

In-Situ

SPRING 2017

VOLUME 21, NUMBER 1



Mark Giambastiani, NAA President

President's Corner




This issue of *In-Situ* is all about change. As I rub the figurative sleep from my eyes following the annual meeting, I awaken slowly to the realization that I am now NAA President (did that really happen?) and have stepped into some incredibly large shoes. Mere words cannot express my gratitude for the efforts of past president Jeff Wedding for cleaning the carpets, fixing the shutters, and patching the roof of the house that is NAA. For his efforts, we are nearing the completion of a renovated website; have revised by-laws and a Board Handbook nearly in hand; and can boast of expanded public outreach through social media and other formats. Building on the work of other past presidents, Jeff has raised the bar so high I'm not sure I can reach it without a ladder. I will need to be some type of superhero to make my own stamp on NAA (well, maybe that's what Jeff wants!).

We had our annual meeting at the Hampton Inn Tropicana in Las Vegas, March 17-19. A recap of the meeting and photos are in this issue of *In-Situ*.

Finally, we have some departing board members and some new board members. Lisa Gilbert is stepping down from the board after a year's service, while Sarah Branch and Victor Villagran are new board members! Jeff Wedding graciously agreed to occupy the Vice President's chair for a year to assist me with the transition, while Christina Callisto will remain as Treasurer and Jennifer Hildebrand will remain as Secretary (thank you Christina and Jenny!!). That makes a gang of 12 on the board, with Sue soon to be acting as Beach Chair Board Member (BCBM) and lounging anywhere possible. Cassandra Albush will be taking over membership duties from Sue Edwards; Craig Hauer will remain editor of *Nevada Archaeologist*; Shannon Goshen will continue as editor of *In-Situ*; and Sean McMurry will act in my stead as the student grant coordinator. We are still in need of a new webmaster, but Sali Underwood will continue to work things for NAA on social media. Thanks to all for your efforts, past, present, and future.

Looking to the coming year, we are still working on setting up a volunteer excavation at Fort Sage sometime this fall; the summer board meeting is penciled in for Tonopah, July 22; and next year's annual meeting will be somewhere in the Reno-Sparks area. Details to follow in this issue and in the 2017 Summer *In-Situ*.

In closing, I am honored to serve as your NAA President and look forward to making our organization better and better in the coming year. We intend to improve our outreach to avocational groups across the state, to increase our visibility on social media, provide more opportunities for volunteers, and do our best to develop an interesting, thoughtful meeting program for 2018. Hope to see you at the summer board meeting! - Mark 

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**NAA's New
 Fearless Leader,
 Mark
 Giambastiani!**



NAA 46th Annual Meeting Recap

By Mark Giambastiani

We had our annual meeting at the Hampton Inn Tropicana in Las Vegas, March 17-19. More than 90 people attended, making this year's meeting one of the largest in NAA history. The meeting theme was "Wedding Chapels and Divorce Ranches in Nevada"

archaeology to Death Valley floods, and the only person who got "gonged" (and monkeyed) during the 3-minute session was yours truly.

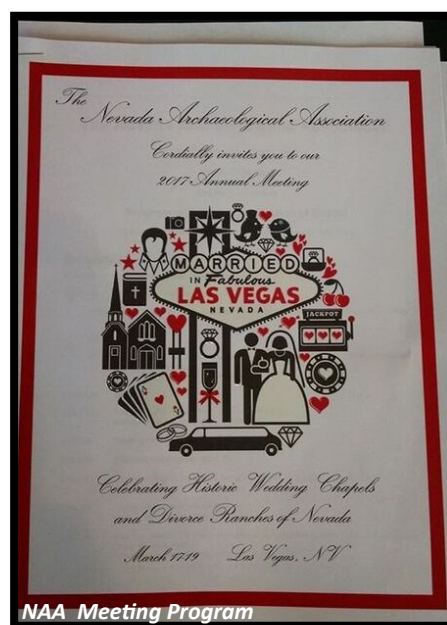
Allen Metscher and George Phillips both received the Ting-Perkins Award for avocational contributions, and Kevin Rafferty received the Silver Trowel Award for his long professional career in Nevada archaeology; look further in this issue to read more about the 2017 Ting-Perkins and Silver Trowel award winners.



NAA T-Shirt Table

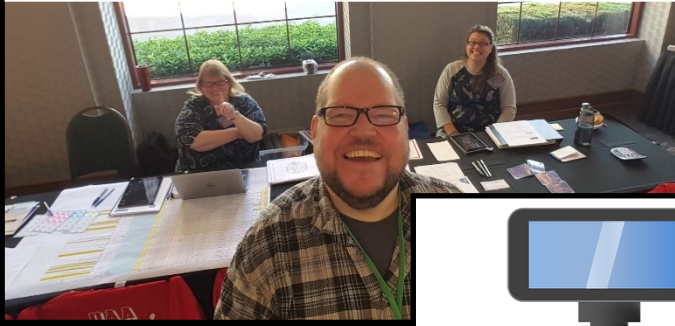
and featured two great workshops, a great set of presentations, a fascinating keynote address about divorce ranches in Las Vegas, the annual awards banquet, another highly entertaining auction, and field trips to Oliver Ranch at Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area and the Las Vegas Neon Museum.

Echoing an article by Steven Stearns and Mark Stigar in the 2016 Spring *In-Situ*, Shaun Richey (University of Nevada, Reno) gave a wonderful workshop and field trip demonstration on the use of drones in archaeology. Sue Edwards and Richard Arnold continued their workshop discussion from last year's meeting about differences between the perspectives of Native Americans and archaeologists. Paper presentations ranged from "paperless"



Members donated roughly \$1,400 through the NAA auction, the live portion of which featured bidding wars for Cheech and Chong action figures, for seminal books in archaeology, and for bottles of suds from the Tonopah Brewery. Sophia Jamaldin, an M. A. student at the University of Nevada, Reno, was the winner of the 2017 NAA Student Research Grant competition for her proposal to conduct obsidian sourcing and hydration at early Holocene sites in the Fort Rock Basin, Oregon. Shaun Richey won the Best Student Presentation prize of \$150.00 for his drone workshop. ♀

Me (center) with Susan Edwards (left) and Christina Callisto (right) at the registration tables



Me in the back of the room during a paper presentation



**NAA Meeting
Selfie Stick
Scenes**

By
Jeff Wedding



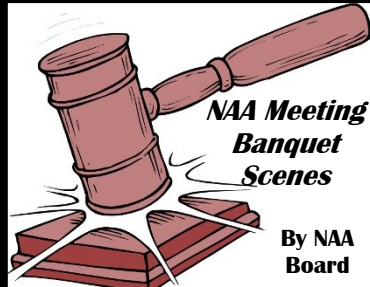
Me (right) with Jonah Blustain (left) and Cassandra Albush (center)



