



PEN PARK EMPLOYEE NEWSLETTER

ADMINISTRATOR'S CORNER

By David Morrow



Given all the talk about budget shortfalls and budget cutting plans, I thought the following story might be appropriate:

This is a story about identical twins. One was a hope-filled optimist, "Everything is coming up

roses!" The other was a sad and hopeless pessimist, so much so that he thought Murphy, as in Murphy's Law, was an optimist. The worried parents brought them to the local psychologist.

The psychologist had a plan to balance the twins' personalities. "On their next birthday, put them in separate rooms to open their gifts. Give the pessimist the best toys you can afford, and give the optimist a box of manure." The parents followed these instructions and carefully observed the results.

When they peeked in on the pessimist, they heard him audibly complaining, "I don't like the color of this computer...I'll bet this calculator will break...I don't like this game...I know someone who's got a bigger toy car than this..."

Tiptoeing across the corridor, the parents peeked in and saw their little optimist gleefully throwing the manure up in the air. He was giggling. "You can't fool me! Where there's this much manure, there's gotta be a pony!"

I hope this short story reminds everyone that we should take a cautious and balanced approach with regard to the economic situation we are experiencing. The recommendations made to the Department of Administration regarding a possible 8% reduction in FY08 and 09 impact aspects of what we do, but for the most part the majority of parks and programs will be unaffected. By no means should we be viewing this unfortunate turn of events as the end of the world nor should we be thinking. "Where there's this much manure, there's gotta be a pony!"



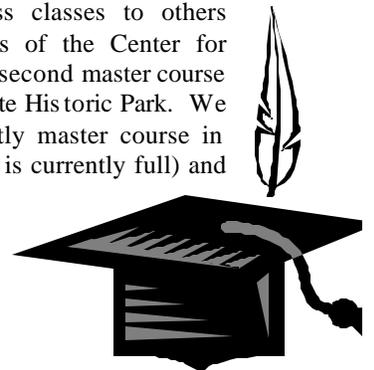
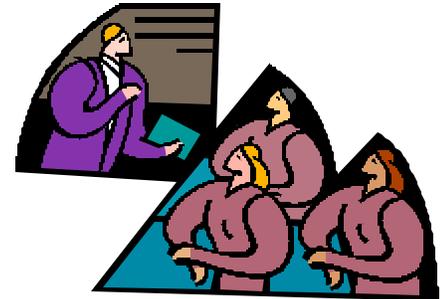
OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE

By Allen Newberry

2007 has had several firsts for environmental education programs for State Parks. In September, the National Association of State Park Directors (NASPD) passed a resolution to make the Center of Outdoor Ethics, (Leave No Trace) an affiliated member of the organization, which makes NASPD a national partner with the Center. This affiliate member took much work and effort on the part of **Dana Watts**, who is the executive director for the Center of Outdoor Ethics, and **Doug Prechal**, who is the director of North Dakota State Parks and the chairman of the government Affairs and Policy Committee for NASPD, and also our Administrator **Dave Morrow**. We appreciate their many efforts to embrace and develop this partnership, which will benefit our visitors and allow us to develop additional environmental education programs. Many thanks are owed to **Dana, Doug** and **Dave** for their support and efforts to establish this historical partnership.

Another first was Nevada State Parks applying for grants for educational purposes out of the FY2007 Recreational Trails Grant program. With assistance in writing and presenting the grant

requests to the committee by **Cheryl Surface**, we were able to secure funds to put on two master educator classes and one Tread Lightly master educator courses at no cost to participants. As of this date, we completed one Leave No Trace course at Valley of Fire State Park, with 11 graduating masters. Master certification allows graduates to teach other masters, trainers and awareness classes to others within certification requirements of the Center for Outdoor Ethics. We will do the second master course in April 2008 at Ft. Churchill State Historic Park. We will also sponsor a Tread Lightly master course in Carson City in April 2008 (class is currently full) and will have 15 new master trainers after this course is completed. A large feather in our educational cap!



OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE (Cont.)

