


In-Situ

Newsletter of the Nevada Archaeological Association Winter 1999

Winter Board Meeting in Beatty

The next NAA Board Meeting is scheduled for Saturday, December 4th in Beatty, Nevada. The board meeting will commence at 3PM at the Exchange Club.

Prior to the Saturday Board meeting, there will be a field trip to Titus Canyon in Death Valley National Park. Both historic and prehistoric sites will be toured. Those interested should meet at the Exchange Club parking lot at 9 AM Saturday, December 4th. The field trip should end around 3 PM, just in time for the board meeting. Bring a lunch!

To reserve a room at the Exchange Club, call 775-553-2333. Please mention NAA when making room reservations.

Remember, all NAA members are welcome to attend any board meetings and field trips held throughout the year.

Off Your Butts! (*The Annual Conference is Fast Approaching*)

Times a wasting, and the NAA annual meetings in Ely will be here sooner than you think (March!). So all you students, avocationalists, and professionals out there with interesting research that you need to report better get busy and send David Valentine abstracts (roughly 150 words) for papers and symposia. Papers should be 15-20 minutes in

length, and should cover some aspect of Nevada (or neighboring region) archaeology, historic archaeology, history, ethnography, or paleontology. Abstracts should be sent to Dave by the end of January, 2000.

Abstracts can be sent to Dave at his home address: 5713 Cliff Point Court, Las Vegas, NV 89149 or: c/o Desert Research Institute, 755 E. Flamingo Rd., Las Vegas, NV 89119, or via e-mail at: davidv@dri.edu or valentinedw@juno.com.

Membership Renewal

Attached to this newsletter is a membership renewal form for your membership. NAA membership runs from January through December so it is that time of the year again! Please take the time to renew your membership for 2000 so there will be no interruption in your membership benefits.

Great Basin College Completes Field School at the Daub Site

Students, in conjunction with the Ely Office of the Bureau of Land Management, recently completed the first archaeological field school offered for credit by Great Basin College (GBC). They read classroom materials, attended lectures, and learned about artifact classification. The crew, consisting of students, volunteers, instructor Amy Henderson, and advisors Eric Henderson, Anthropology instructor at GBC, Mark Henderson and Brenda Reed, Ely BLM archaeologists, and Farrel Lytle, local guide and discoverer of the site, spent three weekends



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in September and October doing "hands on" work at the Mud Daub Site southeast of Pioche, Nevada. There, students learned a basic understanding of site mapping, sampling, the systematic collections of artifacts, record keeping, and test excavation as they completed those tasks with trowel and pencil in hand. Two additional weekends in September and October were spent doing further artifact analysis and record keeping the lab.

The main focus of the class was to get in introduction to field archaeology at an actual site. Fridays were spent traveling from Elko, with a stop in Ely to pick up additional crew members. Also in Ely, a lecture was given to the students at the Ely campus of GBC. Then the crew was off to the Spring Valley campground outside of Pioche. This was the "base camp" and the site for additional lecture, discussion, and familiarization with the purpose of and way of doing field archaeology. Saturday mornings began with a stimulating hike through "rugged terrain" in the pinyon and juniper covered hills near Meadow Valley to reach the site where field work continued throughout the day. Saturday evenings were spent evaluating the day's work, and Sundays were spent "field tripping" to other areas of archaeological interest on the way back to Elko.

The site the class studied was named Mud Daub for the hunks of fired clay daub found there. The daub was used as a binding agent to cover jacal structures in prehistoric times. Groundstone tools, projectile points and other lithics, and pot sherds also littered the surface of the site and some of the rocks may be aligned along structure foundations or walls. While C14

datable, burned corn cobs were not found, other evidence of fire at the site was overwhelming: ceramics, rocks, daub and even the soil were burned. One test excavation revealed a possible hearth and another area traced the almost certain foundation of a wall. A preliminary view of the ceramics gives the impression of a Fremont collection (especially the Black on Gray bowls with a fugitive red exterior), and a late one at that (with the small amount of brownware mixed in). More careful analysis to be completed this winter will provide an important base line for defining the archaeological assemblage of the area and how it fits in to the framework of the surrounding areas in Nevada and Utah.

