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Eva Jensen, NAA President

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Tales of Trails Past

In a sense we all followed a personal trail or path to where we are today. Whether there are physical marks left for posterity or oral history for our families, we all leave marks for the future. Some marks will be enduring and most will pass without notice. As archaeologists we usually deal with tangible physical reality but we relish the human story of the past.

Archaeology Awareness and

theme title for the poster we kept coming up with the thought that trails were a way to get across Nevada from point A (anywhere east of the Rockies) to point B (California gold). Nevada was seldom the intended destination. Only a few adventurous, or lost, souls would wander off the path to poke in the hills and basins of Nevada. The occasional wayfarer might settle down near a spring usu-



Eleven good looking archaeologists and one dog. Board members tour Paranagat area rock art sites near Alamo, NV.

Historic Preservation Month in May will recognize the historic trails in Nevada. While we were looking for a

ally where no one would bother them.

Whether a physical creation

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such as a marked trail, wagon road, highway, train track, or even the less tangible directions told in a song or story, the trails are a deep part of Nevada history. During Archaeology Month in May this year I hope you will take a few minutes to explore some of the historic trails of Nevada, either with a physical hike on a dusty road, or through cyber travel on trails web sites. Whether this is your final destination or you are passing through, you can make up your own "Tales of Trails Past".

Remember the Alamo?

We held the January board meeting in Alamo. (Alamo, NV. Sorry, no sieges, Kit Carson, lone star, or stuffed armadillos.) Nick Pay from the Caliente office BLM gave us a tour of some Pahrangat area public rock art sites. Check out the web site for some great photos.

Board Again

Again I have plethora of board activity to report. Well not really a plethora but that was my word for the day in my 'build your vocabulary' New Year's resolution. The reimbursements for the Historic Preservation Fund grants from SHPO for Archaeology Month Poster and Site Steward Training for last year have been received and the agreements for this year's grants for 2011 were approved.

During the quarter, long time board member Hal Rager resigned. The board approved appointment of Sue Edwards to fill the interim position. Thanks for your help through the years Hal! Karla Jageman has redesigned the web site and maintains our presence on Facebook.....if any of you need a friend. Make sure you check out the redesign web site for all the up-to-date information on

annual meeting, archaeology month, and your fearless leaders.

CHECK THE NEW WEB SITE AT: www.nvarch.org.

We are in the final throes of arrangements for the annual meeting in Elko and hopefully you can read this before you head to Elko. Thanks to Tim and Donna Murphy, and John and Terri Ander-

son of the Elko County chapter for making the local arrangements. We have two invited guests for the workshop and for the keynote speaker. Our workshop will focus on historic preservation of log cabins and be given by preservation specialist Dana Barton of North Cascades National Park. Kelly Dixon from University of Montana will be the keynote speaker for the banquet dinner. Kelly will discuss her work with the Donner Party sites in the Sierra Nevada Range. Check the NAA Conference Guide at the end of this issue.

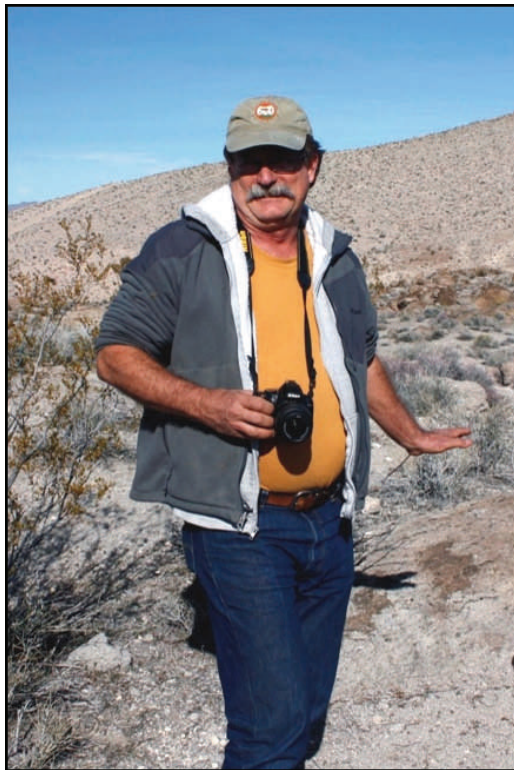
This year we also instituted a cash prize to encourage student participation in presenting research papers. The best paper and

poster will receive a cash prize and then one prize will be given as a random drawing for participation.

The by-laws review is going slowly. We have the able assistance of a professional non-profit advisor (and special friend to Jeff Wedding) guiding us through the process. We will have a draft for member review soon.

And that is about all I have to say about that.

See you in Elko for Basque food, great archaeology, and probably some liquid refreshment. ☺



Greg Seymour rocks it at the Alamo board meeting. Photo by Daron Duke.

CENTENNIAL AWARDS PROGRAM LOOKING TO RECOGNIZE LONG-TIME NEVADA FAMILIES



Started in 1861 by Josiah Cushman, the Cushman-Corkill Ranch, near Fallon, is the oldest continuously operating, family owned ranch in Nevada. It has been designated a Nevada Centennial

If your farm or ranch has been in your family for 100 years or more, the Agricultural Council of Nevada would like to hear from you.

The Ag Council is the lead sponsor of Nevada's Centennial Ranch and Farm Awards Program. According to Liz Warner, program coordinator, forty long-time, family-owned agricultural operations have been recognized since the program started in 2004.

In 2010, the Anker Ranch in Lovelock, the

Quilici Ranch in Dayton, Skip's Place in Fallon, and the Lawrence Ranch in Fallon were inducted into the program.

"We know there are other long-time, continuously operating family ranches and farms dating back to the nineteenth-century that have not yet applied for Centennial status," said Warner. "We would like to add them to this prestigious list of Nevada's pioneering families."