Me (left) and Jim Bunch (right) in the conference foyer



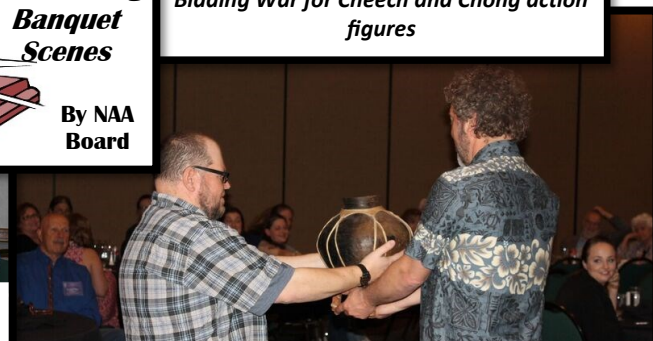
*Jonah Blustain modeling an auction item
from Tonopah Brewing*



*Bidding War for Cheech and Chong action
figures*



*Auctioneers Jonah Blustain (left) and Mark Giambastiani
(right) with archaeology books for auction*



*Auctioneers Jeff Wedding (left) and Mark Giambastiani
(right) with an auction item*

Oliver Ranch Field Trip at Red Rock

By Jeff Wedding

Mark Boatwright and Jeff Wedding lead a tour of the property out near the Red Rock NCA and highlighted a few of the 18 known prehistoric and historic sites on the property documented in a study conducted between 2004 and 2006. Workshop presenter Shaun Richey provided an in-field demonstration of his drone equipment.



Shaun Richey prepping a drone for an in-field demonstration. Photo by Christina Callisto.

The Oliver Ranch property lies in a small valley between the sandstone bluffs of the Spring Mountains (to the west) and Blue Diamond Hill (to the east), at the western bounds of the Las Vegas Valley. The Spring Mountains were utilized throughout the prehistoric and ethnohistoric periods by local Native populations. Sometime prior to 1921, brothers William and Reese Morgan sold their ranch near Whitney Mesa, and moved to a parcel north of Blue Diamond. This property would eventually become the present Oliver Ranch. William grazed cattle, and also ventured into moonshining at the property. In 1929, William's ranch was raided in a liquor bust. Investigators found a 50 gallon still on the property and a 450 gallon still in a dugout 1.7 miles from the house. William Morgan was not home at the time and escaped arrest, although six others were not so lucky. Reese worked in law enforcement at the time, and had phoned his brother in advance. In 1938, 160 acres of the ranch was legally homesteaded and granted to Reese. Simultaneously, the Morgans finalized sale of the property to Chauncey Oliver. A Milwaukee native and eventual Chicago resident, Chauncey Oliver was an engineer, inventor, and entrepreneur. Specializing in water filtration systems, Oliver patented numerous pieces of technology and eventually started his own filtration company. The company was extremely successful and Oliver decided to invest in property in southern Nevada. He bought the Morgan property and used it mostly as a summer home for his family, though the family maintained a few horses on the property. Oliver and his son Robert acquired a number of parcels to add to the 160-acre homestead, eventually rejoining and owning the full 320 acres. The BLM acquired the ranch from the Oliver family in August 1993.







By Jonah Blustain



Photo by Dave Valentine

NAA conference attendees were treated to a very informative tour of the Neon Museum. As the NAA members learned, each of the signs in the museum holds a story about who created it and why it is important. Overall, the tour was a very illuminating look at the history of electric sign technology and the role the new advertising style had on the development of Las Vegas.

Founded in 1996, the Neon Museum is a non-profit 501 (c) 3 organization dedicated to collecting, preserving, studying and exhibiting iconic Las Vegas signs for educational, historic, arts and cultural enrichment. The Neon Museum campus includes the outdoor exhibition space known as the Neon Boneyard, a visitors' center housed inside the former La Concha Motel lobby and the Neon Boneyard North Gallery which houses additional rescued signs and had become a venue for weddings, special events, photo shoots, and educational programs. The museum is slowly restoring the signs and placing them around the Fremont Street Experience. The signs are considered by Las Vegas locals, business owners, and government organizations to be not only artistically, but also historically significant to the culture of the city. ☯



Various photos from The Neon Museum field trip. Photos by Dave Valentine

GEORGE PHILLIPS

NAA 2017 TING-PERKINS AWARD WINNER

By Steve Daron

Do you know George's Personal motto: "It is easier to beg forgiveness than to ask permission." Anyone who has ever worked with him knows this to be true. George has a tendency to take the ball and run with it. Here are a couple more fun facts about George: (1) he is a 3rd generation Nevadan born in Las Vegas; and (2) he is a direct descendant of President John Adams!.

George's commitment to Community service began with his mom. She worked with Robert Kennedy, was part of the original committee to allocate land for UNLV, and was instrumental in establishing the Service League for Las Vegas.


His interest in the outdoors stemmed from a childhood spent on lake Mead in the family's boats named "Why Not" and "Why Not Again" along with hiking and camping. Together they investigated many old ghost towns and mines.

In 2004 George became the Project Manager for the Clark County Site Stewardship program in association with the Public Lands Institute at UNLV after spending nearly 30 years in banking with an interlude spent running a plant and garden nursery. He grew The Site Stewardship Program from a handful of people to around 800 members devoted to preserving and protecting cultural sites throughout Clark County. He designed the program from the ground up. This entailed, creating the manual, setting standards for site assessment, presenting site stewardship training classes, creating a comprehensive site database while working closely with the various agencies. Also, it entailed his favorite part (the main reason he took the position), which was taking stewards out to the sites and showing off Nevada's fabulous public lands and precious cultural resources. In 2007 his program was awarded the US Department of Interior Cooperative Conservation Award.

Beginning with NRAF, he has recorded rock art for the National Park Service, the BLM, and Red Rock Canyon. George has also recorded numerous rock art sites on the Grand Canyon Esplanade. These efforts consisted of 3-5 day hikes while carrying a 65-lb pack, most of which was water. All on foot, no helicopters, vehicles, or mules. Subsisting on freeze-dried entrees and jerky, drinking out of potholes when available, all the while dreaming of beers and real food at Escobar's Mexican Restaurant just "up the hill" in Kanab.

