



# In-Situ

Newsletter of the Nevada Archaeological Association

Spring? 1998

## Ely Has Weather

For those of you coming from more populous parts of Nevada, you are reminded that the weather in June is likely to still be a tad nippy in Ely; it has been an usually cold and wet season. Note that, on average, we do get some snow here in June!

March Average Max. & Min. Temp. & Snowfall	Ely	Reno	Las Vegas
Average Max (F)	78.3	83.1	100.3
Average Min (F)	40.7	46.9	69.4
Average Snowfall (in)	0.2	0.0	0.0

Source: [www.weatherpost.com/historical/historical.htm](http://www.weatherpost.com/historical/historical.htm)

## “Summer” NAA Board Meeting to be Held in Ely

Our late Spring NAA Board Meeting will be held in Ely at the Ely Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Office on Saturday, June 13, 1998. The meeting will commence at 3 PM. Meetings usually last 2-3 hours. As is always the case,

all NAA members are invited to attend. To get to the Ely BLM Office, drive north from Ely on US Highway 93 approximately 2 ½ miles after you cross the railroad tracks. The BLM office is located on the east side of the road, across from the municipal airport. If you are traveling from the north, go south on US 93 through McGill and continue approximately 8 miles south. This meeting of the Board is being held in Ely in order to tie in with the Long Steel Rails Festival occurring at the Nevada Northern Railroad Depot in East Ely June 13<sup>th</sup> (starting at noon) and June 14<sup>th</sup>. *An article further on in this newsletter describes this event in greater depth.*

Two optional field trips may be available:

- 1) On Saturday Morning June 13 a tour of on-going excavations of historic and prehistoric sites at the Robinson Mine is planned. Contact Mark Henderson (289-1884 work, 289-8250 home) to confirm interest.
- 2) On Sunday June 14<sup>th</sup> a tour to the White Pine Mining District (see article below) will be held if weather and interest permits. Contact Gretchen Burris (289-3031 work, 289-2450 home) to confirm interest.

Those arriving Friday should contact Gretchen for the location of Dutch Treat dinner.

### Places to stay in Ely:

- Bristlecone Motel/\$36-42/1-800-497-7404
- Best Western Main Motel/\$41-90/800-528-1234
- Best Western Park Vue Motel/\$43-\$67/ 800-528-1234
- Four Sevens/\$27-\$70/289-4747
- Holiday Inn/\$78-\$83/1-800-HOLIDAY
- Hotel Nevada/\$20-\$25/289-6665
- Ramada Inn Copper Queen/\$55-79/800-851-9526

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## NAA Annual Meeting

The 1998 Annual meeting of NAA was held this year in the historic mining town of Eureka, Nevada. Our gracious hosts for the event were the team of Wally Cuchine and Mark Henderson (the third such event these two have put together). As usual, the gathering began on Friday afternoon with an NAA Board Meeting (which is detailed later in the newsletter). Following the board meeting a bar-b-q was held at the Silver Sky Lodge RV Park.

Saturday proved to be a gorgeous sunny day (in spite of the dire warnings) and those folks who packed in to the Opera House were treated to a wonderful breakfast and a range of papers; primarily centering of the theme of the history of mining (although not all presentations had this theme). Papers included a number of presentations on the Archaeology of the Ruby Hill project presented by Kautz

Environmental Associates, Passport In Time (the US Forest Service volunteer program), Monitor Valley petroglyphs, intermontane malpais sites in Long Valley and Eureka, the Washoe Pan Process, Chinese placer mining, transportation systems in response to early 20th century mining booms in Southern Nevada, intersubjective time in Native American consultation, Western Stemmed sites near Ely and several papers on the Robinson Mining District. Also during the day, many attendees were seen stepping out to enjoy the sunshine, visit the museum, check out antique stores and take the walking tour of Eureka.

A Chinese buffet style lunch was served. At 4:15, the business meeting began and nominations for board members were made and accepted for the upcoming year. The Second Annual Gallup Jewelry & Pawn auction of incredible Southwestern jewelry began promptly at 6 PM (net proceeds were \$593.20). This was followed by the banquet and then with a presentation by this year's guest speaker, Dr. Tom Jones, Professor of Anthropology at Hamilton College. His presentation was entitled, "The Paleoindian Problem in Eastern Nevada: Let the Sun Shine In", discussing his findings at the Sunshine Locality in Eastern Nevada.

