



In-Situ



Newsletter of the Nevada Archaeological Association

Winter 2001

The End of the Year is Near

And that means that your membership dues are due! Attached to this issue of *In-Situ* is the membership form. Please fill it out and send it in along with some of your hard-earned cash (really not much!). The membership form is essential for NAA's membership secretary to track membership and keep the database updated. Your continued, and timely, support is also greatly appreciated.

2001 November Board Meeting

Anne DuBarton, NAA President

As per tradition, the winter board meeting took place in the warmer climes of Southern Nevada. We all converged on Searchlight late Friday afternoon for an evening presentation by Dave Valentine at the Searchlight Community Center. Dave presented some of his thesis research in a talk about Chinese placer mining in American Canyon.

Our Saturday field trip focused on the Nelson Canyon vicinity. The current owners of the historic Techatticup mine led us on a guided tour. We saw historic photographs and artifacts collected from the property and saw several 19th century buildings that are still standing. Then we entered the mine itself. After signing

in and receiving our assigned numbers (standard mining procedure to keep track of who's underground), we headed down one of the tunnels. The tunnels and shafts follow white quartz veins that contain gold and silver. While the portions open to the public are well lit, our guide turned off the electricity for a few minutes and the utter darkness of the interior kept us immobile. We could imagine the early miners using only candles to light their way and we could see how donkeys used to pull the ore carts went blind inside the mine. When we emerged from the mine we still had some time before the board meeting so we drove down to the end of the road to a place once known as Nelson Landing. The community that once stood where the steep-sided valley comes into Lake Mojave now lies buried beneath a massive mudslide.

The board meeting focused mainly on final details for the upcoming 2002 annual meeting to be held in Carson City. Bob Elston is slated to be the speaker for the Saturday night banquet and two field trips are in the works. One will visit Hidden Cave and the Grimes Point petroglyphs and a second will visit historic cemeteries near Virginia City. We look forward to seeing many of you there.

How To Participate in Planning for the Black Rock-High Rock NCA and Wildernesses

Jamie Thompson, Writer-Editor/PAO, BLM
Winnemucca Field Office

The Black Rock Desert-High Rock Canyon Emigrant Trails National Conservation Act of 2000 (Black Rock-High Rock NCA Act) became law on December 21, 2000 conveying special area designations on approximately 1,228,000 acres of federal public lands administered by the U.S. Department of the Interior's Bureau of Land Management (BLM) north of the town of Gerlach in northwestern Nevada. The Act created the Black Rock Desert-High Rock Canyon Emigrant Trails National Conservation Area (NCA) consisting of approximately 815,000 acres and ten adjacent Wilderness areas consisting of approximately 752,000 acres. (Approximately 378,000 of these Wilderness acres are located within the NCA boundaries and this number must be subtracted from the NCA acreage to get the correct grand total of specially designated acres.)

A new BLM staff has been put together to begin the process of creating a management plan for the Black Rock Desert-High Rock Canyon NCA, the ten adjacent Wilderness Areas, the Lahonton Cutthroat Trout Natural Area, and some other small areas of BLM lands contiguous with the NCA. This staff initially serves as an NCA Planning Team and coordinates its activities with both the BLM Surprise Field Office out of Cedarville, California and the Winnemucca Field Office out of Winnemucca, Nevada. NCA planning and management operations are supervised by Dave Cooper, NCA Manager, out of the Winnemucca Field Office.

By law, the planning process for the NCA and Wilderness areas must be completed within three years of the date of enactment of the Black Rock-High Rock Act of 2000, or by no later than December 20, 2003. Opportunities for public involvement will many. The notice of intent to create the NCA management plan was published in the *Federal Register* on December 6th. This began a 60-day scoping period ending on February 4th, 2002, during which time public comments are being solicited from all those with interests and concerns for the planning area.

