

Park Law Enforcement Association

NEWSLETTER ARTICLES



Volume 1, Issue 1

Spring 2010

Special points of interest:

Revised PLEA Website:

www.myparkranger.org

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Serving the Park Law Enforcement Community since 1979

San Antonio Park Police to host 31st Annual Conference & Trade Show May 4 - 6, 2010

San Antonio, Texas, home of the Alamo, Spurs and the Riverwalk, will be the location of the Association's 31st Annual Conference & Trade Show. The San Antonio Park Police will be the host agency sponsoring the event.

The Drury Plaza Hotel – San Antonio Riverwalk will be the site of this year's conference.

A host of educational offerings including: Drug Trends in America, Mexican Mafia, White Supremacy and Covert Operations in San Antonio City Parks ensure interest for participants.

Additionally a tour of the Alamo is scheduled. (See inside for details).



Ohio PLEA re-organizes

Ohio PLEA has re-organized with four new executive officers.

Chief Greg Loftus (Cleveland Metroparks) is currently the President, Chief Bob Urban (Geauga Park District) is the Vice President. Lieutenant Bill Leaman (Hamilton County Park District)

and Chief Doug Sheppard (Metroparks Serving Summit County) were elected as Treasurer and Secretary, respectively. The Ex-Officio Director is Ranger Geoff Hamilton, Columbus Metro Parks (Ohio Parks & Recreation Association – Law En-

Ohio PLEA re-organizes Con't

forcement Chair). The group has already produced a new logo.



News

United States – Grand Teton National Park

Backcountry Skier Dies In Avalanche On South Teton

Summary: Three skiers were on a mountain in the park when one triggered an avalanche that swept him 2,000 feet down the mountain to his death. The recovery of his body was difficult due to avalanche danger.

A backcountry skier triggered an avalanche on the South Teton that swept him to his death on the morning of Sunday, February 21st. Wray Landon, 30, of Driggs, Idaho, skied with two companions to the summit of the South Teton via Garnet Canyon and the Northwest Couloir early Sunday morning. They were descending the southeast face of the peak when Landon set off a two-foot crown avalanche approximately 300 feet below the 12,514-foot summit. The avalanche carried Landon over 2,000 vertical feet of slope and cliff bands before he came to a rest about a thousand feet above Lake Taminah in upper Avalanche Canyon.

Landon and his companions were experienced with backcountry travel in the Teton Range and prepared with the appropriate equipment for a mountain excursion. Landon's ski companions called an emergency number and reported the accident. Rangers flew to the site and spotted his body. In order to reach the body, which was in an exposed avalanche-prone area, four rangers were flown

via helicopter to a nearby landing zone near Snowdrift Lake. Three Teton County Search and Rescue personnel were flown into the location, and they conducted aerial avalanche control using explosives to stabilize slopes above the route rangers intended to ski in order to reach the body. After the avalanche control work was completed, four rangers traversed a steep slope below an area of cliff bands and couloirs. While two rangers acted as safety spotters, watching for additional avalanche activity, the other two rangers prepared the body for aerial evacuation.

Source: U.S. National Park Service

United States – Canaveral National Seashore

Over 2000 Endangered Sea Turtles Rescued

Summary: A recent severe cold wave stunned hundreds of sea turtles in park waters. More than 2,000 were saved through a major cooperative effort by many organizations.

Mosquito Lagoon in Canaveral National Seashore, located in the U.S. state of Florida, is a major nursery area for juvenile green and loggerhead sea turtles. A week-long period of unusually low temperatures in January immobilized hundreds of these cold-blooded reptiles, causing them to float helplessly, pushed by the wind onto shallow bars. Unless rescued, they faced death by exposure. Park staff therefore mounted a large-scale rescue of these cold-stunned sea turtles.

In an extraordinary interagency effort, personnel from the park and many other organizations, including the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, and the U.S. Air Force, together with numerous volunteers, took to the water to retrieve the stranded turtles. These were transported to several processing facilities, the primary one being established at Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge, where basic measurements were taken before shipping the turtles to more adequate holding facilities, such as Sea World, Marineland and other aquaria and rehabilitation centers.

Over 2100 sea turtles, mostly green with a few loggerheads and a single hawksbill, were retrieved from Mosquito Lagoon and nearby waters. As the water warms and the turtles revive, they will be released back into the wild.