In addition to the Mud Daub Site work, students had the opportunity to learn about flint knapping from Mark Henderson (and try it themselves!). Other sites of historic Nevada interest in the Ursine area at Spring Valley State Park included a homestead house made of local stone and restored as a living history attraction, and an early cemetery. Near Ely, the Ward Charcoal Ovens were visited. An additional opportunity to help unearth early Nevada history was a stop at the original Pioche dump where a brief introduction to tin can and glass classification was given. Then students combed the area seeking the earliest "trash" they could find.

Everyone involved felt this was an excellent learning experience and expressed the hope that the venture could be continued. We all came to a new realization of the importance of and lack of permanence surrounding our historical resources. Nevada has much to offer to those interested enough to actively look for its

history. It was a chance to increase our knowledge in a very unique way and one that we hope can be had by others.

Submitted by Shauna Pierce and Amy Henderson

Ting Perkins Award Nominees Sought

Somewhere in Nevada is a person qualified to join the ranks of these prior awardees: Norma and Herb Splatt, Jean Myles, Steven Stoney, Jean Stevens, Grace Burkholder and Don Hendricks. The main criteria for the Ting Perkins award are that the individual be a non professional in the broad field of archaeology who has participated in activities related to discovery, conservation, education, assisting professionals or reporting on Nevada archaeology.

When you are ready to nominate someone, prepare an outline of the individual's contributions and activities to Nevada Archaeology and mail it to:

Oyvind Frock
3785 Falcon Way
Reno, Nevada 89509

UNLV Department of Anthropology and Ethnic Studies Adds New Staff Member

Please join UNLV in welcoming Dr. Vicki Cassman, Professor of Archaeology and

Museum Studies. Dr. Cassman was hired over the summer and is a welcome addition to the department.

Dr. Cassman received her Ph.D. in Archaeology from Arizona State in 1997. Prior to earning her Ph.D., she earned M.S. degrees in Art Conservation and Textile Chemistry from the University of Delaware. Her research interests include collection management, prevention conservation, and textiles. She's particularly interested in South American archaeological textiles and in being able to use them to look at the social organization of the Andean populations (looking for a new twist in material culture?). Though primarily interested in South American material, any textile will do (even the textiles found at the Liberatec Museum). Her interest and abilities in collection management have landed her a position on the team conserving the Kennewick Man collection and she recently returned from a trip where C14 samples were taken from the remains.

At UNLV, Dr. Cassman hopes to add an introductory course form managing archaeological collections-including how to field prepare specimens and how to search for organic and other material not normally located with current techniques such as hair, asbestos, and psuedomorphs. She would also like to teach courses on responsible collection management.

Submitted by David Valentine



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Historic Preservation/Archaeological Awareness Week 2000

Thanks to all of you that participated in or scheduled events for HP/Archaeological Awareness Week in 1999. Turn out was good: 60 people on a walking tour of the Las Vegas High School neighborhood; 11 people throwing atlats at DRI in Las Vegas; 20 Amarchs out of Reno cleaning away trash from a local petroglyph site. Over 60 people retraced a portion of the route of the Donners. Although the numbers vary, depending on the weather and other local events, each year we see an increase in communities participating in the week long event.

Now is not too early to think about events for Historic Preservation/Archaeological Awareness Week 2000. Please consider leading a tour of an archaeological site, participating in an archaeological fair (Fallon and Elko have both successfully drawn people to fairs at which lectures, demonstrations of tool making, Native American dancers and Native Americans discussing their lifeways are featured.) or giving a lecture or slide show. Consider organizing events within your community or organization. If you need assistance putting an event together or need ideas or a speaker, please call Alice Baldrice at the Nevada SHPO, telephone (775) 684-3444. Helen Mortenson has suggested southern Nevada organizations pool their efforts and schedule events so as not to coincide. Call Helen at (702) 876-6944 for more information.

Official dates of the event (usually the second week in May) will be forthcoming as well as an official notice from the Nevada SHPO.

