



# In-Situ

Newsletter of the Nevada Archaeological Association  
Fall 1998

## Great Basin Anthropological Conference

The 26th Biennial Great Basin Anthropological Conference will be held October 8-10, 1998 at the Riverhouse and Shilo Inns on the beautiful Deschutes River in Bend, Oregon. The conference will be hosted by the University of Oregon Museum of Natural History and Department of Anthropology, Deschutes National Forest, Pineville District BLM Office, and the Archaeological Society of Central Oregon. The conference opens on Thursday morning with sessions planned for Thursday, Friday and Saturday. A Sunday field trip to the Fort Rock Basin will be led by C.M. Aikens and D.L. Jenkins. Another Sunday field trip to Newberry Volcanic National Monument will be led by T.J. Connolly. A reception is also scheduled for Thursday evening at the High Desert Museum. All NAA members are encouraged to attend these meetings. They are a great opportunity to gain knowledge and also to "network" with others interested in archaeology.

*Submitted by Anne DuBarton*

## 1998 Fall NAA Board Meeting to Be Held in Pioche

The next NAA Board Meeting will be held at the Overland Hotel in Pioche, Nevada, at 3 PM on Saturday, September 19th. All NAA members are encouraged to attend.

In addition to the Fall Board Meeting, a presentation will be given at Cathedral Gorge State Park at 7 PM on Friday, September 18 at the Cathedral Gorge State Park Visitor Center. The presentation will detail the latest research on the investigation of bison remains from the Park. If you have any questions concerning the meeting or the planned presentation, please contact Bill Johnson at 702/566-4390.

For accommodations, you may contact:  
The Overland Hotel and Saloon  
Pioche, Nevada  
962-5895

## Nevada Rock Art Researchers Gather

Both professional and avocational rock art researchers from Nevada gathered at an annual meeting of the American Rock Art Research Association held in Ridgecrest, California, this past Memorial weekend. In attendance were many NAA members. Sue Ann Monteleone and Alanah Woody presented a slide-illustrated paper entitled "Changing Light on the Cosos" which urged a "diversity in approaches and interpretive theory" to the subject matter. Many of the papers presented on Saturday and Sunday reflected this attitude of diversity in function and interpretation, putting the advocates, priests, and inquisitors of the altered states of consciousness-neuropsychology model on the defensive.

Friday and Monday were reserved for escorted field trips into the Coso Range to view thousands of Coso-style petroglyphs. Fortunately, there was a break in the El Nino effect, and the weather was beautiful. No matter how many people were on each of six tours offered each tour day, the canyon sites swallowed the people up and one was left alone with wonderment, the only sound was that of muffled

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camera clicks. Some of us even took photographs of wild flowers that carpeted open areas with a paint store full of colors. An occasional rattlesnake was paid respect and given the wide berth they deserve.

Nevada photographic shops will be kept busy developing the hundreds of film roles exposed during the field trips. Hundreds of dollars were also spent in the conference's book and vendor room. Protected from vandalism by the Navy, the Coso Range glyphs are world class, one of life's experiences, and deserving of a pilgrimage.

*Submitted by William White*

## **Passport In Time: Volunteers Do Surveys in the Monitor Mountain Range**

The Monitor Mountains Passport in Time (PIT, for short) project brought nine volunteers and several Forest Service employees together for three one week sessions this summer. The project involved surveys of 100 square meter plots randomly chosen by computer. It is hoped that these surveys will assist in developing a predictive model for the Monitor Mountain Range which can be used in future Forest planning efforts. In addition to surveying the plots, many additional acres were surveyed while journeying to and from the survey areas. Many prehistoric sites were located during the course of the program. The first two sessions involved car camping and traveling, often by 4 WD vehicles and LOTS of walking, to the sample plots. The final week in August was a treat indeed; volunteers were packed by horse and mule into the Table Mountain Wilderness area for five days to perform surveys. Among the sites located during this project were many lithic scatters, rock rings, open habitation sites, hunting blinds and one petroglyph site. One of the most intriguing artifacts found was a large disc shaped chipped stone artifact approximately 3" to 7" in diameter and 3/4" to 1" in thickness. Several of these were found. Artifacts such as these have been seen in Idaho and are known there as teshoas: a women's all purpose cutting/chopping/scraping tool. One edge is sharpened and the other is typically blunt. The teshoas located in the Monitor Mountains this summer were manufactured from cryptocrystalline silicates. In Idaho, they have been manufactured from both cryptocrystalline silicates and basalt. If anyone has any additional information or has seen this artifact type, please contact Jim Winfrey at 702/289-3031 or you can email Gretchen Burris at [gjburris@netxxpress.com](mailto:gjburris@netxxpress.com). We would appreciate input!

Many NAA Members are probably already aware of the Passport in Time program, which combines volunteers and Forest Service Archaeologists and other specialists in order to do some archaeology(!). This year in the state of Nevada, projects were carried out in numerous locations. The PIT catalog is published twice yearly and list projects all over the country. For more information you can request a catalog from:

• PIT Clearinghouse  
P.O. Box 31315  
Tucson, Arizona 85751-1315

*Submitted by Gretchen Burris*

## **Update from Dames and Moore**

Dames and Moore is a full service engineering and environmental consulting firm with a permanent office located in Las Vegas. The Las Vegas Office has been doing some interesting survey and recordation work. Since January we have completed three archaeological surveys and are currently involved in three other projects. Our current work includes: a large compliance project in eastern California involving survey, limited excavation, and testing of prehistoric sites; evaluation of archaeological sites and the constraints they may impose on reservoir enlargement (also in California); and we are in the process of wrapping up a project involving total recordation of ten historic sites here in Nevada.