Two public scoping meetings have been scheduled: Wednesday, January 16th in Reno, Nevada at the BLM State Office, 1340 Financial Boulevard (775) 861-6400; and Thursday, January 17th in Sacramento, California at the Scottish Rite Masonic Center, 6151 H Street (916) 452-5881. These meetings will solicit formal oral and written comments from members of the public expressing their concerns and suggestions for how the NCA, Wilderness areas, and other included areas should be managed. The NCA planning process will not deal with whether these areas should be designated as NCA and Wilderness, Congress has already made those decisions, but rather with how these areas should best be managed in conformance with applicable law (the Black Rock-High Rock Act of 2000, the 1964 Wilderness Act, the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, etc.). Every comment received from the public will be considered and addressed as part of the planning process. NAA members are encouraged to participate in the scoping process.

The NCA Plan will determine, among other things, what types of facilities such as a visitor information

center and employee housing may have to be leased or constructed and where, what routes and areas should be open and closed to OHV use on non-wilderness lands, whether and where campsites should be located, and many, many more. The plan will also provide guidance on BLM employee skills needed to best manage the specially designated areas. BLM will be inviting active participation from local, State and Tribal entities as well as interest groups. News releases, flyers and website postings will be used extensively to inform the public about when, where and how to express their views on how these special areas should be managed. Participation by as many interested members of the public as possible in the scoping process is the way to assure that the best possible plan is created.

Timely information on how to participate in scoping can be obtained by calling the Winnemucca Field Office at (775) 623-1500, or at the Surprise Field Office at (530) 279-6101. Information will also be posted on the BLM Nevada State Office website at:

<http://www.nv.blm.gov/> and on the Black Rock-High Rock NCA Planning website at:
<http://www.blackrockhighrock.blm.gov/>
as soon as possible. These sites are not accessible by the public as this is being written, but will be up and running soon.

There are several ways to obtain information on the newly designated special areas. The websites will include printable versions of the most up-to-date maps. These maps are improved for accuracy and clearer delineation of open roads and wilderness boundaries as better data becomes available. Several printable fact sheets and flyers will also be available on the websites and will be periodically upgraded when new

information is developed. Hard copies of these maps and handouts are also available from BLM's Nevada State Office at 1340 Financial Blvd., Reno, Nevada; Winnemucca Field Office at 5100 East Winnemucca Boulevard, Winnemucca, Nevada 89445; and Surprise Field Office at 602 Cressler Street, Cedarville, California 96104.

The input of every interested party is not only sought by the BLM, but is critical to the success of the NCA/Wilderness planning effort. Comments can be made orally or in writing at the public scoping meetings or through conventional mail or email directed to the NCA Planning Team at the Winnemucca Field Office. No matter the method used, every comment submitted in connection with creation of the management plan will be carefully considered and addressed during the planning process.

The Black Rock-High Rock Act created not only the first BLM-administered Wilderness Areas and only the second NCA in the State of Nevada, but also an atmosphere of excitement. This is a new situation not only for Nevadans as a whole, but also for many BLM employees. During the NCA planning process the public and the BLM will work together through scoping to assure that Nevada's newest nationally recognized natural treasures are managed consistent with applicable laws and regulations for the greatest good for the greatest number of people.

Questions, concerns, and formal scoping comments can be addressed to: NCA Planning Team, Winnemucca Field Office, 5100 Winnemucca Blvd., Winnemucca, Nevada 89445 at (775) 623-1500.

What Is An NCA?

A National Conservation Area, or NCA for short, is an area of federal public land administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) that has been specially designated by Congress to recognize and protect important national resources present there. Each Act creating an NCA specifies the purpose for that area's designation. The Black Rock Desert-High Rock Canyon Emigrant Trails NCA was established to:

" . . . conserve, protect, and enhance for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations the unique and nationally important historical, cultural, paleontological, scenic, scientific, biological, educational, wildlife, riparian, wilderness, endangered species, and recreational values and resources associated with the Applegate-Lassen and Nobles Trails corridors and surrounding areas . . ." [Black Rock Desert-High Rock Canyon NCA Act of 2000, Public Law 106-554, Sec. 4(a)]

Two of the protected national resources in the Black Rock Desert-High Rock Canyon area are segments of historic California emigrant trails (with settings nearly unchanged from pioneer days) and the Black Rock Desert Playa (one of the largest dry lake beds in the world).