Submitted by Alice Baldrice

Chapter and Affiliate News

Am-Arcs of Nevada

Our monthly meetings resumed in September when Robert Leavitt discussed his findings on the orange stoneware jugs which previously have been termed "rum jugs". It is now clear that most of them were mineral water containers produced in the Nassau area of Germany.

In October, Dr. Alan Gillispie from Desert Research Institute (DRI) presented his finding regarding an astral glyph in the White Mountains.

The November speaker was Dr. Dave Rhode of DRI. He showed slides of his recent trip to South Africa.

The last field trip in 1999 was to a site discovered by members Bill and Maranel Thomas. This site has 45 habitation structures aligned along two tufa ridges.

Members Oyvind Frock and Joanne Botsford were with Alvin McLane when he found an obsidian clovis point in the Pine Nut Mountains. This added an extra bit of enjoyment to the geoglyph at 8000 feet we were recording.

For further information on Am-Arcs, contact Oyvind Frock at 775/826-8779.



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Archaeo-Nevada

Archaeo-Nevada meets the 2nd Thursday of each month at 7:30 PM at the Southern Nevada Community College, West Charleston Campus in Building B, Room 203.

For more information on Archaeo-Nevada, contact Howard Hahn at 702/ 564-7912.

Churchill County Chapter

The Churchill County Chapter meets the 1st Wednesday of each month (excepting the summer months) at the Round Table Pizza in Fallon. Each meeting includes a program of interest to archaeology and a short business meeting. The Churchill Chapter has provided both financial and personnel support to the Churchill County Museum, and works with the "Adopt a Site" program and supports the BLM's tours at Grimes Point Petroglyph Site and Hidden Cave.

For more information about the Churchill County Chapter of the NAA, please contact Maie Nygren at 775/423-2212

White Pine Historical and Archaeological Society

The Society meets the 3rd Friday of each month at 7 PM at the White Pine Public Museum, 2000 Aultman St. in Ely.

A reminder that the White Pine Historical and Archaeological Society also has a website:

www.webpanda.com/white_pine_county/historical_society

For more information, contact Lisa Gilbert at 289-6728.

Calendar

December 4, 1999. Winter NAA Board Meeting to be held at the Exchange Club in Beatty, NV.

January 4-9, 2000. 2000 SHA Conference on Historical and Underwater Archaeology. Quebec City, Canada. William Moss, Conference Co-Chair (418-656-2952 or e-mail wmoss@riq.qc.ca)

March 10-12, 2000. The NAA Annual Conference and Board Meeting. Ely, Nevada. Contact Gretchen Burris, arrangements chair, or Dave Valentine, program chair, for more information.

The NAA Board :

Anne DuBarton: President (895-0534)
Susan Murphy: Executive Secretary (658-3396)
Pat Hicks: Secretary (565-1709)
Oyvind Frock: Treasurer (826-8779)
Christi Shaw: Membership (964-2671)
Gretchen Burris: Newsletter Editor(289-2450)
Bill Johnson: Board Member (566-4390)
Peggy McGuckian: Board Member (623-3396)
David Valentine: Board Member (645-9579)
Alice Baldrice: Ex Officio (SHPO) (687-6361)

Journal Editors


Roberta McGonagle 1999
Bill White 2000 (566-1929)
Anne DuBarton/
Susan Edwards 2001

2000 Meetings

Program Chair David Valentine
Arrangements Gretchen Burris

Chapter Representatives

Am Arcs: Oyvind Frock
Archaeo Nevada: Helen Mortenson (876-6944)
Churchill County: Maie Nygren (423-2212)
Elko County: Stephanie Halliman (777-8266)
Lincoln County: Barbara Rhode (728-4467)
White Pine County: Lisa Gilbert (289-6728)



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Editor's Corner:

The deadline for the fall newsletter is February 1st, 2000. Please send some articles my way! The next issue will be my last as editor, so if any of you hardy souls are interested in taking over; please attend the annual meeting in March and join the Board.

Gretchen Burris
35 Elysium Drive
Ely, Nevada 89301
or email me at : gjburris@netxpress.net

