



Newsletter of the Nevada Archaeological Association

Vol. 7, No. 3

Fall 2003

Fall Board Meeting

The NAA Fall board meeting is scheduled for September 20, 2003 in Ely, Nevada. There will be no presentation Friday night, although members are planning to meet at the bar at 7:00 P.M. for some beer and socializing.

The Saturday field trip will be to the Midway site, a large, complex prehistoric site in a dune field near the turn off for Belmont. The field trip will continue on Belmont, Nye County's first county seat. After the field trip, the board will convene to the Tonopah Forest Service office for their meeting. A dinner is planned for Saturday night at the Cranky Crab, Tonopah's newest eatery.

As always, any NAA member is invited to attend the board meeting and any associated activities.

Summer Board Meeting

The NAA Summer Board meeting was held in Ely the weekend of June 13 and 14. On Friday evening, Tom Flanigan presented a narrated slide show of the White Pine County in the Hotel Nevada.

On Saturday, June 14, NAA board members and guests had a tour of the site Dr. Ted Goebel was excavating in Jake's Valley. We had the opportunity to examine two backhoe trenches that had been opened in an effort to determine if the

site had any subsurface potential, as well as exposing Pleistocene lake beach features.

After the field trip, members returned to the Forest Service office in to Ely for the board meeting.

Archaeological Awareness/Historic Preservation Week

Start Planning for 2004

Steve Daron, NAA President

It is not too early to start planning your activities for the 2004 Archaeological Awareness/Historic Preservation Week. It will be May 9 through May 15, 2004. Alice Baldrice will be sending out mailers in January asking for information about events. She will need them back by the first week of March so the information can be compiled and distributed. So start planning those activities NOW!!!

Ting Perkins Award

Oyvind Frock, Am-Arcs & NAA Board

It is that time again. At our annual meeting next April, we would like to present our Ting-Perkins Award to another deserving avocational archaeologist.

Eligibility for the award is based on these factors:

- 1) Must be a non-professional in the main area of interest. A non-professional does not make his or

her living in the area of interest and does not advertise as a professional. "Cross-over" skills will not disqualify a nominee. For example, a professional artist may apply his or her skills to rock art recording projects, a journalist or writer may apply their skills to oral history projects, or a musician may apply skills to analysis or recording of Native American music or dance.

- 2) Assistance given to professionals: volunteer work in surveys, excavations, lab work, etc.
- 3) Advancing the causes of preservation and conservation. Examples are site recording and monitoring.
- 4) Communicating to the public. Examples would be speaking to school groups, advocating legislation, and conducting public tours.

Somewhere in Nevada is a deserving individual. Nominations are to be submitted to the N.A.A. with a narration outlining the nominee's qualifications. The N.A.A. board will review the submissions.

Listed below are those individuals who have had their efforts recognized by our Ting-Perkins Award:

Grace Burkholder
Don Hendricks
Phil Hutchinson
Farrel and Manetta Lytle
Jean Miles
Norma and Herb Splatt
Jean Stevens
Steve Stoney

Am-Arcs of Nevada

Oyvind Frock, Am-Arcs & NAA Board

Our monthly meetings will resume in September. During the summer, our field trips have continued with visits to the petroglyph sites called Echo Panel and the Mountain of Heiroglyphs. We also visited a small habitation site of five collapsed tufa domes which had been modified by constructing stacked rock walls. In August, we have a trip to the Mount Irish Archaeological District scheduled.

Archeo-Nevada Society (ANS)

Cheryl Martin, President, ANS

The ANS is looking forward to our fall program. Meetings scheduled include:

- -Dr. Steve Rowland and Liz Glowiak on "Tule Springs, Gypsum Cave, and the Late Pleistocene Fauna of Southern Nevada: A Progress Report" in September.
- "A Conversation with Terri Roberston and John Lear on Gold Butte" in October.
- "Oliver Ranch" by Dr. Liz Warren.