## NAA at SAA: Society for American Archaeology Meetings

During the last week of March, several NAA members attended the annual SAA meetings in Seattle, Washington. While the weather was typically gray, rain only fell during one day of the scheduled meetings. According to a very informal survey conducted by the author of this article, shopping, eating and drinking were favored activities when not attending paper presentations.

Great seafood was enjoyed by many of us, and shopping at Pike's Market was a must. An informative tour of the Seattle Underground was attended by a few of us (DuBarton, Edwards and Haynes). Raising the streets so that horses and pedestrians wouldn't sink into the mud and sawdust of the downtown tidal flats resulted in some interesting approaches to access of downtown businesses.

Eventually, the sidewalks were raised to meet the street and the first floor of all the business was underground. The amethyst colored glass plugs that allow light to penetrate the Underground were interesting to those of us with an Historic Archaeology bent.

Papers were presented by quite a few NAA members. President William Gray Johnson (Desert Research Institute) presented a paper in conjunction with Robert Jones, Barbara Holz, and Harold Drollinger, all NAA members except Holz. Their research focused on an area of the Nevada Test Site known as Landmark Rock where continuous occupation spanning thousands of years is documented. Susan Edwards,

NAA member, and Anne DuBarton, Membership Chair, presented a poster focusing on the use of volunteers to complete archival packaging of artifacts recovered in the Hot Creek Valley many years ago. Greg Haynes (DRJ) presented research about early Holocene campsites in the Yucca Mountain area and Alan Simmons (UNLV) presented data on core-periphery relationships of the Levantine Neolithic in Jordan. Marc Kodack (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers) presented his work on obsidian use in eastern Nevada and new NAA member Heidi Roberts presented a paper on contributions of Contract Archaeology in the American Southwest. George T. Jones and Charlotte Beck (Hamilton College) presented a paper in collaboration with Amy Holmes who is not an NAA member. Their paper focused on the depositional patterns of the Sunshine Paleoindian locality in Nevada. Other members attending but not presenting papers included David Valentine who was elected to the NAA board this year.

This list was compiled through examination of the SAA Abstracts. The author did not personally attend all of these papers and posters, so if I missed yours I apologize in advance. Next years meetings are scheduled for Chicago. Hope to see you there.

Submitted by Anne DuBarton

## Long Steel Rails

The first annual Long Steel Rails Festival will be held in Ely, Nevada on June 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>, 1998. Most of the events will be held at the Northern Nevada Railroad Depot in East Ely; the exception being Saturday night's concert at the Bristlecone Convention Center downtown. The Festival kicks off at noon on Saturday and includes workshops on whistle making, old time hand signals, railroad jargon, railroad stories, music and poetry. Photography, art railroad memorabilia and Hobo etching displays will be presented. And of course, there will be FOOD. Additionally, the famous Ely Ghost Train will be operating at 4 PM on Saturday and at 1 PM and 4PM on Sunday.

The Northern Nevada Railroad has 70 pieces of rolling stock, plus a 1952 RS 3 Alco Diesel locomotive, a 1909 Alco Steam locomotive and a 1910 Baldwin locomotive which all operate. Saturday evening at 8 pm there will be a concert at the Bristlecone Convention Center downtown featuring folk singer/songwriter/folklorist U. Utah Phillips with Larry Penn, Mark Rors, Bob and Diana Suckid, "Haywire Brack" Brackney and K. "Kuddie" Kestner. On Sunday, the Lions Club will be holding a pancake breakfast for those inclined which will include open mike and informal jam sessions.