As Nevada grows increasingly more urban, and the demands for water in the sprawling metropolitan areas lead to the further decline of farms and ranches, the Centennial Ranch and Farm Program is a wonderful means to recognize the long-time family-owned businesses dedicated to agriculture in our nation's most arid state, wrote Guy Rocha, Nevada State Archivist.

Other sponsors of the Centennial Awards Program include the Nevada Agricultural Foundation, Cattlemen's Assoc., Farm Bureau, Heritage Foundation, Dept. of Agriculture and USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Applications are due by June 15, 2011. For application forms and more information, contact Warner at (775) 857-8500 x 105 or go online to http://www.nv.nrcs.usda.gov/centennial_awards.html.

BIG LEW LEAVES BIG LEGACY

Lewis Binford, the "Father of Processual Archaeology," passed away on April 11, 2011 in Kirksville, Missouri, at the age of 79.

"Lewis Binford led the charge that pushed, pulled and otherwise cajoled archaeology into becoming a more scientific enterprise," said Dr. David Meltzer, chair of Southern Methodist University's Anthropology Department. "Much of how we conceptualize and carry out archaeology in the 21st century is owed to Lew's substantial legacy" (Miller, Stephen. "Archaeologist Binford Dug Beyond Artifacts," *The Wall Street Journal*, 4/15/2011).



Lewis Binford

Source: Wikipedia.com

Mini-Reports

Pinenut Mountain's Secret Stash



Figure 1: Semi-circular rock alignment surrounding a shallow depression marks the pinyon cache. Photo by Steve Stearns.

A DESCRIPTION OF A POSSIBLE REMNANT PINYON CACHE IN THE PINE NUT MOUNTAINS, DOUGLAS COUNTY, NEVADA

BY STEVE STEARNS

Post retirement opportunities to explore my backyard, with my Labrador Retriever puppy “Illy”, along the western slopes of the Pine Nut Mountains northwest of Minden lead to the discovery of a possible remnant pinenut cache (*Pinus monophylla*). It is situated in the ethnographic homeland of the Washo Indians along the eastern

edge of Carson Valley a short distance from Hot Springs Mountain. This feature lies on the western edge of a narrow ridge line in a pinyon-juniper woodland at 5,400 feet above sea level. No other cultural material was found to be associated with this feature.

The Remnant Pinyon Cache

The feature is 1.50 meters in diameter, situated under a tree limb canopy formed by two 12 foot tall juniper trees (Figure 1 and Figure 2). A distinct semi-circular rock alignment comprising four small (basketball-size) boulders partly surrounds a small (20 cm+) depression with a large flat boulder forming a portion of it. A small, partially encircling berm rises against the trunks of both trees. Parallel both berms are detached branches that have been woven between live limbs (Figure 4) along the east and west berms (see Figure 2 for the relationship of these features). At its western end there is a large boulder, one meter high and two meters in length, that has a half dozen juniper limbs leaning against it (see Figure 3). The limbs do not display cut marks, rather, they appear to have been collected from downed and lightning struck trees. It is unclear why they were leaning against the boulder but they likely were used to cover and/or mark this cache.

Grace Dangberg photographed a Washo pinenut cache used between 1917 and 1920 and if this is a remnant pinyon cache it has some similarities; however, Dangberg's cache appears about twice the size of this example.

Cache size may be integral to the topography, distance to a base camp for processing, the size of

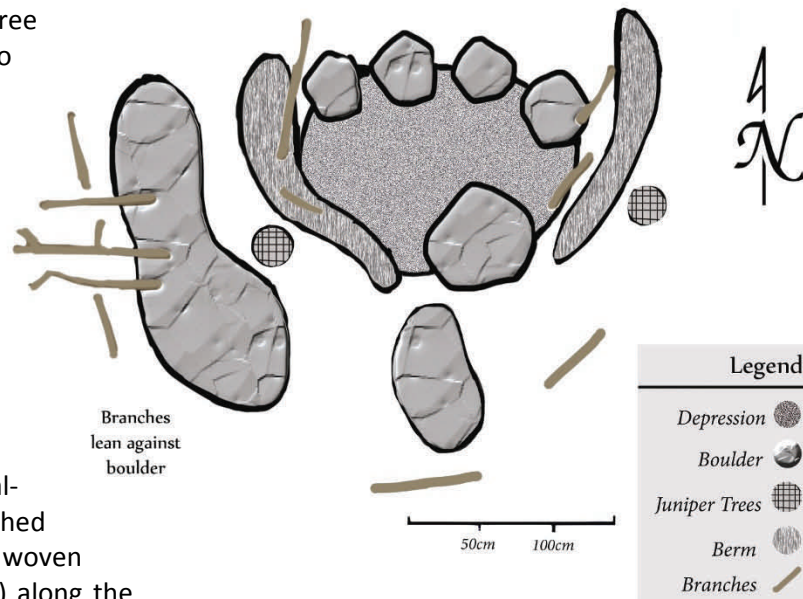


Figure 2: Plan view of pinyon cache. Map by Justin Stearns, 2011.

a family owned pinyon plot (see below), or the general constraints of the size of a pinyon grove (e.g. the quantity of the pine cones harvested).

Caches appear to be either cones or loose nuts mixed with pine needles (to protect them from rot or mould—see Price 1980:67).

Price (1980:66) provides a good description of Washo pinenut gathering strategies and the description of a pinenut cache:

“Pinenuts were gathered in strips about one-third to one-half mile wide that ran up the hill, following the natural contours.



Figure 3: Juniper limbs, now leaning against a boulder, may have been used to cover or mark the pinyon cache. Measuring tape = 1 m. Photo by Steve Stearns.



Figure 4: Detached branches have been woven between live limbs. Photo by Steve Stearns.