The difference between an NCA and a Wilderness is found in the laws that determine how they are managed. Wilderness areas, including the 378,300 Wilderness acres designated by Congress within the Black Rock-High Rock NCA, is administered under authority of the Wilderness Act of 1964. Perhaps the most obvious difference in on-the-ground management between a Wilderness and an NCA is in how access is controlled. The Wilderness Act emphasizes management for wilderness values such as solitude and preservation and significantly restricts motorized vehicle access. The language of the Wilderness Act pertaining to access is as follows:

"Except as specifically provided for in this chapter, and subject to existing private rights, there shall be no commercial enterprise and no permanent road within any wilderness area designated by this chapter and, except as necessary to meet minimum requirements for the administration of the area for the purpose of this chapter (including measures required in emergencies involving the health and safety of persons within the area), there shall be no temporary road, no use of motor vehicles, motorized equipment or motorboats, no landing of aircraft, no other form of mechanical transport, and no structure or installation within any

such area." [Wilderness Act of 1964, Title 16 United States Code, Sec. 1133(c)]

Each NCA is administered under authority of the specific act that created it. The purpose for creation of the Black Rock Desert-High Rock Canyon Emigrant Trails NCA has already been described. In the portions of the NCA that are not also designated as wilderness mechanized travel and use of other mechanized equipment may be regulated by BLM in accordance with the purposes of the Act, but are not specifically restricted by the Act. The language of this NCA Act concerning access in non-wilderness areas of the NCA is as follows:

"The Secretary shall maintain adequate access for the reasonable use and enjoyment of the conservation area . . . provide reasonable access to privately owned land or interests in land within the boundaries of the conservation area . . . [and] is authorized to maintain existing public access within the boundaries of the conservation area in a manner consistent with the purposes for which the conservation area was established." [Black Rock Desert-High Rock Canyon NCA Act of 2000, Public Law 106-554, Sec. 5(b)]

Newsletter Editor Relocates

As many of you know, I have accepted a position with the Winnemucca Field Office as the archaeologist for the Black Rock Desert—High Rock Canyon Emigrant Trails National Conservation Office. My new mailing address in Winnemucca (for all of you who are dying to send me *In-Situ* submissions) is: P.O. Box 1084, Winnemucca, NV 89446. I can also be reached at the Bureau of Land Management, Winnemucca Field Office, 5100 E. Winnemucca Blvd., Winnemucca, NV 89445. My office phone number is (775) 623-1766, and my e-mail (as soon as the Department of Interior can prove the security of its computer systems) is david_valentine@nv.blm.gov.

Call for Papers, 2002 Annual Meeting

Renee Kolvet, 2002 Program Chair

Abstracts for papers, symposia, and posters will be accepted until February 28, 2002, for the 2002 annual meeting. There is no theme for this meeting so presentations in all fields including archeology, history, ethnography, and geology are encouraged. Please send your name, affiliation, and the title and abstract (100-150 words for 20-minute presentations) of your paper to: Renee Kolvet, c/o BLM Carson City Field Office, 5665 Morgan Mill Road, Carson City, NV 89701. If the Department of Interior can prove the security of its computer systems, it may eventually be possible to send it electronically to: renee_kolvet@nv.blm.gov.

**Call for Submissions
2002 Nevada Archeologist**

Steve Daron, 2002 Editor

The NAA is now accepting submissions for the 2002 *Nevada Archeologist*. This will be a non-thematic issue; articles about archeology, history, ethnography or related topics will be accepted on a space available basis. Papers will be needed by the end of February 2002 with an anticipated publication date of July 2002. Steve Daron, park archeologist Lake Mead National Recreation Area, will be editor of this issue. Send papers the old fashioned way to: Steve Daron, Lake Mead NRA, 601 Nevada Highway, Boulder City, NV 89005, or by e-mail to: Steve_Daron@nps.gov (Assuming the Dept. of Interior can prove the security of its system and gets the court order lifted). When submitting papers please include your name, address, phone number, e-mail address, and affiliation.