For more information on the Long Steel Rails Festival, you can contact the White Pine Chamber of Commerce at 702/289-8877 or the Bristlecone Convention Center and Visitors Bureau at 702/289-3720. There is also a website for the event:

[www.webpanda.com/white\\_pine\\_county/railfest/rfest98.htm](http://www.webpanda.com/white_pine_county/railfest/rfest98.htm)  
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## The White Pine Mining District

The White Pine Mining District is located in White Pine County, roughly 50 miles west of Ely off of US Highway 50. The White Pine Mining District was created in 1865 when a group of prospectors from Austin discovered enough low grade silver ore to warrant the formation of a district. But the rush to the White Pine Mining District occurred when a rich silver ore ledge was discovered by Albert J. Leathers near the summit of Treasure Hill in 1867. The ore was shown him by "Napias Jim", a local Shoshone man. Soon thereafter began what came to be known as "...the shortest, most wasteful, and most intense rush in the history of the American West" (Elliot, 1987). The population soared to 30,000 people from 1868 to 1870. In this same period, 13,000 claims were filed. The population was contained primarily in five towns: Hamilton, Treasure City, Shermantown, Eberhardt and Swansea (and several other smaller towns); with Hamilton becoming the center of the district and the first county seat of the newly formed White Pine County. Just two years into the boom, California investors were pulling out of the District and British capitalists were increasing their investments.

In 1870, the census indicated that the population of Hamilton had shrunk from a reported 10,000 to 3,915 (Hall, 1994). In 1873, a fire set by the owner of a failing store in order to collect insurance devastated much of Hamilton and the town never recovered. That same year, Hamilton's population shrank to 500. In 1885, another fire destroyed the courthouse. The final blow came in 1887, when the county seat was moved from Hamilton to Ely. Intensive investment by British capitalists kept the district operating into the 1890's, even though it was apparent the rich ore was not to be found at depth (Elliot 1987). A few residents continued to live in the area, but in 1931 the population was no longer large enough to justify a post office and it closed.

Today there is much for those interested in history to see and interpret. Many foundations are left and there are some standing walls. The remains of the White Pine Mining District include a cemetery in Hamilton and the remains of a stamp mill in Eberhardt. The District is situated within a checkerboard mixture of private and US Forest Service land. There are numerous mine shafts and adits in the area, so some amount of caution must be used.

For those who want to know more, these books provide interesting reading:

- Elliot, Russell R.** *The History of Nevada*. University of Nebraska Press. Lincoln and London. 1987
- Hall, Shawn.** *Romancing Nevada's Past: Ghost Towns and Historic Sites of Eureka, Lander and White Pine Counties*. University of Nevada Press. Reno, Nevada. 1994

**Humphrey, Fred. L.** *Geology of the White Pine Mining District, White Pine County, Nevada*. University of Nevada. Reno, Nevada. 1960

**Jackson, W. Turrentine.** *Treasure Hill: Portrait of a Silver Mining Camp*. The University of Arizona Press. Tucson, Arizona. 1963

**Muir, John.** *Steep Trails*. Sierra Club Press. 1994.

Please note that these are but a few of the many interesting references available to anyone wishing to learn more about the White Pine Mining District.

## Archaeological Awareness & Historic Preservation Week

Another Archaeological Awareness and Historic Preservation Week has come and gone. Many events were held across the state. If you have any comments on events you led/attended you would like to share, please send them to the newsletter editor and they will be included in the next newsletter.

## 1998 Great Basin Anthropological Conference

The 26th Biennial Great Basin Anthropological Conference will be held October 8-10, 1998, in Bend, Oregon at the Riverhouse and Shilo Inns located along the Deschutes River. 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 deadline for contributed paper and poster session abstracts is June 1st. Address inquiries and submissions to: Dennis L. Jenkins, 1998 GBAC Chair, UofO Museum of Natural History, 1224 University of Oregon, Eugene, OR 97403. Phone # (541) 346-3026 Fax 3 (541)346-5122 or email [gbac98@oregon.uoregon.edu](mailto:gbac98@oregon.uoregon.edu)

## The 1999 Annual Meeting of the Society for Historical Archaeology

The 1999 Conference of SHA will be held in Salt Lake City January 5-10, 1999 at the Hilton Hotel. The conference will be hosted by Sagebrush Consultants, L.L.C., and co-hosted by the Utah Department of Transportation and the Utah Historical Society. The reception for the meeting will be held at the Union Railroad Station in Ogden. Several tours are planned during the meeting including a tour of the Park City Silver Mine Town, which involves a ride down into a working mine to the 1500 foot level, and a ride on a

mine train through tunnels blasted out during the 1800's. Another tour will be of several railroad related facilities including the military railroad shops on Hill Air Force Base and historic 25<sup>th</sup> Street in Ogden. The tour will then go to the Golden Spike National Monument north of the Great Salt Lake.