Organizations include:

Vice President Southern Nevada Rock Art Association, SNRAA
Appointee to Mojave-Southern Great Basin Resource Advisory Council
representing Archaeology and Historic sites
Nevada Rock Art Foundation, NRAF original member
Friends of Red Rock
Friends of Sloan
Friends of Gold Butte
Treasurer for the Nevada Archaeological Association, NAA
Mojave Rock Art Workshop, MORAW

George's contributions to the archaeology of Nevada, both personally and through the Site Stewardship program, are more than worthy of applause. The Nevada Archaeological Association is honored to present him with the 2017 Ting-Perkins Award. 



Mark Giambastiani (left) presenting the Ting-Perkins Award to George Phillips (center) with Steve Daron (right)

ALLEN METSCHER

NAA 2017 TING-PERKINS AWARD WINNER


By Jonah Blustain

Allen Metscher is a third-generation Nevadan and a lifelong resident of Nye and Esmeralda Counties. After spending 30 years at the Nevada Department of Transportation, Allen retired to devote more time to his passion: the history of central Nevada. Along with his mother and two brothers, Allen—a self-described “student of history”—founded the Central Nevada Historical Society 1977 and the Central Nevada Museum in 1981. Under Allen’s directorship, the Museum has become one of the best repositories of historical data, images, and artifacts in Nevada, and its collections regularly receive national and international attention. The Museum has been recognized multiple times by Nevada Magazine, and won the prestigious “Best in Nevada” award on three occasions.

While these accolades effectively capture Allen’s tireless work with the Central Nevada Historical Society, they do not reflect his full gift to the history and archaeology of the region. Under Allen’s guidance, the Central Nevada Historical Society has engaged in a ceaseless flurry of preservation and interpretation projects. The Society’s first project ever was a restoration of grave markers at the Old Tonopah Cemetery, a project that continues to be on-going. Using data from the County archives and an original plot map, Allen continues to replace missing or damaged grave stones. Individuals who have lain forgotten can now be remembered. Allen also gives tours of historic Tonopah and Goldfield, most recently rolling out the red carpet for the Las Vegas-area’s PBS affiliate.

Allen’s contributions to the history and archaeology of Central Nevada are not limited to his work on Tonopah and Goldfield. Beginning in 2003, Allen spent 12 years as a historical consultant for Nellis Air Force Base. There he spent innumerable hours researching and documenting the history of the area. He has contributed to multiple works, including a history of the World War II-era Tonopah Army Air Field, a history of the development of World War II glide bombs outside of Tonopah, and a history of crimes in central Nevada. He has also contributed to two documentaries: one on the development of the glide bomb, and one on the history of the Cactus Range. Using the only known map of the Tonopah Army Air Field, he has developed and installed plaques and interpretive markers at the remains of the installation.

Like all great archaeologists, Allen does not forget that behind the dates, figures, and events are real people. During his time as a consultant—and continuing to this day—Allen continues to honor the men who lost their lives in training accidents at the Tonopah Army Air Field and Nellis Air Force Base. With tireless dedication, Allen has compiled a list of the 130 men who lost their lives in aviation training accidents. He has located 17 such fatal air crashes outside of Tonopah, and has installed small memorials so that the young men’s sacrifice would not be forgotten. In addition, he has held two reunions for the men who were stationed at the Tonopah Air Field, one in 1987 and the other in 1993. He has communicated with the families of six aviators who never made it back, taking them to the final resting place of their loved ones.

Allen Metscher’s contributions to the history, archaeology, and preservation of central Nevada’s past are unparalleled. He is an assiduous researcher, exceptional scholar, and one hell of an American for whom archaeology and history are to be shared. His work with the Central Nevada Museum and Historical Society alone qualifies him for this prestigious award, and his public outreach and preservation efforts in aviation archaeology make him a singular individual in Nevada. For these reasons, the Nevada Archaeological Association is honored to present Allen with the 2017 Ting-Perkins Award. 



Mark Giambastiani (left) and Jonah Blustain (right) presenting the Ting-Perkins Award to Allen Metscher (center)

PAST AWARD RECIPIENTS

Originating in 1982, the NAA Ting-Perkins award is presented for outstanding avocational contributions to archaeology in Nevada. The award honors Dr. Peter Ting (first President of Am-Arcs in 1967 and head of the Nevada Archaeological Survey) and Fay Perkins (in 1924 brought "El Pueblo Grande de Nevada" to the attention of Governor James Scrugham and became curator of the Lost City Museum [1952-1956]).


2016 Keith Stever	2015 Jean Myles	2014 Bob Hafey & Loretta Watson
2013 Elizebeth Russell	2012 Anne Carter	2011 (No award)
2010 (No award)	2009 Donna Murphy	2008 Ann McConnell
2007 (No award)	2006 Jack and Elaine Holmes; Darrell and Terri Wade (co-recipients)	2003 Farrel and Manetta Lytle
2005 Oyvind Frock	2004 Charles Brown	2000 Helen Mortenson
2002 Phil Hutchinson	2001 (No award)	1995 Grace Burkholder
1999 Don Hendricks	1996-1998 (No award)	1992 (No award)
1994 Jean Stevens (Posthumous)	1993 Steve Stoney	1982 Jean Myles
1991 Norma and Herb Splatt	1983-1990 (No award)	

DR. KEVIN RAFFERTY

NAA 2017 SILVER TROWEL LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

By Mark Giambastiani and Kevin Rafferty

Dr. Kevin Rafferty has recently retired after a nearly 40-year career in archaeology. He came west from New York in 1980 to take a job with the Bureau of Land Management, Las Vegas District as a Resource Area archaeologist. He earned his Ph.D from SUNY-Stony Brook in 1982 and in 1983 became Director of the Division of Anthropological Studies (now the Harry Reid Center) at the Museum of Natural History at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. During six years there he conducted and/or directed many survey and excavation projects in southern Nevada, southern California, western Arizona, and southwestern Utah. In 1989, Dr. Rafferty became the first full-time anthropologist at the Community College of Southern Nevada (now the College of Southern Nevada) and has been teaching ever since, recently acting as chairman of the Department of Human Behavior. Dr. Rafferty also ran his own archaeological consulting business in the 1980s and early 1990s before joining Knight & Leavitt Associates as a part-time Senior Research Associate in 1993.

Although Dr. Rafferty's contributions to Nevada archaeology are many—including well over 150 cultural resources management reports and a recent textbook for cultural anthropology—some of his most important work has dealt with the prehistory of the Las Vegas area and of Valley of Fire State Park. He has also been active in the Nevada Rock Art Foundation, Archaeo-Nevada, and many other volunteer groups. Dr. Rafferty represents what is best in Nevada archaeologists and the NAA is pleased to honor him with the 2017 Silver Trowel Lifetime Achievement Award. 