I believe this additional training is another opportunity for our staff to expand their knowledge, training, and capability to teach outdoor ethics to our park users. They learn about the park, park ecosystems and how best to recreate in ways to reduce impacts to the park, wildlife and other visitors. I look at Leave No Trace, Tread Lightly, Project Learning Tree, Project Wildlife and other outdoor educator skill courses as arrows in our quiver used to reach and teach our park visitors.

I would like to thank all of the participants of our first Leave No Trace master educator course for their participation and commitment. Graduates include: from Nevada State Parks, **Steve Micklus, Chris Macek, Amber Heman** and **Donald Bolton**; from the Tahoe Rim Association, **Alexis Ollar**; representing the Las Vegas Area council of the Boy Scouts of America, **Senator John J. Lee**; from the Nevada Outdoor School, **Jessica Templeton**; from the Bureau of Land Management, **Mike Jones** and **Justin Robins**; from Utah State Parks, **Alison Cebula** and from the Center of Outdoor Ethics, **Sarah Folzenlogen**. Lead instructors included **Bruce Winslow**, park supervisor of Kershaw-Ryan State Park, **Haven Holsapple** from the National Outdoor Leadership School and me. It was a great week with a lot of shared knowledge and learning by all participants. The master educator graduating class of 2007 is charged to go out and teach the world how to recreate ethically.



Front: Steve Micklus, Don Bolton, Senator John Lee, Alexis Ollar, Allen Newberry (instructor), Jessica Templeton, Chris Macek and Sarah Folzenlogen; **Back:** Alison Cebula, Mike Jones, Justin Robins and Amber Heman.

In 2008, **Patti Klein** of the National Land Ethics Coordinator for the Bureau of Land Management will be one of the special speakers at our Park Academy. She has a special assignment to teach youth recreation opportunities and values in the outdoors. Her presentation will focus on "Leave no child inside." We are looking forward to hearing from **Patti** and absorbing some of this information, so we too can teach and reach our users.

It is important each of us do all we can to diversify our teaching ability and to place more emphasis on environmental education programs in our parks. I am not sure we are doing all we can in this area and I hope the new generation of park employees will not only take up this flag, but wave it high, so we can reach our users. It is critical to our future that we

expand our participation and programming of interpretive activities in the parks.

As the year comes to a close, we will be sending off another dedicated employee to the new life after retirement. We will miss **Barbara Rhode** and the exemplary efforts she made to focus on park interpretive programs and positive visitor support and education. We want to thank **Barbara** for her many efforts to promote and provide quality interpretive opportunities for our visitors.



I came across a quote from a 1910 book written by Christian D. Larson stating, "The less you think about the outer self, and the more you think about the inner self, the better, because it is through the perfect expression of the inner self that you will gain the power to master the outer self." Something to think about!

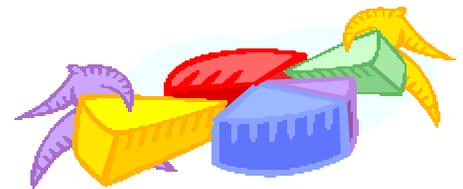
As the year comes to a close, we hope all have a happy holiday season and we wish everyone the best for 2008.

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT (P&D)

By J. Steve Weaver

In recent years, both park improvement and major maintenance projects have been funded by an increasing array of funding sources, other than General Fund dollars. These sources include Question 1 bonds, Tahoe Environmental Improvement Program (EIP) bonds, Tahoe License Plate Fund grants, federal Land & Water Conservation Fund grants, federal Recreation Trail Program grants, USF&W/NDOW Boating Access grants, US Army Corps of Engineers grant, FEMA grant, Commission on Tourism Room Tax funds, and even Gifts & Grants.

For the current biennium, there is an increasing trend towards larger, consolidated major



maintenance projects funded through Category 95 (M-425) and Budget Account 4605 Utility Surcharge and Fee Overage funds. Many of these will be designed and bid out with P&D staff assistance. This is the only way we can expect to see completion of the multitude of such projects with the limited maintenance staff we have available.

