

PEN



PARK EMPLOYEE NEWSLETTER

ADMINISTRATOR'S CORNER

By David Morrow

Russ Dapsauski and I had the pleasure of taking the new director of Tourism, **Claudia Vecchio**, on a tour of the parks in Lincoln County. Despite being a long couple of days, it was great to get out in the parks and visit with so many enthusiastic and dedicated folks. On our trip back to Las Vegas, **Claudia** mentioned what stood out most to her was the dedication of the park employees she met. She said she was impressed at how much everyone cared about the parks they managed and worked in and how hard they try to promote Nevada State Parks.

As I have said, many times, people revisit a park for two simple reasons: 1) the park's features and amenities; 2) how they were treated by the park staff. Nevada's State Parks have some great features and well maintained facilities, but for the most part, it is our employees that really set us apart. It's pretty impressive to stay in a park that is not only well kept,



but where the park employees are friendly and helpful. As I listened to **Cody Tingey, Ben Johnson, Dawn Andone and Jonathan Brunjes** describe their parks, I couldn't help but get excited about all the things they are doing and just how much they want to promote parks.

There is only one reason we have been able to survive all the budget cuts and that is the dedication of everyone who works for parks. Although I highlighted the employees in Lincoln County, the same could be said of any of Nevada's 24 state parks, program and support staff. I really appreciate the pride and ownership everyone has in their park, program and how much they believe in what they are doing.

The future of state parks rests in our hands. As long as we maintain our enthusiasm, continue the hard work and dedication, we will be just fine.

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT (P&D)

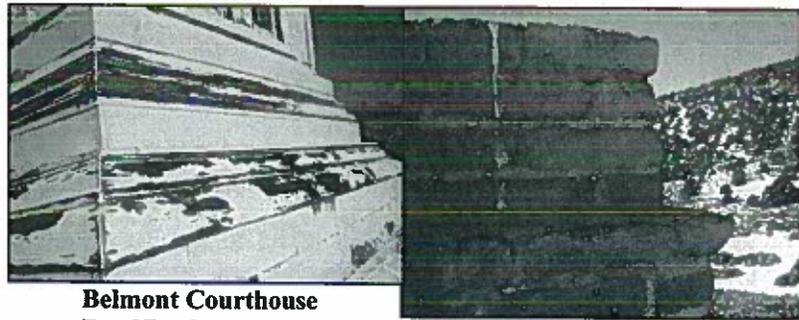
By Mark Davis

The following list of projects continues to be a dynamic element for the development staff. We have been very fortunate to fund projects with less Q1 bond money; leveraging funds from outside sources at a higher percentage. Because of our economy, we have had to be more judicious at finding outside funding sources to creative ways to match outside funds with In-Kind staff match. We have been able to achieve that goal due to all of the partnering between park staff and development staff. I have to say our very proficient

Development staff seems to be up to the task to "roll with the punches" as the project list continues to be dynamic.

I would like remind everyone that P&D is here to help all park staff with any issues they have with the improvements in their parks. Regional managers and facility supervisors need to be aware of the issues at your park also, so please be sure you make them aware.

PROJECTS BIDDING



**Belmont Courthouse
Roof Replacement:**

In the last PEN article, we brought this project to your attention. It is funded by Nye County for construction, with much thanks to **Nye County Commissioners, Joni Easley and Lorinda Wichman**, and various residents of Belmont (now members of the "Friends of the Belmont Courthouse").

This project will replace the existing metal roof that was installed in 1974/1975 and will include painting of the Cupola and re-pointing of the chimneys above the roof elevation. Bids open April 24, 2012 and construction commence as soon as possible. **Marc Lepire** is the Project Manager for design and construction administration. This project is funded by Nevada Division of State Parks (NDSP) Q1 bonds in the amount of \$7,000 and Nye County funds for construction in the amount of \$57,654.

Valley of Fire, Fire Canyon Overlook:

The Fire Canyon Overlook project will include paved parking, sidewalk, a comfort station and interpretive kiosks. Project design was managed by **Eric Nelson**, assisted by **Marc Lepire** and **Joe Cyphers**. It is funded with \$720,000 in Scenic Byways grant money through Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT) and \$206,000 in Q1 Bonds. Construction Management will be performed by **Bob Beck**, supervised by **Joe Cyphers** and assisted by **Eric Nelson**. Bids for this project will be opened on May 11, 2012.

Lake Tahoe, Sand Harbor Divers Cove Walkway and Picnic Area Sidewalk projects:

Joe Cyphers has been working with Jay Howard (and Peter Maholland before him) on this project funded with EIP and Lake Tahoe License Plate funds. The design is now complete and the project is bidding. The bid opening was April 11, 2012. Construction will follow as soon as Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA) will allow. The scope of this project will replace paved walkways with concrete sidewalks.

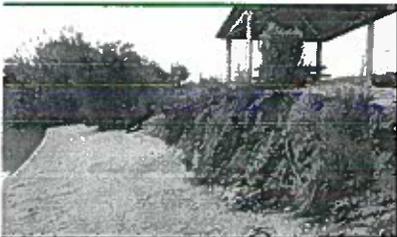
COMPLETED PROJECTS



Big Bend of the Colorado State Recreation Area, North Shoreline Ramada Relocation:

This project was a fast track project added to the list of projects for an ongoing issue with shoreline erosion. Four shoreline ramadas at the north shoreline area were being undermined or at risk of being undermined by the Colorado River. This project included the relocation of those ramadas and related improvements. The project was designed by Joe Cyphers, bid by Kelly Kolhoss at the Southern Region office, who also managed construction management. This project

moved VERY fast and turned out well. Another part of this project will include work at the south shoreline and boat lagoon, as well as additional work at the north shoreline.



REMOVED FROM THE PARKS DRAWING BOARD:

Washoe Lake Bike Path:

Between Washoe County and State Parks, it was determined this project would be better served by moving the bike path adjacent to East Lake Boulevard through road widening. State Parks and State Lands will continue to be partners by providing funding. However, this project will be managed by Washoe County. The project is funded by \$141,161.89 State Parks Q1 bonds, \$175,000 State Lands Q1 Bonds and \$175,000 Washoe County bonds.