We are continuing with our Adopt-A-Highway work, although our highway area near Red Rock is quickly being developed by Summerlin. A day trip to Gold Butte is in the works, and site stewardship is moving right along, with a training session scheduled in September and more to follow.

Archeo-Nevada would also like to offer its congratulations to Kenny Anderson, the newly-elected president of Friends of Sloan, and to Don White, the new president of Friends of Tule Springs.

For more information on ANS or site stewardship, please contact Mark Rosenzweig at (702) 233-9424.

Elko County Chapter News

Elko County Chapter (ECC) continues to be very busy. Monthly meetings are held at the Spring Creek Round Table Pizza on the first Friday of the month.

ECC raised over \$600 with a yard sale over the summer.

If you have any questions concerning ECC activities, please call Donna Murphy at (775) 738-6269.

Nevada Rock Art Foundation

Alanah Woody

THE NEVADA ROCK ART FOUNDATION is in its second year and continues to grow! Most recently volunteers gathered from northern Nevada and California to document a site near Unionville for the Winnemucca BLM Field Office. Undaunted by the threat of mid-August heat, NRAF members Joan Johnson, Howard Lambert, Signa Pendegraft, Sue Roberts, Bob Taylor joined by friends Rob Burton, Lynn Furnis, Allen Salamy and Melonie Shier, along with BLM archaeologists Peggy McGuckian and David Valentine, completed the recording of the site in 2 days (26 panels – some of them pretty complex!). They then went ahead and recorded a second small site – and never let it be said that a wash-out and a little talus is enough to keep an avid rock art volunteer from seeing a really neat panel (in spite of having bionic body parts and recent surgeries!). And just for good measure, a third small site was photo documented as well.



A complex panel from the site.

In addition, the Lagomarsino project in Storey County continues full steam ahead! After 8 days in the field (in 105 degree temperatures!) in June and July nearly 300 panels have been completed on this magnificent site. Now the process of re-estimating panel numbers has begun ... the 2,000 figure that was originally estimated now seems a bit low! We'll be back out in the field again October 19-26, 2003 with the continuing support of Storey County, the Nevada State Museum, the NRCS and Western Regional Conservation & Development, Nevada Department of Transportation and a whole host of local businesses who've donated lunches and other necessary materials.

Also new for NRAF is the initiation of a Site Stewardship program in the north to monitor the High Basins in the Spanish Springs area. NRAF Site Stewards, along with others from AmArcs and NAA, will receive special training and be assigned specific sites that they will monitor on a regular basis and report changes to the BLM. The Site Stewardship program has already launched in southern Nevada under the direction of Archeo-Nevada (Mark Rosenzweig) and with special input from BLM Archaeologist Mark Henderson. So following their lead, a similar program will begin small in the north and hopefully build until it covers the state.

And now that summer is drawing to a close, plans are underway for work in the southern part of the state to begin. The next training session will be November 8-9, 2003 and for the field portion of the training we'll be recording a small site in the Spring Mountain area for the USFS. And we'll be starting to record Arrow Canyon in December. Most of us who are passionate about rock art are well aware of the changes in visibility that lighting can make. Morning versus afternoon lighting of course makes a difference in seeing petroglyphs but at Arrow Canyon we also must observe seasonal rules of illumination. For instance, the glyphs on Katchina Rocks are visible only in the season of the katchinas (summer) and disappear entirely in the winter, as do katchina themselves. Arrow Canyon is distinctive also because of wonderful shield figures and scalloped rocks - so you won't want to miss this one!

And finally, NRAF is planning on its first annual gathering – the Rock Art Round-Up in Overton in January! Planned for Jan 17-18, 2004 there will be a day of reports and presentations at the Old Logandale High School in Overton, followed by a day of field trips in the area. Plus a “special” guest speaker and a bar-be-que hosted by the Lost City Museum. A good time is sure to be had by all!