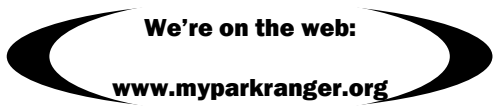
Source: U.S. National Park Service

NEWSLETTER ARTICLES

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Puerto Rico – Department of Natural Resources

Two Rangers Killed In Shootout

Summary: Two rangers in the U.S. territory of Puerto Rico were shot and killed by three men while serving as guards at a government building.

An attempted robbery at Puerto Rico's Department of Natural Resources led to a shootout that killed two park rangers who were serving as guards on Tuesday, March 23rd. Police said the rangers apparently confronted attackers who jumped a fence at the government building shortly after midnight, leading to the shootout in which one of the invaders also was wounded. The attackers then forced a gate open and fled, taking a car and gun from one of the rangers. A witness' telephone call led police to arrest three suspects, one of whom was hospitalized with a gunshot wound. Officers said they found the gun of one of the slain guards in the suspects' car.

Both the U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation and police from the U.S. Caribbean territory were investigating the case. Union leaders who represent park rangers blamed the department's secretary for their deaths, saying layoffs of thousands of government workers had led the agency to use rangers in a job they are not trained for.

Source: Associated Press

Second bald eagle found shot dead in Riverside State Park

A bald eagle was found shot to death in Riverside State Park last week, the second killed locally this month.

The latest incident happened last Thursday in Riverside State Park, bringing the total of eagle deaths to five in the last several months.

Riverside State Park Ranger Mac Mikkelson says the eagle was found last Thursday perched next to the road.

“It was somewhat propped up, conspicuous so someone would find it,” Mikkelson said.

This is the second bald eagle shot near Spokane in the last month. The first one was shot on March 6th near Long Lake Dam.

Now a special agent with the US Department of Fish and Wildlife Service is investigating the shootings. They don't know whether the eagle deaths are related, they don't know who's doing it or why. They do know whoever is shooting these eagles is breaking the law.

“You see the eagle as a symbol of the American people and it is protected for a reason,” Mikkelson said.

The Humane Society of the United States is offering a reward of up to \$2,500 for tips that lead to the killer's conviction.

A park ranger found the bird on South Bank Road.

Bald eagles are federally protected. Killing one is a federal crime punishable by up to a year in prison and fines up to \$100,000.

The Humane Society is offering the reward with the Humane Society Wildlife Land Trust. Anyone with information is asked to call the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Office of Law Enforcement at (509) 928-6050.



31st ANNUAL CONFERENCE & TRADE SHOW

San Antonio, Texas

May 4 - 6, 2010

Drury Plaza Hotel – San Antonio Riverwalk

105 South St. Mary's Street San Antonio, Texas 78205

Telephone: 210-270-7799 Fax: 800-431-1351

www.druryhotels.com



We are planning a great event for the **Park Law Enforcement Association!**

Rooms have been held for our group at the **Drury Plaza Hotel** – for reservations go to:

<http://www.druryhotels.com/Reservations.aspx?groupno=2081260>

The hotel offers great amenities, such as:

FREE! Hot! *QUIKSTART* Breakfast – scrambled eggs, sausage, biscuits & gravy, Belgian waffles & more!

FREE! Evening beverages and snacks – served daily from 5:30 – 7:00 pm

FREE! High-Speed Internet Access in every room

FREE! Free Long Distance – One hour – every room – every night!

Please make your reservations by **Friday, April 2, 2010** to receive our group rate. Reservations made after this date will be subject to prevailing rates and availability.



2010 Park Law Enforcement Association Conference

San Antonio, Texas

Drury Plaza Hotel – San Antonio
Riverwalk

MONDAY MAY 3, 2010

1 pm

PLEA Board Meeting

TUESDAY MAY 4, 2010

Keynote Speaker: Reynaldo Gutierrez, United States Probation Office in San Antonio

Subject: Mexican Mafia & White Supremacy

WEDNESDAY MAY 5, 2010

Keynote Speakers: Cynthia Arredondo

Subject: Drug Trends in America

Sgt. Emilio Guerrero, San Antonio Park Police

Subject: Mexican Cartel

Sgt. Al Ballew, San Antonio Park Police

Subject: Covert Operations in San Antonio City Parks

THURSDAY MAY 6, 2010

Field Day – YTD

Possible River Cruise on the River Walk

Tour the Alamo

Dinner at Rosario's Mexican Restaurant

