



In-Situ



Newsletter of the Nevada Archaeological Association

Vol 13, No. 1

Spring 2009

PRESIDENTS CORNER

Eva Jensen, NAA President

When I started looking for a career someone told me there would be no math or politics in archaeology, just good dirty fun. In twenty three years I have learned the dirt and fun part was correct, but they lied to me about the math and politics. With declining revenue everyone is 'doing the math' and finding things don't quite add up like they used to. Proposals to bypass protective federal regulations and fast track 'critical' government projects are a frightening trend. Archaeology and historic preservation have been facing difficult times in the current economy. Across the nation states are closing museums and historic parks.

Nevada is also facing difficult budget decisions this year. The lawmakers will be debating budgets and bills that will affect the archaeological, historic, and paleontological resources of the state. The NAA is particularly concerned about the funding for the Nevada Site Steward Program administered by the State Historic Preservation Office. Proposed budgets for State Parks and Department of Cultural Affairs will require closures and reduction of operating hours, and loss of personnel at public facilities. The NAA web site will periodically post information about important legislative meetings and hearings. Contact your representatives and let them know you care about archaeological and historic programs.

Outside of politics and math, board members are busy preparing for the Annual Meeting, collecting memberships, and getting ready for Archaeological Awareness and Historic Preservation Month. Our poster and theme this year is "Exploring Deep

History in Nevada". Look for another great poster and several interesting events for the month of May. The annual meeting in Lovelock April 3rd to 5th also explores deep history in Nevada with a symposium on Friday afternoon. Contact Mark Giambastaini about presentations at mgiam@asmaffiliates.com. Pre-registration is due March 7. Motel reservations are due March 30. Please check the web site at www.nvarch.org for registration forms and information. David Hurst Thomas is the featured speaker on Saturday evening. There will be Lovelock Cave Backcountry Byway tour on Sunday. Check the BLM web site for more information.

[www.nv.blm.gov/Winnemucca/recreation/Lovelock Cave Back-Country Byway Guide.pdf](http://www.nv.blm.gov/Winnemucca/recreation/Lovelock_Cave_Back-Country_Byway_Guide.pdf)

Last but not least, our recent board meeting was held in Goodsprings to take advantage of the southern 'Spring' weather in January. Elizabeth Warren gave the board and guests a walking tour of the town with great information about the archaeology and history of the area. Liz is a historian and her husband Claude is Emeritus professor of Anthropology from UNLV. As a long term resident of Goodsprings, Liz is active in planning and development and is working to encourage projects that will keep the rural and historic nature of the town for economic benefit in the future. Thanks Liz!

We are still looking for a few new board members! Let me know if you are interested. I'll see you in Lovelock.

P.S. Our former president Steve Daron is now historic! Happy 50th birthday Steve!

**Nevada Archaeological Association
38th Annual Conference
CALL FOR PAPERS**

This year's NAA meeting will take place April 3-5 in Lovelock, Nevada. We encourage all meeting attendees to present a short paper on any interesting work they are currently doing (or have done) pertaining to the archaeology, history, or ethnohistory of Nevada. Our central theme this year is Nevada cave archaeology, and our guest speaker Saturday evening will be Dr. David Hurts Thomas

As always, we'd love to see more input from northern and eastern Nevada! Graduate Students are particularly urged to present summaries or discussions of their research in what is a friendly, low-stress meeting environment. Each presenter will

be allotted 20 minutes, and some helpful guidelines for preparing meeting presentations will be made available.

Please send abstracts (no more than 150 words) to Mark A. Giambastiani, Program Chair. You can email your abstract (in Word or Word Perfect format) to mgiam@asmaffiliates.com, fax them to (775) 324-9666, or send them standard mail to Mark A. Giambastiani, ASM Affiliates, Inc. 121 California Avenue, Reno, Nevada 89509. Please contact Mark by email or by phone (775) 324-6789 for details concerning abstracts or papers.

Reminder: Annual meeting dinner registration must be in the mailbox by Thursday March 12.

NAA Membership Renewal Time

Hello all! It is again time to renew your membership to the NAA. Attached to this issue of *In-Situ* is the 2009 membership form. Please fill it out and send it in with the appropriated amount of dues money: Filling out the membership form is an important part of paying your dues, since the form is used to keep track of who has paid and everyone's current addresses.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, thank you for your continuing support and participation. **Renew today!**

NEWS FROM AFFILIATED ORGANIZATIONS

News From the Elko County Chapter

Donna Murphy, Secretary-Treasurer

Elko County Chapter Nevada Archaeological Association

A few Elko County Chapter members have been battling the snowy roads and cold temperatures to attend the monthly meetings at the Northeastern Nevada Regional Hospital. There are currently 17 members and a large number of folks that come to meetings and events when they can. We haven't had a lot of activity during these winter months except making plans for the Archaeology Fair in May and the California Trail Days Celebration in May.

The Traveling History Trunk is coming along nicely. We have been assisting a local teacher in putting together a Colonial America History Trunk that will circulate to teachers for their use when teaching a unit on that time period. We have ordered some colonial Williamsburg educational kits for the trunk and will be putting that together this spring.

Archaeo-Nevada Society (ANS)

Kevin Rafferty, ANS President

In January of 2009 the Archaeo-Nevada Society (ANS) participated in a local Adopt-A-Highway effort along West Charleston Boulevard in Las Vegas. Quite a bit of debris was picked up and our stretch of highway was much cleaner than before the garbage was collected. ANS is continuing its' long tradition (42 years) of educating its members and the general public. In January of 2009 Professor Sondra Cosgrove of the College of Southern Nevada (CSN) spoke to ANS on Anasazi environmental adaptations. In February Mr. Robert Leavitt of Knight & Leavitt Associates will be discussing an historic cemetery in the Ruby Valley and its' relationship to the California cut-off. There are other speakers planned for March, April, and May. They

will be announced in the next In Situ. Meetings are held every second Thursday of the month at 7 P.M. in Room K-226 on the West Charleston campus of the College of Southern Nevada. If you are in town please join us.

The ANS Scholarship fund is still building, with approximately \$2900 in the endowment fund and \$900 in the disburseable portion. Students are applying for the Fall as we speak. Anyone wishing to contribute to the education of a future generation of anthropologists and archaeologists should contact the ANS President, Dr. Kevin Rafferty, at kevin.rafferty@csn.edu. We would be happy to put your donations to work.

