Quotes of the Week

Approach the New Year with resolve to find the opportunities hidden in each new day.

*Michael Josephson, ethicist/author/commentator (1942-present)*

Cheers to a new year and another chance for us to get it right.

*Oprah Winfrey media proprietor/talk show host/actress (1954-present)*

Updates

**New Annual Passes for 2015**

California State Parks has launched the Annual Park Pass Program, bringing back popular “Golden Poppy” and introducing a new Tahoe area regional pass.

The Annual Park Pass Program consists of four different passes with a variety of admissions to parks statewide, and price points designed to meet visitor’s individual needs. Specifically, the 2015 annual passes include:

- “California Explorer” Annual Pass ($195.00): Offers vehicle entrance to 134 state parks, including the Southern California beaches along the Orange, Los Angeles and San Diego Coasts.

- “Golden Poppy” Annual Pass ($125.00): This popular pass is making a comeback, and includes vehicle entrance to 112 state parks.

- “Tahoe Regional” Annual Pass ($75.00): This new regional pass was created this year specifically for one of the jewels of the state, the Lake Tahoe region. The pass includes admission to D.L. Bliss State Park, Ed Z’Berg Sugar Pine Point State Park, Emerald Bay State Park, Kings Beach State Recreation Area and Donner Memorial State Park.
• “Historian Passport” ($50.00): Includes admission for up to four people to State Historic Parks that generally charge a per-person admission fee. Pass holders will be able to tour California missions, see where the gold rush happened and experience Native American culture.

• “Off Highway Vehicle” Day Use Annual Pass ($50): unchanged from last year.

As of January 5, Annual Passes are available at state park units where fees are collected as well as at the Pass Office in Sacramento and the State Parks on-line store. All of these passes are valid for a floating 12-month period from the date of purchase.

For more information on California State Park’s Annual Park Pass Program and the locations where each will be honored, visit our Park Pass web page.

Teamwork Digs Out Point Mugu State Park

Teamwork by maintenance staff and other classifications from throughout the state has helped Point Mugu State Park dig out from a massive landslide caused by heavy rains December 12. The slide covered the Pacific Coast Highway that bisects the park, campgrounds, day use areas, parking lots and service facilities. The slide was one of the worst in the region in many years. The area of the slide was made unstable by the Springs Fire of 2013 removing vegetation and three years of drought creating conditions for a catastrophe.
Working over the holidays, the incident crew, headed by Malibu Sector Maintenance Supervisor Angel Alba, was on target to get most of the park’s facilities open by the originally targeted January 15 thought some trails and campgrounds will take longer to fix. Unfortunately, after uncovering the highway surface, CalTrans found that the PCH will require extensive repairs that will block access to the park until at least January 31. State Parks will use the extra time to do more extensive clean-up work.

Crew members taking time out for a group picture during clean-up works and repairs at Point Mugu State Park. Team members not pictured include: Adam Asche, Ocotillo Wells; Bonnie Gomez, Angeles; Chase Gaal, Orange Coast; Conrado Guerrero, Angeles; Christa Quick, Angeles; David Gunn, Angeles; Dale Skinner, Angeles; Gregg Johnson, Colorado Desert; Ian Hoehn, Angeles; Jeffery Findlay, Oceana Dunes; John Luker, Angeles; Joel Nunn, Angeles; James Sylvia, Sacramento HQ; Sulema Saldivar, Angeles; and Thomas Lechman, Angeles. (Photo courtesy Patrick Gallegos, Malibu Sector.)
Chumash Trailhead parking immediately after slide. (Photo courtesy Craig Sap, Angeles District.)
Chumash Trailhead parking after several thousand yards of slide material were removed. (Photo courtesy Craig Sap, Angeles District.)
Field Report

First Day Hikes Showcase State Parks Diverse Offerings

The diversity of California State Parks was enjoyed by more than 1,300 hikers who stepped out New Year’s Day to take part in the Annual First Day Hike events held at several state parks across California. This is the fourth year California has participated in the national initiative, with hikes in the redwoods, deserts, mountains and along the ocean.