These strips were marked off by lines of stones. Since the pinenuts began to ripen first at the lower elevations, the gathering began at the bottom of the hill in September, ...the last prime nuts being gathered at higher elevations around the middle of October...Although gathering might go on for several weeks, the actual collection time of prime nuts was about three weeks. As the gathering party moved up the hill, about three or four large brush and pineneedle-covered caches of cones with the nuts still in them were built up

the side of the hill. A cache with its protective covering was about 15 feet long, six feet wide and four feet high."

Pine nuts were an important storable resource to the Washo. Their subsistence ranking was so important that family owned pinyon collection areas were recognized. Freed (1963:17) states that that plots of pinyon trees were privately owned and were "inherited bilaterally"--a unique practice in the Great Basin. According to Price (1980:67) each household usually had rights

in two or three strips, but in good years they may have only needed to collect in one. If an

individual was discovered picking pinenuts in the wrong area, the owner of that plot may confiscate the pine nuts and destroy any tools used to harvest them (Freed 1963:17). Zeanah (2002:251) indicates that even in lean years small pinyon groves can supply enough pine nuts to make it through the winter. Here they sometimes harvested unopened green cones which were cached "over winter."

Blaze Cut Trees

In the area surrounding the pinyon cache I have observed distinctive blaze cuts on mature pinyon



Figure 5: Blaze cuts on mature pinyon trunk.



Figure 6.

trunks throughout the ridgeline and along its upper western slopes (see Figures 5, 6, and 7). If these markings have an anthropogenic origin they may have cultural ties relating to territorial pinenut collection practices or family ownership. Blaze cut trees appear random (based on GPS plots) in view of any cadastral boundaries and appear only on the most mature trees. Although speculative, these unique blazes may have marked family owned plot described by Freed (1963) and Price (1980). The ethnographic literature is silent on individual tree markings but so far in this area I have not discovered rock alignments mentioned in the literature (Price 1980 and Freed 1963).

Conclusion

The above describes a “remnant” pine nut cache and its empirical connection to pinyon blazes. The size of the cache differs from the ethnographic literature but it may simply relate to the quantity of the harvest for this particular gathering strip. Its location atop a ridgeline and built adjacent to the protection of a boulder appears to be a good logistic fit for the area. The Washo were unique in family inheritance to specific pinyon plots in relationship to other Great Basin groups. The blazes observed on the mature pinyon trees surrounding the pinyon cache may have implications relating to family pinyon ownership plots. ☪

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Steve Stearns’ former colleagues are pleased to see that he has curbed his SpongeBob addiction and is doing something productive with his free time. Steve would like to give special thanks to BLM archaeologist Jim Carter for reviewing this article.



Figure 7.



Figure 7: Mr. Stearns’ research assistant, “Illy” checks for snakes.

Eva Jensen and Greg Seymour

Touching on the High Points of History

Mapping the West from Wheeler Peak

In the fall and early winter of 1882 under the direction of William Eimbeck, survey crews of the U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey (USCGS), camped on top of Nevada's Wheeler Peak (then known as Jefferson Davis Peak) to continue the task of mapping the uncharted territory of the West. The men endured the winds, rain, violent storms and blizzards to collect measurements vital in calculating distances and elevations. Their station high atop the mountain was part of the larger mission mapping the 39th Parallel of latitude from eastern California to Pikes Peak in Colorado and portions of Missouri (Figure 2).

The western transcontinental grid was comprised of a base network starting in the San Francisco Bay area. The two ends were comprised of the Yolo Base Net to the west and the Salt Lake Base Net on the east end. The Nevada portion of the transcontinental grid was called the Nevada Net. The network was comprised of four to six secondary stations around a primary or central station (Drews 1986; Unrau 1990). From



Figure 1: Photograph documentation from William Eimbeck's surveying work on Mt. Tushar illustrates the standard stone structures built to protect survey instruments.

this work USCGS teams developed the "Great Hexagon" encompassing some 20,730 square miles (U.S. Government 1879). Wheeler Peak was the highest station in the Nevada Net of the grid between Salt Lake base and the Yolo base from the Sierra Nevada range.

More than 10,000 pounds of equipment was needed at the top of the hill. Access roads were cut for wagon and pack animal transport. Two base camps were built at 7,800 ft elevation and a second camp at 11,000 ft. Boulders were



Figure 2: Map of the Transcontinental Arc mapping on the 39th Parallel.

moved and rock cairns were built to provide a trail to the peak across the talus fields high above the tree line. On the peak, a circular stone structure, two rectangular structures, and platforms were built to house tents that protected instruments from battering winds.

Survey crews were also stationed on surrounding peaks of the great hexagonal grid. On foot or horseback it could take days to relay messages over the distances. Heliograph mirror flashes from Pioche Peak 70 miles south, Gosi-ute Peak 63 miles north, and White Pine station to the southwest

were the only form of communication to coordinate the work. Crews waited hours and even days for weather conditions to clear on the surrounding peaks in the grid. There were often only

short windows of time when the views were clear enough to signal and scope the distant stations to collect readings.

*"The violence of the electric discharge, the thunder claps was not infrequently so alarming that the party had to seek safety behind and under ledges of rock below the summit of the peak."
(U. S. Government 1882)*

National archive records of the USCGS include Eimbeck's field notes for the Nevada Net. Map

sketches for the peaks illustrate instrument platforms and protective structure dimensions and locations, azimuth bearings to cairns and markers,

as well as horizon views to other peak stations. The structure sizes on all peaks are consistent. On Wheeler Peak, a main observation tent was placed in a circular rock enclosure with three rectangular tent excavations with rock walls, and a circular 'eccentric' structure placed 57 meters east for vertical observation, with a cairn farther east. On all peaks holes were drilled as marker points around the circular rock feature of the datum station and the main observation point was marked in a consistent manner on all peaks.