Tule Springs Fence:



Tule Springs fence with pedestrian access "maze".

This project was initiated by a public request to protect the Tule Springs site from construction dumping and damage by off road vehicles, but the public wanted to still maintain pedestrian access. The project was completed on time and within budget. It was funded with \$1,000 Q1 Bonds and \$64,000 Pine Creek funds and was managed by Dion George.

PROJECTS UNDER CONSTRUCTION

Cave Lake State Park Solar System Repairs:

The Cave Lake solar generation system repair/replacement is approximately 65-70% complete. The vast majority of the physical work was performed by park and region maintenance staff. Initial work in the Fall minimized generator use and allowed park staff time to get acquainted with and fine tune the operation of the system.

In the near future, the system will be enhanced with additional infrastructure to make it as self sufficient as possible. This project is being managed by Dion George and was funded through Cat. 06, Cat. 07 and Q1 funding in the amount of \$28,000. Most of this work has been performed by Steve Gray, Terry Ivins, and Allen Wooldridge. They were assisted by Dion George and Charlie Wells.

Two Cabins at the Rye Patch State Recreation Area:



Cabins installed, getting power and water.

This project is nearly complete. King Family Construction pre-fabricated, delivered and set the cabins. Due to limited regional and park staff, additional site work was performed by the contractor. However, Scott Payne and Charlie Wells assisted on site development. The one remaining element of the project is the concrete slab work for access and accessibility. It was delayed due to winter weather. Concrete work will be performed by regional maintenance staff.

Marc Lepire and **Dion George** worked together on the design of the cabins. **Marc** completed and advertised the project and managed this project as well. This project should be completed on or before the printing of this PEN article! It was 100% funded by Q1 bond of an estimated \$45,000 cost.

South Fork Manufactured Home Residences:

This is a new project. When **Jim Wilkinson** retired, and solicitation began for a new Park Supervisor, it became very apparent that we needed housing at this site for response to park emergencies. The project is 100% funded by Q1 bond money in the amount of \$411,885.00 for two ranger residences, road development, site drainage and power by **Wells Rural Power**.

The preliminary engineering was performed by **Bob Beck**, supervised and assisted by **Joe Cyphers**. The construction oversight will be by **Bob Beck**, also supervised and assisted by **Joe Cyphers**. Construction by **Impact Construction** began on March 30 and we anticipate construction to be complete by May 30, 2012 and the houses will be ready for occupancy.

DESIGN PROJECTS

New Echo Canyon Campground: This project is funded with \$150,000 in Q1 bond and \$2,100,000 Southern Nevada



Public Land Management Act (SNPLMA) grant money. The design is well underway by designers **Eric Nelson**, **Joe Cyphers** and **Marc Lepire**. This project was delayed by the emergent need for the South Fork residences. However, we hope to bid this project this summer.

Lake Tahoe, Cave Rock Boat Launch Area Improvements:

We are moving forward with a Boating Access Grant request for this project. If successful, design for this project will move forward. Matching funds will be through the Environmental Improvement Program (EIP), Lake Tahoe License Plate Funds and Q1 bonds. In-kind park staff match will likely also be a component of the grant.



This project will include public participation, site design, permits; a joint Nevada Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) and Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA) environmental document, public scoping; simulated photo analysis/scenic study (if required); tribal consultation; coordinated project management for sidewalk and curbing replacements (with several small overlooks along the west sidewalk with railings and barriers to keep vehicles off of sidewalks); partial reconfiguration of parking to allow for longer boat trailers; installation of a fish cleaning station; removal of an old boat

ramp at the south end and slope protection/enhancement; installation of a three shade ramadas with barbeque grilles and picnic benches; improve accessibility at restroom; and the main day use facilities area. It is managed by **Joe Cyphers** with assists from **Marc Lepire**, **Eric Nelson** and **Bob Beck**.

Lake Tahoe, Sand Harbor Tahoe Transportation District, Shuttle Access Modifications:



This new project was created in response to a public desire to reduce traffic and hazards near the Sand Harbor unit of the Lake Tahoe NV State Park (LTNSP). This project is funded with a grant through the Tahoe Transportation District for \$19,942.26, Q1 cash in the amount of \$505.67, and with In-kind staff match of \$4,479.90. This project, managed by **Dion George** will include fence modifications, motorized gate operators with pad and remote controls. Project to be completed by June 1, 2012.

Lake Tahoe, Tahoe Transportation District, Stateline to Stateline Bikeway, North Demonstration Project:

This project has multiple funding sources. None of the funding for this project will be borne by State Parks. However, since the North Demonstration Project is on NDOT Right of way and is within the Sand Harbor, we are closely involved in the project. 30% of the design documents have been completed by a consultant hired by the Tahoe Transportation District. **Mark Davis**, **Jay Howard**, **Dale Connor** and other park staff are ensuring the improvements will meet State Parks needs and requirements.

Valley of Fire Roof, Mechanical and Mechanical Screen Replacement:

This project was funded by \$261,458 State Public Works Board (SPWB) Capital Improvement general obligation bonds and \$121,071 Q1 for a total of \$382,529. We will replace the leaking roof, aged vision screen (which blocks the view of the roof mounted mechanical equipment) and the Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC) equipment for the building. **Dion George** and **Marc Lepire** will be managing this project; supported by **Mark Davis**. SPWB hired an architectural consultant, **Domingo Cambiero Corporation**, to design the project. Work will commence in December 2012 with completion before the peak season.

Valley of Fire East Contact Station:

We have been exploring the feasibility of an automated attendant in lieu of a full contact station. It appears wireless technology may work. This project will include solar power for the equipment and cooling equipment. This project is funded with 50% Q1 bond and 50% Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) funds, for a total project value of 146,574. **Dion George** will manage the design and construction with assistance from **Joe Cyphers**.

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT (Con't)

Washoe Lake Campground Improvements:

The plan is to convert some sites for pull-through, which will be helpful for larger RV's and equestrian campers. This project will be funded with 50% Q1 bond and 50% LWCF for an estimated cost of \$386,654. **Eric Nelson, Marc Lepire and Joe Cyphers** will be working on the design with **Bob Beck** as the construction manager. The design is underway, but progress was temporarily set back due to funding priorities.