PAST AWARD RECIPIENTS

The Silver Trowel is presented to professionals that have spent a majority of their professional career working in Nevada, have made outstanding, positive, and lasting contributions to archaeology in Nevada, and have maintained the highest standards of professionalism and ethics in the conduct of his or her career. The award was created and first presented in 2004.

2016 Dr. Donald Hardesty

2013 Bobbie McGonagle

2010 Alice M. Baldrice

2007 Richard and Sheilagh Brooks

2015 Eugene M. Hattori

2012 Claude N. Warren

2009 Don and Catherine Fowler

2005/2006 Margaret Lyneis*

2014 Robert G. Elston

2011 Tim Murphy

2008 (No award)

2004 Mary K. Rusco


*(awarded 2005, presented 2006)



Mark Giambastiani (left) presenting the Silver Trowel Award to Dr. Kevin Rafferty (right)

AWARD NOMINEES SOUGHT

By Mark Giambastiani, NAA President



Each year the NAA recognizes people in Nevada for their contributions to Nevada archaeology. Professionals are bestowed the NAA Lifetime Achievement Award, while the Ting-Perkins Award is for avocational archaeologists. Have you ever wondered where the awardees come from? YOU are the answer! The NAA Board is always receptive to nominees for these two annual awards. If you know of someone worthy, just submit a brief outline or statement of that individual's contributions and activities to Nevada archaeology and send it to the NAA. Board member contact info and the NAA mailing address can be found at our website – www.nvarch.org.

For Immediate Release

Rock Art Researchers to Gather in Redmond, OR

Where: The Lodge at Eagle Crest, Redmond OR

When: June 1 – 5, 2017

Who: American Rock Art Research Association

Registration and conference information: <http://arara.org/conference.html>

Contacts: Conference Coordinator: Monica Wadsworth-Seibel

wadsworth-seibel@cox.net



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**Redmond, OR—**The American Rock Art Research Association (ARARA) will convene its 2017 rock art symposium June 1 – 5 at the Eagle Crest Resort, near Redmond, Oregon. ARARA is America’s preeminent rock art organization, whose members explore the many facets of rock art – the study of prehistoric markings found on stone in natural landscape settings. The yearly conference attracts scholars from around the country and internationally, who come together to share research, images and ideas about rock art traditions from the Americas and beyond.

With a rich abundance and diversity of rock art sites nearby, Redmond is the perfect city for hosting this important annual research conference. Presenters will discuss painted pictographs and pecked petroglyphs, many found on public lands, in several identified styles, such as Columbia Plateau, Columbia River Conventionalized, Great Basin, North Oregon Rectilinear and Yakima Polychrome. The lovely Deschutes River runs right through the conference property.

The conference is open to all—professional archaeologists, avocationalists, and the interested public alike. Students in particular are welcome! Student attendees receive free registration, and student presenters receive a stipend to attend.



For those who register for the conference, ARARA offers two days of guided field trips on (June 2 and 5) to a variety of intriguing area rock art sites. Attendees discover the richness of the local rock art heritage while enjoying the spectacular Oregon countryside. Presentations on current rock art research form the centerpiece of the meeting (June 3 and 4). Other special cultural activities are planned throughout the conference, including social events and vendor offerings of rock art related merchandise.

In addition, two public lectures are planned at 2112 NE 4<sup>th</sup> Street in Bend.

**June 1:** Robert David, a Klamath Tribal member, will speak on *"The Rock Art of Petroglyph Point, Lava Beds National Monument."*

**June 2:** Archaeologist Angelo Fossati, Director of the Italian archaeological cooperative Le Orme dell'Uomo, will speak on the *"The Rock Art of the Ice Man"*. These lectures begin at 7:30 pm, and are open to all—admission is \$5.00.

The research presentations kick off the morning of June 3 with a session dedicated to the rock art of Oregon and then expand to cover rock art in other parts of the U.S. and the world. Details of the agenda can be accessed at <http://arara.org/conference.html> as we get closer to the conference.

Rock art symbols can be a challenge to understand, but for much of the prehistoric sequence of the past 5,000 years, we can now link broad patterns of prehistoric settlement adaptation and social change to the iconography inscribed and painted on rock faces, ceramics, and other items. Dating rock art has been difficult in the past—but answering the question "How old is it?" could become easier in some cases, thanks to new technologies. The Central Oregon region is rich in rock art from several periods that parallel the archaeological record of habitation of the area.

All are invited to attend the 2017 ARARA conference in Redmond to share the latest information and research into the fascinating ancient messages from the past.

