



NIKE NEWS

Site SF 88

March, 2015

The days come and go and here we are one-quarter of the way through 2015.

A lot of behind the scenes work has been going on at the Site in recent

weeks. I hope that 2015 has gotten off to a good start for all of you!

Comings and Goings:

As many of you might already know, Sarah Koenen, Marin Headlands Volunteer Coordinator has moved on to new challenges and opportunities at Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area. To fill in behind her for the next few months until a permanent replacement is named, Andrew Felton, currently an Interpretive Ranger at Fort Point National Historic Site will assume the position from March 10-May 9. From May 10-July 9, Lucy Scott, currently an Interpretive Ranger at both the Marin Headlands and Muir Woods National Monument will be coming on board. These two well qualified individuals will be available to help, assist and answer your questions should any arise. Let's welcome them and assist them both in all ways possible.

Superintendent Frank Dean has also moved on from GGNRA. Frank has accepted the position of CEO of the Yosemite Conservancy. Aaron Roth will assume the role of Acting Superintendent. I had the pleasure of taking Aaron on a tour of the Nike Site recently. We discussed our visions, our needs and our future. The Nike Site is an important part of our Park. The future looks bright for SF 88 and the stories will continue for future visitors to remember, learn and hear about an incredible time in our history!

In addition, Megan Childers will be back as a Park Ranger for a few weeks starting in March. You should remember Megan as she was one of our great Interns last year.

Our Story:

What story are we trying to tell? Visitors come to the Site and are awed by the sights they see and the words they hear. On Open House Days when many of our volunteers are present, the stories that are told are inspiring, informative and first-hand.

Nike Site SF 88 serves a purpose beyond looking at missiles and hearing personal stories. The Division of Interpretation and Education at GGNRA has been working on Relevancy Standards. What are Relevancy Standards

and what does it mean for all of us?

Relevancy: “having direct bearing on the matter in hand.”(Webster)

What does that mean for us when telling our story?

Simply stated, it means that when we share our story, we need to be aware of several criteria. Remember, we are not here to show off a missile, but rather to insure that our visitors know the relevancy and importance as to why we are here and why the Site is preserved.

A few things to think about:

- 1: Make sure you create an environment that is both safe and welcoming. At Nike, we are looking at creating such a site. Doing something in The Assembly Building is one focus of attention. Allow our guests the ability to examine their own beliefs by listening to what is said and responding to those queries.
- 2: Know your audience. Make connections to their generation and home communities.
- 3: Engage our guests with Essential Questions to illicit dialogue about past and present issues as it relates to the site.
- 4: Be inclusive, accurate and equitable as regards diversity in our society.
- 5: Recognize how important it is to engage our visitors in rewarding and enjoyable learning activities.

We need to make sure that we are relevant in the things that we say and do. I will be in regular communication with each of our volunteers at SF 88 to talk about Relevancy Standards and how we should approach our programs. Sometimes it is easy to forget the relevancy of why we are at the site and focus too much on other things. Everyone does a remarkable job at the Site and these few points will make the visitor experience an even greater one.

Upcoming Special Group Tours:

March 14: Museum of Aviation History-12:30

USAF Cadets-1:45

March 25: Coast Redwoods-12:30

March 28: GAPP-10:00

April 15: East Bay California State Park Rangers-1:00

More will be forthcoming.

Site Hours:

The winter hours at Nike were shortened due to staffing issues. However, things are looking up.

We will be open on Saturdays during March and April with regular visitation hopefully resuming in May. Thanks too many of you for coming out and helping out with the many groups we had through January and February.

What Is Happening At The Site:

Our pumps are back in both A and B Magazine. In addition, all of the hydraulic fluid was replaced in A Magazine. Thanks to John Ryan for spearheading the effort.

Major foliage and weed cleaning has been taking place at the Site. Looks great and brings the site to a look of the early 1960's. Susan Ewing-Haley has been leading the push for vegetation clean-up.

Many of you I am sure have noticed the sink hole near the entry to the site. We do have a temporary fix in place and a permanent solution is expected to be completed towards the end of March and beginning of April. The sink hole has prevented trucks and busses from entering the site. Hopefully, with the final resolution, we can continue with site clean-up and move things around to aide and assist in telling our story.

Alec and Jerry have been busy at work keeping our launcher operational. Good to have extra parts around, although sometimes they are not the easiest things to get to.

As I did last year, I want to once again include a copy of the “Organic Act” which is the mission statement of A National Park Ranger. Our 100th Birthday is next year and it is always good to be reminded of our mission. Thank you to all of you for helping to fulfill it!

The "Organic Act" of August 25, 1916, states that "the Service thus established shall promote and regulate the use of Federal areas known as national parks, monuments and reservations . . . by such means and measures as conform to the fundamental purpose of the said parks, monuments and reservations, which purpose is to conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wild life therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations."





Al Blank

Park Ranger

Marin Headlands

GGNRA