Last Chance for NAA Student Stipend

Anne DuBarton, NAA President

The NAA is committed to support student research. Toward this goal, we will support two Nevada University or community college students in the presentation of their research at the NAA annual meetings. The meetings will take place April 26-28 in Carson City. The stipend consists of \$200.00 for travel costs, rooms or whatever. We have extended the deadline for application until January 30, 2002. To apply please send a copy of your student I.D., a one page summary of your research, and a faculty recommendation letter to the NAA at:

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

NAA Needs a Web Page Liaison

Anne DuBarton, NAA President

The board of the NAA needs help with our Web Page. We only have a limited amount of money to spend on maintenance and upkeep and so are hoping one of our members will be willing to help with this task. The job would entail working with the Web Page designer to keep things up to date, add appropriate links, and so forth. Some experience working with web pages would be helpful. If you are interested in helping with this task please contact Anne DuBarton, your NAA President at:

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

Am-Arcs of Nevada

Oyvind Frock

On September 21, a small group of Am-Arcs members went to a set of petroglyphs to watch the equinoctial sunset. The setting sun cast a shadow from a low rock onto a set of concentric circles. The sun also set precisely in a low notch in the hills on the western horizon. We will make another trip for the vernal equinox.

In October 14 of us followed Len Ettinger along several Pleistocene lakeshores in the Beatty and Tonopah areas. Four IMACS forms were completed for sites we found, and two of them turned out to be previously unrecorded. Around ten projectile points and point fragments of varying styles were found and mapped.

The following members were elected to the major offices for 2002:

President--Dan Urriola
Vice-president--Nick Fasone
Treasurer--Shirley Mohiyama
Secretary--Robert Leavitt
Newsletter Editor--Ann Ettinger
We resumed monthly meetings in September and have had the following speakers:

September: Patricia Hunt-Jones discussed last summer's excavations at Island Mountain, a Chinese gold camp north of Elko. This was a University of Nevada Reno/Forest Service Passport-in-Time project.

October: Dr. Ted Goebel reviewed the fieldwork he has been leading in the Goshute area near Wendover.

November: Kelly Dixon summarized the information gathered so far from the excavation of the Boston Saloon in Virginia City. This is the only African-American site excavated so far in the Great Basin.

December: Our December meeting was the annual buffet dinner on December 7th. Amy Dansie and Jerry Jerrems discussed their ongoing research into the chronology of Pleistocene Lake Lahonton.

Archeo-Nevada Society (A-NS) News

A-NS held elections for new officers. Those elected are:

Cheryl Martin—President
Carol Shimer—Vice-president
Harold Larson—Secretary
Helen Mortenson—Treasurer

For additional information about A-NS, please contact Helen Mortenson at (702) 876-8944 or via e-mail at: ArcheoNV@aol.com.

On November 17, members of A-NS and the Southern Nevada Rock Art Enthusiasts met to gather data on the impacts of bicycle trails on petroglyph and other prehistoric sites near the Lone Grapevine and Scrub Oak drainages in Red Rocks. The enthusiasm of this volunteer effort is to be applauded, but questions are raised concerning the efforts is the BLM's Las Vegas Field Office making to protect cultural resources. Since the volunteers mobilized after the fact for several of the trails, it appears as though the bicycle routes are not getting proper analysis under the National Environmental Policy Act and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

Elko County Chapter News

Members of the Elko County Chapter have been holding regular meetings at the Spring Creek Round Table Pizza. It appears as though they have plenty to talk about with their work on the Midas diorama and their plans to create a scholarship for deserving Great Basin College students. Other things to discuss include the progress of Amy Henderson's Great Basin College Anthropology 402 class--Laboratory Methods in Archaeology. Students from the class processed material from the Clover Valley field school excavations and from the Dune site. Lab methods include flotation, lithic and ceramic analysis, and identification of bone. A Christmas get together was held December 14th at the Henderson's home.

Southern Nevada Rock Art Enthusiasts (SNRAE)

SNRAE has an informal gathering the first Thursday of the month to share rock art pictures and news. A meeting is also held on the third Thursday of the month that includes a guest speaker. All gatherings and meetings are held at the main Las Vegas Library, 833 Las Vegas Blvd. North at 7:00 p.m. Recent guest speakers include Joe O'Connor who presented the results of his research at the Nampaweap Petroglyph site; Terri Robertson and Don White who presented information and slides on the excavations at Tule Springs; and Ken Hedges who gave a presentation on the cave art of Europe.