For information on NRAF projects or other events in the south contact Elaine Holmes at kokopelli3@cox.net or Alanah Woody for either north or south at info@nevadarockart.org.

Southern Nevada Rock Art Association (SNRAA)

Summer is winding down and soon the Fall season will be here and we need to get suggestions for field trips. The guest speaker on September 18th at the Las

Vegas Library, 833 North Las Vegas Blvd., at 7:00 PM, will be Courtney Smith presenting a talk entitled "Animal Planet: Back When the Show was on the Rocks." This talk is a quick sample of different animals portrayed in rock art. While many animals are shown naturally in a variety of postures and positions, many others show a mixture of characteristics both human and animate. What is the interaction between the artist and the animal? Bighorn sheep, lizards, snakes, horned toads, frogs, dogs, eagles, owls, mountain lions, bears, and a motley crew of other animals will be the "Glyph Stars" of this show. Don't be surprised if a rabbit or a kangaroo might hop by.

Don't forget to check the SNRAA voicemail for information on group activities at (702) 897-7878.

White Pine Historical and Archaeological Society (WPHAS)

WPHAS conducted a number of activities for Nevada Archaeological Awareness and Historic Preservation Week. Sunny Martin led a tour of historic structures in Ely. On May 17, WPHAS member visited the Riordan Ranch house and the North Portal and Horseshoe petroglyphs within the White River Archaeological District. After the site visits, there was a clean-up of WPHAS's Adopt-A-Highway segment within the archaeological district.

On June 15, members participated in a Father's Day field trip and potluck to Shoshone Ponds near the ghost towns of Shoshone and Minerva. The trip was led by Dave Tilford, and also included a talk about the local flora and fauna from Great Basin National Park staff member Bryan Hamilton.

On June 29, WPHAS president Mike Bunker led a work project to identify the 1869 grave of James Irwin, an early stage driver. Afterwards, a field trip to segments of the Pony Express trail and several stage roads took place.

WPHAS assisted the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service with the removal of modern debris from the site of Fort Ruby on July 16-17.

On Saturday, September 13, there will be the WPHAS annual potluck at Ken and Patti Heinbaugh's place in Duck Creek. The hosts will provide Dutch oven ribs and beans. Sounds delicious!

For additional information on WPHAS and its activities, visit their website at:
www.webpanda.com/white_pine_county/historical_society/index.html.

NAA Website

The NAA has developed a new website. Check out www.nvarch.org, which is being constructed and maintained by our very own Web Master, Hal Rager. Feel free to stop by for a visit on your next trip on the cyber highway. The website lots of useful information, such as how to order your very own NAA mug or back issues of *Nevada Archaeologist*, and contains links to related web sites.

SWCA Las Vegas Works in Little Red Rock

Anne DuBarton

SWCA Environmental Consultants, Las Vegas office continues to grow. Aaron Fergusson has transferred from the Salt Lake City office, and is serving as Cultural Resources Program Manager. Anne DuBarton, former NAA President, is on board as a Senior Archaeologist and Historian with the Las Vegas office.



Recently, SWCA conducted an archaeological survey of western portions of Las Vegas Valley in the Little Red Rocks area. Most of the survey area contained few cultural resources, although several isolated artifacts and features were found. One interesting isolate was a late 1940s to early 1950s

Fall Newsletter

The Winter issue of *In-Situ* is scheduled for publication in December 2003. If you have anything you want included, such as mini-reports, requests for information, announcements, letters to the editor, book reviews, etc., etc., send it to Dave Valentine by December 10, 2003, via e-mail to david_valentine@nv.blm.gov, or by snail mail to P.O. Box 1084, Winnemucca, NV 89446.