A total of 40 California state parks offered 50 hikes, including snow shoeing on Mount San Jacinto above Palm Springs, paddling on the Salton Sea and Humboldt Lagoons in the redwoods, walks through desert environments at several locations and many hikes along the ocean. Participants hiked more than 4,650 miles. Events were guided by State Parks staff and volunteers.

In what is quickly becoming a yearly tradition, the First Day Hikes are signature events designed to offer visitors the opportunity to connect to their parks and nature for recreation and to promote a healthy lifestyle throughout the year. Two honeymooners joined the hike at Armstrong Redwoods State Natural Reserve in Sonoma County, and hikers were inspired to share poetry on the Monterey Peninsula at Asilomar State Beach. Many hikers enjoyed the two-mile hike along Morro Strand State beach barefoot, while there were dozens of sightings of migrating Gray whales at coastal locations.
Hikers at Mount Tamalpias State Park renewed a New Year’s Day tradition for the 29th year in a row, with a hike and climb to the top of the east peak, and received a commemorative pin provided by Friends of Mount Tam for their efforts.

This year, all 50 states participated in the First Day Hikes initiative. While final numbers are still being counted, more than 24,000 hikers covered 54,500 miles at more than 900 sites were reported nationwide. For more information, visit [http://naspd.org/](http://naspd.org/).
A group of hikers enjoying the First Day Hike at Henry Cowell Redwoods State Park.
Enjoying the sunshine on New Year’s Day at Montara State Beach.
Hikers string out along the sand at San Onofre State Beach.

Ranger Keven Harder (white) goes over safety precautions with paddlers before heading out at Humboldt Lagoons State Park.
Hiking through snow at 8,400 feet at Mount San Jacinto State Park.
Malibu Creek State Park Hosts Drone Test for Film Industry, FAA

The Angeles District, the California Film Commission, and Vortex Aerial co-sponsored the first unmanned aircraft system (UAS or drone) demonstration by a commercial operator in a California State Park January 8 in Malibu Creek State Park. This event was authorized by the Federal Aviation Administration, as part of regulation exemptions granted to six qualified motion picture firms, three of which are based in California.

Over 180 persons observed, representing federal, state, and local public safety and related agencies, as well as several motion picture industry firms and the local FAA Administrator. The exemptions culminated meticulous preparations over a four-year period at the national level, and nearly six months of focused coordination for this particular event. The goal of the exemptions is for the FAA to gain operational data to support eventual release of commercial drone regulations.

Rigorous safety procedures were followed, starting with the FAA requirement for all participants to sign a written acknowledgement of safety rules. No persons other than the flight crew and one actress/model were allowed inside the 100-foot safety perimeter. The flight was also preceded by a complete safety briefing for all participants.
Additional safety concerns were addressed by limiting the flying height to about 30 feet (tree tops) and restricting the flight area to an area less than 1 acre in size. The flight duration was less than ten minutes and consisted of circling passes of the aircraft and camera about 30-feet away from the model (and never directly overhead), who casually walked among the trees. After the flight, six drone pilots and observers representing Vortex and other firms, answered questions for over an hour from the observers, imparting valuable information about the aircraft, camera, operational limitations, insurance, and flight crew qualifications.

Additional details will be posted on the Film Commission website (film.ca.gov) in the coming weeks.

Operators film a model at Malibu Creek State Park in a test of the use of a drone (top center- right) in motion picture filming.
The prototype motion picture camera drone after its test flight.

**A Lifejacket Saves You Time**

The value of wearing a lifejacket in cold water emersions was reinforced recently in a story in the U.S. Coast Guard Compass blog. Writer Paul Newman, a Recreational Boating Safety Specialist with the Eleventh Coast Guard District, echoes the long standing safety message of the Division of Boating and Waterways that wearing lifejackets saves lives. Lifejackets are especially critical in cold water emersions, more common in winter, which can rapidly create a life and death situation due to cold incapacitation. Cold water, temperatures under 70 degrees, can impact the body's ability to breathe and swim long before hypothermia becomes a threat. Staying afloat buys time for rescue.