At the November Regional Managers meeting, I presented a draft comprehensive list of both park improvement and maintenance projects with P&D staff assignments and priorities for each project. The list was approved with minor changes. Altogether, we have nine recently completed and 42 ongoing and new projects, including a number of new Category 06 and 95 projects, plus several park master planning projects. The average budget per project is over \$550,000. That's a LOT of money when you multiply it out for 50+ projects!

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT (Cont.)

Our proudest achievement as of late is completion of the new \$2.5 million 22 site Valley of Fire Atlatl Campground RV Loop expansion project. With water and power hookups, we expect this new campground to be an instant success when it opens in the near future. It will now be feasible to camp at Valley of Fire, even in summer. No more complaints about generators!



New Valley of Fire Atlatl RV Campground Loop

The new Big Bend of the Colorado SRA campground is also nearing completion. This \$4 million addition represents our first effort towards a full utility hookup RV campground in the entire Nevada State Park system. This 24 site loop will have sewer, water and electrical hookups, along with flush toilets and hot showers. It too is expected to be a major success, filled to capacity almost immediately upon opening. A grand opening for this new premier campground loop is scheduled for early next year.

Big Bend is also getting a new RV dump station, air conditioned fee booth, paved day use parking and a paved overlook access road and parking. It is expected to be completed by the end of December. **Bob Martin** has been the project manager for both all these major projects, and has done an outstanding job!

In addition, Big Bend will receive a new residence in the immediate future. The new ranger residence should be completed this spring. A new seasonal trailer pad has already been poured, and utility connections will be made shortly. **Tom Tabacco** is the construction project manager, with help from other P&D staff. \$175,000 is budgeted for this project.

Bids are also going out for two new ranger residences at Valley of Fire, with completion scheduled about the same time as Big Bend's. The new residences will be a welcome relief for staff, who have been living in the 1970 vintage trailers.

We also hope to construct a third new residence near Overton, to serve the backcountry area. **Tom Tabacco** will again be the construction project manager with a budget of \$650,000. Staff architect **Marc Lepire** and engineers, **Joe Cyphers** and **Ned Wallace**, have all lent their expertise towards both of these long-awaited staff residence projects.

Meanwhile bids are scheduled to be opened January 22, 2008 for Valley of Fire's new \$2 million expansion and remodeling of its visitor center, including a new auxiliary office structure and public restroom and a new entrance foyer with refreshment/snack dispensing machines. Construction should be completed sometime next summer. **Marc Lepire** is the project manager.

We recently received verbal notice that our \$288,500 federal Boating Access grant application has been approved for bank stabilization at Big Bend's boat lagoon. Meanwhile, staff engineer **Ned Wallace** has completed the plans and now awaits the approval of the interlocal contract between Parks and Wildlife.

Ned is also currently working with **Bob Martin** to engineer Fort Churchill's Buckland Station Day Use Area Development, which is primarily focused on a fire suppression system for the newly restored Buckland Station. Now that the funds are available, we should be able to get that project out to bid this winter, with completion scheduled for late spring/early summer.

We expect to receive approval of our federal Boating Access grant proposal for the Lahontan North Shore Marina ramp extensions in the very near future. The ramp extensions will allow boat launching under all but the lowest water level conditions. Construction should be taking place this winter, provided the water level stays low enough. **Ned Wallace** is the project manager.

Another high priority for **Ned** is installation of water treatment facility upgrades at Lahontan, funded by 4605 Utility Surcharge funds. **Ned** is working closely with **Pat Marker**, Fallon Fac. Super., to finally bring our water plant into compliance with Environmental Protection Agency regulations.

Joe Cyphers, Supervising Prof. Eng., has been assigned the Valley of Fire and Spring Mountain Ranch water system upgrade projects as his top new priorities. These two Category 95 maintenance projects total almost \$800,000, all of which must be spent by the end of the fiscal year, a nearly impossible task. But, he's giving it the old college try.

Bob Beck, Eng. Tech. IV, recently supervised completion of the Sand Harbor Best Management Practices (BMP's), Oil Separator and Spill Collection Pad project. This \$25,000 Category 95 maintenance project will assure compliance with rigid pollution control regulations in the Tahoe Basin.