Site Stewardship News

Sali Underwood

Upcoming Nevada Archaeological Site Stewardship Program Activities:

- March 19-20, 2009 – NAA Site Stewardship Regional Coordinator and Agency Cooperative Workshop; Ruth, Nevada.
- March 29, 2009 – Basic GPS class; Reno area
- April 4, 2009 – Basic Site Stewardship Training Class; Ely
- April 18, 2009 - Basic Site Stewardship Training Class; Hawthorne
- May 2, 2009 - Basic Site Stewardship Training Class; Reno area
- May 2, 2009 – Lincoln County NASSP Picnic; Caliente
- May 9, 2009 – Elko Archaeology Fair; Elko
- May 9, 2009 – Cultural History Fair; Las Vegas
- May 16, 2009 - Basic Site Stewardship Training Class; Battle Mountain
- May 16, 2009 – NAA Lithic Technology Demonstration Workshop; Las Vegas
- May 23, 2009 – Black Rock Rendezvous; Gerlach

Come join us and keep looking for more activities to come!

SOLICITATIONS, EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Lincoln County Archaeological Initiative Update

Submitted by Colleen M. Beck

The program priorities for Lincoln County Archaeological Initiatives Round 3 are now being developed. The BLM is not requesting proposals at this time but is requesting ideas for priorities from the public for informational purposes only. You can review the priorities for Rounds 1 and 2 at the following website. You will have to click on the Round 3 link to view the announcement and the priorities.

http://www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/fo/ely_field_office/blm_information/special_legislation/lincoln_county_land.html

If you would like to see any of these priorities repeated in Round 3 or if you have any ideas for new priorities, please contact Carol Bass of the Ely District Office (carol_bass@blm.gov) or Colleen Beck of the Desert Research Institute (colleen.beck@dri.edu). These ideas do not need to be developed in detail but they should include sufficient information to identify the type of archaeological resource or location and the archaeological activities needed. This is an urgent request as ideas must be received by **March 15, 2009**.

The College of Southern Nevada Valley of Fire Survey

Kevin Rafferty, Chairman, Department of Human Behavior, CSN

The College of Southern Nevada (CSN) will be running its' fourth survey project in Valley of Fire State Park in late March, April, and May of 2009. The inventory will focus on a one square mile area east of and adjacent to Atlatl Rock, a large and significant concentration of petroglyphs in the southwestern portion of the park. This survey will spatially link together several previous surveys into one large contiguous block of data, hopefully allowing significant generalized statements to be made regarding chronology, settlement and subsistence, trade, and other research topics in Valley of Fire.

Troop Movements, Job Openings

Opening at Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest

Fred Frampton, Heritage Program, Tribal Relations Program Manager

The Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest expects to be advertising for a permanent GS 7/9 Archaeologist in the near future on our Bridgeport Ranger District, and may also be filling a term position, also in

Bridgeport. The positions will be advertised on USA Jobs, but those interested could contact Fred Frampton at fframpton@fs.fed.us, or 775 352-1253.

New Professor at UNLV

Alan Simmons

In 2007, UNLV Dept. of Anthropology was fortunate to hire zooarchaeologist, Dr. Levent Atici (Ph.D. from Harvard). He works primarily in Turkey, and is a welcome addition to the small number of zooarchs in Nevada! He has set up an impressive zooarchaeology lab at UNLV. Dr. Atici's research ranges from Terminal Pleistocene forager adaptations in Mediterranean Turkey to the development and evolution of pastoral economies of later Central Anatolian Bronze Age societies.

PROJECTS, ARTICLES, MINI REPORTS

Gypsum Cave Revisited

By Amy Gilreath

Desert Branch, Far Western Anthropological Research Group

Throughout 1930, Mark Harrington, assisted by a small crew mostly of Native Americans, “thoroughly dug over” most of the deposit at Gypsum Cave. No more than two years after closing down fieldwork, the collection was catalogued and analyzed, and *Southwest Museum Papers No. 8, Gypsum Cave, Nevada*, was in draft. As most of us recall, Harrington concluded from the remains of now-extinct Pleistocene animals, stratigraphic associations of material culture, and features in the deposit that he interpreted as hearths, that end-of-the-Ice Age animals and humans were contemporaneous. He was not ambiguous on this point. Harrington said that the most important question concerning Gypsum Cave, was: “Did man meet the ground-sloth *Nothrotherium* face to face in [the] Cave?” His answer: “[W]e ... respond in the affirmative, and in answering thus we realize that such a statement implies that man also knew the native horses and llama-like camels now extinct in North American” (Harrington 1933:164).

In the years since, as research on the early occupation of the Great Basin progressed, and with the development of radiocarbon dating, Harrington’s position could not be sustained. In the late 1960s, Rainier Berger, William Libby, and Robert Heizer reported dates on burned twigs and a dart shaft fragment from beneath the sloth dung in the cave. The man-made items proved to be 2,500 to 3,000 years old, post-dating the end of the Pleistocene and the time when sloths went extinct by about 9,000 years.

Since the 1930s, the collection from Gypsum Cave sat at the Southwest Museum, and the site sat much as Harrington left it. With the construction of a power line out in front of the cave, Far Western recently gained access to the site and to the collection. This mini-report highlights the results of that study. The full report, *Gypsum Cave Revisited*, by Amy J. Gilreath, (BLM Report CR5-2462-4) was finalized in February 2009. Because of falling rock and unstable slope conditions BLM discourages visits and disallows groups in the cave. The cave is a significant site to local Native American people, and for that reason as well, it should be respected and not disturbed.

D. Craig Young directed the recent, small-scale excavation, which was limited to Room 1, a short distance inside the dripline. Work removed Harrington’s backfill, and succeeded in exposing his intact profile, complete with his prized “fireplace” in situ, behind a burlap bag that he had draped over it for safekeeping. Limited excavation of the intact deposit recovered only a small amount of cultural material, and it was confined to Master Stratum I (Figure 1). Radiocarbon dates on sheep droppings and sloth dung in the underlying strata start at about 8,000 calendar years old in the lower part of Master Strata II, get older with depth, and end with the sloth dung in Master Strata IV at about 13,000 BP. Based on stratigraphy, geomorphological analysis, and radiocarbon dating of non-cultural material, the cultural deposit up high in the profile is considerably younger than 8000 years.