To read more about this topic from the blog [click here](#).

**Holiday Greetings**

**North Coast Redwoods District Joins Annual Trucker’s Parade**

A decorated tractor trailer flatbed from North Coast Redwoods District was one of the entries in the 35th Annual Truckers Parade in Eureka in December. A holiday traditional, big rig trucks of all types are decorated with lights, holiday decorations, festive scenes, and hosted musical groups. The event is a fundraiser for local charities.

North Coast Redwood's distinctive white truck was covered in lights, wreaths and a 150th Anniversary banner and depicted a camping scene created by a team effort of district staff.
John Miller piloted the truck during the parade as staff and volunteers on the float got sore arms waving to spectators, some of came hundreds of miles to view the event.

North Coast Redwoods District’s truck decked out for the Eureka Truckers Parade. (Photo courtesy Anica Williams, North Coast Redwoods District.)
Smiling State Parks employee Mark Morrissette joins Frosty the Snowman in a camping scene on the Redwood Coast District’s entry in the Trucker’s Parade. (Photo courtesy Anica Williams, North Coast Redwoods District.)

3rd Annual Christmas at the Beach Celebrated at Bolsa Chica State Beach

Staff at Bolsa Chica SB proudly hosted its 3rd Annual Christmas at the Beach. At this free event, participants could take photos with Santa on a Personal Water Craft, engage in creating Christmas crafts, partake in hot dogs, hot chocolate, coffee and s’mores (all provided by the Huntington State Beach Lifeguard Association) and learn about the animals of the area in a booth provided by our cooperating association, the Amigos de Bolsa Chica.

The finale of the evening was getting to watch “Polar Express” from a seat on the beach. Participants were asked to bring unwrapped toys, which were donated to the Children’s Hospital of Orange County.

Orange Coast District Staff are in the holiday spirit at Bolsa Chia State Beach. (l-r) Diego Busatto, Santa (Chris Egan), Jason Cox, Melanie Cox and Matt Fockler. (Photo courtesy of Blythe Wilson, Orange Coast District.)
HAPPY HOLIDAYS!
From Personnel Services
Happy Holidays

Hungry Valley BURA
2014

Happy Holidays
from PORTS!

Celebrate 2015 with us!
www.parks.ca.gov
facebook.com/PORTSProgram
California State Parks Postcards

Old Town San Diego State Historic Park

(Photo courtesy Oscar Vasquez, Information Technology.)
Anza Borrego Desert State Park

(Photography courtesy Oscar Vasquez, Information Technology.)
News Releases

January 6: [More Than 1,200 Hikers Participated in California State Parks 2015 First Day Hikes](#)

January 6: [Three Launch Ramps Open at Lake Oroville](#)

December 23: [California State Parks 2015 Annual Pass Program Brings Back an Old Favorite, Introduces Tahoe Regional Pass](#)

News Clips, Dates

January 8: [The Union: Stabilization work almost done at Bridgeport Covered Bridge in Penn Valley](#)

Contractors working on stabilizing the Bridgeport Covered Bridge this week poured one of the last concrete attachment pads, meaning that Phase I work on the $1.3 million restoration project is almost done.

January 8: [The Coastal News: Tamarack bathrooms being remodeled](#)

The restrooms at Carlsbad State Beach near Tamarack Avenue closed Dec. 29, and will remain shut through the end of January for some long-awaited maintenance and upgrades.
January 7: The Log: McGrath State Beach Headed for Changes
Recently, a partnership between Wishtoyo Foundation, California State Parks and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) made plans to conduct a feasibility study to see if the popular campground annually flooded during winter storms can be moved down coast to reduce the flooding.

January 7: The Malibu Times: PCH at Pt. Mugu Closed All Month
If closure lasts through end of January, that means the PCH will have been closed seven weeks near the county line.

January 6: The Tribune: State Parks superintendent is named SLO County’s parks director
Longtime State Parks superintendent Nick Franco has been appointed the new parks director for San Luis Obispo County.

