 2013), we have purchased not only office supplies, but also permits to run our organization.

The following is a brief look at just some of the expenses.

We paid \$245 for bookkeeping and Tax Service including \$50 for the Annual Report for the Attorney General and \$50 for the Registry of Charitable Trusts. Our Gift Shop in the Visitor's Center bought \$865 worth of merchandise. The good news is the Gift Shop had an income of \$775. We are also looking ahead to the CALPA Conference in April. We are purchasing 2 "Park Champion" level sponsorships; 1 for CRSPIA and 1 for Friends of Palomar Mountain State Park. This is an excellent opportunity for us to get our "brand" out there for fundraising and public awareness. We have also renewed our Bicycle Ride Directors Association of America annual dues for this year's MBAU Benefit Ride in October.

We also take care of our volunteer units. We purchased new name badges for some new IAU volunteers, \$136.95 for four Samurai 13" hand saws for TMU, and new batteries for the Motorola MTX radios.

All of these expenses are essential to running and maintaining our beautiful park that belongs to you. Thank you for your contribution.

Susan Russo
Stonewall Sentinel Editor and TMU

Membership form for CRSPIA

If you are a CRSPIA member please check the mailing label on this newsletter for your dues renewal date and renew your membership before your name drops from our list. If you are not a member please join us by mailing back your membership or donation to:

CRSPIA
P.O. Box 204
Descanso, CA 91916

Change of address or renewal
Contact: treasurer@crspia.org

Questions or comments about newsletter?
Contact us at:
info@crspia.org

Submit articles for this newsletter to:
Nebulae3sma@hotmail.com

Deadline is the 15th of the prior to Newsletter.

Articles and photos related to Cuyamaca Rancho and Palomar

Mountain State Parks and the Colorado Desert District are welcomed. Text is edited for clarity and to fit available space.

Cuyamaca Rancho State Park Interpretive Association (CRSPIA) Membership Form

Membership Levels Individual Family

Friend of the Park Any Donation

(No Voting privileges, no discount in store but receives newsletter)

Annual	\$30.00	\$40.00
Supporting	\$75.00	\$100.00
Life Member	\$500.00	\$750.00

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Membership level amount \$ _____

Yes, I want to donate \$ _____ to help support _____

Yes, I would like to receive the Sentinel by Email

Yes, I would like to volunteer to C.R.S.P.I.A.

CRSPIA
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www.crspia.org

The date on the address label of your newsletter shows when your membership is to be renewed. A highlighted date indicates upcoming renewal or overdue. Send the form on the reverse side of this page ATTN: Membership, at the return address listed there. No other notice will be given.

President	Dave McClure
Vice Pres.	Dave Hernandez
Director	Jason DeMendonca
Director	Kandhy Franklin
Director	Serena Hill
Director	Chad Leptich
Director	Barbara McCoy
Director	Erin Robillard
Director	Ron Robillard
Director	Susan Russo

CRSPIA Membership & Donations

	Single	Family
<i>Friend</i>		
<i>Annual</i>	\$30	\$40
<i>Supporting</i>	\$75	\$100
<i>Life</i>	\$500	\$750

STONEWALL SENTINEL

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED