

KFTL-CA, San Francisco, CA
Quarterly Issues/Programs List for JULY – SEPTEMBER 2007
Northern California Journal, Saturdays, 10:30 – 11:00 PM

July 7, 2007

American Red Cross services

Visited the Red Cross in Oakland that serves the Bay Area and discussed what part the local Red Cross played in the Hurricane Katrina disaster, how they were one of the regional centers set up to receive calls for assistance. Discussed the extensive role of volunteers, and their ongoing need for more, and how many of their volunteers come from professional backgrounds with various levels of skills and experience, but that they can find a role for anyone that desires to volunteer regardless of their personal skill level, as they do provide training for all levels of volunteer positions. They stress preparedness through their "Together We Prepare" 5 step program, which is emphasized throughout the program. Also covered their local outreach in assisting people with any kind of natural or manmade disaster, from just one person or family who may lose a home from a fire to a possible disaster that would affect thousands of people. Again, they can't stress preparedness enough, and the Red Cross has extensive and various information available to people on how to prepare for any kind of disaster, including disaster kits for a starter. They also stress the importance of knowing CPR and First Aid, and do offer classes to the public for both. There are Red Cross chapters active that cover all communities, and each serve their community with the same basic services.

July 14, 2007

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.

July 21, 2007

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.

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July 28, 2007

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.

August 4, 2007

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.

August 11, 2007

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.

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August 18, 2007

Energy conservation

Interviewed Robert Metcalf of Solar Cookers International, a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting the use of solar power, especially in third world countries where people have very few fuel choices due to poverty or their environment. Solar Cookers is attempting to provide people in these countries, mainly in Africa, solar cookers that are lightweight, portable, and efficiently cook food. They are providing them for free, and donate their time to help people get these cookers and to educate them. Mr. Metcalf is a professor at the University, and has also developed a simple method for water purification that uses solar heat and no chemicals. They are trying to get these to people in other countries that don't have safe drinking water. This organization is hoping that people realize the potential of solar power, not just for third world countries, but that consumption of energy should be reduced anywhere and anyway possible.

California history of Pony Express

Toured the original Wells Fargo Pony Express office that is now a museum in Old Sacramento. Curator discusses how the mail was delivered from the east, using young men who would ride straight through, each doing a certain segment, only stopping to change riders and horses, to deliver the mail to the west in a matter of days. This is reenacted each year, from St. Louis, MO to Sacramento, alternating the starting point – this year it will start in Sacramento and go to St. Louis. Also described many articles in the Museum that were used or associated with mail delivery back in the "old west". The Museum especially welcomes school groups, as it is important that kids are educated on this important aspect of California and postal history.

August 25, 2007

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.

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September 1, 2007

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.

September 8, 2007

Youth education and work experience opportunities

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September 15, 2007

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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.

September 29, 2007

American Red Cross services

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