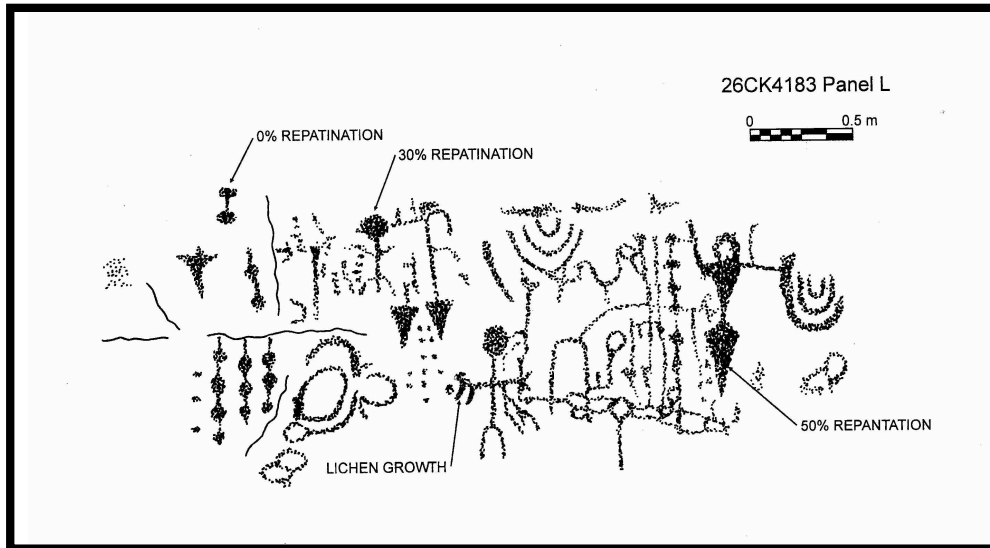
Photographs are welcome, but if making electronic submissions, please submit separate .jpeg files.

A diverse and interesting *In-Situ* cannot be maintained without member support and participation.

Upcoming Conferences

The 33rd Nevada Archaeological Association annual meeting will be held in Winnemucca, Nevada, April 16-18, 2004. Watch future issues of *In-Situ* for more information.

Chevy pickup (see photo). Five National Register eligible sites are located near sandstone rock outcrops. The locally well-known complex of sites called the “Little Red Rocks” contains important site complexes featuring petroglyphs and pictographs (see drawing), rockshelters, roasting pits, and large tinajas, or plunge pools. The sites contain Virgin Anasazi and Lower Colorado ceramics, grinding tools, stone tools and debris, burned bone, and charcoal. The ceramics and projectile points indicate the sites are associated with Late Prehistoric and Protohistoric use of the Las Vegas Valley.



Some researchers have suggested that no significant cultural resources remain in the Las Vegas Valley to address important research questions. The SWCA staff believes these

sites could answer research questions relating to ethnicity of prehistoric Las Vegas Valley occupants and provide data on trade and exchange between the groups utilizing the area. The rock art may be important to understanding the ideology of these groups. While the Little Red Rocks area is slated to become part of a golf-themed resort community, SWCA is working with the developers and the Nevada SHPO to develop a treatment plan to extract as much data from the sites as possible and to preserve the rock art for future generations of Las Vegas and other Nevadans.

Spring Mountain PIT Project

Kathleen Sprowl, U.S. Forest Service

The Spring Mountains National Recreation Area on the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest hosted a “Passport in Time” volunteer program at the Tecopa Charcoal Kilns for five days in August. The goal of the survey project was to resurvey in the area of the three charcoal kilns and the smaller lime kiln to 1) determine the extent of the historic features and trash deposits associated with the work and habitation areas, 2) to clarify the extent of the wood gathering area and what types and dimensions of wood were utilized in the kilns, 3) and to relocate two prehistoric sites that had been recorded and selectively surface collected in 1972 by UNLV near the kilns.

