

Nevada Archaeological Association

Fall

NEWSLETTER

1994



GREAT BASIN ANTHRO. CONFERENCE

The Elko Convention Center in Elko, Nevada hosted the GBAC this past October. The 24th gathering was chaired by Kevin Jones of the Utah Division of State History. There were 470 registered warm bodies attending 11 symposiums, 8 general sessions, 2 field trips, a poster session with 8 presenters, and a bountiful banquet with music by "Fish Out O' Water" for our listening and dancing pleasure. One hundred and thirty-seven papers were presented on a wide and diversified

range of Great Basin topics from paleoenvironmental change and adaptation to mining town archeology. Dr. Jesse Jennings was the guest of honor at the Thursday night reception where he was autographing his new book, *Accidental Archaeologist*. Dr. Jennings also provided the banquet participants with his memories of the first GBAC. The 25th GBAC will be held in the fall of 1996 at St. George, Utah, with place and time to be arranged.

William White and Mark Henderson manned the NAA Membership table at the conference. Together through the use of guilt and unabated salesman's pressure the two were able to shanghai 4 new members for 1995, passed out over 50 membership applications, sold \$278 in journals, and gave away 1994 Nevada Archaeological Awareness Week posters; real collector's items. ♦

BOARD MEETING

The NAA Board of Directors met on Thursday night, October 6, 1994 in conjunction with the GBAC. President Chet Bate provided pizza treats for the ravenous crowd. NAA currently has a paid membership of 164. Much of what was discussed at the meeting is presented in separate items below.

The next Board meeting will be in Tonopah, Saturday, December 3, 9:00 A.M., at the Convention Center, 301 W. Brougner Road. All members and public are encouraged to attend. ♦

THE NEVADA ARCHAEOLOGIST

At the request of Larry Kibby and approved by the

Board, a complete set of available journals was donated to the Western Shoshone Historic Preservation Society located in Elko, Nevada.

The long awaited 1992 Volume 10, journal was returned to the printer to correct a major printing error. It will be made available to the 1992 membership when the Board receives it in an acceptable condition.

Pat Hicks, 1994 Volume 12 Editor, is feverishly working on this edition and is expecting to have it available at the beginning of the new year.

Dr. James Wilde, Director of the Office of Public Archaeology at Brigham Young University, has committed himself to edit the 1995 Volume 13 issue.

Is your collection of the *NEVADA ARCHAEOLOGIST* incomplete? Are you interested in an index of authors and titles for past journals? William White has volunteered to compile an index of past journals, and it is hoped that this information will be provided in Volume 15 of the journal. Information about acquiring "old" journals will be made in a future NEWSLETTER once we figure out what is available. ♦

A CALL FOR PAPERS

Professionals, avocationalists, and students: do you have a paper, short report, or item of interest pertaining to Nevada's archeology that you would like to see published? Opportunity is knocking! Dr. James Wilde has requested a call for papers for the 1995 *NEVADA ARCHAEOLOGIST*. Please send submissions directly to Dr. Wilde at the Office of Public Archaeology, Brigham Young University, 105 Allen Hall, Provo, Utah, 84602. ACT NOW!!!! ♦

SPEAKERS BUREAU

NAA is in the process of furnishing the Nevada Humanities Committee a list of NAA members who are qualified and willing to speak on archeological subjects. The goal is to assist organizations throughout the state in developing archeological oriented programs in their towns.

The Resource Center of the Nevada Humanities Committee offers a wide variety of exhibits, a speakers bureau entitled "Humanities on the Road" (no, it's not road kill), videos, slide shows, and many other programs. They even provide mini grants of up to \$1,000. The mini grants may be used to engage the services of a humanities

scholar, host planning meetings, or a number of other purposes. Should you need a speaker for your organizational meeting or wish to inquire about grants and grant applications, the first step would be to contact the Nevada Humanities Committee at 1034 N. Sierra St., Reno, 89507 or phone (702) 784-6587 or (800) 382-5023.