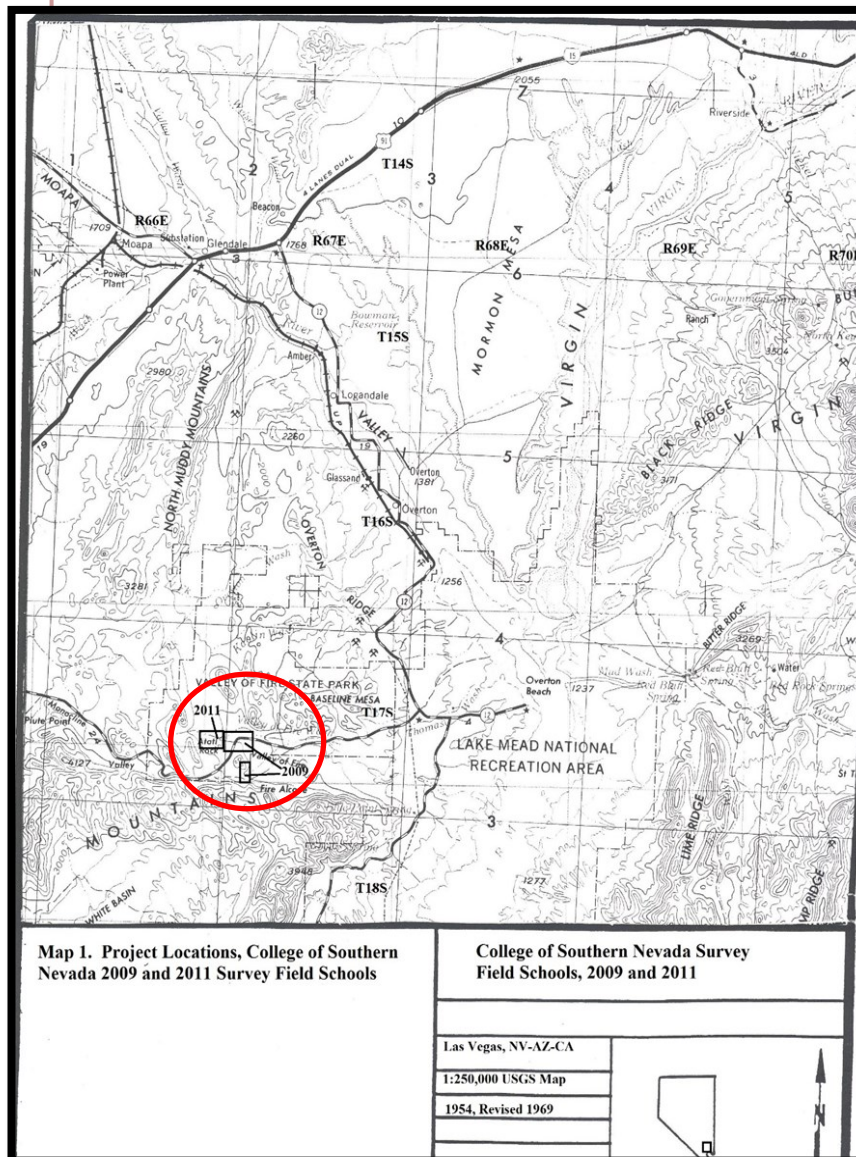




## Mini-Reports

### Evidence for a Large, Disturbed Site Complex on the Northeastern Perimeter of Atlatl Rock, Valley of Fire, Clark County, Nevada

By Dr. Kevin Rafferty, College of Southern Nevada

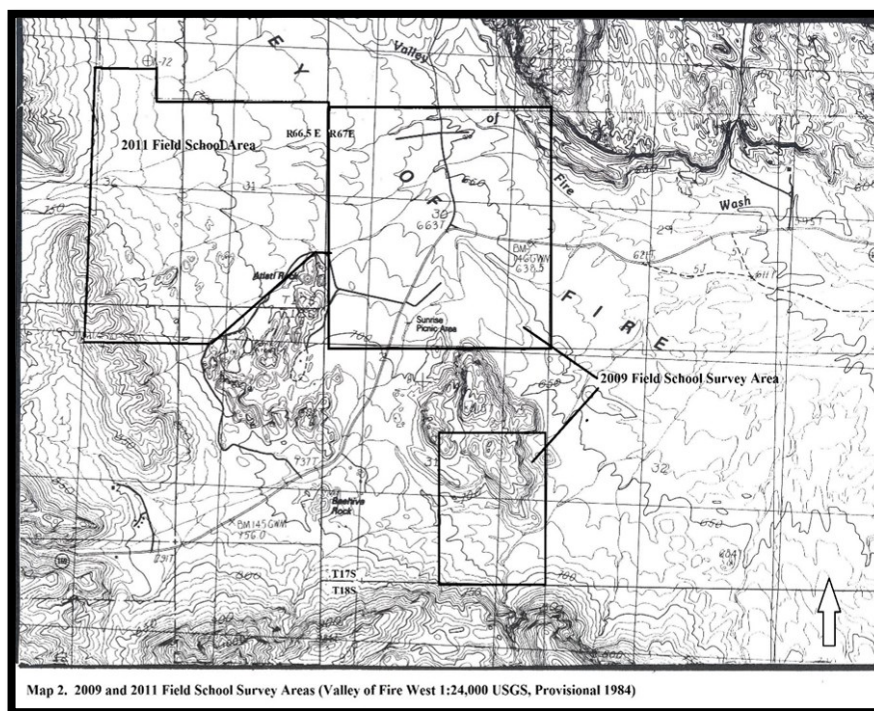


In the spring of 2009 and 2011, The College of Southern Nevada (CSN) undertook a fourth and fifth archaeological survey field school project on land managed by the Nevada Division of State Parks in the Valley of Fire State Park, Clark County, Nevada (Map 1). The 2009 survey area was broken into two areas, both of which were located in T17S, R67E. Survey Area 1 was situated directly east of Atlatl Rock. The area measured slightly under one and one-quarter ( $1\frac{1}{4}$ ) square miles in size, within Sec. 30 (all); portions of Sec. 19; and portions of Sec. 26 (projected; Map 2). Survey Area 2 was situated southeast of Atlatl Rock, in Section 31 (Map 2). Approximately 1040 acres of land were inventoried in these two areas in 2009 (Rafferty 2013).

Although multiple sites were recorded near and adjacent to Atlatl Rock, there are two sites in particular recorded in 2009 that are the focus of this paper, 26CK9597 and 26CK9598. It is the suggestion of the author that these two sites, located adjacent to the parking lot and access road of the Atlatl Rock picnic area, are badly damaged portions of a larger site complex that was located on the northeastern perimeter of Atlatl Rock. The larger site would include not only these two sites, but three complexes of petroglyph panels.



The most obvious is the Atlatl Rock petroglyph panel, 26CK33, and at least one associated set of panels south of this site. Also included would be 26CK207, a large panel north of and adjacent to 26CK33; and a panel set into a recess between both 26CK33 and 26CK207. There are two additional concentrations of fire cracked limestone, bone, and small lithics that can be included in this site; one at the base of the 26CK207 and one by the panels south of 26CK33. The sites recorded in 2009 will be discussed first and then the additional sites will be added to the mix to provide supporting evidence of the author's suggestion.



## Sites 26CK9597 and 26CK9598

These site discussions are adapted from Rafferty (2013: 63-65). **26CK9597:** This site is an artifact scatter situated on a small alluvial hillock surrounded by several small wash beds that are tributaries of Valley of Fire Wash to the north. The washes and the site surface contain creosote, bursage, cholla cactus, barrel cactus, cat's claw, desert trumpet, and other flora. The living surface measured 51.95 m long (N-S) by 58.25 m wide (E-W; 2376 m<sup>2</sup>). The surface assemblage consists of fire-cracked limestone; flakes of chert, chalcedony, rhyolite, and obsidian; and two grinding stones, one of sandstone and one of basalt.

In order to characterize the assemblage at the site, the field crew ran ten (10) transects spaced 5 m apart across the shorter axis of the site, visually covering 519 m<sup>2</sup> (2%) of the site surface. A total of twenty-seven (27) artifacts were recorded, mostly flakes of chert (69%) with some chalcedony (8%), rhyolite (11%) and obsidian (8%). A sandstone ground stone fragment is included in this total (4%; Table 1, below).