Young was also able to establish that curtains of gypsum exist in the rocky matrix, and that all kinds of vermin run through the Swiss-cheese-like lattice in the deposit. This explains how younger sticks and fragments of darts have, on occasion, ended up below older layers of sloth dung.

Overall findings indicate that the cave experienced vastly different use at two separate periods in the past. The suite of radiocarbon dates on artifacts from different contexts (Figure 2), show that the bulk of them fall between 3,000 and 4,000 radiocarbon-years old, or about 3,000 to 4,500 calendar years ago. The corresponding Middle Archaic assemblage from this use (Table 1) encompasses the vast majority of the dart wooden and cane fragments left in the various rooms, as well as uncommon items, mostly from Room 3, suggest ceremonial use (Table 2). Aside from the weaponry and ceremonial items, the Middle Archaic assemblage is quite limited. The mundane use of the cave appears to have been intermittent and based on the abundance of dart fragments in the assemblage, related to logistical big-game hunting.

The Middle Archaic dart assemblage, however, does not appear to be functional implements cached in the cave with the intent of future use, but ceremonial offerings of some kind. There were hundreds of splinters of wood and shattered cane; female fittings were often reinforced with sinew to prevent further splitting; and none of the foreshafts still retains its tone tip. Patently serviceable pieces are very few and far between. Rather than discard hunting gear out on the landscape where it broke, or in Room 1 where run-of-the-mill tasks occurred, it was deliberately saved and placed in the remote chambers, along with items indicative of ceremonial behavior.

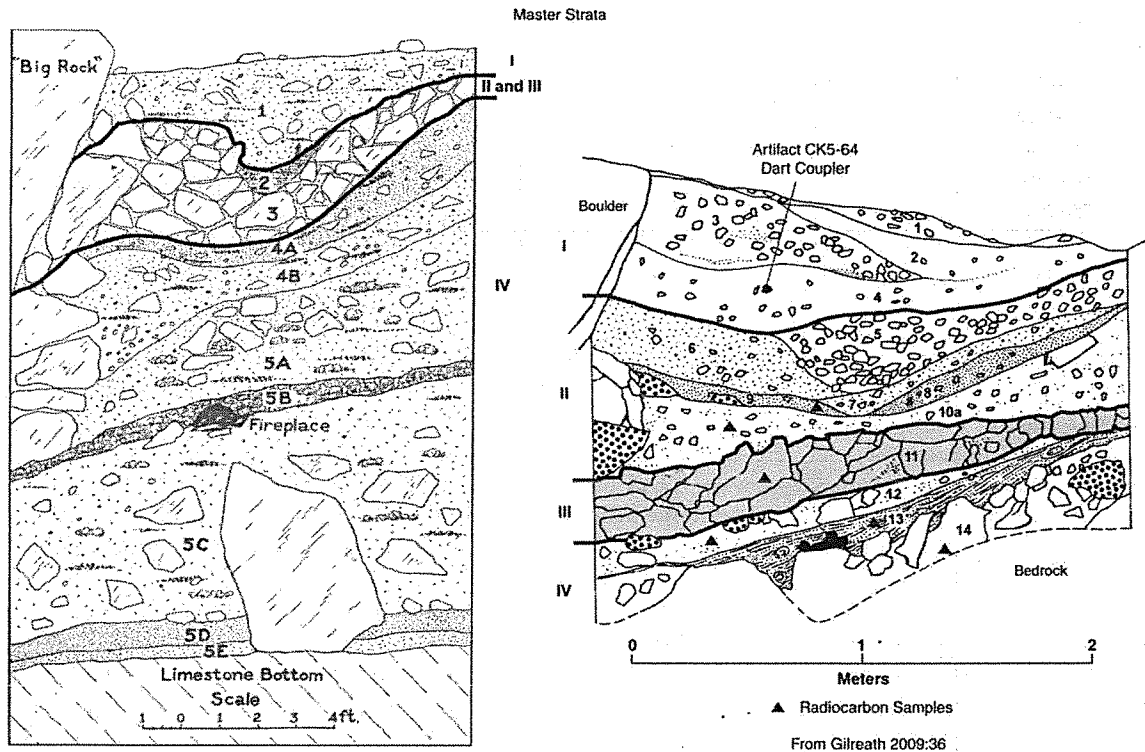


Figure 1. Schematic Profile of Gypsum Cave, from Harrington (1933:Figure 11), Compared to 2004 Excavation from Gilreath (2009:36).