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT (Cont.)

The Spring Mountain Ranch Visitor Center Renovations and Office ADA Retrofit projects were completed in August. **Mark Lepire** was the project manager. This \$250,000 project provides greatly improved accessibility and resulted in the relocation of the NSPCA sales area to the more visible sun porch, provided a new air conditioning room and accessible restroom for staff.



New Spring Mountain Ranch Visitor Center NSPCA Sales Area

Another major renovation project recently completed was the Sand Harbor Maintenance Shop Renovation. **Tom Tabacco** served as the project manager. **Tom** is also supervising the Old Las Vegas Mormon Fort adobe repair project. The \$32,000 contract has already been awarded and construction should have started by the time this newsletter is issued.

Bids just opened for Phase 1B of the Dangberg Ranch Stabilization/Restoration project. The \$248,000 low bid was well under budget, allowing us the opportunity to get some additional restoration work accomplished. **Marc Lepire** has provided architectural expertise for this long awaited project, while **Tom Tabacco** will serve as the construction project manager.

Marc and **Tom** are also collaborating on the Sand Harbor Visitor Center ADA ramp, walkway and bear-proof trash enclosure, along with construction of the Washoe Lake Maintenance Storage Shed, and a new ranger residence at Berlin. While the visitor center project is a top priority, scheduled for this spring, they both have a number of other high priorities that are competing for their attention. This doesn't bode too well for the other two projects. While both are scheduled for construction next year, it won't be easy.

Eric Nelson, Landscape Arch. Asst. II, is working diligently on the Kershaw-Ryan and Ward Charcoal Ovens Campground Improvement projects, both of which are to be constructed

next summer/fall. The recently increased \$450,000 budget for Kershaw-Ryan, should allow us to finally complete the small 12 unit RV camp loop and install a potable water well to serve the campground and other park facilities. This new campground will feature flush restroom and hot showers with shade ramadas and a new RV dump station.

Ward Charcoal Ovens' campground improvements budget also increased with the recent approval of added federal Land & Water Conservation Fund grant dollars for a new total of \$250,000. This 14 unit campground will improve with a new water distribution system, re-graded gravel road with added road base material, shade ramadas, site leveling and new camp pads with two ADA sites.

Eric has also been assigned the Tahoe Backcountry Campground Development project, to develop a new primitive campground near Hobart Reservoir, which includes a hand-pump/solar well, camp pads, grills and tables. The existing Marlette Peak/Meadows campground will also get a hand pump/solar well, with engineering assistance from **Joe Cyphers**. With a little luck, we hope to get these projects accomplished by fall of 2008. Both campgrounds recently had vault restrooms installed, thanks to **Bob Martin's** efforts.

FEMA has finally given us the go ahead to conduct on-site geotech work and a LIDAR topographic survey of Beaver Dam's former Schroeder Reservoir site. Completion of this work is crucial towards determining whether the dam decommissioning and flood damaged site's restoration work will qualify for a 75% or 90% federal match. This work will also allow completion of the park's master plan. **J. Steve Weaver** is working with the consultant team to accomplish these tasks.

Steve is also working with another consultant team and our partnering California Tahoe Conservancy towards adjusting the Phase I scope of the Van Sickle Bi-State Park project at Stateline to fit within our \$3 million Tahoe EIP bond budget.

Park & Recreation Program Manager, **Jenny Scanland**, has completed and distributed the Dayton State Park master plan, and is nearing completion of the Spring Mountain Ranch State Park master plan, with assistance from UNLV's School of Architecture, Landscape Architecture and Planning Research Program. UNLV is also helping her to get the Valley of Fire Park master plan underway.

Meanwhile, **Randy Moore** is currently putting the finishing touches on the South Fork SRA master plan and will be getting started on Cave Lake's and Ward Charcoal Ovens' master plans.

See **Cheryl Surface's** article on the next page for RecTrails Program activities.