A simple calculation of artifact numbers on the site, based on the surface percentage covered, would yield an estimated 1350 artifacts on the site's surface. Based on personal experience on the site this number is too high, particularly in terms of possible numbers of obsidian flakes and ground stone. A more conservative and reasonable estimate would be approximately half of that number (675 artifacts) with the vast majority of them being flakes of chert, chalcedony, and rhyolite. There is no evidence of large numbers of obsidian flakes at the site and even a casual examination of the site surface would suggest that more

**Table 1. Artifacts Recorded at 26CK9597**

| Artifact Type   | Chert | Chalcedony | Rhyolite | Obsidian | Sandstone |
|-----------------|-------|------------|----------|----------|-----------|
| Primary Fl.     | 1     | 0          | 0        | 1        | 0         |
| Secondary Fl.   | 2     | 1          | 0        | 0        | 0         |
| Tertiary Fl.    | 10    | 1          | 1        | 0        | 0         |
| Resharpener Fl. | 4     | 0          | 2        | 1        | 0         |
| Core            | 1     | 0          | 0        | 0        | 0         |
| Groundstone     | 0     | 0          | 0        | 0        | 1         |

**26CK9598:** This site is a modest-sized campsite located north of and adjacent to the parking lot at Atlatl Rock, and south of the paved access road leading around Atlatl Rock (Map 3). The campsite is at the confluence of two shallow washes which are tributaries of Valley of Fire Wash. The washes and site surface contain creosote, bursage, cholla cactus, barrel cactus, cat's claw, desert trumpet, and other flora. The site measures 33.8 m (N-S) by 50.2 m (E-W; 1332.6 m<sup>2</sup>). It appears to have been part of a much larger site located at the base of and east of Atlatl Rock that was partially destroyed when the original parking lot, picnic facilities, and access road were built prior to the 1960s. The site has been further damaged by the construction of a bathroom facility within the site boundaries, and by activities of tourists and casual visitors to the location. A total of seven transects spaced 5 m apart were run across the site from west to east, resulting in the visual examination of 351 m<sup>2</sup> (26%) of the surface of the locality. A total of 47 artifacts were recorded consisting mostly of chert (19/40%) and chalcedony (12/26%), along with obsidian (7/15%), rhyolite (5/11%), quartzite (1/2%), and sandstone groundstone fragments (3/6%).

**Table 2. Artifacts Recorded at 26CK9598**

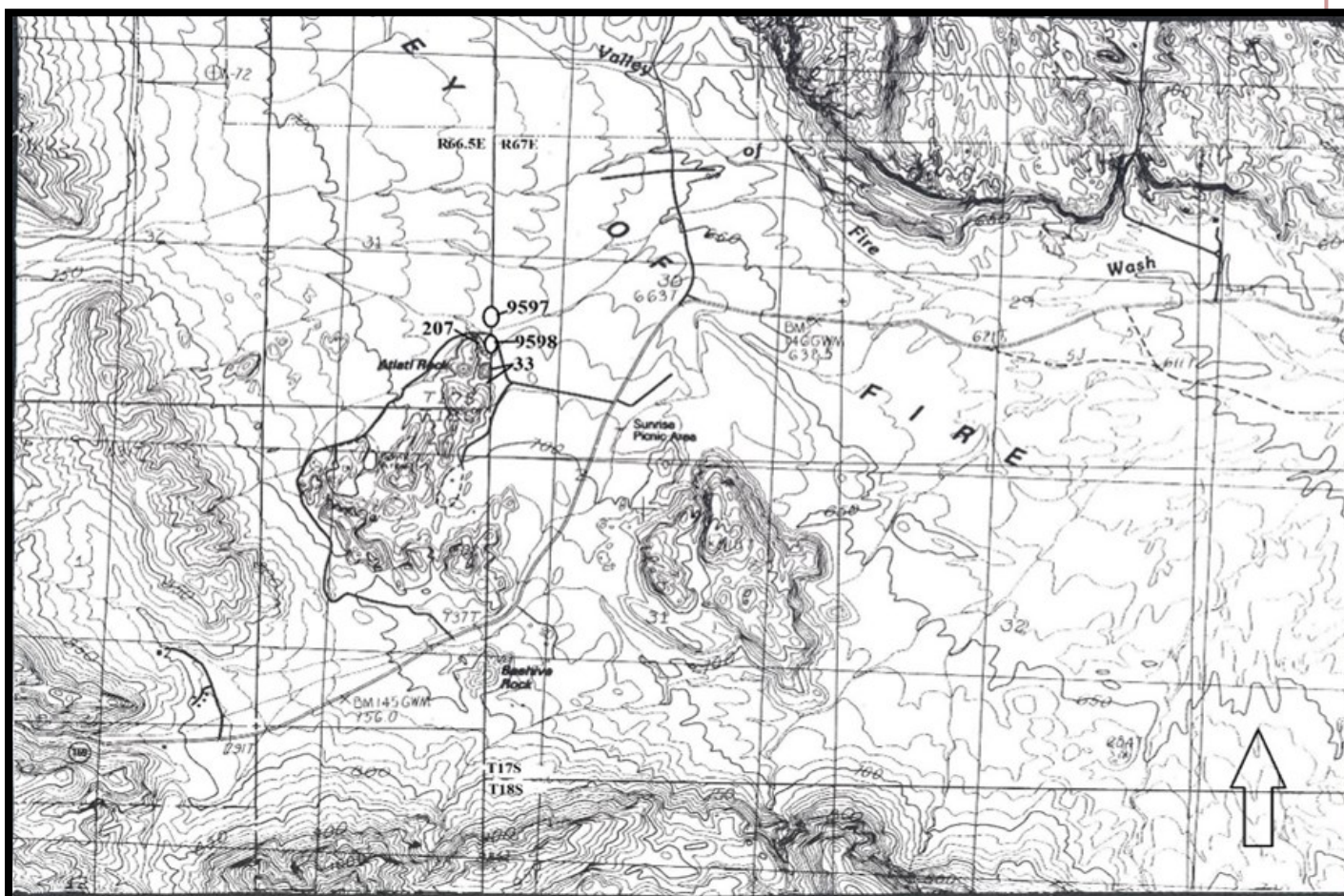
| Artifact Type   | Chert | Chalcedony | Obsidian | Rhyolite | Quartzite | Sandstone |
|-----------------|-------|------------|----------|----------|-----------|-----------|
| Primary Fl.     | 0     | 1          | 0        | 0        | 0         | 0         |
| Secondary Fl.   | 5     | 3          | 1        | 2        | 0         | 0         |
| Tertiary Fl.    | 11    | 8          | 1        | 3        | 1         | 0         |
| Resharpener Fl. | 1     | 0          | 5        | 0        | 0         | 0         |
| Shatter         | 1     | 0          | 0        | 0        | 0         | 0         |
| Core            | 1     | 0          | 0        | 0        | 0         | 0         |
| Groundstone     | 0     | 0          | 0        | 0        | 0         | 3         |

A simple calculation of projected artifact numbers on the site, based on the surface percentage covered, yielded an estimate chipped stone 181 artifacts on the site surface, mostly core reduction and waste flakes. A total of 12 groundstone artifacts are estimated to be on the site surface as well. There were no other formal tool types (scrapers, projectile points, etc.) noted except for the sandstone groundstone fragments, most likely due to years of casual collecting by tourists and other visitors to the location.