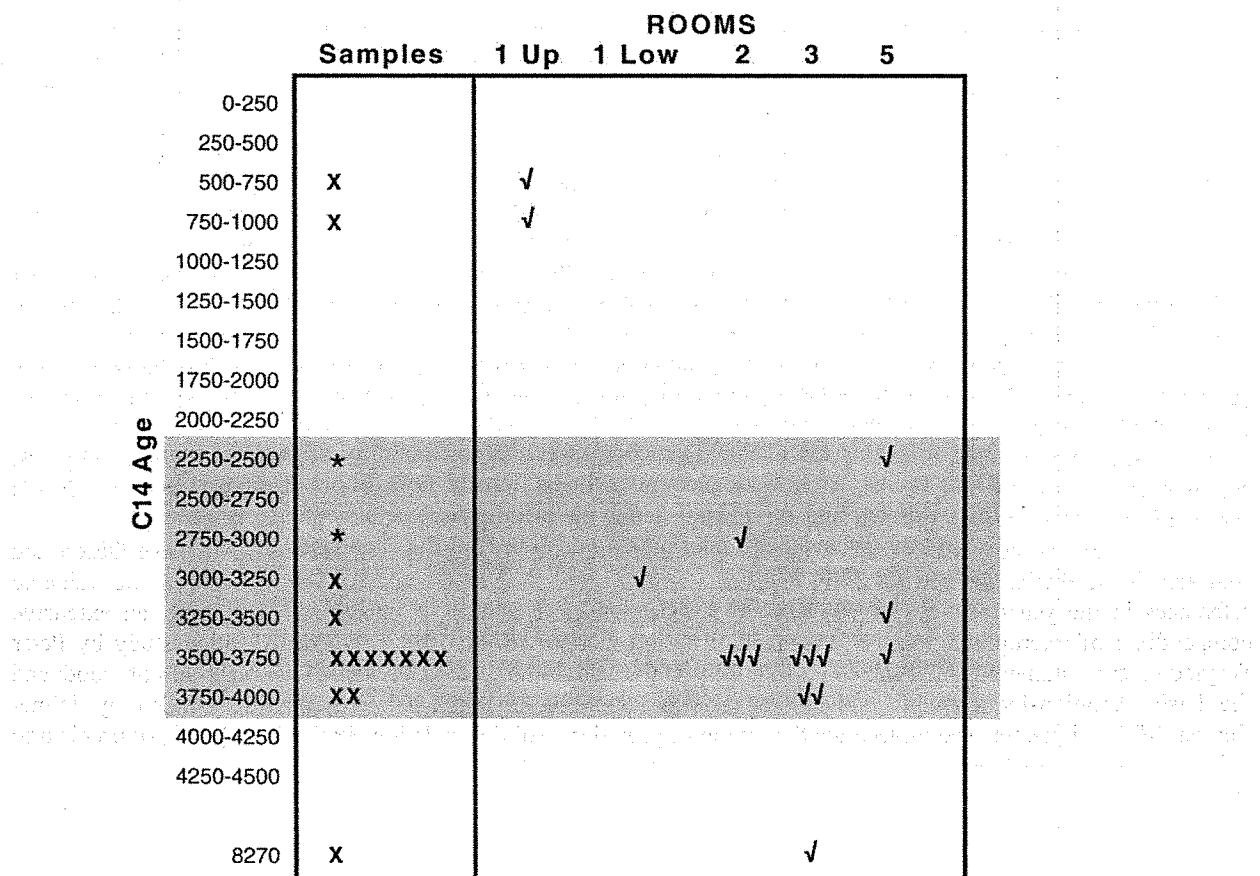


Figure 2. Radiocarbon Dates on Artifacts from Gypsum Cave.

CONVENTIONAL RADIOCARBON YEARS BP	GYPSUM CAVE	O'MALLEY ROCKSHELTER	PINTWATER CAVE	NEWBERRY CAVE	FIREBRAND CAVE	BLACK DOG CAVE
0-250					X	
250-500						
500-750	X					
750-1000	X					
1000-1250						
1250-1500					XX	
1500-1750					XXX	XXXXXXXXXXXX
1750-2000						XXXXXX
2000-2250						
2250-2500	*					
2500-2750						
2750-3000	*			X		
3000-3250	X			XXXX	XX	
3250-3500	X		XX	XXXX	XXX	
3500-3750	XXXXXXX	X			XXXXX	
3750-4000	XX			X	XX	
4000-4250						
4250-4500					XX	
No. of Dates	15	1	2	8	20	17

Note: * Date obtained in the 1970s.

Figure 3. The Age of Dart Assemblages in Area Caves.

Reanalysis of Gypsum Cave gives added support for Middle Archaic-period elaborations that have been proposed by Hildebrandt and McGuire (2002, 2003; McGuire et al. 20078; McGuire and Hildebrandt 2005, as well as Byrd et al. 2005), related to status, prestige, and attendant advantages conferred on accomplished hunters. This and a suite of other caves in the region (Figure 3) came into use around 4,500 years ago. This timing is consistent with improved climatic conditions that permitted human groups to re-encroach on the desert and make renewed use of areas and resources that had been largely abandoned during the mid-Holocene (see Warren 1986; Warren and Crabtree 1984). Likely entrants would be big-game hunting parties – small groups of young men, best disposed to prevail in the face of uncertain and unpredictable conditions.

The cave was largely ignored between 2,500 and 750 years ago (Figure 2). This spans the period when nearby sites reflect ever increasing Southwestern cultural influences. The cave yielded few “Southwestern”-like artifacts or tendencies: only a couple of Rose Spring points and parts of two pots. Excavations revealed no storage cists, granaries, or walled-in areas like those common in contemporaneous villages in the Puebloan heartland.

The second period of use for Gypsum Cave spans from about 750 to 200 years ago, when only Room 1 was regularly lived in. This Late Ceramic deposit is midden-like (Table 1). Burned wood, small-mammal and bighorn (*Ovis canadensis* plus *Artiodactyl*) faunal remains, fire-cracked milling gear, biface manufacture and maintenance debris, scraps of a rabbit-skin blanket, basket making culls, wads of yucca fiber, bits of leather, and such are well-represented. The amount of cordage is especially considerable. Fiber analysis established that it is overwhelmingly yucca, followed by cotton. Quite a number of corn cobs were also removed from the cave, but the rare cob or kernel with provenience is confined to the Room 1 Upper level, which is the Late Ceramic deposit. Overall, this late assemblage clearly reflects habitual, repeated occupation of Room 1. The cramped dimensions of the chamber would have limited the size to a single or small extended family. Dates on cordage strung through selenite pendants convert to 761 and 665 cal BP, and establish that the selenite crystals in the cave were being worked into ornaments early in the Late Ceramic period.

An ethnographic assessment of the cave by Ginny Bengston reveals that sometime in the last 200 years, common-place use phased out. Only by virtue of the ethnographic record, do we learn that Gypsum Cave's significance revolved around individual acts of Southern Paiute and Chemehuevi religious practices.

While the study is especially valuable for clarifying Middle Archaic practices in the Mojave Desert and southern Great Basin, the reanalysis incorporates several special studies that likely will prove to be valuable references in the years ahead. In particular, the fiber analysis by Nancy Sloper Howard presents an extensive compendium of microphotographs of archaeological and modern fibers; the wood identification study by Peter Wigand presents numerous microphotographs of distinctive cross-grain characteristics of various types of wood; and the Laser Ablation-Inductively Coupled Plasma-Mass Spectrometry (LA-ICP-MS) analysis headed by Jelmer Eerkens of the pigments used to decorate the weapons, provides a solid foundation for the future study of prehistoric paint.

Table 1. Common Items from Gypsum Cave (Select Categories).

	Middle Archaic	Late Ceramic
Projectile Points	11	3
Biface	15	10
Total Flaked Stone Tools	51	28
Ground Stone	3	10
Bone Tools	3	4
Cordage		
cf. Cotton (94% S-twist)	0.7 m	3.6 m
cf. Yucca	3.6 m	17.0 m
S-twist	4	40
Z-twist	28	50
Basket Culls	11	52
Quids	-	8
Leather/Hide	7	20
Corn Cobs, etc.	2	20
Painted - Monochrome Items	42	13
Painted - Polychrome Items	19	1
WEAPONRY (counts and length in meters)		
Darts - Wooden	334 @ 17.8 m	11 @ 0.8 m
Darts - Cane	20 @ 2.8 m	6 @ 0.3 m
Other Cane Dart-sized	23 @ 1.9 m	5 @ 0.8 m
Arrows - Wooden	12 @ 1.2 m	7 @ 0.5 m
Arrows - Cane	2 @ 0.3 m	5 @ 0.8 m
Other Cane Arrow-sized	34 @ 3.6 m	5 @ 0.4 m

Table 2. Out of the Ordinary Items from Gypsum Cave.

	Middle Archaic		Late Ceramic
	Room 3	All Other	
Wand	1	-	-
Flute	2	-	-
Rattle	1	-	-
Modified Feather	2	2	-
Gaming Piece	1	2	-
Selenite Ornament	9	11	27
Other Beads	1 bone	1	1 shell
Minerals	-	2	-

Table 2. Out of the Ordinary Items from Gypsum Cave.

Bone Amulet	1	-	-
Basket	1	-	-
Hafted Knife	1	-	-
Painted Items	30	31	14

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Surprise Under the Microscope & Use-Wear Analysis of Lithic Material.

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The purpose of this paper is two fold. The first being that of *Objective Reality vs. Subjective Conjecture* as this is the arena where archaeologists find themselves in trouble. And secondly that of *Microscopic Use-Wear Analysis of Lithic Material* and some of the surprising results of what it reveals.

Much of what we do as archaeologists is literally based upon the SWAG (Scientific Wild Ass Guess; however, based upon empirical evidence.). Where we get into trouble is when we describe what we observe. For some reason we inject subjectivity or an assumption into that which is objectively observed. For instance when I first observed fibers on the cutting edges of some of the stone tools I had placed under the microscope, I immediately assumed that the fibers had come from what the tool had been used on.



fibers on jasper tool

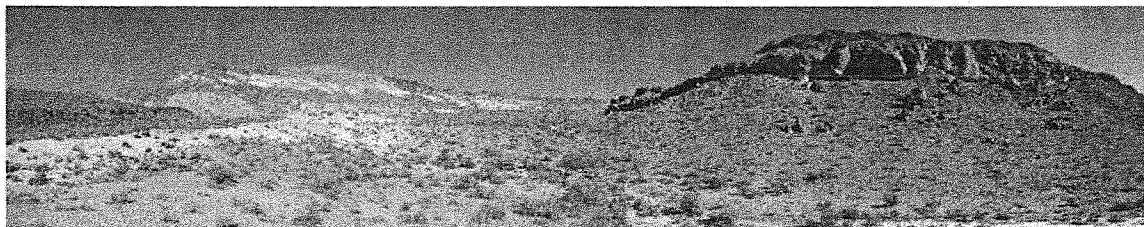


fiber on quartz tool

All of the observed fibers appeared on the cutting or marginal utilized edges of the tools examined. No fibers were found on the surrounding surfaces.

After extensive reading of Keeley and Vaughn I could not find any reference to fibers. Both dealt nearly exclusively with the experimental Use-Wear patterns and polishes left on artifacts and I am faced with the real artifacts that have been utilized. I then called several geo-archaeologists and they also could not give any answers as to what the fibers were and whether they were plant or animal.

And now to add more confusion to the issue I have been looking for chert and jasper sources in the Sand Spring Valley area and found a source of chert nodules.

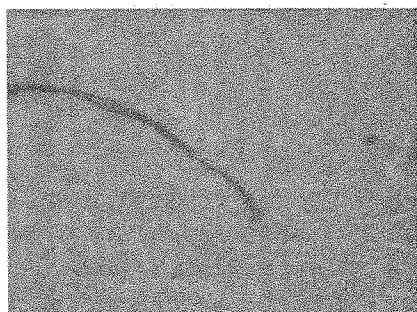


Panoramic view of area containing chert nodules

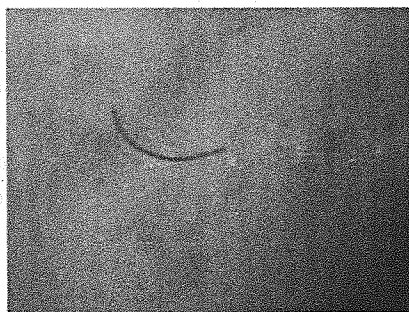


The photo to the left is of the surface containing many chert nodules.

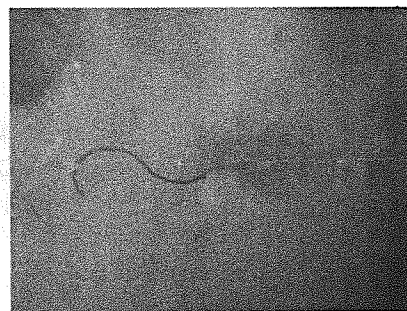
I had heard that microscopic fossils could be found in chert so I broke several nodules in half and looked at them under the microscope. What a surprise. The freshly uncontaminated pieces of chert contained the same type of fibers within them! Apparently the fibers or whatever they are had become inclusions within the chert nodules and are exposed when the nodules are broken.



100 X on quartz



50X on chert



50X on chert

Where do I go from here? What I had thought were "fibers on artifacts" that came from use-wear were actually inclusions within the chert and I needed to find out whether they were plant or animal has become the opening of PANDORA'S BOX.

I contacted Dr. Ken Finger of the University of California Museum of Paleontology and sent sample photos. As a result, Dr. Finger pointed out that I had some fibers and what appeared to be a hair. He further stated that it would take chemical analysis to determine exactly what they were. He also pointed out that chert contains fossils and sometimes encapsulates organic material. Paleontologists also can determine the age of many deposits from the fossils that they contain.

So, now as a result of these findings I think it best to leave the microscopic analysis of artifacts to center specifically on wear patterns and polishes.