Ancillary features common to the mapping stations included not only the instrument platforms and cairns on the peak, but also the support and supply camps, traces of the trail

with windbreaks, and trail cairns. Associated artifacts include cans and wood platform planks. Artifacts are often carried long distances by high winds and snow fields. In his reports, Eimbeck included directions to the various locations including sketches of the routes and trails to the peaks. Sketches of the access to Wheeler Peak from Lehman Ranch identify a route that roughly followed Lehman Creek and included two supply camps at a median and upper elevation.

When the work was completed, the crews removed instruments and Eimbeck returned to Washington D.C. to continue calculations and file reports. Crews left the rock cairns, stone walls, instrument platforms, drilled holes,

and a survey datum rod marking the highest peak in the central Great Basin.

In the 1960's Lehman Creek and Wheeler Peak were under Forest Service jurisdiction and the small area of Lehman Caves National Monument was National Park Service (NPS) jurisdiction. NPS employee, Carl Pence, recorded the site as "Remnant of a rock structure that was used to house a heliograph by U.S. Cavalry during the Indian Wars. Contributing to defeating Indians during the late 1800's" (Pence ND). The inter-

pretation was incorrect but the record documented the feature in Forest Service files.

In 1988 Wheeler Peak was included in Great Basin National Park. Alvin McLane noted the features as an aside while recording a high elevation rock art site. "Pictograph (also a

U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey surveying station, not recorded)" (McClain 19880). Neither the rock art, nor the survey station were considered significant. Later recording crews did not change the determination but suggested further historic research to determine which features might be associated with the 1882 expedition.

In 2010, based on the archival research by Greg Seymour, Great Basin cultural resource crews revisited the Wheeler Peak site and the previous National Register determination. Possible trail and access routes were surveyed and identifiable features and artifacts recorded. Remnants of the 1882 expedition in Great Basin National Park include the peak structures and fea-




Figure 3: Remains of the circular stone tent enclosure on Wheeler Peak 2008.

tures, ancillary camp and trail features, and artifact scatters. On the peak, a stone platform and cairn held instruments and marked azimuth lines measuring to distant peaks. The low stone circle and the higher rectangular stone walls are remnants of structures built to secure tents (Figure 3). These match the Eimbeck sketches. Later photograph documentation from Eimbeck's work on Mt. Tushar illustrates the standard tent structures for instrument protection also consistent with the remains on Wheeler (Figure 1).

Ancillary features from the 1880's survey include faint remnants of a wagon road cleared for the expedition to transport equipment from Lehman Ranch to the peak. Rock windbreaks on the ridges and five cleared platforms in the talus identify loci that provided rest and storage areas for the 1882 supply and trail crews, and for surveyors who camped below the summit in the worst weather. Scattered below the platforms are small pieces of cut lumber and hole-in-top cans that fit within the time period of the Eimbeck survey but it is unclear if the cans are associated with the expedition. There is no soil development in this area above the tree line so subsurface context consists of artifacts pushed in deep into the talus boulder field by wind, snow, and ice.

In reviewing and re-evaluating the site we looked at not just the features on the peak, but the "landscape" of the geodetic survey of the west. For management purposes, 26 WP1649 has significance as a site with specific features identifiable in archival records. The features and artifacts represent a significant event in U.S. history: the mapping expedition of the U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey Mapping the 39th Parallel. The trigonometric calculations that followed provided data to draft accurate maps for transportation, mining, property surveys, and even state boundaries. The ancillary features of the trail, road, and camps are a significant part of the larger landscape within the park. Remaining sites and features on peaks within the grid each represent pieces of an even larger landscape and can be evaluated in a context important to the history of Nevada, the West, and the United States.

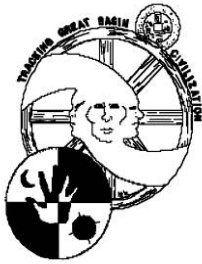
Until the advent of satellite technology, these camps established the primary points that connected remote places across the country. The low walls and structures are a testament to hardships and the perseverance of men dedicated to the geodesy (the science of mapping) to connect the country through accurate maps. 

Eva Jensen (NAA president) and Greg Seymour (NAA Newsletter Coordinator)
cannot get enough of high, windy places.

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Reports from Chapters and Affiliates




ELKO COUNTY CHAPTER:

Gearing up for the Elko Archaeology Fair

By Donna Murphy, Secretary/Treasurer

Elko chapter folks will present the Archaeology Fair this year on May 14th at the Northeastern Nevada Museum with the usual demonstrations, exhibits and hands on activities. The following weekend we will be participating in the Trail Days celebration at the California Trail Center assisting the Shoshone with a camp replica depicting the resourcefulness of the native peoples and their lifestyle as the emigrants may have witnessed when they first came through with their wagons. The Peace Park project is on hold till the weather clears up enough to do more testing. We are still planning some type of kiosk, gazebo

or exhibit to describe what prehistoric life was like in the area and to show how the excavated hearth may have been used by prehistoric people there. The Colonial Trunk project is slowly coming together with the finishing touches still being done.

Our group purchased a projector and we will be showing presentations from members as well as various slide shows and videos at our meetings and events. At the last meeting, Paul Scott, an active site steward, gave a slide show of some wonderful photos of historic structures and petroglyphs. One of the founding members of the Elko Chapter, Tim Murphy, retired this year after 30 years with the BLM and plans to get the group involved in some fun and beneficial projects. 



STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE:

Archaeological Awareness & Historic Preservation Month in Nevada!

By Sali A. Underwood

First of all, I hope everyone is excited about May which is Archaeological Awareness and Historic Preservation Month in Nevada! The theme this year is "Tales of Trails Past." To celebrate Nevada's unique heritage there are activities planned throughout the state. The activities will be educational and fun. Just to give you an inkling of what is coming up; there will be walking tours of Stewart Indian School in Carson City, 'Sage Brush Stories' performances by the Rainbow Company in Las Vegas, lectures on what it was like to cross Nevada on the California Trail in Carson City, the Elko Archaeological Fair, and Archaeological Activity Days at the Great Basin National Park in Baker. Look for a listing of events at [http://](http://nevadaculture.org/)

nevadaculture.org/ under the Historic Preservation Office heading and for posters and brochures celebrating Nevada's Archaeological Awareness and Historic Preservation Month.

