

Newspapers come and go, television news programming expands, computer networks spread grip and tighten into tough new teguments of information exchange – and in all this upheaving sea of human communication, small craft like Park Science seek their proper levels and paths.

Probably not the most notable journalistic event of 1984, but certainly a significant one in this editor's world, was the first meeting in February of the Park Science editorial board. For the past two years, the board members had been receiving by mail, reading, and passing on all the material that went into each issue of Park Science. Editorial guidelines had been approved and disseminated to all NPS Regions through the Regional Chief Scientist. Many a sticky problem had been resolved via the telephone. But never had the group come together with an agenda that demanded definition of the overall role of Park Science, its article length limits, its policy with regard to letters to the editor, its tolerance for humor, its distribution practices, its editorial board composition and terms.

The results have been communicated to the field in the form of a memo from the editor. Basically, the message is that Park Science will continue to furnish as wide as possible a sampling of the various scientific research projects going on in the field, do so in short, concise style, in layman's terminology, and in the timeliest possible fashion.

The board noted the usefulness of Park Science as a tool for getting new findings into the mainstream of management, even while the more arduous route of scientific publication is grinding along. One of our board members, Bill Lukens, also serves on the editorial board for the NPS Monograph Series, now based in the Southeast Region. From his position as a member of both boards, Bill offered the view that Park Science's rapid dissemination – "keeping everyone up to date on what's going on" – satisfies a real management need in the System. After attending a Monograph board meeting, immediately following the Park Science gathering, he wrote that the two programs, together, amounted to "a very good, albeit lean publication program dealing with the natural resources and the visitors' relationship to them."

In the interests of keeping the distribution list spare and sharply targeted, a notice will shortly be included in all "single copies" on the list, asking recipients to re-request inclusion. If no reply is received, the names will be dropped.

The editor was grateful and, frankly, somewhat surprised at the level of interest and commitment shown by the hard-working board members, all of whom have their own demanding jobs with the Service. The energy and enthusiasm they displayed is a priceless boon to an editor and to the System we are all trying to serve.

Let this editorial also serve as an invitation to readers to contribute – articles, news notes, letters. It's your thoughts and feelings as well as the results of your research and applications that make up Park Science's *raison d'être*.