Historic Sheep Herding in White Pine County, Nevada

Caine L. Daugherty

Archaeological Technician

Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest, Ely Ranger District

Aside from the meadows along the Truckee of Washoe County in western Nevada and the wide open landscapes of Elko County, east-central Nevada has had the most profound impact on the state's historic sheep industry. Here, in White Pine County, stand many of Nevada's highest and most majestic mountain ranges, interspersed with wide fertile valleys. The tall peaks catch summer thunderstorms causing a high level of precipitation to fall in the valleys in the form of rain. The rugged mountains also accumulate thick snow packs during the wintertime which, when melted in the spring, fill countless creeks with crystal clear streams. In addition, these valleys are laden with natural springs and seeps, a byproduct of Nevada's unique and wide scale geologic morphology during eons past. Add to that the abundance of high elevation forage and valley floor meadows, and this area is considered prime real estate for the livestock business. Domestic sheep were first brought through the region in the 1850s, and the first evidence of a sheep industry dates to the 1860s. Many sheep "empires" have come and gone over the years but all have helped shape the history of White Pine County.

In the north-central portion of the county lie the Schell Creek Mountains, the state's longest range stretching over 125 miles from north to south. The range boasts a laundry list of 10,000+ foot peaks with countless narrow, steep canyons, nearly all of which hold a perennial stream running down into adjacent Steptoe and Spring Valleys. This area has been, by far, the most productive ranching region in the county and this legacy continues today. The first sheep man to utilize this area in the early 1860s was James Beckey, a Civil War veteran, who acquired a flock of sheep and settled the west flank of the mountain now bearing his name at the north end of the Schells. His animals wintered in Steptoe Valley and watered at a series of springs in the area (Georgetta 1972:294-295). A few years later, Jim Sampson, a former mine worker at Cherry Creek, obtained 50 ewes and a ram and began building his own flock. Within 13 years Sampson ran an estimated 30,000 head in Steptoe Valley, Spring Valley, and the north end of the Schell Creek Mountains (Georgetta 1972:478). His operation was headquartered two miles south of the town of Muncy in Spring Valley and the Sampson outfit became known as White Pine County's first sheep empire. He was eventually put out of business by the Adams-McGill Company (Georgetta 1972:305). This region remains the livestock raising leader in the county.

Further to the east near the Nevada/Utah stateline sits the Antelope Range and Antelope Valley, Deep Creek Range and Deep Creek Valley, and the Kearn Mountains and Pleasant Valley. High precipitation during summertime feed the fertile green valley in this picturesque landscape. A few domestic sheep were brought to this area in the 1850s by Major Howard Egan to feed passers-through on the Overland Stage Route which had a stop near the Deep Creek Mountains (Georgetta 1972:300). It's unknown exactly when John Tippet, a former mine owner, took up the sheep business, but he was the first to run mutton in any great numbers in the area. His flocks grazed and watered in the Antelope Range and wintered in Antelope Valley. The Tippet Ranch still runs sheep today, but on a much smaller scale. In 1865, William McCurdy, another Civil War vet, entered partnerships with Mr. Hutton and later a Mr. Chapman to raise nearly 8,000 sheep on the eastside of Antelope Valley, south of Kingsley Mountain (Georgetta 1972:198). Today, his ranch at Chinn Creek is owned and operated by Bert Robison, one of present-day Nevada's largest sheep men. John Weaver, whose flocks roamed the South Mountains and wintered in the Badland Hills on the west side of Deep Creek Valley, also ran a fairly large scale operation in this area that is now named the Triune Ranch. Another noteworthy outfit that operated in the eastern-most portion of White Pine County was the Charles Felt Ranch in Deep Creek Valley. Felt's two daughters both married sheep men and a mutton empire was built. The Felts ran thousands of head of sheep over an area covering some two million acres of public land. But in 1914, Executive Order 1903 set aside a large chunk of this area as the Goshute Indian

Reservation, eliminating much of the Felt's open range (Georgetta 1972:301-304). The outfit collapsed shortly thereafter. Pleasant Valley was worked by the Henroid family who still operate in the valley today.

In the White Pine Range, near the western border of the county, Amasa Lyman Parker ran up to 5,000 sheep on and around White Pine Mountain, east of Hamilton. He was drawn to the area not only for its abundance of feed and numerous springs, but also the lack of competition for rangeland as this area was nearly void of other sheep outfits (Georgetta 1972:307-308). Parker's operation enjoyed plenty of success from 1882-1897 but was eventually bought out and taken over by the livestock barons of the Adams-McGill Corporation.

In 1864, Jewett Adams, former governor of Nevada, and W.N. McGill, a former surveyor at Hamilton, formed a partnership in the livestock business that would last for several years and become one of the most dominant outfits in Nevada history. They started out as cattlemen, grazing their cows on public land and buying water rights to springs and seeps across the region. As beef markets proved seriously unstable, the pair decided to take a crack at the sheep business. They bought out smaller ventures and began to grow their numbers. They constructed elaborate pipelines, ditches, troughs, reservoirs, and other infrastructure meant to transport water from sources to wintering grounds on valley bottoms (Georgetta 1972:324). The operation grew to magnificent proportions and, for a number of years, W.N. McGill was the highest tax payer on the White Pine County role. McGill owned the Monitor Ranch a few miles north of Ely which eventually became the current town honored in his name. Adams-McGill ended up running livestock throughout White Pine County and four adjoining counties. Georgetta (1972:323) states "at its peak it ran over 40,000 sheep, 5,000 cattle and over 1,000 broke saddle horses. The company held title to over 98,000 acres of private land...and covered an area of several million acres of public domain over which Adams-McGill had complete control." After 1915, the wool market began a sharp decline and the Adams-McGill Corporation fell into economic disarray. Numerous attempts were made to save the outfit, but W.N. McGill's death in 1923 all but signaled the end of an empire. He left no will and, shortly after, the livestock was sold off to numerous small time outfits replacing the one-time giant.

Today, ranching and sheep herding remains a large part of White Pine County culture. A drive down any mountain road during the summer grazing season is sure to reveal multiple herds of bellowing mutton. Spring Valley continues to be one of the most productive areas in the state for quality sheep range but this legacy has recently begun to succumb to a seemingly insurmountable threat; the Las Vegas Water Grab. In recent years, the Southern Nevada Water Authority based out of Clark County, upon its realization of a dramatic hydrologic shortage, has released plans to construct a massive pipeline to transport the over abundance of water in Spring Valley southward toward Vegas. The committee has purchased a large number of historic ranches in Spring Valley, putting most of them out of the industry for good. While it's still anyone's guess as to how the water grab will turn out, one thing is certain- with the elimination of so many ranches in Spring Valley, White Pine County is losing an invaluable piece of its storied heritage.