Two Cabins at Berlin-Ichthyosaur:

Two cabins will be installed with the design well underway, pending some aesthetic decisions. This project is similar to the cabins at Rye Patch, with P&D and northern region staff partnering together to accomplish the end goal. P&D will design the cabins; northern region crews will pre-manufacture them at their yard. The transport and setting of the cabins will be contracted out and installation and other site improvements will also be completed by the northern region staff.

We expect to move forward with construction in late summer to early fall of 2012 with completion by the beginning of next season. **Marc Lepire** is the project manager for design and construction administration, and may be assisted by **Dion George**. This project is funded with \$25,015.20 of LWCF and \$25,051.20 in NDSP Q1 bonds.

Cave Lake State Park Drainage, Comfort Station and Day Use Repairs:

This project corrects serious drainage issues (water intrusion into the shop, office and generator building, water penetration of the retaining wall) and corrects site improvements in the day use area. In order to reduce impact on park users, it will be completed using multiple contracts for each area. We anticipate beginning in late spring and hope to have it complete by the end of the summer season. **Dion George** is the project manager for design and construction on this project which is funded by 50% LWCF and 50% Q1 bond funds.

Three Cabins at Wild Horse State Recreation Area:

Two cabins will also be installed with the design well underway, pending some aesthetic decisions. This project is similar to the cabins at Rye Patch and Berlin-Ichthyosaur. P&D will design the cabins, northern region staff will pre-manufacture them at the northern region yard and provide installation site improvements, but transportation and setting of the cabins will be contracted out.

Construction will be in late summer to early fall of 2012, with project completion by the beginning of the next season. **Marc Lepire** is the project manager for design and construction administration, and may be assisted by **Dion George**. This project is funded with \$37,576.80 LWCF and \$37,576.80 in NDSP Q1 bonds.

NEW RANGER TRAINING PROGRAM

By Steve Silva

Mentor – Definition:

1. **Experienced adviser and supporter:** somebody, usually older and more experienced, who advises and guides a younger, less experienced person.

2. **Trainer:** a senior or experienced person in a company or organization who gives guidance and training to a junior colleague.

Quiz - Who was your first mentor? Did you have a mentor? What impact did your mentor have on your life and career? Are you a mentor?

How did you answer the questions? Whether or not you realize it, each of us is a mentor. We instruct coworkers, a spouse, children, and sub-ordinates every day by what we do and how we do it. The division is developing a formal ranger field training program, divided into three phases.

Phase 1 is intended to provide a new ranger with training in essential skills not related to law enforcement and can last from three to six months. Rangers collect and account for fees, answer questions from the public, supervise seasonals, clean and maintain park facilities, prepare and present programs. The new park ranger will have multiple mentors in this phase, each an expert in their area to assure they receive the best possible instructions.

Phase 2 - During this phase, the commissioned park ranger attends the Nevada Peace Officer Service Training (POST) Basic Academy in Carson City. This live-in academy is approximately 16 weeks long and teaches a new commissioned ranger the skills necessary to function as a peace officer. At the conclusion of this phase, the new park ranger must take and pass the Nevada POST Certification exam to receive his or her POST Basic Certificate.



Phase 3 is the training and evaluation phase where the newly commissioned park ranger is paired with a Field Training Officer (FTO). The goal of the FTO is to continue and expand on the academy's training and assure the newly commissioned park ranger can function independently as a peace officer. The FTO does this by coaching, guiding, evaluating and as needed, providing remedial training.

Every employee has a role as a trainer and mentor. By taking the time to guide and train the new park ranger, you will be making an investment in the future of the division. By making sure we give new employees the best possible chance of success through training and feedback, the division and everyone who visits our parks will benefit. All of you have a role and some of you will be asked to become FTOs. As a FTO you will be a key in helping to prepare new park rangers. Who knows, your trainee may be a future Regional Manager or Administrator.



reliable innovation

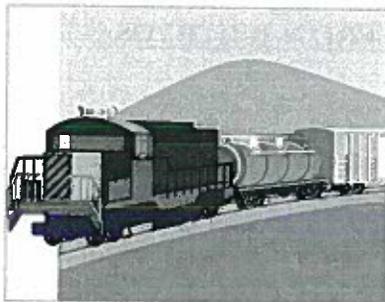
A second major project, which is underway, is implementation of the Spillman Records Management System. Spillman came about as the result of a grant through the Department of Public Safety office of Criminal Justice Assistance. When fully implemented, rangers will be able to prepare and submit offense/incident reports electronically, maintenance supervisors will be able to review and update vehicle and equipment records for any park in their region. Rangers will also be able to query reports to assist them with investigations from other Nevada law enforcement agencies. **Brad Larkin, Russ Dapsauski and Steve Micklus** have attended the trainer's course and will help train the regions and parks on how to use the system. The system can currently be accessed from the Southern Region office and Division headquarters. I anticipate having Lahontan ready to submit offense/incident reports by July 1, with the rest of the parks following suit after any bugs are worked out.

In the next edition, I will talk about Radio Interoperability and Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Narrow banding requirements and the Lexipol Policy Management System.

LAKE TAHOE NV STATE PARK (LTNSP)

By Bill Champion

Greetings fellow park employees and hope you are all well and ready for another fun and challenging Spring/Summer season!