The survey and metal-detecting team included a total of 18 individuals that consisted of members of the Archaeo-Nevada Society and the Southern Nevada Rock Art Association, U.S. Forest Service employees and interested members of the general public. Everyone did a great job and had fun looking for historic features and items, axe cut stumps and prehistoric

artifacts in order to assist in solving some mysteries. A total of 359 hours were volunteered by Carol Shimer, Paul Mershon, Linda Nations, Bill McKinnis, Don Hendricks, Bruce Holloway, Mark Rosenzweig, Mike McGrew, Merle Shorey, Jeanne Howerton, Marilyn MacMurtrie, Bruce Boyd, Deanna Morrell, David and Kim Murdock and Chris Starkweather. Kathleen Sprowl and Indre Antanaitis-Jacobs of the USFS coordinated the project.

Although the written history of the kilns is extremely limited, it has been stated that these kilns were built by a Nehemiah “Red” Clark in 1875 for Jonas Osborne who was an industrious businessman who bought, consolidated and sold mines with and without partners in the mining district at Resting Springs starting in 1875. He designed and built a big silver smelter at Tecopa (Resting Springs) near the California border, roughly 60 miles southwest from the kilns, in January of 1878. The smelter had so many problems that it was abandoned in the fall of 1878. There seems to be conflicting information regarding what is anecdotal history compared to what is being found in the kiln area and, of course, more research needs to occur to substantiate the old and new information. However, it has been a common belief that these kilns were used for at least 20 years supplying charcoal to other mine smelters in southern Nevada even though the Tecopa smelter stopped functioning less than one year after it’s construction.

Even though additional survey and dendrochronology needs to be conducted in the vicinity of the kilns, the initial evidence from this PIT project indicates selected small diameter piñon pine and juniper trees and limbs were cut with axes and/or broadaxes do not suggest any vegetation clear-cutting or second growth of timber that probably would have occurred if the kilns operated for 20 years. Four-foot long cordwood stacks (a common use size for kilns elsewhere) have also been located not too far up the slopes that appear to have been abruptly abandoned. The lack of any extensive or buried domestic trash deposits near the habitation area, and the thin coating of creosote buildup on the inside of the kilns, seems to reflect that these kilns were only used for a short period of time.

Other exciting features that were found during this project were a previously unknown or recorded lime kiln south of the main kiln complex as well as a formal limestone quarry used for the source material used in constructing the kilns. Two prehistoric sites were relocated; one with intact features with the other one being a large Archaic Pinto Basin-era hunting and piñon nut gathering site based upon the style of the numerous projectile points and tool types found there. In conclusion, a few mysteries were solved during this project and a few more were created....



**EXCAVATION OF A 6TH CENTURY PIT HOUSE
IN CLARK COUNTY WETLANDS PARK,
LAS VEGAS WASH**

Laureen Perry, Bureau of Reclamation

On July 14, 2003, HRA, Inc. (HRA) started to excavate a possible pit house they found two years ago while conducting test trenching for cultural resources along the banks of Las Vegas Wash. Surveys and excavations conducted in the 1970s showed numerous archaeological resources in this area. HRA's recent surveys and testing of the area uncovered two well-worn groundstone fragments and an ashy/charcoal lens in a shape suggesting the bottom of a pit structure, approximately 1.8 m below the ground surface. A radiocarbon sample yielded a date of A.D. 450-640. Pollen samples from one of the ground stone fragments suggested that wild plants were being ground. Since the purpose of the testing was to verify the presence or absence of subsurface cultural deposits, the test trenches were filled in without further excavation. In subsequent discussions, representatives from HRA, the Bureau of Reclamation, and the Southern Nevada Water Authority decided that further excavation was needed before the valuable information from the possible pit house was lost to flooding events, construction, or other activities associated with development of erosion control weirs and the Clark County Wetlands Park. With Clark County's permission, Reclamation contracted with HRA to conduct further excavations.