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A Modern Folk Shrine In the Las Vegas Valley

Kevin Rafferty, College of Southern Nevada

In 1993 the author was conducting surveys on the west side of the Las Vegas Valley in advance of the then-proposed Las Vegas Beltway (now called CC-215; Leavitt and Rafferty 1994). In the early 1990s the western Las Vegas Valley had seen little in the way of archaeological survey, so the cultural resources recorded and later mitigated by the project added significantly to the understanding of the prehistory and the history of the valley. In the course of the inventory a mixture of prehistoric and historic resources were encountered, until late in January of 1993. At this time a modern idiosyncratic religious shrine was recorded just outside of the proposed right-of-way. Although it is long since gone I report on it now in the pages of *In Situ* as an example of the sort of unusual resources an archaeologist might encounter that, although not technically an archaeological resource, can provide significant insight into cultural patterns of communities that they are found in (see also Rafferty 1993).

The shrine was situated in the SW1/4 of Sec. 14, T20S, R59E, on a large, detached limestone hill or outcrop, devoid of vegetation except for sparse desert scrub. It was first noted as a blur on the distant horizon, but as my companions and I came closer to the object, it took the shape of a large blue-colored cross. Although located outside of the APE, we could not resist the pull on our curiosity. So we climbed nearly 300 feet elevation on the steeply inclined and rugged outcrop to reach the feature.

On the southern slope of this conspicuous limestone outcrop, the archaeologists encountered what could best be described as a large cross set up on the mountain slope in the manner of Christian penitentes (religious penitents) worldwide (cf. Turner and Turner 1978). It consisted of two large crossbeams oriented perpendicularly to one another. Each beam was approximately .5 meters wide by 10 cm thick, and it was held together by nails and a nuts-and-bolts system of construction.

The cross itself was approximately 2 m high with an arm span of 1.5 m. The front of the cross was painted a deep blue color, almost a blue-purple, and the back was painted a bright silver. The cross was supported by four guy ropes that created a tension that assisted the cross in standing up. The cross faced east, towards the rising sun from where, in Christian theology, the Risen Christ would come to judge the human race at the end times.

On the silver (back) side of the cross was writing. As one faces east, looking at the silver painted side of the cross, on the left hand side of the crossbar were the following words in this format:

PADRE
NOSTRO.....
(Marco 6+ 9-13)
(Luca 11+ 2-4)
SCIAM

On the right side of the cross-beam was painted an additional inscription:

DIO CREATORE
Protegge mia Moglie
Ciccolino, Mamma, Pia, Lucio
Lo spirito di babba Lord Jesus
Please don't let
evil win over me

According to an Italian-speaking colleague of mine, Dr. Angela LaSala (Personal Communication 1993), the inscription on the right side of the cross can be roughly translated as follows: "Creator God, Protect my wife Ciccolino, Mamma, Pia, Lucio (family names?)-the spirit of daddy?". The translation of babba or babbo is more speculation than anything. The expression babbo comes from the Tuscan dialect of Italian (Peasi 1989), which may identify the regional Italian ethnic background of the individual who erected the cross in the first place.

The expression "Sciam" on the left side of the cross can be roughly translated as "to call out" or "appeal". Therefore, under the Padre Nostro (Our Father) is an appeal to his heavenly strength and guidance. The biblical citations (Mark 6:9-13 and Luke 11:2-4) are where the earliest variants of the Our Father, a seminal Christian prayer, are located.

On the ground next to and east of the cross was an Evian water bottle splattered with blue paint and with the following legend written on it in black marker:

SCIAM

GRAZIE
CREATORE
V. L.

The writing also appears to be Italian, and reflects the penitentes appeal to God and thanks to the creator for his beneficence. Perhaps there was Holy Water in the Evian bottle, although this too is purely speculative.

At the base of the hill upon which the cross sat was a limestone cairn containing a roughly rectangular slab of limestone held upright within the cairn. This perhaps helped to mark the location of the cross to people who were aware of its existence.

It appears that the cross was set up by an individual in great religious turmoil. This person seemed to feel the need to perform a severe penance by placing the cross in what was then a difficult to access location and writing prayers and supplications on the back. One can only speculate as to the purpose of the cross and the situation the individual who put it up found him/herself in. However, such penitential activity is not unknown among Italian Catholic populations, particularly those just over from the "Old Country" or with closer ties to their homeland than a second or third generation descendant would most likely have.

Conclusion

It was difficult to come to any firm conclusions regarding this feature. However, its existence points to the survival of concepts, beliefs and practices carried to the Las Vegas area by recent immigrants into the area. This persistence of practice suggests an immense strength to these beliefs that form the worldview of the manufacturers, and great emotional and cultural ties between the immigrants and their places of origin. In times of stress and dismay, under enormous acculturative pressures, these forms of belief may serve as a relief/safety valve from these pressures, from the uncertainty of everyday life in a strange cultural milieu. As such, they reinforce the cultural and personal identity of the users of the shrines and further demonstrate the power and persistence of religious belief in human life.

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1993 *An Hispanic Folk Shrine in the Las Vegas Valley.* Paper Presented at the Annual Meetings of the Southwestern Anthropological Association, San Diego, California, April 22-24, 1993.
- Turner, Victor, and Edith Turner
1978 *Image and Pilgrimage in Christian Culture.* Columbia University Press, New York.

IN MEMORIAM

Wallace (Wally) Ward

Bob Kautz sadly passes on the information that his good friend Wallace (Wally) Ward, who acted as the Fallon representative of the Churchill Chapter of the NAA, was recently killed on the road while returning from Reno to Fallon. Wally served faithfully to arrange for Chapter lectures, he contacted members, coordinated the venue, and he arranged for media coverage. While Bob obtained archaeological lecturers, it was Wally's work that always assured that a venue was available and that the membership was alerted. Without Wally, or some other Fallon volunteer, it is probable that our chapter will go dark. Wally is survived by his wonderful wife Wilma, and all his friends at the Churchill County Museum and at Kautz Environmental Consultants

Wally was also a dedicated board member for the NAA and regularly attended board meetings and continued faithfully attending NAA Annual Meetings after leaving the board. We always looked forward to seeing Wally at the meetings and will miss him very much. He was a true friend and supporter of archaeology.