The historic project involves turn-of-the-century ranches and mining towns. Many of the sites still have standing structures, and it is interesting to note the variety of construction techniques utilized by these early residents who were both resourceful and largely self-sufficient. The use of bottles, placed horizontally in walls during construction, was once a widely used method of insulating structures, and one that we encountered in the course of our field work. Similar structures can still be seen along the road in towns such as Goldfield and Rhyolite. Other methods of construction incorporated the use of native juniper poles, milled lumber, dry-laid rock, and adobe, or any combination of these materials. Roofing varied from corrugated tin sheeting over timbers to thatch and earth. One "house" we encountered was actually completely carved into the side of a canyon wall, making it a man-made cave. Since the project is not yet completed, little more should be said at this time, but stay tuned.....

*Submitted by Vikki Allen*



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## **NAA June Board Meeting Canceled**

The meeting, originally scheduled to be held this past June in Ely, Nevada, was canceled. For those who braved Ely in any case, their trip was definitely a worthwhile experience as the Long Steel Rails Folklife Festival provided entertainment to all those who attended this successful event.

## **Editor's Correction on Notes from the March Board & General Membership Meetings**

The new NAA Board of Directors was listed incorrectly in the summer quarterly newsletter. For the record, the 1998 Board Members are:

Bill Johnson: President  
Susan Murphy: Executive Secretary  
Pat Hicks: Secretary  
Oyvind Frock: Treasurer  
Anne DuBarton: Membership Chair  
Gretchen Burris: Newsletter Editor  
Dave Valentine: Member (Sub Newsletter Editor)  
Peggy McGuckian: Member  
Christi Shaw: Member

In the previous newsletter I incorrectly listed William White as a NAA Board Member. Bill is an ex officio Board Member, and the 1997 Nevada Archaeologist Journal Editor.

## **Chapter and Affiliate News**

**Am-Arcs of Nevada.** With no monthly meetings scheduled between June and September, our activities centered around field trips and volunteer projects. Our members viewed an old mining homestead, the Allen Springs petroglyph site, the Wildcat Freight Station and the Fort Sage game drive fence on our field trips.

Eight of us helped Kelly Dixon, Comstock Archaeologist, finish excavating the old corner bar beneath Piper's Opera house in Virginia City. A major goal of the excavation was to recover items that would assist the architects

in reconstructing the bar since no interior photographs or sketches exist. Sufficient information was obtained to go a long way in meeting this objective.

Eight Passport In Time projects in Oregon, California and Nevada had participants from Am-Arcs. A couple more still are scheduled before the summer season ends.

Contact Oyvind Frock(826-8779) for information on activities.

## **Calendar**

September 18. **Presentation on bison remains located at Cathedral Gorge State Park.** 7 PM at the Cathedral Gorge State Park Visitor Center near Panaca, Nevada.

September 19. **NAA Fall Board Meeting.** 3pm at the Overland Hotel. Pioche, Nevada.

October 8-10. **Great Basin Anthropological Conference.** Bend, Oregon.

January 5-10, 1999. **Society for Historical Archaeology Conference.** Salt Lake City, Utah. Contact Mike Polk, Sagebrush Consultants, Ogden at (801)394-0013.

March 1999. **NAA Annual Meeting.** Reno, Nevada. Contact Oyvind Frock(826-8779), Arrangements Chair, for more information.

March 24-28, 1999. **Society for American Archaeology Annual Meeting.** Chicago, Illinois.



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## 1998 NAA Officers and Chapter Representatives

### NAA Board of Directors:

Bill Johnson, President (566-4390)  
 Pat Hicks, Secretary (565-1709)  
 Susan Murphy, NAA Board Member, Executive Secretary (658-3396)  
 Oyvind Frock, Treasurer & Am Arcs Chapter Rep. (826-8779)  
 Gretchen Burris, NAA Board Member and Newsletter Editor (289-2450)  
 Anne DuBarton, NAA Board Member, Membership (895-0394)  
 Christi Shaw, NAA Board Member. (964-2671)  
 Peggy McGuckian, NAA Board Member (623-3396)  
 David Valentine, NAA Board Member (645-9579)

### Chapter Representatives:

Maie Nygren, Churchill County Rep. (433-2212)  
 Barbara Rhode, Lincoln County Chapter Rep. (728-4467)  
 Stephanie Halliman, Elko County Rep. (777-8266)  
 Mark Henderson, White Pine County Rep. (289-1884)  
 Helen Mortenson, Archaeo-Nevada Rep. (876-6944)  
 Oyvind Frock, Treasurer & Am Arcs Chapter Rep. (826-8779)

### Ex Officio Board Members:

Alice Baldrice, ex officio NAA Board Member., SHPO Representative (687-6361)  
 Colleen Beck, ex officio Board Member & past NAA president. (658-9701)  
 Wally Cuchine, ex officio Board Member: '98 NAA Annual Meeting Host (237-5386)  
 Bill White, ex officio Board Member: '97 Journal Editor (566-1929)

## Editor's Corner:

My apologies for the tardiness of this issue. Please don't let it stop you from submitting articles for the next issue of *In Situ*. My thanks, once again, to those of you who contributed to this newsletter. Summer is a crazy time for many of us, myself included, and I am grateful that you took the time. I hope to see many of you in Pioche in about two weeks.

Please send articles/information for the winter newsletter by November 10, 1998 to:

Gretchen Burris  
 35 Elysium Drive  
 Ely, Nevada 89301  
 or email: [gjburris@netxxpress.net](mailto:gjburris@netxxpress.net)