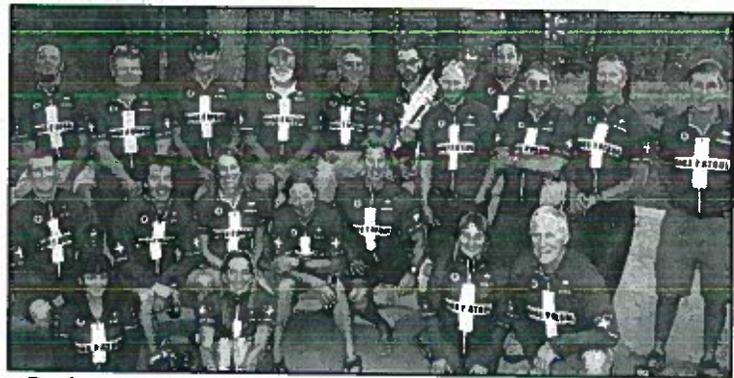


Here at Tahoe we are in full preparation mode for the runaway freight train which is the oncoming busy season. **Linda Bauder**, our office manager, is feverishly processing seasonal paperwork

while Sand Harbor rangers **Dale Conner** and **Todd Anderson** conduct interviews and phone calls while awaiting the dreaded third season. Most of our parks have an 'off' season and an 'on' season. Sand Harbor has a third season – the 'insane' season (in July and August). **Joe Fontaine** and **Mike Shipman** (Facility Supervisor and Maintenance Repair Specialist) have been working very hard on off season repairs and planning which includes much needed repainting (with some ranger help) of the Cave Rock facility buildings – thanks guys! An exciting maintenance development is the ongoing installation of auto flush toilets throughout the park. No more kicking the flush button till it breaks or just stealing the button outright. I'm not the first or the last to say "in parks, it always comes down to the toilets." **Jay Howard**, our Park Supervisor, has disappeared completely under a blizzard of paperwork, but does emerge now and then for a staff meeting, training or general master plan (GMP) meeting.

Jay is leading our GMP update with assistance from a contracted company, **Ascent Environmental**. It has been almost 15 years since the last update, so there have been a huge amount of meetings to provide information of all sorts in order to update and edit our operational plan and review/edit draft material from the Ascent team. We have already had a public workshop and will have another in the summer. The plan should be complete by the end of the year.

One of the goals in our master plan is to be sure we have adequate staffing to meet the needs of taking care of our resources and our visitors, but, as you all know, we face an uphill challenge with rising costs and declining budgets, coupled with, in many cases, increasing visitation. One way we can and do help ourselves is through the use of volunteers. I would like to share a success story with you about the program we have in place here at LTNSP – the **Lake Tahoe Mountain Bike Patrol**.



Back around the year 2000, we were going through a great expansion of use in the Spooner Backcountry with the advent of mountain biking as a major recreational trend. Needs were great for education and assistance, but staff was minimal and the 12,000+ acres is a big chunk of territory. The answer came



when taking note of the emerging International Mountain Biking Association's

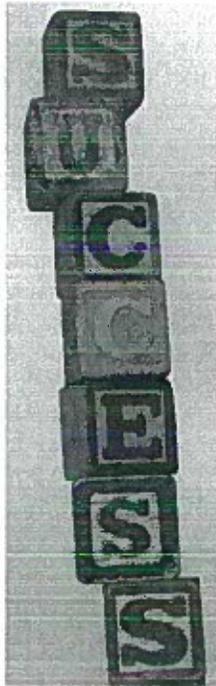
(IMBA) National Mountain Bike Patrol and our ability to shape a program matched to this nationally successful one. We were able to find some willing sponsors (money), write a manual and launch the Patrol in 2001. In 2009 the patrol was incorporated and the paperwork done to make it a 501C3 federally tax exempt non-profit. Last year was the 10 year anniversary and now the Patrol has some dedicated leadership and was able to do its own fundraising for the important equipment and training needs. There's a wealth of information on the Patrol's website (tahoebikepatrol.org).



I became a volunteer myself, especially in the formative stages of this group and became acutely aware of some basic principles of success when setting up such a group or individuals to do voluntary service; here's my list:

LAKE TAHOE NV STATE PARK (con't)

- ✓ Have a well defined need and a structured, detailed plan to carry out services.
- ✓ Stick to the stated mission goals and objectives and do not allow the group or individuals to drift.
- ✓ Establish accountability by providing written standards and requirements for participation.
- ✓ Document work and hours carefully and keep current with all necessary paperwork.
- ✓ Provide the necessary and appropriate training.
- ✓ Equip volunteers with all the necessary tools to achieve success.
- ✓ Give prompt, regular feedback on volunteer performance and especially important, make them feel appreciated for their contributions!
- ✓ Encourage an open dialogue and listen to suggestions for possible improvements to facilities, services, policies, procedures and regulations.
- ✓ Be prepared to give some personal time to this task, which is easy to do when you see the selfless efforts of those folks who step forward for your program.



have had a ton of people moving to new positions, promoting, or retiring, leaving us with many openings and lots of movement in general. We are working hard to get all of the open positions filled as soon as possible.



This winter, we had a little visitor come stay with us and take a little tour of the state. Thank you to all who helped me to get pictures of Flat Stanley from one end of the state to the other. If anyone would like to see the Power Point of where all Flat Stanley ended up let me know and I am sure I can get a copy sent off to you.

I would like to thank everyone for helping me to get settled into the Regional Manager position. **Debbie Wren** and **Peggy Harris** have been invaluable in helping me to figure out what exactly it is that I do. Everyone at division has been extremely supportive and from top to bottom and in every direction, all park staff has been very helpful. I just wanted to take the opportunity to let everyone know I truly appreciate the support. I have big shoes to fill, but I will do my best to help keep us moving in a positive direction.

Scotty and I are very much looking forward to the future. We look forward to working closely with all of you. Our goal is to make sure all of our parks are places we can all be proud to have people come and visit. We have excellent people working in our parks and in our region and again I just want to thank you all for everything you do on a daily basis in caring for our parks.

BERLIN-ICHTHYOSAUR STATE PARK

By Robin Riggs

Spring has sprung and the tour season is once again under way. So far this spring, the park has seen an increase in all categories across the board. Fortunately, we have been able to hire two seasonal employees to help with the workload. **Todd Wheeler** will be joining us as a park aid and **Karsen Case** will be returning in May for his third season.

It was a productive off-season with several key projects completed. 80+ acres of cheat grass was treated with herbicide by Park Ranger **Robin Riggs**. We were also able to recover our entire archive Past Perfect program with the help of **Suzanne Sturtevant** at Mormon and volunteer's **Bryan** and **Darlene Berry**. Also, with the help of the northern region maintenance staff, we were able to replace our existing solar well system with a new, much more reliable system that allows more than one shower per week.



Even with all this going on, Park supervisor, **Jeff Morris** was able to sneak away for the 8th Annual Ken Hembree Classic fishing tournament held at Pyramid Lake. With a little luck and perseverance, he took home the title and a 2012 Polaris All Terrain Vehicle (ATV)! It should look good cruising the roads of Berlin. Until next time, I wish everyone a safe and productive season.