RECREATIONAL TRAILS PROGRAM (RTP)

By Cheryl Surface



Nevada State Parks co-hosted the National State Trail Administrators meeting at Stateline, Nevada, on September 18-20. Trail Administrators from nearly all 50 states spent three days in topic discussions regarding the Recreational Trails Program and trail related issues. Each afternoon, participants were treated to their choice of mobile workshops highlighting Recreational Trails Program projects in both Nevada and California.

Nevada State Park employees from Carson Region and the division office assisted in logistical support, as well as expert presenters. Two mobile workshops, one at Van Sickle State Park and the other at Spooner State Park, provided the state trail administrators with first hand knowledge of the coordinated effort required to design, lay-out and construct a new trail. Thanks go out to **Jay Howard, Bill Champion, Peter Maholland, Dawn Swan, Gail Dansby, Christi Latragna, Jenny Scanland** and **Michele Hudson** for assisting in making this a conference State Trail Administrators said was the best ever.

NEVADA DAY PARADE

By Alyce Cloutier

Congratulations to all the volunteers who worked and rode on State Park's float in the 2007 Nevada Day Parade. Their efforts did not go unnoticed. State Parks received two first place awards for their float entry; the Parade Judges Award and the Community Award. The parade theme this year was "The Mysteries of Nevada AREA 51." To tie in with the parade's theme, the float depicted a camping scene with two aliens and a bear sitting around a campfire in the woods (trees all around), near by a space ship and two state park rangers standing at the front and back of the float. Our float theme was "Something for Everyone." The commentary: "Even visitors from other worlds enjoy Nevada's State Parks. These



two ET's have made friends with one of our local furry friends in one of Nevada 26 state parks."



The aliens were **Christie Latragna** and **Terrill Ozawa**, the bear was **Joann Kayo**. The rangers on the float were **Jennifer Dawson**, park ranger at Fort Churchill State Historic Park, and **Bill Champion**, park supervisor from Lake Tahoe Nevada State Park - Backcountry. Rangers walking and handing out candy were **Jay Howard**, park supervisor at Lake Tahoe Nevada State Park, **Peter Maholland**, conservation specialist with the NV Tahoe Resource Team, **James Hunting**, park ranger at Washoe Lake State Park and **Mark Fox**, park ranger at Lahontan State Recreation Area. The driver was **Dave Morrow**, administrator. Special thanks goes to **Todd Anderson** (ranger at Tahoe) who made the tree stands, **Donna Silva** (ranger at Washoe Lake) who made the wooden signs on the float and donated some of the camping gear and **Joe Fontaine** (facility supervisor at Tahoe) for the construction of the spaceship. To those I left out, thank you for volunteering with the construction of the float and donation of equipment, you all made this year's float a success!

DIVISION'S HALLOWEEN PARTY/CONTEST

The division office joined the rest of the Bryan building employees to dress up for Halloween. They had their own costume contest and as you can see the common theme was clowns, much to the terror of **Dave**, who does not like clowns. The winner was **Randy Moore**, who won a coffee cup and Starbucks Coffee gift card. This was a perfect gift for the Coffee King.



Front: Christi Latragna, Alyce Cloutier, Anke Simpson. Back: Kim Copeland, Dave Morrow, Jenny Scanland, Randy Moore, J. Steve Weaver and Michele Hudson.

FALLON REGION

FALLON REGION HEADQUARTERS

By Pat Marker

The Fallon Region is pleased to announce we finally have a fleet of trucks that are all the same color with the exception of one truck, located at South Fork, as well as our dump trucks. This is a great accomplishment considering State Parks decided to change the fleet's color from brown to white back around 1987. Hopefully, we can stay on track now and get on a rotation cycle to keep our fleet up to date. To say the least, we are ecstatic in this region.

Our regional maintenance staff, **Mark Bivens**, **Scott Payne**, **Dave Pardew**, **Charlie Wells** and **Ernest Cecil**, have been busy catching up on a lot of projects that took the back seat during the Berlin-Cabins project. We are fortunate to have such a capable group of men always looking forward to the next project. They always want to provide the park visitors with a great experience, so they will continue to enjoy their visits to the parks. Once again a job well done! All of our park supervisors and their staff have been doing a great job at providing the park visitors with a memorable experience when they visit our parks, thanks goes out to all.

