

## **Charlie Willard, Biography**

Charlie grew up in the outdoors which was the main factor in his decision to go to work for California State Parks in 1972. In his nearly 46 years with parks he had a variety of assignments including Park Ranger, planner, Assistant Chief of Public Relations, Legislative Analyst and Manager of the Statewide Trails Program. He retired as the Chief of the Office of Grants and Local Services.

Charlie was a member of the organizing committee for Eppie's Great Race for 29 of the race's 45 years. He served in a variety of assignments including Race Director. With the end of Eppie's Great Race, Charlie became Race Director of the new Great American Triathlon in 2019.

In his spare time, Charlie is an avid hiker, kayaker and photographer. In the 2013, after several years, he finished hiking the Pacific Crest Trail, the John Muir Trail and the Tahoe Rim Trail.

Charlie is President of the Sierra Camera Club and has been on the Board for six years. He was on the Board of the Gold Rush Chapter PSA for 6 years and Chair for 2 years. Charlie likes to combine photography with his outdoor hobbies and prefers nature and landscape photography.