I realize there's an order of magnitude between having a campground host and setting up a big program like a Patrol, but I believe the above principles are still quite relevant for most volunteer situations. There are definitely times when volunteers can be difficult, but I think most of you out there would agree that the effort to work with these folks is greatly rewarding. It has been a delight meeting these citizens from all walks of life who take some time to generously give back. I hope the thoughts here may assist those of you who are somewhat new to the volunteer component of program services.

We hope to see many of you in the months to come and wish you much success in 2012!

NORTHERN REGION

NORTHERN REGION HEADQUARTERS

By Robert Mergell

Wow, have I been in this position for 6 months already? It seems like I looked down at my desk sometime in October and then looked up and it was 12:30 p.m. March 5. I have made it to all of the parks in the northern region and with **Scott Payne's** help, managed to get all of the houses inspected. Next we need to spend a little more time and actually do park inspections. If you are in the North, look for our smiling faces at a park near you sometime this summer. It seems like we

FT. CHURCHILL STATE HISTORIC PARK

By Kim Clawson

Wow, I can't believe I've been here six months already! Time flies when you're having fun. I've learned so much, but by far the most useful advice came from **Mike Dinauer**, "Expect the unexpected." This advice is used every single day.

Park Supervisor, **Paul Schmidt** retired March 1, so **Mike** and I have been "holding down the Fort." After a year of residence at the park, Camp Hosts **Richard** and **Nalini Massey** are leaving us. **Richard** still plans on serving as our Artist-in-Residence while living in Yerington. They will be missed and we would like to thank them for all their hard work and great photographs.



Park Technician, **Tony Calmese** started work in March. **Ray Poteete** and **Trina Wren** start work in April as park aids. **Ray** volunteered at the park for the past six months and is looking forward to more projects, like fixing barbed wire fences and trail clearing. **Trina** is also familiar with the park, as her grandfather, **Howard Wren** served as the seasonal park technician for 19 years before retiring last summer.

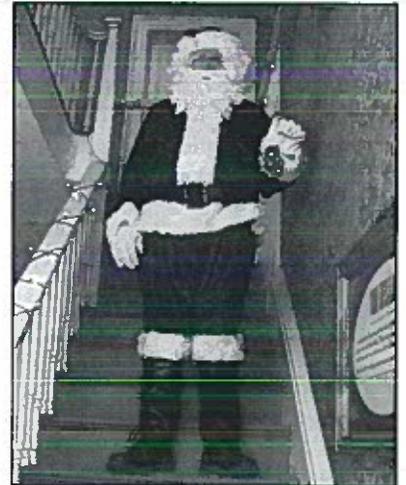
↑**Ray** using a large chainsaw to cut 4 foot rounds out of the campground.

The schedule looks busy for spring and summer with Scout groups and school field trips lining up for Living History Talks, cannon firings and adobe brick-making demonstrations. I can't wait to make my first adobe brick. **Mike** has been working hard at developing a new, interactive Living History Talk for school groups. My first guided hike along the Nature Trail brought in 55 hikers. I have a feeling I will be getting used to hiking around with large groups of people!



Reservations for Scout Camp and the Group Use Area are filling up fast. The park's first full moon hike is in May. We will also have the Civil War Volunteers setting up camp Memorial Day weekend, and the Pony Express re-ride will be held in June, complete with demonstrations and lectures by the riders themselves.

Buckland Station has been busy lately, too. Volunteers **Bob Brittain**, **Verna Withrow** and **Pat Thomas** are keeping the building open to the public. **Bob** had fun playing Santa Claus during our Photos with Santa in December. I have been busy planning new interpretive programs and I would like to schedule some historical demonstrations this summer and fall.



SOUTH FORK STATE RECREATION AREA

By Nicholas Brunson

South Fork is starting to get busy once again. We didn't have much of winter up here and it seemed as though the ice was only on the reservoir for a little over three months.

Jeff McKovich and I have been busy with various projects around the park and it seems like something is always in need of replacement. Over the winter our propane furnace in the ranger station decided to quit working, so it seemed it was an everyday task to come into the office and literally "kick start" the heater. Glad we were able to get that problem fixed! **Jeff**



is currently sanding and getting ready to re-paint both the showers up in the comfort station at the Tomera Campground. We are both involved, as much as possible, with

the building of two new park residences located just north and east of the ranger station. It has been a pretty busy winter given we are operating with just myself and **Jeff**, who has been very helpful in doing some of the cleaning duties of the vault toilets, trash and site clean-up and on my days off collects fees at the self pay fee stations. If it wasn't for his hard work and dedication we wouldn't have near the improvements out here that we do, so I would like to thank **Jeff** for helping make improvements to the area!

Now we are in the process of bringing some returning seasonal employees back on and interviewing and getting new seasonal employees hired. **Kirstie Wachholtz** is a new addition to the South Fork staff, but not new to State Parks. **Jared Castle** is returning also; it will be great to have him back out here to help.

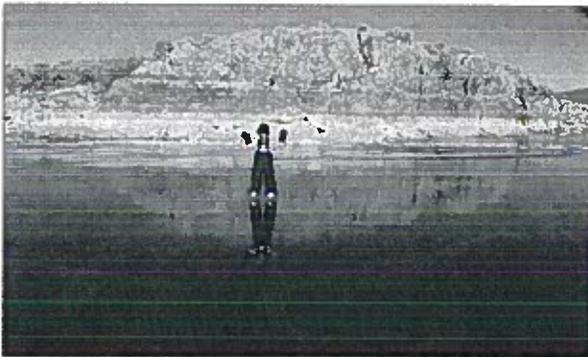
SOUTH FORK STATE RECREATION AREA (Con't)

It won't be long and until we're in the middle of the busy season, and if things continue the direction we are headed right now, I believe we will see the highest visitation yet this year. The increased economy and mining industry hiring has brought a massive influx to Elko County, and with gas prices on the rise, South Fork is about the closest recreation area to Elko and Spring Creek.