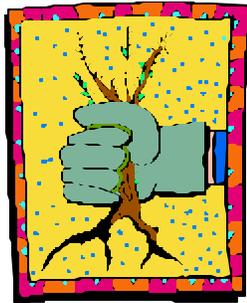


It has been great getting to know our latest addition to the region,



Deborah Wren, who is now our accounting assistant III. I understand she makes the best chocolate chip cookies around; at least that's what I am hearing from those fortunate enough to enjoy them. We look forward to having her around for a long time to come. Before **Deborah** showed up, **Peggy Harris** was doing double duty to help us keep us afloat and division sent out reinforcements, **Christi Latragna**, which was greatly appreciated.

Eric Johnson has been staying busy with weed management program. I actually think he enjoys weeds more than sitting at his desk, imagine that! Everywhere we travel, **Eric** manages to change the topic to weeds. I don't know about you, but when I was growing up, weeds were a bad word and most of the kids that I knew would run from them. Not **Eric**, he goes out in the field looking for them and treats it as his mission in life to rid the country side of these noxious things. Anyway, we are glad he does enjoy this so much and his efforts are being noticed by other agencies, as well as the general public. Keep up the good work!



I can't decide which nightmare to have every night; water treatment plant or trucks, trucks or water treatment plant. So I just wake up every few hours and change topics to make sure I get everything covered. I appreciate everyone's patience with me on these new trucks. It hasn't been easy, but I'm tickled to have so many new trucks in the fleet. This has been way overdue and to be involved in the process has been both a learning experience, as well as very rewarding.

On a sad note two of our employees lost their fathers recently and our condolences go out to both of them. **Mark Bivens**, our maintenance repair specialist at South Fork, lost his father and within a few days our seasonal maintenance repair worker, **Joe Hawkins**, also from South Fork, lost his father.

BERLIN-ICHTHYOSAUR STATE PARK

By Mike Dinauer

Staff has remained busy since Labor Day Weekend. Several projects began including the restoration and scaling of the Diana Mine. For those who do not know, mine tours were cancelled this year as a portion of the mine ceiling collapsed during the winter. The weekend of October 20-21 saw the **John Mackay Mining Team** from the **University of Nevada** scale the most vulnerable areas of the tour section of the mine, re-set approximately 80 feet of mine car track, remove an estimated 3.5 tons of debris rock and inspect the emergency escape. All work was headed by V.I.P. **Wayne Kirk**. We look forward to maintaining a mutually beneficial relationship with the mining team.

Also, park staff, with the help of the **Tonopah Conservation Camp**, has begun applying herbicide to try to control the many acres of cheatgrass in the park. With the help of the spray truck from Fallon Headquarters, things have been going smoothly. However, the remaining acreage lies in some steep and rocky terrain, which will slow our progress. Staff also remained busy with the tour season running until Veteran's Day. We look forward to some time off around the holidays, as I expect many of you do. Until next time, I would like to wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season.



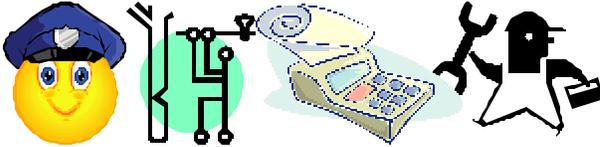
LAHONTAN STATE RECREATION AREA

By Rob Holley

After the harried pace and the long days of summer, the changes of autumn have brought much needed rest and time away from the office. Staff are enjoying vacation time and becoming reacquainted with their families, whose patience and longsuffering provided much strength throughout the summer months. The sound of handcuffs and sirens and the incessant noise of motorboats and loud music have given way to the rhythms of chainsaws, T-posts and pleasant conversations, as rangers work steadily on hazard tree removal, fence repair, equestrian trail head/campground development, and weed control.