In other news around the office long time SHPO architectural historian Rebecca Ossa has taken a position with Seattle Light Power Company. She will be greatly missed, but I am sure she is enjoying the refreshing weather and exciting big city life. Her position will be filled and is being advertised as a 33/35 grade with archaeological experience.

Budget news continues to change daily and the most recent possible proposal includes disbanding the Department of Cultural Affairs

(DCA). This department includes SHPO, Museums and History, Art Council, and Library and Archives. These four divisions will be split up and absorbed by existing departments. SHPO will be moved under the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, which is where it was located over 15 years ago. Museums and History and the Arts Council will be under the Commission of Tourism and Library and Archives will be subsumed under the Department of Administration. None of this is final, but there is the potential for this proposal to be picked up and implemented. If so, this will mean that offices will move, emails will change, but business will continue as usual and that is the most important thing to focus upon. SHPO and the other DCA divisions will remain intact under this proposal.

With that in mind, SHPO would like to remind you that there are numerous renewable en-

ergy projects being reviewed at the office and comments by the public, avocationalist and professionals are encouraged on these and any other projects submitted for review. If you would like to comment on projects please contact Deputy SHPO Rebecca Palmer at Rebecca.Palmer@nevada.culture.org.



Best of luck to Rebecca Ossa in her new job in Seattle.



ARCHAEO-NEVADA SOCIETY:

Programs & Plans

The Archaeo-Nevada Society (ANS) has had a busy late Winter-Early Spring season. Three programs were presented at the monthly meetings. In January Amy Gilreath of Far Western Research made a presentation on the work she had conducted in the Gold Butte area of southern Nevada. February's speaker was the Society's President, Kevin Rafferty, speaking about settlement and subsistence patterns in the Valley of Fire area. In March Courtney Mooney of the City of Las Vegas' Historic Preservation Office spoke about the purpose and make-up of the office and the various programs they undertake within the city boundaries. As of this writing the April speaker is unsettled but will be finalized just after the submission of this report. May's program will consist of past presidents of ANS in a round table forum talking about the early years of the Society and its' accomplishments.

Professor Benjamin Wilreker of the College of Southern Nevada's (CSN) Department of

Human Behavior is at the beginning of an ethnographic project whose subject is ANS and its' accomplishments. He and several of his students will be interviewing 'seasoned' members of the Society about the early years of the Society: the original purpose of the Society, archaeological projects conducted, its' involvement in preservation and conservation issues, and its' other successes (and failures). The end result will be a book that is part ethnography, part history, and a legacy to the newer members to encourage them to carry on the work of the Society.

In the Fall, in conjunction with the Anthropology Club of the CSN, a series of artifact identification classes will be held to improve the skills of ANS members and CSN archaeology students. These will include classes in identification and analysis of pottery, lithics, historic artifacts, rock art recording, and site mapping and photography. This will help prepare students for future careers and upgrade the skills of members to assist professionals in the field. ☸



COLLEGE OF SOUTHERN NEVADA:

Club & Field School are Active this Spring

By Dr. Kevin Rafferty, Chairman, Dept. of Human Behavior

The Anthropology discipline of College of Southern Nevada's (CSN) Department of Human Behavior has been very busy this Spring. In particular the Anthropology Club, advised by professors Benjamin Wilreker and Sally Billings, has been very active. In addition to holding bi-monthly meetings they have participated in field trips and archaeological training, sponsored speakers, and participated in educational field trips.

Two field trips are of note this Spring. On February 18th the club went to the Lost City Museum in Overton, Nevada as part of their

introduction to the archaeology of southern Nevada. Hopefully this will not be the last opportunity to see the museum due to budget cuts by the state. An environmental field trip is planned to the Mount Charleston area on April 23rd of 2011. This will familiarize students with the various environmental zones exploited by prehistoric and historic Native Americans who resided in southern Nevada.

The club sponsored a public lecture on March 29th by Dr. Sudhir Uprit, a 2010-2011 Fulbright Scholar from India. He gave a talk entitled 'The Traditional Cultures of India', a broad overview of India's many cultures and traditions. Dr.

Uprit also gave similar talks in two Anthropology classes on the same subject matter. The club did an excellent job pulling together a venue and advertising for the talks on quite short notice.

In February, club members underwent training in archaeological field techniques in preparation for a three day field project in the

Mount Charleston area. Under the direction of, and in cooperation with, Kelly Turner of the U.S. Forest Service and Kathleen Sprowl of the Bureau of Land Management, professors Wilreker and Billings, and several students of the club participated in survey and site re-



The Atlatl Rock overhang was recorded by the CSN Field School.

recording activities in the Mount Charleston region. Here is Ben Wilreker's report on the project:

"Acres of Roasting Pits, three mine shafts, several can middens, and numerous historic and prehistoric artifacts are what awaited ten members of the CSN Anthropology club who went out on a three-day archaeological field school in the Spring Mountains over spring break. The field school was run through a special arrangement between Kathleen Sprowl, from the BLM Southern Nevada District Office, and Kelly Turner, District Archaeologist for the Spring Mountain National Recreation Area, in collaboration with CSN

Faculty members Sally Billings and Benjamin Wilreker.

On the first day of the field school students were taught to use their compasses effectively and walk transects, while surveying a large area of BLM land near Pahrump for new sites. The ground we were working was very flat, and was a great place for the students to practice walking in lines and communicating up and down the line. The second day, they did it again, this time at 1600 meters altitude in the spring mountains. It was great watching the students learn to work as a team in rough terrain!