The NAA Board of Directors would be interested in hearing from anyone willing to be added to the list of speakers and/or learning the results of your programs. ♦

OPPORTUNITY TO GAIN EXPERIENCE



Looking to gain experience in the methods of survey and identification, recording, and excavation of archeological sites in the "out back" of Nevada? Dr. Mary Ludwig and her colleagues from California State University (CSU), Fresno, in

cooperation with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and NAA are proposing to conduct a multi-year archeological project in and on the fringes of Clayton Valley, Nevada. The first season will involve 3 weeks worth of test excavations at a vandalized archeological site near Big Springs, survey of the surrounding landscape, and rock art recording at the Dancing Man and Cain Man petroglyph sites. CSU will be enrolling a maximum of 20 students/volunteers for college credit. Students will be enrolled for the 3-week period (6-day work week), while volunteers can participate from 1 to 3 weeks. The first year's activities will occur during the first 3 weeks of June, 1995, with a field camp established near Big Springs at an approximate elevation of 4,000 to 5,000 feet. NAA has been asked to participate by providing volunteers and supervisory personnel. BLM is proposing to pole the NAA membership to find out who is interested in providing volunteer time for this project. The questionnaire will be mailed in the near future. Look for additional information in future issues of this NEWSLETTER. ♦

OUT AND ABOUT

State Historic Preservation Office, Carson City. The SHPO has two new employees: Dr. Julie Nicoletta and Rebecca Palmer. Rebecca has 8 years of experience as an archeologist with the Toiyabe and Eldorado National Forests. As a SHPO Archeologist, her new responsibilities will include Section 106 review and

compliance. Rebecca received her M.A. from UCLA and has research interests in historical archeology and social stratification in mining towns. Dr. Nicoletta is the SHPO's Architectural Historian. Her undergraduate work was completed at Pomona College and received her Ph.D. from Yale. An interview for the position was conducted long distance between Carson City and Italy where she lived with her husband who was working on his Ph.D. dissertation. Dr. Nicoletta is currently working on a project concerning Comstock architecture.

Ron James, SHPO, Historian, and author of the recently published *Temples of Justice: County Courthouses of Nevada*, University of Nevada Press, presented a paper at the GBAC espousing the proper "Care and Feeding of an Historian" as part of historical archeological projects. The paper was well received despite the presence of an archeological crowd; way to go Ron. **Gene Hattori**, SHPO Archeologist, has been up to his neck in a privy excavation; way to go Gene? A phone call was made to the SHPO after workers removing a fuel storage tank in Carson City made the discovery. Grabbing what tools he could find, Gene jumped into the hole to retrieve intact bottles and other objects of interest. Comparative privy excavations at other locations are planned. We look forward to reading the results of these challenging digs; imagine the stratigraphy. **Alice Baldrice**, Deputy SHPO, has been coordinating the new National Park Service directed State Preservation Planning mission. Questionnaires have been sent and three public workshops have been held seeking public preservation priorities. Additionally, Alice is working with an NAA committee to develop the 1995 Archeological Awareness Week poster; expect to see great things. And last but not least, **Susan Kastens**, Grants Analyst, is doing a fantastic job at maintaining the grants program. Talk about paperwork; hang in there Susie.

Am-Arcs, Reno. The 78 members of Am-Arcs have been active with monthly field trips to the UNR Field School in S.E. Oregon, the BYU Field School at Baker, Nevada, Applegate-Lassen Trail, Hidden Cave and Grimes Point as well as the ghost towns of Masonic and Bodie. Several members have volunteered spare time cleaning mammoth bones excavated in the Black Rock Desert by Dr. S. Livingston and her crew. Currently, volunteers are "moving dirt" and cleaning artifacts at a Washoe winter village site near Carson City under the professional direction of Vickie Clay of Archaeological Research Services. And if that wasn't enough, eight members recently presented papers at the GBAC.