## Notes from the March Board & General Membership Meetings

The Spring 1998 meeting of the Nevada Archaeological Association Board of Directors took place on March 13<sup>th</sup> at the Silver Sky Lodge RV Park. Several NAA members and guests attended the meeting

Treasurer Frock reported an NAA balance of \$8444.43.

Membership chair DuBarton reported that as of March, 115 members had renewed for 1998. Thanks to the efforts of Dave Valentine, NAA now has two institutional memberships: the UNLV Anthropological Society and the Nevada State Museum at Overton.

Mark Henderson did not seek re-election to the Board. Gretchen Burris took the duties as newsletter editor.

Mark Henderson noted that two Teachers Workshops would be held this summer to teach BLM's Intrigue of the Past curriculum. These will be held June 23-25 in Las Vegas (Red Rock Canyon NRA) and June 18 at Great Basin National Park.

The Board approved a request by President Bill Johnson for up to \$2000 to hire a company to develop a mailing list for posters for NV Historical and Archaeological Awareness. In addition, this company would label, package (in a tube) and mail each poster in a timely manner. It is hoped that by going this route, posters will arrive in a more timely matter to a larger audience.

A committee has been formed to develop a set of criteria for the Ting Perkins Award. Committee members are Susan Murphy, Oyvind Frock and Gretchen Burris. They will present their ideas at the next board meeting in June.

It was decided that the 1999 Annual Meeting will be held in Reno the weekend of March 20<sup>th</sup>. Peter Mires of Kautz Environmental Associates will be the program chair and Oyvind Frock will be the arrangements chair.

After the Annual Meeting on Saturday, a general membership meeting was held. The Board members for 1998 were nominated and accepted by those present. They are:

Bill Johnson, President  
Pat Hicks, Secretary  
Oyvind Frock, Treasurer  
Gretchen Burris, Newsletter Editor  
Anne DuBarton, Membership  
Peggy McGuckian

Susan Murphy  
Christi Shaw  
David Valentine  
Bill White

## Chapter & Affiliate News

**Am-Arcs of Nevada.** We have had a good attendance at our 1998 meetings. In February, Dr. Dave Rhode presented a program on his recent field trip to Jordan. In addition to slides of the old city of Petra, he had slides of neolithic sites and cut bank stratigraphy going back into the paleolithic.

In March, Am-Arcs member Sue Alexander presented a review of the salt works north of Fallon plus a general review of the salt industry in Nevada. This is the topic of her mater's theses at UNR and will be the destination of our October field trip.

April's program was a slide and music show on several "antiquities" by member Mark Vollmer. The Grand Canyon, Bristlecone Pines, Great Basin and Anasazi ruins were skillfully blended into this program.

Weather delayed our February trip to the Marjorie Russell Textile Research Center until March. Curator Jan Loverain discussed the conservation techniques necessary to preserve and maintain historical garments. She also gave an interesting historical discussion as we looked at the various items of clothing.

April's field trip to Pyramid Lake coincided with the first real spring day. Thirty eight of us visited 6 pictograph sites, 5 rock shelters and 3 rock alignments. A highlight of the day was seeing a braided grass wand or scepter in one of the shelters. One end of the wand was charred; presumably the result of producing an aromatic smoke in the shelter.

May will be our last meeting until September, but our monthly field trips will continue. Contact Oyvind Frock (826-8779) for information on activities.

**Archaeo-Nevada.** Archaeo-Nevada also has an active program of lectures and field trips. The Society normally meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month at the Community College of Southern Nevada, Charleston Campus, Building C, Room 213. Contact Howard Hahn(564-7912)for information on activities.

**Elko Chapter.** The Elko Chapter normally meets at the Northeastern Nevada Museum on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of each month. The Chapter is currently watching construction of a new wing at the NE Nevada Museum. It is reported that the Archaeology & Historic Preservation Fair including flintknapping, seed grinding and pioneer lifeways held May 16<sup>th</sup> was enthusiastically received. Contact Donna Murphy (738-6269) for Chapter information.