On the third day, the students were split into groups. Under the instruction of Crew Chief R. Brian Haas, the first group learned to record prehistoric features using the Forest Service's computerized GPS mapping equipment. Archaeologist Jen Bertolani instructed a second group in how to record the entrance to a historic mine shaft, while Archaeologist Thomas Kearns instructed a third group in hand recording diagnostic tools and projectile points.

CSN Anthropology Club President Krysan Williams commented that the whole effort was a raging success. An important site was re-recorded in half the time that it would have taken with a

regular crew, and the students learned important skills that some will carry into careers as professional archaeologists. We can't wait to do it again next year!"

Finally, the CSN Survey Field School, under the direction of Dr. Kevin Rafferty, began fieldwork in Valley of Fire on March 17th. Work will be conducted every Thursday from now until the end of the Spring semester, and perhaps a little beyond. A one square mile area abutting and north of the Atlatl Rock area is the target zone. Already a small rockshelter/overhang, 7-8 isolated artifacts, and a possible historic road have been recorded. At least 6 additional petroglyph panels and small sites are known to exist in the project area north of Atlatl Rock based on previous work by amateurs and from the SHPO records, but have not been officially recorded using IMACS forms. These will now become part of the official site record for Valley of Fire by the end of the project. Part of the survey area overlaps the northeastern edge of Atlatl Rock where there are a number of petroglyph and pictograph panels that have been recorded by amateurs and placed in the SHPO site archives. Many of those will be re-recorded by the students in the class. This season promises to be a busy and productive one. ☪



NEVADA ROCK ART FOUNDATION:

8th Annual Rock Art Meeting in Eureka

The Nevada Rock Art Foundation's 8th Annual Meeting will be held in historic Eureka, NV.

Friday evening, May 20th, will find dedicated NRAF members at the beautifully restored Eureka Opera House for the opening reception and registration. The Opera House will host all of our events: Saturday's meeting, with the theme of "Historic Representations in Rock Art," and the Saturday night banquet with keynote speakers Drs. Don & Kay Fowler, presenting the Glen Canyon recordation project. Hope to see you there! ☪



This year's NRAF meeting will be held at the Eureka Opera House.

LINCOLN COUNTY CHAPTER:

Fremont Talk & Historic Workshop

Barbara Rohde, Secretary/Treasurer

The Lincoln County Chapter was idle a lot of 2010 (or was it just this correspondent), but we have had two meetings and a special Historic Artifacts Workshop this spring, to get us back in the groove for the year. Our meeting in February was just a business meeting, and then our March meeting hosted the ever-popular Daron Duke, speaking on "Finding Fremont in Lincoln County." His project was funded by the Lincoln County Archaeological Initiative, and Southern Nevada Public Lands Management Act, and the survey was done in February this year on public lands. Daron showed a Power Point presentation with lots of examples of Fremont vs. Ancestral Pueblo (Anasazi), although our area is on the western fringe of the Fremont culture. During the survey, very few lithics were found (perhaps because the favorite pastime of many Lincoln County residents is collecting "arrowheads") but a number of pottery shards were found. A future goal is to run tests on those, since this survey did not include funding for research. Daron found hardly anything from other cultural groups (So. Paiute, Shoshone,

Ancestral Pueblo), so that narrows the research parameters. We thank Daron for coming to Lincoln County!

On April 8, Ron Reno presented a day-long Historic Artifact Workshop; while we had expected a full complement of 20 people, the snow that fell that day altered some people's plans and we wound up with only eight hardy souls (including two from Las Vegas that had come up the night before to attend the class!). However, we learned quite a bit in those six hours. Ron's hands-on examples helped us to learn what to look for when trying to identify cans, bottles or ceramics at historic mining camps and settlements. At the end, we had the opportunity to have Ron identify items we had found over the years, and learn a little more about them. Sylvia Pierce brought in the most unusual object, thought to be a "game piece" possibly from a mid 1800's Mah Jongh game. By the time the workshop ended, so had the snow! Thanks, Ron, for a most informative workshop! ☺



LCC/NAA president Liz Russell introducing Daron to some of the LCC/NAA members.



Left: Ron Reno presenting the Historic Artifacts Workshop in Caliente.

Below: Archaeologist Daron Duke, spoke to the Lincoln County Chapter on "Finding Fremont in Lincoln County."



Above: Sylvia Pierce, chapter vice-president, waiting for Ron Reno to identify the mystery object she brought in.



Right: Ron Reno, examining some details on an item before sending it around for the group to examine.



NEVADA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM:

New Workshops for Site Stewards

By Sali A. Underwood

Oⁿ

January
22,

2011 the Nevada Archaeological Association, in conjunction with the Lost City Museum, sponsored a Historic Artifact Identification Workshop for site stewards in Overton. The class filled up quickly with 20 stewards from as far away as Minden and Pahrump attending.

Archaeologist Ron Reno brought his extensive collection of hands-on material to teach everyone about glass and bottle manufacturing and the associated dating techniques. He also covered tin cans and provided a 'cheat-sheet' for dating these ubiquitous artifacts.

Mr. Reno's vast knowledge was evident as the day-long class continued. All artifact examples were passed around the room so that the stewards could fully understand the differences between the manufacturing techniques that represent specific points in time.

It is important that the Nevada Archaeological Site Stewardship Program continue to educate and maintain the interest of active volunteers within the pro-



Bottles from archaeologist Ron Reno's "hands-on" collection were available for examination by volunteer site stewards. Photo by Sali A. Underwood.

gram. This workshop is a prime example of such an opportunity. Everyone left with a greater understanding of historic artifacts, which can only result in better site stewarding reports and happier volunteers who are ever eager to learn. In fact, the workshop was so popular that another one was held on April 8th in Caliente (see Lincoln Co. Chapter Report) and a request has been made for one in Reno later this year. Thanks to the Nevada Archaeological Association and Lost City Museum for making this opportunity possible. ☺



A tin can from Reno's "hands-on" collection. Photo by Sali A. Underwood.