LAHONTAN STATE RECREATION AREA (con't)

Over the course of a year, Lahontan's rangers cover the gamut from full-time police officers to foresters, fee-collectors to fence-builders, accountants, secretaries, custodians, cashiers, recreation planners, natural resource managers, trail builders, mentors, and maintenance men. We wear all the hats. I salute these capable and well-rounded men. They take pride in the many hats they wear and the continued progress the park has made in recent years is attributed to their collective efforts and abilities.



In addition to rangers **Tony Beauregard**, **Mark Fox** and **Myron Jeffs**, my hat is off to the seasonal staff at Lahontan. Some were fired, some were injured, and the few left over were willing to step in to replace them. Those that remained worked relentlessly to fill the voids and shoulder extra duties in order to keep the park afloat. In the end, we had a very successful summer, with few major crises and the public giving positive feedback on their experiences.

On a sad note, in early July, we lost Ranger **James Hunting** to the greener pastures of Washoe Lake. A good friend, we miss him sorely and wish him much success. Ranger **Brad Larkin** was able to transfer up from Valley of Fire (VOF) in September and has replaced **James** as the ranger at Lahontan Dam. **Brad** worked his seasonal years here and after his successful 1st year at Valley of Fire, we welcome him back to the fold.

Driving through the park this morning, all was quiet. It was hard to imagine the hundreds of thousands of visitors that gathered here just a few months ago. Most of these good people enjoy the anonymity of the masses and come and go without notice. A few, however, leave an imprint on the mind. Thankfully, this summer lacked the violence seen over the past few seasons, but nevertheless, we met some memorable characters engaged in activities you're not likely to encounter in other parks.

Late one evening, rangers **Fox**, **Holley** and **Jeffs** were called to a fight on Beach 7 (reported weapons were present). When Ranger **Fox** entered the camp of nearly 15 people, a helpful and take-charge camper yelled out, "everybody in our camp get your hands up!" Twenty-nine arms shot up without hesitation (one lady continued to hold her baby in her other arm). Only at Lahontan will the campers recite name (last name first), date of birth, and social security number on cue.



Only at Lahontan is the dinner entertainment often provided by Larry the Cable Guy or Jeff Foxworthy. Only at Lahontan can you arrest the same guy three times in three years and each time for the same offense (we'll be looking for Joe again

next spring). Only at Lahontan will someone use a cell phone to make a false report of a fight at another beach just to get you out of their neighborhood. One such fellow was not bright enough to block caller ID and we got his number from dispatch. On a traffic stop a few weeks later, this suspect was a passenger. Ranger **Jeffs** dialed the cell phone of the young man, who about fell over himself trying to get his own phone. You should have seen his face when he realized he was talking to the ranger standing next to him! He was later convicted of misuse of 911. Another young man tops the cake. While neither criminal nor dangerous, his antics capture the essence of much of what we see, and even characterizes many of the visitors we contact. This fellow and his buddy used masking tape to stencil a sunburn message on their bodies. On the rear of his left calf read the word "DUM" and on his right calf "A_ _," (insert the letter "S" into the blanks). This sort of sums it up – only at Lahontan.

I hope you are all well and safe and you have a blessed holiday season. Until next time.

RYE PATCH STATE RECREATION AREA

By Paul Schmidt

Man, are we glad summer is over! You could say we were flying at half-staff all summer. We were only able to hire three out of four park aids and one of them we fired in late August! This was all during the busiest summer we have ever seen. Labor Day, which is normally our slowest holiday, had the highest visitation/camping/boating numbers of any previous holiday on record. We were lucky we didn't have any major incidents.

We did have a couple drop by, after leaving Burning Man, and decide to continue their extra-curricular activities in broad daylight and for all to see. They were arrested, after a woman complained, however her husband speculated they were probably "just catfishing."

Nevada Division of Forestry (NDF) crews have been a major help the past couple of weeks and we hope to get them back sometime in December. They have been busy repairing fences, working on erosion control projects, building rock walkways, etc. They love working at the park. It does keep Jim and I busy, because the crews need a lot of supervision/direction. It's worth it to have a crew of twelve.

