

KFTL-CA
San Francisco, CA
Quarterly Issues/Programs List
October - December 2006

October 7, 2006
Northern California Journal
10:30 – 11:00 PM

Child safety education

“Stranger Dangers” is a make believe children’s story that help teach kids about how to be safe around strangers. It is about a young boy from another planet who comes to live here but doesn’t understand how to act around strangers. He must learn different lessons by re-living situations until he understands how to do the right thing. His Earth friends help teach him how to avoid dangerous situations in order to stay safe.

October 14, 2006
Northern California Journal
10:30 – 11:00 PM

Animal Rescue services

Visited Rattie Ratz Rescue that works with the Bay Area SPCA in handling unwanted pet rats, as the SPCA is not equipped to take in these kinds of animals. Many times the problem arises of people getting a pet rat from a retail pet store that is already pregnant, as many of these retail stores are not careful to keep the male and females separated, and rats can mate and become pregnant at a very early age. Rattie Ratz not only provides a rescue service for adoption placement of these animals, but also educates people on the care of pet rats, and the need to make sure one is getting a pet that is not already pregnant and healthy. Because of the problems encountered in buying pet rats from retail stores, they do not recommend it, but to rather adopt a pet or get one from an established breeder. Also covered the care of pet rats, cages, food, toys, handling, etc., and the misconceptions about having rats as pets, that they have been domesticated for over 100 years and are not at all related to a wild rat. They make good pets for people who don’t have a lot of space, for kids to learn about the responsibility of caring for a pet, and for the elderly, as they are inexpensive, easy to care for, and very responsive in playing and human interaction.

October 21, 2006
Northern California Journal
10:30 – 11:00 PM

Youth career opportunities

Participated in an afternoon of flying with the EAA, the Experimental Aircraft Association, with their Young Eagles program, which started as a commemoration of the 100th anniversary of Kitty Hawk. The EAA wants to provide youth an opportunity to take a ride in a private plane in order to introduce youth to aviation in the hopes that youth would want to become involved in aviation either as a hobby or possibly in a related fulltime career. Their goal was to fly 1 million youths, and they have greatly surpassed that goal by over 300,000. The EAA is an organization of private pilots who build their own airplanes, many of them are “experimental” in design, in that these planes are not commercially mass produced. The EAA and the Young Eagles program is nationwide, and available in many communities by contacting the nearest EAA Chapter. Young Eagles flights are free, and each receives a certificate of their participation. All of the kids participating found it very interesting and informative, and one youth indicated that he was interested in a career in law enforcement in a helicopter unit.

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October 28, 2006
Northern California Journal
10:30 – 11:00 PM

Boating safety

Went on patrol with members of the San Joaquin County Sheriff's Boating Detail in the Delta. Some of the problems they encounter are high speed boating in restricted areas, problems with party areas and places where personal watercraft tend to be a higher risk to other nearby boats. Discussed the increased use of personal watercraft and showed an example of a minor head injury caused when the watercraft flipped over and the rider's head was hit. Many people use these without any training at all, and also don't wear helmets. Riders many times don't watch for other boats in their path, resulting in a high rate of collisions. Also covered the problem of drinking and operating a boat, showing areas of potential danger if the channel signal system operated by the Coast Guard is not understood, especially during low visibility or at night, as there are many large ships using shipping lanes throughout the Delta and Bay. Misreading signals can result in collisions or running aground, which has happened on many occasions. Went through a complete safety check that a boater should do, what is needed such as PFD's for each person on the boat, fire extinguisher, boat registration, and the basic safe boat operation, including the danger of sitting on the edge of the boat while the engine is engaged. Many boaters do not recognize or respond to the blue light of a law enforcement boat, as it is required for them to slow down while the blue light is flashing. They have had many problems with this, including people actually colliding with the patrol boat because they weren't paying attention. Also covered other basic boating laws that are very important for each boater to know.

November 4, 2006
Northern California Journal
10:30 – 11:00 PM

Wildlife conservation and preservation

Visited the African elephant exhibit at the Oakland Zoo and took a behind the scenes look at how these animals are cared for on a daily basis, including their eating habits, physical concerns, and their environment. Each day they get a mini check up to ensure that they are healthy, and each day the caretakers go through an elaborate food preparation in that the elephant's food is distributed throughout the exhibit area, even partially hidden, put up high in trees, etc., to give the elephant's variety in searching for their food, somewhat like what they would experience in the wild, and even making a bit of a game out of it so they don't get bored. Also discussed their natural habitat and how the Zoo obtained one of their primary elephants, including the importance of public education on these animals for future conservation of their natural wild habitat.

Youth education & community volunteerism

Visited with a Fire Department to focus on their Fire Scouts program that is available for teens to learn and participate in fire service activities, with the hope of someday becoming a fire fighter and/or paramedic. These teens are able to assist the fire personnel in all activities excluding fighting actual fires, however, they are provided all of the training for fire fighting and basic medic skills, including how to prepare a patient for emergency medical transport, either by ground or helicopter.

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November 11, 2006
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Assistance for the needy

Visited the Alameda County Food Bank where the Director discussed the outreach of the Food Bank, that its primary focus is on supplying food to other programs that provide assistance to those in need. They also provide direct assistance with supplies they have on hand. One of the recipients is the Vincent de Paul Center that receives food from the Food Bank in order to provide for a daily hot lunch that is open for anyone. Spoke to the director there about their outreach and the needs of the homeless and underprivileged of the area.

November 18, 2006
Northern California Journal
10:30 – 11:00 PM

Youth education and work experience opportunities

Interviewed the Director of the California Conservation Corps (CCC) on the opportunities they provide to youth between the ages of 18-23, providing them with one year of work training to build self-esteem, learn cooperation, basic job skills, all while doing something good and beneficial for the community. The CCC works on many projects throughout California, primarily in disaster clean up for floods or fires, fire fighting assistance to the CDF, levee fortifications, and park clean up, restoration and repair. A lot of at risk youth join, many times to help them get a better direction in life.

Children's science education

Visited the Discovery Museum in Sausalito, interviewing the Director about their newest outdoor exhibit which will focus on ocean and water science with a pirate theme. The Discovery Museum is comprised of many buildings housing different hands-on exhibits geared for younger children to play and interact in, all the while teaching them about basic science and nature.

Science education

Visited the Chabot Space and Science Center in Oakland, where the head astronomer takes a tour through the two large telescope rooms and reviews the operation of each, including how the roof opens for night sky viewing, and what the primary focus of telescope use is there at the Chabot Center, as part of their education in astronomy.

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November 25, 2006
Northern California Journal
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Wildlife Education

Visited a Zoo on Thanksgiving Day to see what the animals were getting for "Thanksgiving Dinner". Animals viewed included the bears, monkeys, raccoons, mountain lions, wolves, foxes and birds. As the animals were being fed, discussed what each one likes to eat, when and where they usually eat and a little bit of general information about each animal. Also covered the need for zoos, in that they are instrumental in providing education to the public on species conservation and preservation, and the importance of maintaining their natural habitat.

December 2, 2006
Northern California Journal
10:30 – 11:00 PM

Delta waterways ecology and environmental health

Interviewed representatives of San Francisco Bay & Delta Keepers, an organization that monitors water conditions throughout the Delta for environmental problems. Toured waterway areas and discussed the problems of waste water disposal, industrial toxic waste, and other types of contaminants. They lobby for legislation that will help the Bay & Delta waters stay healthy and enhance the ecology. They also test the water on a regular basis for all different types of chemicals and biological elements that could be hazardous in too high of concentrations. The organization has many volunteers that use their own boats to help "patrol" the Bay & Delta waterways, watching and looking for sources of environmental contamination or problems. Also discussed the continuing problem of levee erosion and what effect that has on the Bay & Delta ecology.

December 9, 2006
Northern California Journal
10:30 – 11:00 PM

California history education

Visited the California Trail Days that is held each year at Donner Memorial Park. Many people volunteer to participate recreating the pioneer lifestyle of the Donner Party and emigrants of that era. Toured the different areas set up like a pioneer camp, and talked with participants about the different things pioneers did in their daily life. Showed demonstrations on weaving, mountain man living, how women in the 1800's dressed, the different kinds of wagons the emigrants used and toured a pioneer camp general store. Also included comments from descendants of pioneers who told the stories of what their ancestors went through emigrating to California in the mid 1800's.

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December 16, 2006
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Winter Driving Safety

Interviewed officers with the California Highway Patrol from the Gold Run Office who are responsible for patrolling Highway 80 through the mountains from Auburn to Truckee, discussing the primary problems that cause driving accidents in the mountains in bad weather, such as driving too fast for the weather conditions, tailgating and drinking and driving. Covered the chain control situation, when and why it is necessary, who is required to have chains, the mandatory 30 mile per hour speed limit when chain control is in effect, including the problems of those that wait too late to put on chains and are turned around at the chain control point causing them more delay. The biggest problem is people driving too fast with chains on, especially 4-wheel drive vehicle drivers who think they don't have to slow down because they don't have chains on. CHP cannot emphasize enough how important it is to slow down when driving in the snow. People don't understand that their brakes take longer to work in the snow, if at all when it is icy, and it takes a lot longer to stop, especially the large trucks, as it is dangerous to cut in front of them expecting that they can slow down - many truck accidents are a result of this. Also covered how important it is to take supplies such as food, water, and warm clothing when driving in the snow, and to make sure the vehicle is in good condition, as one can never know if or when one can become stranded or delayed because of weather conditions or traffic. Drivers that are around the CALTRANS trucks that are clearing the roads during snow conditions must be more cautious as these trucks drive very slow. Toured the Kingvale CALTRANS station where the workers live, working 7 days, 12 hour shifts. The CALTRANS communications center keeps track of the weather, monitors traffic with remote cameras, and program the messages on the CALTRANS highway signs and on the CALTRANS AM radio.

December 23, 2006
Northern California Journal
10:30 - 11:00 PM

California history

Toured the historic Governor's Mansion that is now a State Historic Site operated by the California State Parks. The mansion was originally privately constructed then purchased by the State for the Governor. Many Governors lived there up to the Reagan era; they only lived there for a short time, then it was realized the home was too old for continued occupancy, and was then turned over to the State Parks to be a museum. Many items are preserved from past Governor's residencies, including furnishings and pictures. The docents are very knowledgeable about the home's past. During Christmas it is decorated in traditional styles depicting past eras of Governor's, which changed dramatically over the years. In it's initial time as Governor's Mansion, the area was considered to almost be rural, then towards the end of the residency era of Governors, the area had evolved in being part of the downtown including being adjacent to a major thoroughfare. This in part as well as the home's age and lack of security were instrumental in it no longer being used as the Governor's home. It is open on a regular basis to visitors.

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December 30, 2006
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