2011 NAA CONFERENCE GUIDE

NEVADA ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

In conjunction with Nevada Archaeology Awareness and Historic Preservation Month in May 2011, celebrating archaeology, history, and heritage of Nevada's historic trails, presents:

"TALES OF TRAILS PAST" 40TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

April 29 – May 1, 2011
High Desert Inn Conference Center, Elko, NV

FRIDAY, April 29

- **Workshop:** Historic Preservation , Tools and Techniques for Saving Log Structures presented by restoration specialist Dana Barton from North Cascades National Park. Includes classroom and field evaluation session. Starts 10:00 a.m. at the California National Historic Trail Interpretive Center, located eight miles west of Elko at Hunter Exit 292 off Interstate 80.
- NAA **Board of Directors Meeting Friday 4:00 p.m.** at the California National Historic Trail Interpretive Center—open to all members.
- **Friday Evening Mixer-** Hours d'oeuvres and no host bar at High Desert Inn

SATURDAY, April 30

- Saturday, **registration** begins at 8:00 a.m. with papers from 9:00 am to 4:00 p.m. at High Desert Inn.
- Saturday, 4:00 pm. **Meeting of the general membership.** Election of officers. Board of Directors meeting to follow.

SATURDAY EVENING, April 30

- **Saturday evening activities**
- **No-host bar**
- **Dinner**
- **Awards and presentations**
- **Guest Speaker-** Kelly Dixon, University of Montana presenting research findings from Donner Party Sites excavations.
- **Auction** to benefit the NAA—please bring items to be auctioned.

SUNDAY, May 1

- Field Trips: Sunday morning **visit California National Historic Trail Interpretive Center**, located eight miles west of Elko at Hunter Exit 292 off Interstate 80. Other tours will available depending on weather conditions. Information and sign up will be available at conference.
- Events and activities are supported in part by member friends at Far Western Anthropological Research Group, Desert Branch and HRA, Inc. Thanks, Daron and Heidi!

2011 NAA CONFERENCE GUIDE

WORKSHOP

Historic Preservation , Tools and Techniques for Saving Log Structures

When: Friday April 29, 10:00 AM

Where: California National Historic Trail Interpretive Center, located eight miles west of Elko at Hunter Exit 292 off Interstate 80.

What: This workshop will be presented by restoration specialist Dana Barton from North Cascades National Park. Includes classroom and field evaluation session. This class would be beneficial to resource managers, site stewards, and anyone interested in preserving historic log cabins and structures. Dana works throughout the U.S. and has completed several projects in Nevada. Most recently she restored the Griswold Cabins for the Ely District, BLM.



The Griswold Cabins in 2009, before restoration.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Donner Party Archaeology Project by Dr. Kelly Dixon, University of Montana

When: Saturday Evening, April 30

Where: High Desert Inn Conference Center

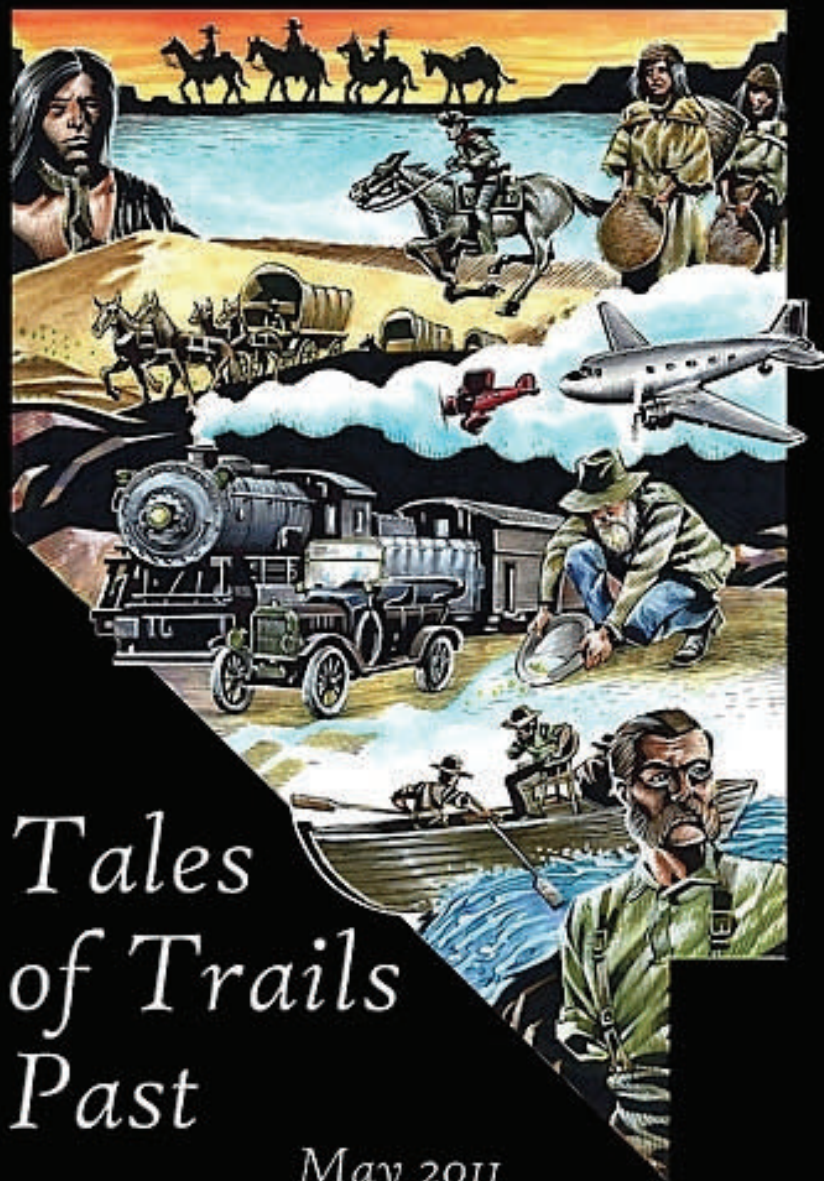
What: Kelly will share information about her work with Donner Party Archaeology Project. The Project is a collaborative endeavor dedicated to triangulating between archaeological traces of the camp, historical context, and osteological remains to examine the human condition amid the backdrops of starvation, cannibalism, and survival. Kelly is a UNR graduate and published *Boomtown Saloons: Archaeology and History in Virginia City Nevada*.