## Previously Recorded Sites

There are two other recorded sites that can be included in the larger site that is suggested had existed on the northern and northeastern perimeter of Atlatl Rock. The first is 26CK33, the Atlatl Rock panels, which consist not only of the well-known panel viewed by visitors to Valley of Fire State Park (Figure 1) but also of an additional set of panels just south of the main panel. These include not only a set of panels that run to the south at the base of Atlatl Rock (Figure 2) but an additional series of panels located in a recess in the sandstone outcrop upon which the main panel sits, including what I like to call Valley of Fire's own 'Newspaper Rock' (Figures 3 and 4). Just south of 'Newspaper Rock' is a concentration of firecracked rock, small chert and chalcedony flakes, and what appears to be desert tortoise bone and carapace in an area approximately 5-6 m in diameter.



**Map 3. Sites Referred to in Article** (Valley of Fire West 1:24,000 USGS, 1984 Provisional)





Figure 1. Main Panel at Atlatl Rock



Figure 2. Example of Linear Panels at Base of Atlatl Rock



Figure 3. 'Newspaper Rock' South of the Main Panel at 26CK33



Figure 4. Example of Additional Panels Adjacent to and North of 'Newspaper Rock'

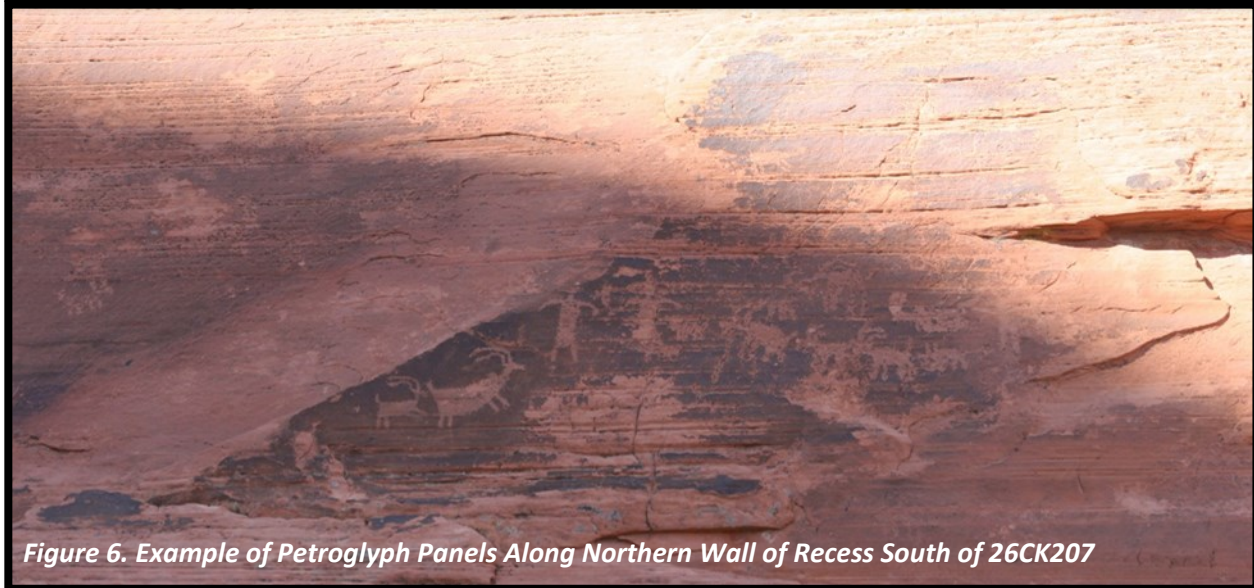


Site 26CK207 is a large panel of petroglyphs situated just north of 26CK33 (Map 3; Figure 5). It is dominated by bighorn sheep, but also contains anthropomorphs, at least one and maybe two desert tortoises, medicine bags or bats, and some abstract designs. At the base of the panel, situated in small sand dunes, is a concentration of firecracked rock, small chert and chalcedony flakes, and what appears to be desert tortoise bone and carapace in an arc or semi-circle extending approximately 4-5 m from the base of the sandstone outcrop.

Sites 26CK33 and 26CK207 are separated by a deep, east-to-west trending recess eroded into the sandstone outcrops. Extending along the northern perimeter of the recess is a series of small petroglyph panels (Figure 6) and at the terminus of the recess is a small petroglyph panel marked by what appears to be the head of a bull or cow, although this identification is highly unlikely (Figure 7).



*Figure 5. 26CK207*



*Figure 6. Example of Petroglyph Panels Along Northern Wall of Recess South of 26CK207*




Figure 7. 'Bullhead' Locus at Western Terminus of the Recess South of 26CK207

## Interpretation and Conclusions

Based on their location near both Atlatl Rock (26CK33) and other sites previously recorded at Atlatl Rock (26CK207), it is argued that the two sites recorded in 2009 (Rafferty 2013) are small remnants of a much larger site that appears to have been situated at the base of the petroglyphs at Atlatl Rock (26CK33 and 26CK207). Construction of the current parking lot and picnic area adjacent to 26CK33 and 26CK207, as well as the access road that circumnavigates the larger sandstone outcrop, may have taken out significant portions of the bigger site of which sites 26CK9597 and 26CK9597 probably were a part of. There may be surviving portions of the larger site still partially intact below the parking lot surface.