Nevada Archaeological Association

Conference Registration Form

38th Annual Conference

Lovelock, Nevada

April 3-5, 2009

Name _____ Affiliation _____

Name _____ Affiliation _____

Address _____

Phone _____ E Mail _____

Pre-Registration (Must be on or before March 7, 2008)

NAA Members- - - # _____ x \$25.00= _____

Non Members- - - # _____ x \$35.00= _____

Registration at Conference

NAA Members- - - # _____ x \$30.00= _____

Non Members- - - # _____ x \$35.00= _____

Banquet: Saturday evening - - - # _____ x \$30.00= _____

Please indicate which entrée you prefer (how many will be dining for each)

Vegetarian Lasagne,

Texas Style Beef Brisquet

Baked Lemon Pepper Chicken

T-Shirts: Pick up at conference.

Small # _____ x \$15.00= \$ _____

Medium # _____ x \$15.00= \$ _____

Large # _____ x \$15.00= \$ _____

X-Large # _____ x \$15.00= \$ _____

X-Large # _____ x \$16.00= \$ _____

XX-Large # _____ x \$18.00= \$ _____

TOTAL Remitted: _____

Field trip: (number of people) No Charge.

Lovelock Cave Byway Tour by BLM will be from 9 a.m. to 12p.m. Meet at Marzen House Museum.

ALL PROCEEDS WILL BENEFIT THE NAA

Make Checks payable to the Nevada Archaeological Association

Enclose check and this form in envelope and mail to:

George Phillips

Nevada Archaeological Association

PO Box 73145

Las Vegas, NV 89170-3145

ANNOUNCING

Nevada Archaeological Association

38th Annual Conference

April 3 - 5, 2009

Lovelock, NV, Lovelock Community Center

Commemorating the 80th Anniversary of the publication of the original Lovelock Cave Report.

- Afternoon symposium: Exploring Deep History in Nevada, Friday 1 – 4 pm Lovelock Community Center, Registration available at symposium.
- NAA Board of Directors Meeting Friday 4:00 PM—open to all members
- Friday Evening Mixer- Hours d'oeuvres and no host bar at Sturgeons Casino, 7:00-9:00 pm
- Saturday, registration begins at 8:30 a.m. with papers from 9:00 am to 3:30 pm. Lovelock Community Center
- Saturday, 3:30 pm. Meeting of the general membership to discuss issues and hold election of officers with Board of Directors meeting to follow.
- Saturday evening activities
- 6:00 No-host bar
- 6:30 Dinner
- 7:30 Guest Speaker- David Hurst Thomas of the American Museum of Natural History
- 8:30 Auction to benefit the NAA—please bring items to be auctioned.
- Sunday morning Lovelock Cave Backcountry Byway tour from 9 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. is offered by BLM. Meet at Marzen House Museum.

Accommodations

A block of hotel rooms has been reserved at Sturgeon's Motel. The price for these rooms is \$44.95 a room. Individuals must reserve their rooms by calling: 775-273-2971.

The mailing Address is P.O. Box 56, Lovelock, NV 89419.

Please use the group reference "NAA" when making your reservations.

Reservations must be made prior to March 30, 2009 to receive the conference rate.

Other hotels in Lovelock listed on the web include:

A. Covered Wagon Motel

- www.lovelockmotel.com - (775) 273-2961 - More

B. Ramada Inn-Sturgeon's Casino Restaurant & Motel

- www.sturgeonsinn.com - (775) 273-2971 - More

C. Desert Haven Motel

- www.lovelockmotel.com - (775) 273-2339 - More

D. Lovelock Nugget Motel

- maps.google.com - (775) 273-7023 - More

E. Royal Inn

- www.royalinnlovelock.com - (775) 273-2500 - More

F. Lovelock Inn

- www.loverslock.com - (775) 273-2900 - More

G. Cadillac Inn

- maps.google.com - (775) 273-2798 - More

H. Super 10 Motel

- maps.google.com - (775) 273-0703 - More

I. Brookwood Motel & Mobile Home Park

- maps.google.com - (775) 273-2438 - More

Auction Items Needed!!

The NAA wants your stuff for the annual banquet auction!

DONATE TO A WORTHY CAUSE

Bring your treasures from the attic, garage, art, bookshelf, jewelry box,
or spouse's secret stash (we won't tell).

Brought to you by: The NAA Committee for Auction Affairs

No prepared animals were tested for this material.



Nevada Archaeological Association

www.nvarch.org

Membership Application

Join the NAA! – just fill out this form and return to:

Nevada Archaeological Association
PO Box 73145
Las Vegas, NV 89170-3145

☐ New Member ☐ Renewal

MEMBER INFORMATION *Please print*

☐ Mr. ☐ Ms. ☐ Mrs. ☐ Dr.

Last Name

First Name

Address

City

State

Zip

Home Phone

Email

Additional Member Names:

CHAPTER AFFILIATION *Check all that apply*

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Am-Arcs of Nevada | <input type="checkbox"/> Site Steward |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Archaeo Nevada Society | <input type="checkbox"/> None (Member-at-Large) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Churchill County Chapter | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Elko Chapter | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lincoln County Chapter | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> White Pine Historical & Archaeological Society | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Nevada Rock Art Foundation | |

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Regular - \$20 | <input type="checkbox"/> Family - \$25 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Student - \$10 | <input type="checkbox"/> Life - \$500 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Supporting - \$50 | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Institutional - \$10 | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Corporate - \$50 | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Affiliate - \$50 | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor - \$1,000 | |

CODE OF ETHICS:

The purpose of the Nevada Archaeological Association (NAA) is to preserve Nevada's antiquities, encourage the study of archaeology, and to educate the public to the aims of archaeological research. Members and chapters of the NAA shall:

1. Uphold the purpose and intent of the NAA
2. Adhere to all antiquities laws
3. Seek the advice, consent, and assistance of professionals in archaeology and/or history in dealing with artifacts, sites, and other materials relating to antiquities
4. Assist professionals and educators in accomplishing the objectives of the NAA
5. Be a personal envoy of the NAA and responsible for conducting themselves in a manner so as to protect the integrity of the artifacts, sites, or other material

I hereby agree to abide by the Code of Ethics of the Nevada Archaeological Association.

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Would you like to help us reduce costs and protect the environment by receiving the NAA newsletter *In-Situ* electronically? ☐ Yes