2011 NAA CONFERENCE GUIDE

NEVADA

Archaeology Awareness &
Historic Preservation Month



Tales of Trails Past

May 2011

National Park Service * Nevada Department of Cultural Affairs, State Historic Preservation Office
U. S. Bureau of Reclamation * Nevada Bureau of Land Management * Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest
HRA, Inc., Conservation Archaeology * Kautz Environmental Consultants
Professionals in Philanthropy, LLC * Artwork by The Fillbach Brothers

2011 NAA CONFERENCE GUIDE

CONFERENCE ACCOMMODATIONS

A block of rooms has been reserved at the **Red Lion Inn**, 2065 Idaho St, Elko, NV. To make reservations, call **775-738-2111**.

Red Lion Inn and the Conference Event Center at High Desert Inn are both located adjacent to Interstate 80 and exit 303 on Idaho Street in Elko. Other nearby hotels in Elko listed on the web include:

High Desert Inn

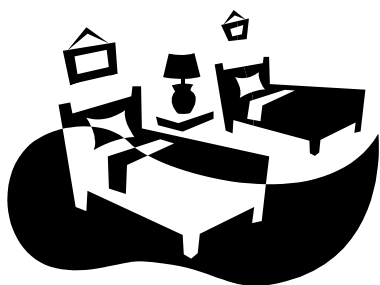
3015 Idaho Street
Elko, Nevada 89801
(888) 394-8303
(775) 738-8425

Best Western

1930 Idaho Street
Elko, NV 89801-2629
(775) 738-8787

Super 8

1755 Idaho Street
Elko, NV 89801
(775) 738-8488



Holiday Inn Express

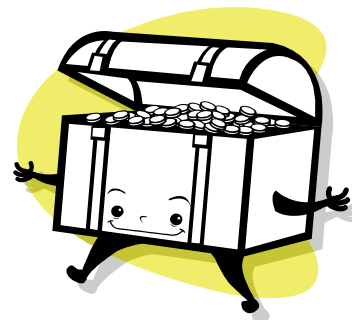
3019 Idaho St., Elko
(775) 777-0990

Travelodge

1785 Idaho Street
Elko, NV 89801
(775) 753-7747

AUCTION ITEMS NEEDED!!!

We suspect that your husband does not really cherish that ceramic ashtray with the naked cowgirl painted on it. Now is the perfect time to rid yourselves of some "treasures" for a worthy cause. Last year, an individual (who shall remain nameless) succumbed to the lure of the NAA auction and purchased a beer cooler that will chill a single hot beer bottle in only 20 minutes. You'll be amazed at what archaeologists will buy!



The Nevada Archaeological Association

P. O. Box 73145
Las Vegas, NV
89170-3145

Submit !!! To the NAA Newsletter

Submit your mini-reports (max. 5 pages plus references), articles (1/2- 2 pages), chapter reports, pictures, and upcoming events to:

NAA Newsletter
c/o Elizabeth Dickey
1105 West Sunset Way
Carson City, NV 89703

Phone: 775-888-7478

E-mail: edickey@dot.state.nv.us

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*Ms. Midden screens
through the dirt to bring
the best clods to you!*

MS. MIDDEN GRACES THE SAA CONFERENCE WITH HER PRESENCE

Ms. Midden had the pleasure of dropping by the 76th Annual Society for American Archaeology (SAA) Meeting in Sacramento last March. She is happy to report that corduroy jackets with leather patches on the elbows are still *de rigueur* for the spiffy archaeologist. Sadly, Birkenstock sightings appear to be tapering off.

Some of the good-looking Nevada archaeologists spotted presenting papers, posters and hobnobbing at the SAAs were: Cassy Albush, Alice Baldrice, Jonah Blustain, Charlotte Beck and George T. Jones, C. Cliff Creger, Mike Drew, Mark Estes, Bill Fawcett, Don and Kay Fowler, Gary Haynes, Steven Holmes, Eric Ingbar, Jill Jensen, Leticia Neal, ex-patriot Melinda Leach, Fred Nials, David Page, Beth Smith, Geoffrey Smith, Lou Ann Speulda, Ed Stoner, Anthony Taylor, ex-patriot David Hurst Thomas and Loran Pendleton, Craig Young, and Teresa Wriston. ☯

UPCOMING EVENTS

April 29-May 1 NAA 40th Annual Conference. High Desert Inn Conference Center, Elko, NV. See Conference Guide on pages 19 –22 for more information. \$30-\$40

May For a listing of **Archaeological Awareness & Historic Preservation Month Events** throughout the month of May, visit www.nvshpo.org.

May 14 9:00 AM-3:30PM. Site Stewardship Basic Training held at the BLM Carson City District Office. Limit 15 students. Reserve your place or receive more information by contacting Sali Underwood at sunderwood@nevadaculture.org. Free.

May 20-22 8th Annual Meeting of the Nevada Rock Art Foundation. The Opera House, Eureka, NV. Visit www.nvrockart.org for more information. \$35-\$40.

Nov 4-6 9th Death Valley Conference on History and Prehistory. Beatty Community Center, Beatty, NV. Visit www.dvnha.org for more information and on-line registration. \$125.



Nevada Archaeological Association
P.O. Box 73145
Las Vegas, NV
89170-3145



MAY IS ARCHAEOLOGY AWARENESS
& HISTORIC PRESERVATION MONTH!