

Central Section APACA Sierra Planner's Retreat
Annotated List of Retreat Programs
1992 - 1999

- 1992 First Annual Planners' Sierra Retreat at Camp Sierra organized by David Fey, Barbara Steck, and Jeff Dwelle with the gracious support of the Central Section board; Program ran for three days solid: Friday night was "California Landscape: Past and Present" by Gene Rose, former Fresno Bee reporter; all day Saturday, and Sunday morning were Environmental Issues in Mountain Community Land Planning; Public vs. Private Forestry; The Sierra National Forest Plan; attendees toured the Big Creek Powerhouse and Fish Hatchery. Saturday night 16 mm Comedy Movie Fest.
- 1993 First Sequoia Lake Retreat (hereafter all retreats held here); Friday night presentation was "Clearing the Air, a Science Educator's Perspective" by Garland Johnson, local educator and kickoff speaker; Saturday topic: with speakers on the subjects of meteorology, pollution's impact on people and legislation affecting air quality planning. Geologist Mel Simons led a field trip in the geology of the Kings River Canyon. Saturday night 16 mm Comedy Movie Fest and all-star jam session. Sunday morning caravan into Grant Grove where NPS biologist spoke on the effects of air pollution on the area's vegetation.
- 1994 "Women Planners Focus on Contemporary Issues: Forests as agricultural resources and how to foster constructive public input in the planning process; A look at contemporary housing issues; What you may need to know about regional transportation plans, even if you believe you don't want to; Air quality conformity and system level of service--driving forces behind development of RTPs and associated EIRs; The politics of farmland protection."
- 1995 Prelude: The Jan/Feb 1995 CS APA Newsletter called for suggestions for retreat topics and noted, "although fewer speakers are proposed than last year, we are hoping that the topics and the presentations will be more stimulating than ever before." Why the change? Because the organizing committee found that there's a limit to an attendee's interest level in programs when there's a refreshing lake a stone's throw away!

Murky details on the program from Brian Smith's Aug/Sep 1995 Central Section APA Newsletter article which noted no specific program topic but observed "four dynamic speakers:" Kent Hamlin, Clovis City Councilman and Fresno County Deputy District Attorney spoke on (I think) Operation Rezone; Reba Wright-Quastler, AICP, described APA National's position on Regulatory Takings, State Assembly staffer Randy Pestor explained the mood of the legislature regarding regulatory reform, and Dr. Ken Entin CSUS described the history and background of regulatory takings and various court cases.

- 1996 Friday evening with “John Muir.” Saturday: “Agriculture at Risk” Rudy Platzek, retired planning consultant, and Erik Vink, American Farmland Trust, outlined the future impacts of future development on ag land based on a valleywide GIS mapping. Sunday morning Boyden Cave tour.
- 1997 From the flyer in the May/June CS APA Newsletter, “This year’s program is a break from the traditional and more familiar lecture format. Participants will have the opportunity to interact as team members on a series of hypothetical planning projects only to uncover mysteries that boarder (sic) suspiciously close to today’s headlines! Was it a ‘whodunnit?’ – you will have to be there to find out!”
- “Chaos in Planning” led by David Fey, AICP. An interactive session focusing on chaos as an element of planning and how planners can use their influence in a politically chaotic world. Although a chaotic pattern is not predictable, it isn’t random.
- 1998 “Keeping Your Perspective” with Carol Whiteside, former Director of Intergovernmental Affairs for Gov. Wilson and former Mayor of Modesto, Daniel Whitehurst, former Mayor of Fresno, and Ed Tewes, current city manager of Modesto, former city manager of Clovis.
- 1999 “High Speed Rail” presentation by Ed Graves.