January 6: Bay Nature: Stalking the Elusive, Scientists Carry on Bowerman’s Mount Diablo Legacy
From the animated banter of the small group of field biologists gathered at UC Berkeley in early December, a visitor might have guessed they recently returned from faraway places.

January 6: Monterey Herald: Moss Landing State Beach dune restoration planting planned
Elkhorn Slough Foundation and California State Parks will hold community planting to restore dunes from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, Jan. 10 rain or shine at Moss Landing State Beach, Highway 1 and Jetty Road., Moss Landing.

January 6: OrovilleMR News: Northern California waterfalls roaring
Recent heavy rains have opened the taps on waterfalls on Northern California waterfalls.

January 3: The Santa Clarita Valley Signal: Families turn out for Placerita Canyon Nature Center animal show
It’s become a regular Saturday morning activity for the Larios family: hiking the trail at Placerita Canyon State Park in Newhall then taking in the live animal show that follows.

January 2: Patch: Explore SoCal Beaches This Year With the CA State Parks 2015 Annual Pass
Passes are available for purchase online.

January 2: Ventura County Star: Crews rebuilding after December storm; park, highway to reopen this month
POINT MUGU STATE PARK, Calif. - Over the past few weeks, crews have cleared roads, parking lots and campsites buried under tons of debris inside Point Mugu State Park.

January 2: Patch: CA State Parks 2015 Annual Pass Program Returns, Introduces Tahoe Regional Pass
Passes are available for purchase now.

January 2: Capitol Public Radio: Renovation Work Closes Historic Governor’s Mansion
The historic California Governor’s Mansion in Sacramento is closed for repairs.
January 1: Hiking in San Diego County: Snow Day! Green Valley Falls (Cuyamaca Rancho State Park) (Pictures)
Snow in San Diego County is a pretty special event...

January 1: The Sacramento Bee: Op Images: Stunning view of Folsom Lake provided harsh perspective of California's drought
California’s drought really didn’t have an impact on me until last January when my wife, Linda, and I went to Folsom Lake to take our dog for a walk.

January 1: Monterey Herald: Asilomar State Beach’s First Day Hike mixes nature with poetry
Pebble Beach >> For local poet Illia Thompson, it was about starting the new year with nature and prose, something she says is alluring in Monterey County.

December 30: Internal Business Times: California Surfer, Who Survived Shark Attack In Montana De Oro State Park, Released From Hospital
A California surfer, who was bitten by a shark Sunday and survived the attack, was released from the hospital on Monday.

December 29: Malibu Times: Eight Rescued In Malibu Creek State Park
Eight people were rescued after officials received two separate calls about hikers trapped in rocky areas in Malibu Creek State Park on Saturday evening, according to Sgt. Wright with the Malibu/Lost Hills Sheriff station.

December 26: Anza Valley Outlook: State Parks celebrates 150 years
The State Parks commemorated its 150th Anniversary in 2014, and it’s been a terrific opportunity to recall the system’s sweeping history and celebrate the dramatic beauty within our borders.

December 25: Santa Cruz Sentinel: More than weed wackers: Volunteers keep invasive species from choking indigenous plants
It was 10 a.m. and spitting rain when the volunteers emerged from the warmth of their cars at Wilder Ranch State Park on a cool Saturday in November.

December 25: Chico News and Review: Decades' worth of loot
Officials find thousands of artifacts thought to have been illegally excavated from Lake Oroville

December 24: The Cambrian: December at Piedras Blancas: Dominant males stand watch as pups arrive
December brings the elephant seal bulls to the beach.

December 19: ChicoER: Authorities recover thousands of archaeological artifacts taken from Lake Oroville
Authorities have recovered thousands of stolen archaeological artifacts reportedly taken from Lake Oroville over the last 20 years.

Connect with California State Parks!
Communications Request

If you have any stories or events at your park or unit that you would like us to profile in the Weekly Digest, or in other California State Park’s Communications outlets (social media, News & Views, newsroom), please forward your entries to the department’s Deputy Director of Public Affairs Vicky Waters at Vicky.Waters@parks.ca.gov.

Have a Wonderful and Safe Weekend!