Hopefully, in the near future, we will be able to get two new single vault toilets put in on the west side to the lake; I believe they would see a lot of use. The water level is down about 3.5 feet and it sounds like that is where it will hold until fall, then they will be dropping it down to about 6.5 feet below full capacity in order to replace the seal on the bottom of the spillway gate. This should make for some interesting service calls by boaters that are new to the area and don't know where any of the shallower areas are located. In closing, I wish everyone well and hope everyone has a safe and busy season this year, from all of us here at South Fork!

WILD HORSE STATE RECREATION AREA

By Andrew Bass



As I write this, the lake is still completely frozen over, but it seems the end of winter may be near. Winter seemed short, mild this year with late snow and cold temps only hitting the mid-20 below. The ice on the other hand was of no shortage. With the entire lake covered in smooth ice, recreation opportunities abounded. Off course if you try to drive over an open crack in the ice the ranger enjoys the thrill of a big catch. Snow did finally come though and then we were back to the normal winter fun.

This year's trout derby over President's Day weekend was again a success. We had 467 registered participants over two days and gave away about \$5,000 in cash prizes. All the winning trout were in the 24 inch range. The park was definitely busy and the



campground maxed out at 41 camps on Saturday night in the 33 site campground. Not bad for the middle of the winter.

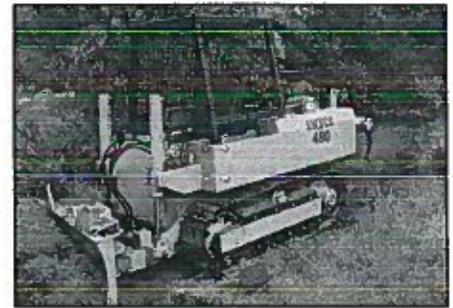
Thanks go to **Jeff McKovich**, **Nick Brunson**, and **Dave Morrow** for their help during the event. Thanks also go to **Paula Ault**, who not only helped with the entire event, but preparation before and cleaned up afterwards.

WARD CHARCOAL OVENS AND CAVE LAKE STATE PARKS

By Allen Wooldridge

Well, we had an interesting winter in White Pine County. We started off the winter season with two feet of snow on opening weekend of the deer season. Unfortunately, this snow did not keep up through the rest of winter.

Instead of working on clearing snow like in normal years, we began working with Nevada Division of Forestry (NDF) on a massive forest thinning/disease management project. As the NDF Honor Crew began cutting and thinning, **Steve Gray**, **Terry Ivins**, **Kyle Kramer** and myself began hauling wood off the hill. The new ATV trailer we built came at



a perfect time to complete the project. **Terry** used the Sweco to build easier access trails for the ATV's, and to haul wood off the steep areas of the mountain. NDF will be reseeding the thinned areas, as well as the trails. This project will protect park assets in the event of a fire and provide a firebreak for the rest of the mountain range. In addition, the thinning will create a refuge for wildlife to feed and live, which in the old overgrown state was not possible.

With no snow accumulation within the park, we started to get a little worried about the Fire and Ice event. The ice conditions were perfect, with ice averaging 18 inches, but it is a little hard to make snow sculptures with no snow. After several meetings with White Pine County Tourism and the Recreation Board, the decision was made to cancel the event. The announcement was met with a lot of disappointment from visitors, but most understood the decision. With Fire and Ice cancelled, we focused our attention to the Rotary Ice Fishing Tournament. With the hardest and thickest ice we have seen in a long time, we were not worried about the conditions. The Rotary club did spend a lot of time and money to dispel myths that there was no ice. The tournament was only down a little bit with about 500 registered anglers.

With winter events completed, we turned our attention back to assisting NDF complete the thinning. There is still a lot of work to be completed, but the project is making a lot of progress. **Terry** and I are finishing up a five foot rock rake that can be towed behind the ATV to rake the campgrounds, dirt roads and other areas of the parks. This rake will make the park look cleaner and more maintained. Until next time, have a great summer.

SOUTHERN REGION

BIG BEND OF THE COLORADO STATE RECREATION AREA

By Jonathan Brunjes

After 30 years of service with Nevada State Parks, **Alan Conklin** retired in December. We wish him nothing but the best with his retirement in Florida.



We welcome the seasonal crew back after the short winter down here in Laughlin. **Brian Tudor, Robert Pratt, and Eli Jobe** have all been busy making the park look as pristine as possible. They have been raking, pruning, painting, and working on numerous other projects. The toughest project of all has been removing the mistletoe throughout the park, which they have been diligent about and hopefully (after a lot of sweat and blisters) we will get it suppressed.

We appreciate the good work of **Joe Cyphers** and **Mark Davis** with the removal and reinstallation of the ramadas along the beach front. This area of the park has instantly become popular among visitors with the larger beach area and more room for the kids to play.



During spring break we had a couple of Boy Scout troops from Arizona that canoed from Big Bend down to Lake Havasu. They participated in service projects for the park by helping with some beach cleanup and removing weeds and debris from along the shore. We appreciate their service and hope to have them back in the near future.

We look forward to a busy spring and summer as the boaters arrive and we are excited to get involved with the community down here in Laughlin and Bullhead City.

CATHEDRAL GORGE AND BEAVER DAM STATE PARKS

By Marcia Wadsworth

With warmer weather on the horizon, we are looking forward to the start of our busy season. If we could get the wind to stop blowing, all would be well!



Nevin May Birkmier and **Marcia Wadsworth**, the seasoned seasonal workers are back on duty. Two new seasonal workers have joined our forces: **Steve Dunn** of Panaca and **Amanda Graf** of Pioche. We look forward to getting acquainted with them.