Archaeo-Nevada, Las Vegas. Aside from having an active schedule of monthly speakers and interesting field trips, a number of ANS volunteers have been working with BLM to monitor cultural resources in Brownstone Canyon west of Las Vegas. The Brownstoners have logged 213 volunteer hours and have identified/recorded

9 additional sites to the 12 previously recorded. Past projects have included the clean up of trash in and around Gypsum Cave. ANS has been actively involved with BLM in developing a Gypsum Cave Management Plan. Recent field trips have been made to the Wheeler Pass Charcoal Kilns, Pueblo Grande and the Heard Museum in Phoenix, and to the Valley of Fire where they participated with the Las Vegas Astronomy Club in an "Archaeoastronomy" outing.

Beginning in December and continuing to February, ANS volunteers will have the opportunity to participate in 156 hours of excavations, 24 to 40 hours of formal lectures, and 4 to 6 weeks of laboratory methods at the Las Vegas Mormon Fort. The archeological and historical investigations are part of the Fort's master plan for development. The work is being conducted for Nevada State Parks by Louis Berger & Associates and Graham/Ryden Associates, Inc.

Southern Nevada Rock Art Enthusiasts, Las Vegas. SNRAE has been busy with field trips and guest speakers. The group is actively monitoring the Cottontail petroglyph site for BLM Archeologist, **Keith Myhrer**. The site has recently suffered vandalism in the form of unauthorized decorative rock mining and deliberate spray painting of petroglyphs. SNRAE has also been actively identifying and recording petroglyphs in an area west of Las Vegas known as the Little Red Rocks. The land is privately owned and is in danger of being developed either as a decorative rock mine or a housing development. There has also been talk with **Kathy Moskowitz**, Archeologist with the Toiyabe National Forest, about monitoring projects for the Yellow Plug and Aztec Tank petroglyph sites.

University of Nevada, Reno. This past summer, **Dr. Don Hardesty**, in cooperation with the SHPO and the Comstock Historic District Commission, directed the Comstock Archeological Field School. The excavation uncovered the remains of an Irish-owned brewery and saloon and several thousand artifacts. The Virginia City site was open for public tours during excavations.

University of Nevada, Las Vegas. **Lynda Blair**, **Susan Murphy**, and field crew from the Environmental Research Center recently identified and recorded a "Clovis-Archaic interface" archeological site on an ancient river terrace leading to Walker Lake. Several Clovis-like projectile points were recovered. The site near Hawthorne is located on lands managed by the U.S. Army.

Does your chapter or group have information they would like to share with the general NAA membership? How about archeological happenings in your area? Submit newsletters and articles to: NAA NEWSLETTER Editor, 919 Stetson, Henderson, Nevada, 89015. ♦

DATES TO REMEMBER

- NAA Board Meeting, Convention Center, Tonopah, 9:00 A.M., December 3, 1994.
- Society for Historical Archaeology Annual Meeting, Marriott Hotel, Washington, D.C., January 4-8, 1995.
- Society for California Archaeology Annual Meeting, Eureka Inn, Eureka, CA., April 9-11, 1995.
- Society for American Archaeology Annual Meeting, Minneapolis Hilton, Minneapolis, MN., May 3-7, 1995.
- Nevada Archeological Association Annual Meeting, Eureka Opera House, Eureka, NV., May 12-14, 1995.

ANNUAL MEETING, CALL FOR PAPERS

The annual NAA meeting will be held in Eureka, Nevada. The dates for the meeting have been tentatively set as May 12 to 14, 1995. The meetings will be held in the historic Eureka Opera House. **Wally Cuchine**, **David Johnson**, and **Mark Henderson** are co-hosting/co-chairing the program. Mark is presently calling for papers. If you are interested in presenting a topic of archeological interest at the meeting, please submit an abstract or idea for a paper to Mark at: 1001 Canyon Street, Ely, NV., 89049 or give him a call at 702-289-4865 (W) or 702-289-8250 (H). More information will be provided in the next NEWSLETTER. ♦

A COUPLE OF REMINDERS

MAIL - Thanks to **Susan Murphy**, the permanent mailing address for the NAA is: Nevada Archaeological Association, 9785 Tropical Parkway, Las Vegas, NV., 89129.

MEMBERSHIP - Yes, its that time of the year again. Membership applications and renewal forms will be sent with the next NEWSLETTER. Please renew your membership and make this the best year, ever, for NAA. ♦