Field trips have resumed after the summer hiatus. For more information on gatherings, meetings and field trips, call the SNRAE voice mail at (702) 897-7878.

White Pine Historical and Archaeological Society (WPHAS)

It appears as though WPHAS had an eventful summer and fall with field trips to Osceola and the Tonopah-Belmont mill, a potluck dinner at Budy Jukich's home, and the annual business meeting October 19 at the White Pine Public Museum. In addition to excellent field trips, membership in WPHAS includes a great quarterly newsletter packed with information on activities and reprints of historic happenings. For information on the society write to White Pine Historical and Archaeological Society, P.O. Box 1117, Ely, NV 89301-1117.

News of Nevada Archaeologists

Laureen "Laurie" Perry was recently hired as a full-time, permanent archaeologist by the Bureau of Reclamation, Lower Colorado Region (Reclamation). Although Laurie had been working at Reclamation for nearly a year, her previous position was temporary contract position. Laurie earned a Master's degree at the University of Nevada Las Vegas in 1997, and has many years of experience in Great Basin and Plateau archaeology.

Doug Dashiell, until recently an NAA board member, decided that retirement wasn't for him and he took a job in California. Good luck with your new position, and stay in touch!

The Ting-Perkins Award

The NAA board is pleased to announce that the recipient of the 2002 Ting-Perkins award is Phil Hutchinson. Mr. Hutchinson's avocational participation in Nevada Archaeology has spanned over 30 years, and he has made significant contributions in Paleo-Indian and rock art studies, to name two. Drs. Gene Hattori and Alanah Woody of the Nevada State Museum and Jean Myles all enthusiastically supported his nomination. Congratulations to Mr. Hutchinson, and thanks for all your contributions.

Upcoming Conferences

The 6th Conference on Death Valley History and Prehistory is scheduled for February 7-10, 2002 at the Furnace Creek Ranch in Death Valley, California. For more information contact Jean Johnson, 4916 Westridge Road, Bishop, CA 93514, e-mail: dvhistconf@qnet.com.

Two Large Diameter (30M) Rock Circles

Oyvind Frock (AmArcs of Nevada) and Vickie Clay (Summit Envirosolutions)

Sparks and Beowawe. Truckee and Humboldt drainages. Rock enclosures one and two courses high. Both sit on sloping igneous bedrock. Both are constructed of local material. The Beowawe circle is unbroken. The Sparks circle has two gaps in the perimeter. Both are void of artifacts, modern, historic, or prehistoric. The Sparks circle has two clusters of stones that look like post supports. The Beowawe circle has clusters of stones or small cairns that may have supported posts. Both are on gentle 6-degree slopes. The Sparks circle has an eastern exposure, the Beowawe circle a southeastern view. Both circles have acted as dams for slope wash deposits on their uphill perimeters. Local Shoshone have visited and lay no claim to the Beowawe feature; while a Sparks cattleman with the area grazing allotment knows nothing about the Sparks feature.

Kautz originally recorded the Beowawe circle and ARS/Summit Envirosolutions (Vickie Clay and friends) recently updated and probed the circle with negative findings (Figure 1). Oyvind Frock recorded the Sparks circle with Jim Cooper, a retired geologist who first saw the circle 20 years ago while hunting chukar (Figure 2).

So what do we have? Sheep pens, antelope pens, horse pens, rabbit pens, medicine wheels, dance circles, game circles, astronomical solstice/equinox calendars, extended family sleeping circles, ceremonial features? The list goes on, but as Dansie (1982:277) so aptly observed in *An Archaeological Element*:

"Earth surface features require a set of descriptive definitions that are not tied to functional interpretations. Function varies with the culture of origin, and is a research question to ask of each feature in its own setting."

Vickie and Oyvind are interested in learning if any other similar rock circles have been located or recorded. Vickie can be reached at Summit Envirosolutions in Carson City at (775) 888-8889 or e-mail vclay@summite.com. Oyvind can be reached at (775) 826-8779 or 3785 Falcon Way, Reno, NV 89509.



Figure 1. The Beowawe circle. Allen McCabe, Larry Hause and Kahneena Jones standing in the center.



Figure 2. The Sparks circle. Only about half of the perimeter is in view.