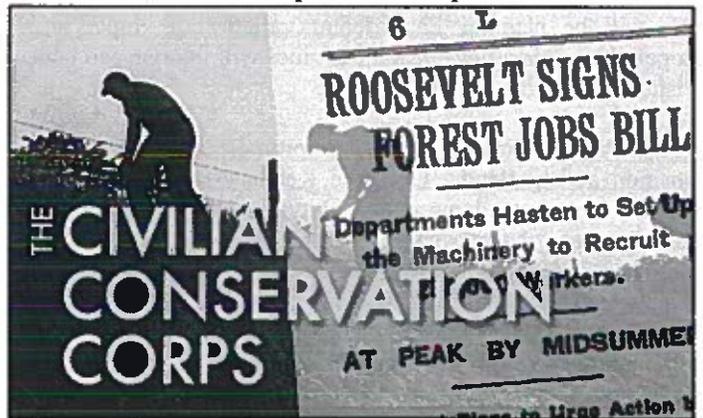
We sincerely appreciate the volunteers that worked diligently in the past months, helping to keep things running smoothly until the seasonal workers could get back on board. **Angelique Gauthier, Liz Russell, Allan Malintak** and **Keith**

Stever were stalwart in helping at the Visitor Center this past winter. We appreciate their work and dedication, thank you!!!

We have been busy painting, painting, and did I mention painting?? **Cody Tingey, Shaylen Budreau** and **Dawn Andone** are looking forward to being DONE!!! The Visitor Center has a new motif that will add a bit of flair to the information center and the soon to be opened gift shop. We are very excited to have the gift shop back and many visitors are looking forward to the grand re-opening. The bathrooms have a refreshing new coat of white paint and the back room has been brightened considerably with new paint. Things are looking spruced up for spring.

We are already booking the group use areas for future visitors. The Las Vegas Astronomical Society is planning their semi-annual trip to Cathedral Gorge so they can watch the Solar Eclipse on May 20. They cordially invite anyone to come and enjoy the night stars with their group.

Our new camp ground host, **Roger Debevc**, started on March 17. Camp ground hosts are always a great asset to the park. We look forward to his expertise and help.



The new interpretation kiosk manufactured by our expert maintenance men, **Jim Cole** and **Lee Hiatt**, will be placed at the bottom of the newly renovated Waterfall Trail at Beaver Dam. The trail will be dedicated to the Civilian Conservation Corp (CCC) in June. The Beaver Dam crew is also excited to have new fish planted during the month of April. They are gearing up for expected visitors. Beaver Dam is such a wonderful get away from the hustle and bustle of daily life. We hope to have record visitation this year.

We are also looking forward to having the roof replaced at the Regional Visitor Center. We expect work to start on that project in about a month.

As we get the park facilities all beautified and renovated for this year, we are looking forward to being of service to our guests. We are hoping they come and thoroughly enjoy their visit to our parks.

Do what you do so well that they will want to see it again and bring their friends.

- Walt Disney

KERSHAW RYAN STATE PARKS

By Jonathan Brunjes

This past winter included our 3rd annual “Winter Wonderland and Toy Drive.” With help from volunteers and park staff, the park was again decorated for the holidays and had a great turnout. A new display built this year by Maintenance Specialist, **Matt Elmer** and more lights added to the attraction and visitors were enjoying the evening with music and great desserts. We were able to give toys to several families in the community that were in need during the holidays. Big thanks to everyone who helped out and supported this event.

We welcome back seasonal **Ken Adams** and a new camp host **Mark Goin**. As the snow birds head north, camping has picked up and their help will be greatly appreciated. **Ken** has been busy preparing flowers in the greenhouse and prepping flower beds in anticipation of the warm spring soon to arrive. Our fruit trees are all currently in blossom, so we hope the warm weather is here to stay.

We are in the process of installing a vineyard in the campground. This project is part of a grant made possible by the University of Nevada-Reno Cooperative Extension office. We will be planting 12 different varieties of grapes and hopefully within a few years these vines will flourish and park visitors will have a nice tasty snack.

In March, I was fortunate enough to promote to the Supervisor position at Big Bend. Until the Kershaw-Ryan position is filled, I have been doing double duty and traveling back and forth between the two parks. Needless to say, I have been stretched a little thin, but we are making progress at both parks thanks to great staff. I’ve had a wonderful experience the past 2 ½ years at Kershaw and learned a lot during that time. The community has been fantastic in supporting the park and the new park supervisor is going to have a terrific position.

VALLEY OF FIRE STATE PARK

By Amber Heman



LEAVE NO TRACE TRAINERS

Let me take a breath between our numerous programs... This spring may not yield many colorful flowers, due to a lack of rain, but won't stop the masses of people flooding to Valley of Fire. We made it halfway through our interpretative season and have already had about 1,400 people attend our programs. At the start of March, I had my 7th Leave No Trace Trainers course and with the help of **Don Bolton** trained 23 outdoor enthusiasts, making it my largest course to date.

February brought our wonderful volunteers **Mary Ann** and **Rick Guggemos**, which have been a vital element in increased programming. They played a major role in helping with the 21st annual **World Atlatl Association** contest. We had a great turn out with 47 participants in the 3-d target contest, 25 kids at the kids' activities, around 300 visitors came to stop by



and watch five—crazy participants in the 13 mile atlatl endurance challenge, and of course our old man ram made his appearance at each event. This event is always my favorite, but this year we made it multidimensional by having something for everyone. Still to come in the next couple of weeks is the Clark County Fair, Classic Car Show, and of course, our spring flower program, all of which we cannot wait for.

As far as staffing goes, I think all of us aren't really sure who works here anymore, since we're all so busy and don't get to see each other much. **Jim Shields** decided to retire and leave the mad house we all call Valley of Fire. He will be missed, but all are sure he is moving on to bigger and better things.

Craig Robinson and **Jim Hammons** were looking over our new color brochure when they noticed the square bar code scanner on our brochure that links up with the Nevada Division of State Parks website. This got **Craig's** brain turning. He found out that the square bar code scanner is called a Quick Response Code or a QR code. The next thing we know, **Craig** has a QR code that links up to a digital version of our color brochure so he can track the number of times it has been scanned. We do not have any paper brochures available at our east entrance, but there is cell service there, so the QR code will work on cell phones at that location. So **Craig** put up his QR code and it was a big hit the first weekend. If anyone is interested in doing the same thing, just set up an account with *bitly.com* and link any URL to a QR Code. They can be linked to a brochure, a website, a video, or virtually anything that has an internet address. After you set it up, you are able to track its usage and see how it helps business. The possibilities are endless.



NOTE: not all the brochures have the QR code at this time, but **Alyce Cloutier** at the division office is looking into it.

**NEVADA STATE PARKS
2011 SURVEY REPORT CARD SUMMARY**

This information is based on our visitor surveys for 2011 compared with results from 2010.