**White Pine Historical & Archaeological Society.** The WPH&AS normally meets the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of the month at the White Pine Public Museum. The Society is actively

supporting the Long Steel Rails: Railroad Folklife Festival scheduled for Ely on June 13, 1998. Utah Phillips is scheduled to perform. Contact June Shaputis (June@netxxpress.net) for information on activities. Additionally, the Society has a website. Check it out at: [www.webpanda.com/white\\_pine\\_county/historical\\_society/](http://www.webpanda.com/white_pine_county/historical_society/)

## Calendar

- June 13-14. **Long Steel Rails Railroad Folklife Festival.** Ely, Nevada.  
 June 15-19. **Great Basin Teacher's Workshop.** Great Basin National Park.  
 June 17-20. **Lincoln Highway Association Convention.** Salt Lake City (contact Jess Petersen @ (801)882-8900)  
 June 20. **Am Arcs Field Trip to the White River Narrows.** Contact Oyvind Frock @ 826-8779  
 June 23-25. **Intrigues of the Past Teachers Workshop.** Las Vegas (Red Rock Canyon NRA). Contact Mark Henderson @ 289-8250  
 Oct. 8-10. **Great Basin Anthropological Conference.** Bend, OR.  
 January 5-10. **Society for Historical Archaeology Conference.** Salt Lake City. Contact Mike Polk, Sagebrush Consultants, Ogden.

## Editor's Corner

Hi. I am the newsletter editor for 1998. I am looking forward to this challenge; editing a newsletter is brand new to me. So please take pity and submit articles! I want each newsletter to be memorable; for people to look at and read with an occasional exclamation of "Aha!" or "Wow!" or even "Huh?". In a world dominated by bills and junk mail, help me make this newsletter an item that does not immediately go in the circular file. Thanks in advance! Oh, and thanks to Mark Henderson who has been a great help in this, my first run, and thanks also to those folks who sent submissions.

Please send information by August 12, 1998 for inclusion in the next edition of *In Situ* to:

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

## Websites of Potential Interest

I would like to list here each newsletter some websites concerning anthropology, archaeology, history and related fields that might be of interest to NAA members. I will list a couple here; please send any suggestions for subsequent newsletters to me at [gjburris@netxxpress.net](mailto:gjburris@netxxpress.net)

**White Pine Historical and Archaeological Society:**  
[www.webpanda.com/white\\_pine\\_county/historical\\_society](http://www.webpanda.com/white_pine_county/historical_society).  
**Great Basin Anthropological Conference:**  
<http://www.oregon.uoregon.edu/~osma/GBAC>:  
**Society for Historical Archaeology:**  
<http://www.sha.org>  
**NV State Historic Preservation Office:**  
<http://www.clan.lib.nv.us/docs/shpo/shpo.htm>  
**Yale University Press:**  
<http://www.yale.edu/yup>

## 1998 NAA Officers & Chapter Representatives

Bill Johnson, President (566-4390)  
 Pat Hicks, Secretary (565-1709)  
 Oyvind Frock, Treasurer & Am-Arcs Chapter Rep. (826-8779)  
 Alice Baldrice, ex officio NAA Board Mem., SHPO Representative (687-6361)  
 Gretchen Burris, NAA Board Mem. (289-2450)  
 Anne DuBarton, NAA Board Mem., Membership (895-0534)  
 Peggy McGuckian, NAA Board Mem. (623-3396)  
 Helen Mortenson, Archaeo-Nevada Rep. (876-6944)  
 Susan Murphy, NAA Board Mem., Executive Secretary (658-3396)  
 Maie Nygren, Churchill County Chapter Rep. (423-2212)  
 Barbara Rhode, Lincoln County Chapter Rep.  
 Christi Shaw, NAA Board Member  
 Donna Murphy, Elko Chapter Rep. (738-6269)  
 David Valentine, NAA Board Member (645-9579)  
 Bill White, NAA Board Mem. Nevada Archaeologist Editor  
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