



THE NFRA REPORT

Official Newsletter of the National Forest Recreation Association

JANUARY 2006

President's Message



New Year's Greetings,

I hope all of our NFRA members and agency friends had a wonderful Christmas and New Year Holiday.

I know we all look forward to a very positive and successful 2006!

NFRA will start the New Year with our Annual Conference and Trade Show in March. It will be at the Nugget Hotel and Casino in Reno on March 7th and 8th, and I hope to see all of you there.

This is an excellent opportunity to reconnect with colleagues, meet new folks working in similar businesses, and speak with Forest Service officers from local, regional, and Washington, DC offices. We are very pleased to announce that Forest Service Chief, Dale Bosworth will be at the conference on Wednesday. It will be an honor to have him attend.

The NFRA Conference is also a place to get new ideas and new solutions for your businesses.

If you are planning on attending, it would be a great chance to bring a neighbor permit holder or concessionaire and introduce them to NFRA. We are sponsoring an exciting membership drive and it's easy to win, so be sure to watch for details!

I look forward to seeing you all in March!

Sincerely,

Gary Jones

Gary Jones

58th Annual Conference and Trade Show March 7-8th, Reno, Nevada

"Recreation Strategies - Working Together to Provide for Fun!"

The **National Forest Recreation Association** would like to invite you to attend their 58th Annual Conference and Trade Show. This is the very best conference offered for National Forest recreation special use permittees and agency personnel to talk one-on-one about trends, issues and opportunities.

Hear it straight from the Top !!

Forest Service Chief Dale Bosworth will be this year's Special Guest.

Improve Your Business Skills.

- ❖ Learn how to improve the bottom line with merchandising and retail sales.
- ❖ How to make the most of your advertising dollars.
- ❖ Hear what's new in the Insurance Industry. Will Katrina affect your insurance?
- ❖ Learn about resort reservation systems. Will it work for you?
- ❖ Computerized bookkeeping for those of you who do your own.

Learn What's New and What's Coming with the Forest Service

- ❖ This is the best time to learn about new policies and changes that are coming to a forest near you, soon!
- ❖ What can you expect to see happen in recreation on the national forests in the next 5 years.
- ❖ What's happening with the permanent fee program. Implementation, Golden passes, and Recreation Resource Advisory Committees – hear the latest!
- ❖ Will Cost Recovery affect you? How so, and how soon.
- ❖ What is happening with the National Recreation Reservation Service. Hear the latest..

See Inside for Registration and Lodging Information. A Preliminary Schedule is also included. Watch our website for Agenda Updates: www.nfra.org.

OUTSTANDING INDIVIDUALS DESERVE OUTSTANDING RECOGNITION!

THE NFRA "RANGER OF THE YEAR" AWARD IS A WAY TO RECOGNIZE THAT SPECIAL PERSON WHO WORKS 'ABOVE AND BEYOND' TO HELP MAKE RECREATION PARTNERSHIPS SUCCEED.

INFORMATION AND A NOMINATION FORM CAN BE FOUND INSIDE.
LET'S HONOR THOSE WHO ARE DESERVING!

NATIONAL FOREST
RECREATION ASSOCIATION
OFFICERS & BOARD
OF DIRECTORS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

R. GARY JONES	PRESIDENT JUNE LAKE, CA
DICK KEMP	VICE PRESIDENT SIGNAL HILL, CA
BOB TANNER	VICE PRESIDENT MAMMOTH LAKES, CA
ERIC MART	TREASURER PALO ALTO, CA
ROBERT COE	PAST PRESIDENT CODY, WY
MARILY REESE	EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR WOODLAKE, CA

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

WILLIAM ANDERSON	ENCINO, CA
VIRGINIA BARNES	LOS ALTOS, CA
LYNDA BREAUULT	MESA, AZ
ROBERT COE	CODY, WY
DAVE DOHNEL	JUNE LAKE, CA
ESTHER FISHBAUGH	BOZEMAN, MT
FRANK FORVILLY	ZEPHYR COVE, NV
JERRY HAMBY	BENTON, TN
FRANK HELM	PINECREST, CA
BUD KAHN	FEDERAL WAY, WA
LARRY KNAPP	FISH CAMP, CA
STEVE KOCH	DIAMOND LAKE, OR
WARREN MEYER	PHOENIX, AZ
DONN RICKETTS	TUSCON, AZ
JENNIFER ROESER	MAMMOTH LAKES, CA
CHUCK SHEPHERD	COBURG, OR
GAYLORD STAVELEY	FLAGSTAFF, AZ

How to Sign Up - It's Easy!



CONFERENCE REGISTRATION ...

There are several easy choices ...

- Complete the enclosed form and return it with your payment to:
NFRA – P.O. Box 488 -- Woodlake, CA 93286

– or –

- Go to our website www.nfra.org and fill out the registration form and send it to:
info@nfra.org.

Payments may be made by check or Visa/MasterCard.

\$\$\$ Early Bird SAVINGS !! \$\$\$



We offer a savings for early registration forms!! Registration forms postmarked or sent e-mail by **February 24th, 2006** will qualify for the Fees.

HOTEL RESERVATIONS ...

[John Ascuaga's Nugget Hotel in Reno, Nevada](#) is the location of our 2006 Conference. Registrants are responsible for making their own room reservations, and we encourage you to do that as soon as possible. The Hotel has guaranteed us the special rate until February 17th, after which reservations received will be accepted on a space and rate availability basis.

The group rate is [\\$89 per night for single or double occupancy](#), plus local taxes and an energy charge. Let them know you are attending the [National Forest Recreation Association Conference](#). These rates will be in effect 3 days before and 3 days after the event in case you need to 'check, monitor, or validate' the nearby recreation activities in the Reno or Tahoe area!!

Room reservations may be made by calling: # (800) 648-1177

ABOUT THE HOTEL and the LOCAL AREA ...

The Nugget Hotel is definitely one of Reno's Best! It is especially great for conferences and has incredible views of the surrounding mountains. Located just a few minutes east of downtown Reno, on Interstate 80, it is also 10 minutes from the Reno-Tahoe airport and offers complimentary shuttle service to and from the airport every 30 minutes. The Nugget has eight different award winning restaurants so you will have plenty to choose from during your stay. There is a year-round pool, nine Jacuzzis, and a health club - so no excuses on your New Year's resolutions!

If you have the opportunity to come early, or stay longer, the Reno-Tahoe area is rich with fun things to do, sights to see, and natural beauty. Tahoe is one of the 'greats' for incredible skiing and snowboarding, as well as groomed snowmobile and cross country ski trails. There are over 30 golf courses in the area, historic Virginia City, a kayak slalom course on the Truckee River, and shows and entertainment – not to mention a slot machine or two – in the casinos throughout the city. Reno is a great location for a little fun mixed in with business.

Tentative Schedule for the week of March 6-9, 2006

- **Monday Evening:**
No Host Dinner for NFRA Board Members and Guests
- **Tuesday:**
Conference Begins at 9 AM
Evening Reception with participants and vendors
- **Wednesday:**
Conference Begins at 8AM.
Ranger of the Year Luncheon and Awards
NFRA Membership Meeting
Forest Service Employee Meeting
Conclude Conference at 4 PM.
- **Thursday:**
NFRA Board of Directors' Meeting 8-11 AM

NFRA at Work Supporting Its Members

One of the advantages of being a member of the National Forest Recreation Association is to obtain assistance with permit related issues. Here are some of the recent activities that NFRA has been involved with to assist its members:

- ❖ Assisted a campground concessionaire with obtaining reasonable and fair increases in camping fees. The concessionaire sent a 'Thank You' letter to NFRA:
 "We found our membership in NFRA a great help when negotiating for a fee increase with the xxx National Forest. The staff at NFRA had insight we did not have and their relationship with the Washington office was very helpful. The past experience NFRA has had with other concessionaires in similar situations proved most valuable. Thank you for coaching us..."
- ❖ Supported a change in the Forest Service Handbook 2709.11, Chapter 41.53, which now provides alternatives to the use of Service Days for outfitter and guide operations, particularly those in connection with a resort permit. This is a significant change in that resort operators with facilities on national forest lands were facing having to close their doors to the public long before the season was over due to not having enough 'service days.' The Forest Service may now authorize alternate means of allocations: "An allotment of use measured as the number of people or stock at one time, the number of trips or launches per hour or per day, or other unit of measure." The agency is no longer locked into the use of 'service days' for outfitter and guide operations.
- ❖ Letter of Support to the Inyo National Forest for Capital Investment Program (CIP) funding for the reconstruction/rehabilitation of the McGee Pass Trail. This is a primary access trail for one of NFRA's members providing services to the public for visiting the John Muir Wilderness with horses and mules.
- ❖ Provided input to the Forest Service on several campground prospectuses with respect to the Service Contract Act and associated agreements with the Department of Labor.
- ❖ Participated in a week long pack trip into the John Muir and Ansel Adams Wilderness with several NFRA members and Forest Service representatives to see first hand the wilderness conditions that have been under contention, lawsuits, appeals, and court orders for the past 10 years.
- ❖ NFRA Board Members traveled to Washington DC to participate in Great Outdoors Week. They met with Deputy Under Secretary of Agriculture, Dave Tenny; Forest Service Chief, Dale Bosworth; Washington Office Recreation Staff; and various congressional representatives. They attended special sessions on the newly legislated Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act and the America the Beautiful Pass.

These are just a few examples of specific work that NFRA is pleased to be able to offer in support of its members. We are thankful for your support and want to assure you that your membership dollars are hard at work!

For Sale: Beautiful Eastern High Sierra Resort

Rock Creek Lakes Resort is a spectacular Eastern High Sierra Nevada mountain resort, established in 1923. It is located between Bishop and Mammoth Lakes off of State Highway 395. The Eastern Sierra is a highly popular tourist destination area, with year round attractions. The Resort has a general store, a nationally recognized café, 11 rental cabins, boat dock, boat rentals, hydroelectric power plant, an owner's residence, associated outbuildings, and numerous other vehicles, equipment, and facilities. Surrounded by the John Muir Wilderness, Rock Creek Lakes Resort is located in an alpine setting over 10,000 feet in elevation. It has over 50 trout filled lakes within a two hour hike or horseback ride. The resort is currently open from May through October, and there is tremendous opportunity in operating a year round resort.

The Resort has been owned and operated by the King Family since 1979. They have a tradition of friendly service and immaculate facilities. Approximately 95% of the cabins are booked a year ahead by a very loyal customer base. They have an existing Special Use Permit with the Inyo National Forest, including an approved Master Development Plan.

For more information, please contact Jim or Sue King at (760) 935-4311

Or via e-mail at: kingfam@inreach.com.

Additional information can also be obtained at:

www.homeinfo-online.com/rockcreek/rockcreek.html.

Support our NFRA Vendor Members

ALEXANDRIA, VA WASHINGTON, DC

THE GARDEN LAW FIRM P.C.

KEVIN R. GARDEN, ESQ.
MANAGING DIRECTOR

901 N. PITT STREET, STH. 325 TEL: 703.555.5565
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314 FAX: 703.997.1330
www.gardenlawfirm.com kevin@gardenlawfirm.com



BearSaver


BearSaver will be at the upcoming NFRA Conference showing a selection of bear resistant containers. We hope to see you there! Please call Steve Thompson for details at (909) 605-1679

Smith's
Riverboats
Recreation Program

Todd Bell
Owner/BUILDER

4875C N. Hwy 97
PO. Box 2488
Rockwood, OR 97156
(541) 548-4274
Fax (541) 548-4330
Cell (541) 480-3931

www.smithsriverboats.com **CUSTOM DRIFTBOATS**

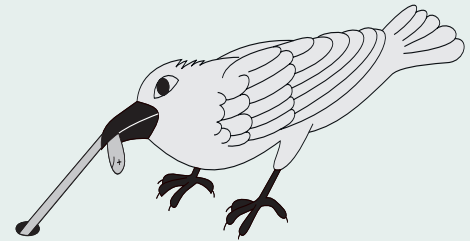



Rock Creek Lakes Resort Cabin to the left and Boat Dock below.



Don't Delay – Sign Up Today !!!

**Early Bird Conference Registrations save \$\$\$..
Have your Registration Postmarked by
February 24th and SAVE! For more updated
information and details
about the Conference –
check out: www.nfra.org**



Address Correction Requested

P.O. Box 488
Woodlake, CA 93286
(559) 564-2365
www.nfra.org

*Official Newsletter of
The National Forest Recreation Association*



FIRST CLASS
PRESORTED
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Visalia, CA
Permit# 520