Within four days of fieldwork by HRA, it was apparent that the possible pit house was the real thing with a prepared floor, hearth, and postholes--a very important find for southern Nevada. The pit house measures approximately 3.5 m across and was dug approximately 30 cm below the original ground surface. The superstructure appears to have been constructed by using the short wall as support for branches, used as beams. A short ramp, facing southeasterly, may have been the entrance. A hearth was found near the center of the structure. Samples were taken for analysis from the hearth and floor to help determine which plants and animals were available and being used by the prehistoric inhabitants. Preliminary interpretations place this site in HRA's early Ceramic Period when the bow-and-arrow and pottery were introduced. A cultural affiliation has not yet been determined, although early Puebloan, Mojave, and Paiute groups were in the area later in time.

The discovery and scientific excavation of the pit house at Las Vegas Wash is extremely important to the Las Vegas Valley. Over the many years that archaeology has been conducted in the valley, pit houses have been mentioned but neither well documented nor systematically excavated. HRA's excavation, combined with the re-analysis of collections from four sites in the immediate vicinity of the pit house, is demonstrating a more permanent settlement pattern along Las Vegas Wash than previously thought. Analyses of the collected artifacts and samples are anticipated to provide information specific to prehistoric use of the Las Vegas Wash during the 6th century. The excavation and re-analysis projects have shown that re-visiting previously recorded sites and collections can provide more information the second time around. One of the most exciting "revelations" about the buried pit house, and other recent buried finds, is that there are still intact archeological sites in the Las Vegas Valley, in spite of all the development.



Excavation of the pit house at Las Vegas Wash in progress, July 2003.
Photo courtesy of US Bureau of Reclamation, Lower Colorado Regional Office.

HISTORIC STAGE COACH STOP EMERGES FROM THE SAGEBRUSH

Tom Flanigan, U. S. Forest Service

During July of 2003, the United States Forest Service (USFS) and the Nevada Division of Forestry (NDF) cleared heavy sagebrush growth from Washburn's Station, a historic stage coach stop in White Pine County. The project was done in order to provide a better viewing of the site by visitors, and to prevent the sagebrush from growing into the stone walls at the site and pushing them over. Tim Lewis, Heritage Resource Cartographer and geography student at the University of Montana, was the project leader on the Washburn's Station cleanup. Bud O'Dell, of the Nevada Division of Forestry, supervised the NDF crew that helped Washburn's Station rise from the sagebrush once again. The project was a success, and visitors will be able to enjoy a view of the station that has not been possible for many years. The USFS is currently working on site interpretation for visitors so that they may better understand the history of this unique piece of White Pine County's past.

Historical Site Description

Washburn's Station historic site is located on the Hamilton/Pioche Stage and Freight Road. Although the integrity of the original road is not intact at this point, due to road maintenance over the years, the corridor of the historic road is very narrow and the modern road probably shares the same space with the historic route.

Twelve separate structures can be identified at the site, and include stone wall enclosed rooms, stone foundations, rock alignments and other rock features. According to the the archival record (Sumner's "Trip to Pioche") most of the buildings in 1873 were about 1/3 rock wall with wood frames

on the upper 2/3's. The finished appearance of most of the walls at about one meter in height suggests that this was the case.

The structures represent a variety of building and stone wall construction techniques. The majority of rooms are built into an existing bedrock outcrop, some with three walls (sides and front), some with four walls. There is one free-standing structure, and next to it, a single coarse rock foundation. Another structure is built into a gravel slope with a stone wall front and sides, built into the hillside.

Based on the archival record ("A Trip to Pioche") several of these areas can be more specifically identified. Among these is the main house or, as an 1873 traveler called it "Washburn's Hotel." The same sources and artifactual evidence indicate that this site was primarily a ranching/farming site, and as was often the case, doubly served as a stage stop.

For more information and directions to Washburn's Station, contact Tom Flanigan, Ely Ranger District Archaeologist, at (775) 289-5124 or via email at tflanigan@fs.fed.us.



Washburn's Station Risen from the Sagebrush. The fellows in the photo: left to right: John Kinsner, USFS Archaeological Field Technician, and Tim Lewis, USFS GIS Technician.