There are at least 14 separate Smithsonian trinomial numbers that have been assigned to various loci of petroglyphs, pictographs, and rockshelters/overhangs that are situated on or in the large sandstone outcrop that comprises the Atlatl Rock complex (see Rafferty 2013). In addition there are a number of other pictograph and petroglyph panels and loci that have been recorded by amateurs (Bringhurst 1995; Burkholder 1988) that have been given no site numbers at all. Based their proximity to one another an argument could justifiably be offered that perhaps the entire complex should be redefined and given a single site number, as the distribution of materials is almost continuous around the base of the outcrop. That is a discussion for another time. At a minimum though, given their close spatial association the sites discussed in this short paper appear to have been part of a larger campsite/residential location employed by the aboriginal inhabitants of the Valley of Fire region over many thousands of years, beginning at least in the Late Archaic period and extending to the most recent Paiute period (ca. 2500 B.C.-A.D. 1850).

Despite the severe damage to the sites, it is likely that test excavations at 26CK9597 and 26CK9598, plus testing at the artifact loci near 26CK33 and 26CK207 could potentially yield some important data regarding the occupation and use of this larger site complex. This is a course of action that will be suggested to Nevada State Parks for future consideration. 

## References

- Bringhurst, La Rae. 1995. *Petroglyphs of Clark County, Nevada: Muddy Mountains/Valley of Fire*. Self Published Manuscript, Las Vegas, Nevada.
- Burkholder, Grace. 1988. *IMACS Site Form for 26CK4105*. Document on File at the Southern Nevada SHPO Data Repository, Harry Reid Center, Barrick Museum of Natural History, University of Nevada, Las Vegas.
- Rafferty, Kevin. 2013. The 2009 and 2011 Field Surveys In Valley of Fire State Park, Clark County, Nevada by the Survey Field School of the College of Southern Nevada *College of Southern Nevada Archaeological Paper No. 7*. Department of Human Behavior, College of Southern Nevada.



## *Reports from Chapters and Affiliates*



**ARCHAEO-NEVADA SOCIETY:**

### **Spring 2017 Updates**

By Dr. Kevin Rafferty, President, Archaeo-Nevada

The meeting season for Archaeo-Nevada is winding down as of this writing. There are only two meetings left, April and May, and then we go silent for the Summer. April's speaker is Samantha Rubinson of the SHPOs office, talking about archaeological photography. May's talk will be by Bryandra Owen of Knight and Leavitt Associates, giving a talk on a major rock art site that she is researching in Valley of Fire.

On another note, Kevin Rafferty is stepping down as President of the Archaeo-Nevada Society after a ten year stint at its head. We are looking for a new fearless leader, one hopefully with contacts in the CRM/academic world that would help to secure speakers for the Society. If there are any individuals in the southern Nevada professional community, or an experienced and skilled amateur archaeologist, who would like to think about the 'job', here are the specifications: no pay, but minimal grief; working with a hard working and dedicated Board of Directors; the ability to shamelessly ask people to speak to the Society whenever the opportunity arrives; and interaction with a great group of dedicated and interested amateur archaeologists. Anyone interested please contact Dr. Kevin Rafferty at [kevin.rafferty@csn.edu](mailto:kevin.rafferty@csn.edu).



**COLLEGE OF SOUTHERN NEVADA:**

### **Spring 2017 Updates**

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

Interesting things are happening for the Anthropology program at the College of Southern Nevada (CSN). Dr. Kevin Rafferty is officially retiring after 34 years at the college (28 full-time, 6 part-time) and 12 years as department chairman. The college is in the process of hiring a replacement for his teaching position, someone who can both teach and put the new Certificate of Achievement in Cultural Resource Management on a solid footing. Dr. Rafferty is on the hiring committee for this position so the winning candidate will have his official stamp of approval.

The department is holding its First Annual (hopefully) Anthropology Student Conference on Friday, April 14th on the West Charleston campus of the college. Students both past and present will be presenting the results of their on-going research in the form of both oral presentations and posters. We are very excited about this and hope to use this as a springboard for improving student's professional skills and getting them more easily into 4 year institutions.

Unfortunately it does not look like the Department of Human Behavior will be publishing a sixth volume of its electronic Anthropology journal, *Four Fields*, this year. Unavoidable issues have come up that have prevented the editor from concentrating on the task. We hope to have the sixth volume out either in mid-Fall, 2017, or Spring 2018. If anyone wishes to acquire a copy of the previous five volumes, please contact Dr. Kevin Rafferty at [kevin.rafferty@csn.edu](mailto:kevin.rafferty@csn.edu)

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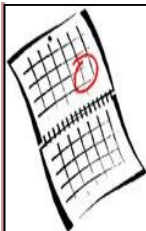
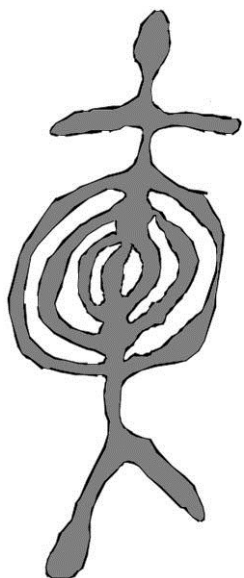
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# *Mark your Calendars!*

The Next Board Meeting is in Tonopah

**T**he next NAA Board meeting will be by *July 22nd, 2017* in Tonopah. Watch the NAA website and Facebook page for all the meeting details and pre-meeting fieldtrip information (weather permitting).

## **UPCOMING EVENTS 2017**

April 24 6:45—8:45 PM: **Southern Nevada Rock Art Foundation Meeting**, Guest Speaker Jerry Dickey, “In Pursuit of Rock Art: East Mojave to the Grand Canyon, REI Store Summerlin, Las Vegas

April 26 12:00—1:00 PM: **BOASGrad Brown Bag Lecture Series**, Guest Speaker Dr. David Rhode, DRI, “Ancient Caves and Stone-Boiled Goat in Northern Mongolia”, UNR Campus AB 531.

April 29 5:00—9:00 PM: **BOASGrad Boas Bash**, Pub & Sub, Reno

May 3 12:00—1:00 PM **BOASGrad Brown Bag Lecture Series**, Guest Speaker Leo Demski, UNR MA Student, “The Luxury of Cold—The Natural Ice Industry in Boca, California: 1868-1927”, UNR Campus AB 531.

May 10 6:30 PM: **Am-Arcs Speaker Series**, Guest Speaker Shaun Richey, UNR Grad Student, Stout Conference Rm, DRI Reno

May 10 7:00 PM: **Archaeo-Nevada Society Meeting**, Guest Speaker Bryandra Owen, Knight & Leavitt Associates, Building K Rm 248, West Charleston campus, CSN

June 1—5 : **American Rock Art Research Association** Symposium, The Lodge at Eagle Crest, Redmond, OR

July 22 TBD: **NAA Summer Board Meeting**, TBD, Tonopah





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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
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# 2017

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*July 22: NAA Board Meeting, Tonopah*