Parks were given 14,761 surveys to distribute. Per their monthly reports, they handed out 9,230; this means 62% of the surveys were distributed in 2011, which is an increase.

The following is the overall rating for all state parks:

		<u>Increase or Decrease over 2010</u>
Excellent	79%	2.5% Decrease
Good	17.4%	2.8% Increase
Average	1.6%	.7% Decrease
Poor	.8%	.1% Decrease
Unacceptable	1.2%	.5% Increase

REGIONAL SCORES

The following is the ranking of the regions based on the highest amount of Excellence:

First - Southern Region Second - Northern Region

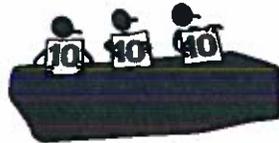
The following is the ranking of the regions based on the lowest amount of below average ratings:

First - Northern Region Second - Southern Region

PARK'S SCORES

These results are based on a minimum return of 30 surveys for the year. 30 samples are generally recognized as the minimum number required providing statistical valid survey results. So, only 14 parks made the list.

The following ranked highest amount of Excellence:



- | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Spring Mtn. Ranch | 8. Cave Lake |
| 2. Cathedral Gorge | 9. Ft. Churchill |
| 3. Berlin-Ichthyosaur | 10. Lake Tahoe |
| 4. Wild Horse | 11. Big Bend of the Colorado |
| 5. Valley of Fire | 12. Washoe Lake |
| 6. Old Las Vegas Mormon Ft. | 13. Rye Patch |
| 7. Kershaw-Ryan | 14. Lahontan |

The following ranked lowest amount of below average ratings:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Washoe Lake | 8. Kershaw-Ryan |
| 2. Ft. Churchill | 9. Spring Mtn. Ranch |
| 3. Cave Lake | 10. Valley of Fire |
| 4. Berlin-Ichthyosaur | 11. Rye Patch |
| 5. Cathedral Gorge | 12. Lahontan |
| 6. Wild Horse | 13. Lake Tahoe |
| 7. Old Las Vegas Mormon Ft. | 14. Big Bend of the Colorado |

ACTIVITY PARTICIPATION

The following are the report activities done in our parks and a comparison from 2010's participation:

		<u>Increase or Decrease over 2010</u>
Relaxing Outdoors	68.6%	.1% Decrease
Hiking/Walking	64.2%	5% Increase
Camping	47.6%	6.3% Increase
Picnicking	28.4%	.9% Increase
Group Activity	15.6%	2.8% Increase
Pleasure Driving	31.1%	2% Decrease
Nature Study	22.6%	1.7% Decrease
Photography	39.8%	4.9% Decrease
Historic Sites	33.9%	4.8% Decrease
Special Events	6.2%	3.3% Decrease
Boating	10.7%	1.4% Decrease
Fishing	13.8%	1.9% Decrease
Swimming	14.6%	3.3% Increase
X-Country Skiing	6%	1.4% Increase
Snowplay	2.3%	1.7% Increase

So the following are the top 10 activities enjoyed at our parks throughout all of Nevada:



- | | |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Relaxing Outdoors | 6. Pleasure Driving |
| 2. Hiking/Walking | 7. Picnicking |
| 3. Camping | 8. Nature Study |
| 4. Photography | 9. Group Activity |
| 5. Historic Sites | 10. Swimming |

EXPENSES

More money is spent within a park's county, by 69.4%, than outside the park's county. The public spent 36.3% less from 2010 within a park's county (\$258,465.42 to \$164,609.12) and spent 12.2% less outside a park's county (\$130,044.64 to \$114,183.86).

Top Five Expenses

- Fuel/Vehicle Expense
- Hotel/Lodging
- Groceries/Picnic Supplies
- Restaurant
- Other (i.e. Gambling, gifts, fishing license, etc.)



Highest average expense per person was on Hotel/Lodge and the lowest average expense per person was at Bars.

The average number of people per vehicle was 2.7 and the average visits to our parks w/in the last 12 months was 4.6, which is a 3.3% decrease.



#4162
Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
Nevada Division of State Parks
901 S. Stewart St., Ste. 5005
Carson City, NV 89701-5248

Return Service Requested

PERSONNEL

By Anke Simpson

I have been very busy with recruitments. There has been a lot of movement among our permanent staff and our seasonal recruiting and hiring is in full swing; receiving seasonal hiring packet in my office daily now.



New Permanent Employees

Randy Denter accepted the commissioned Park Ranger I position at Spring Mountain Ranch on 3/19/12. **Nicki Keller-Lundin** started in the Accounting Assistant II position at the Southern Region office on 12/12/11. **Kyle Groth** is currently attending POST in Carson City and is due to graduate in May.

Terminations

Simonne Purdy left her Accounting Assistant III position at the Southern Region office and accepted a promotional position at the Division of Welfare on 2/21/12. **Paul Schmidt** retired on 3/1/12 from his commissioned Park Supervisor II position at Fort Churchill after 16 years of service with State Parks. **Jim Shields** left his Maintenance Repair Specialist II position at Valley of Fire on 3/30/12. **Lee Hiatt** retired from his Maintenance Repair Specialist II position at Spring Valley with almost 23 years of service with State Parks. Good luck to everybody in their new adventures.

Promotions

Scott Payne promoted from the Facility Supervisor I position at the Northern Region office to their Facility Manager position on 11/14/12. **Charlie Wells** accepted a promotion from his Maintenance Repair Specialist II position to Scott's Facility Supervisor I position at the Northern Region office on 2/6/12. **Brad Larkin** promoted from a commissioned Park Ranger II to a commissioned Park Ranger III at Lahontan on 2/6/12. **Jonathan Brunjes** accepted a promotion from his non-commissioned Park Supervisor I position at Kershaw Ryan to a commissioned Park Supervisor II position at Big Bend on 3/15/12. And, **Nicki Keller-Lundin** promoted from her new Accounting Assistant II position to the Accounting Assistant III position at the Southern Region office on 4/16/12.



To succeed in life, you need three things:
a wishbone, a backbone and
a funny bone.

- Country Singer Reba Mc Entire