Our local dam tender, **Joe Karr**, has been hauling tons of gravel in for use in the park. In turn, we have been helping him with tree trimming, spraying weeds and erosion mitigation. The local Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT) supervisor has given us clearance to haul all the gravel we want, so we have been stockpiling it wherever we can. Apparently there will be a large highway project coming up and, afterwards, the gravel will be gone.



RYE PATCH STATE RECREATION AREA (con't)

Our commercial fishing company (Nevada Carp) is now back and ready to seine blackfish and carp until spring. Nevada Carp hasn't been around for a couple of years due to a moratorium on fishing for blackfish. The local Wildlife biologist, **Jim French**, told me they also fish in the Stillwater area for carp. Apparently the carp in that area are sold to a Hispanic company that tans the skins for a type of carp leather. The leather is then sold to boot makers in the U.S. for cowboy boots. A nice pair of Carp boots is \$400.00!

Both Jim and I are getting into the winter project mode and the list of projects is growing. We both really enjoy this time of year, however, for that very reason. Until springtime, stay warm!

WILD HORSE STATE RECREATION AREA

By Andrew Bass



Well the excitement of the summer still had more to offer. Just when the last of the fire crews were leaving and things looked like they were back to normal, it wasn't. With the lack of moisture this year and the long summer, most of the creeks dried up early. With no oxygen rich water coming into the lake and algae die off, dissolved oxygen dropped deadly lows for the trout. Several thousand went belly up, scaring what few visitors we had left. Fishing was back to normal after a few weeks.



With Wildlife stocking an excess of 100,000 fish a year, the die off will have little affect on fishing. The bad press on the other hand has made visitation slow to recover. Follow up news never seems to make the front page.



With few visitors, the park went to the people with our entry in the Elko Nevada Day Parade. It was a huge; many people giving us a big "thumbs up." We also won first place in the commercial division. Thanks goes to Park Tech, **Kristin Lefeber** and her family for all of their help with coordination and participation. Thanks also go to Maintenance Repair Worker, **Joe Hawkins** of South Fork, for driving the float.

PANACA REGION

CATHEDRAL GORGE STATE PARK, VISITOR CENTER & BEAVER DAM STATE PARK

By Barbara Rohde



Is it fall or did winter come early? October was cooler than we remember and visitation seemed to be less crowded for this great time of year. The **Las Vegas Astronomical Society** came to Cathedral Gorge for their 21st Annual Star Party, in mid-September. As usual, local residents came out to enjoy the views through

the large telescopes; this year, the Panaca 6th graders came on Friday night for a special program. One of the astronomers had a laptop computer hooked to his scope, and it was so much easier for the group of kids to see the celestial objects on the monitor screen rather than squinting through the eyepiece.

In late September, Bob Barnes from Bob Barnes & Associates came through eastern Nevada on a "fact-finding mission" from the Southern Nevada Birding & Wildlife Watching Trails Partnership (the group that **Barbara** and **Steve Weaver** belong to). He was checking out the locations listed on the Nevada Birding Map, and was pleasantly surprised by the



variety of birds and wildlife that can be seen in eastern Nevada. It helped to have the cooler temperatures forcing many of the migrant bird species to head south earlier than usual, which meant he got to see them. He offered very positive comments at the Partnership meeting in late September and has provided ways for us to reach out to bird watchers. This is a great source for new visitors to our parks and wildlife refuges, whether or not they camp or stay in local motels to visit.

Beaver Dam experienced a similar drop in visitation, while the weather was ideal for hunting season; the cold nights drove the deer out of the mountains. **Cody** and **Shaylen** met with representatives from FEMA the first week of November, to get master planning efforts back on track.



This will be my last report to the PEN. As many of you already know, I will be retiring the first week of January, after 30+ years with Nevada State Parks. I have enjoyed working with all of you, even those I have not met face-to-face and it is not like I am leaving “for good.” I will continue to work on tourism-promoting efforts for eastern Nevada

and I am sure the phone line between the Visitor Center and my home will be busy as the new person (if a new person IS hired, what with the hiring freeze) calls to ask questions for park visitors. I have worked to make the Regional Visitor Center a good resource “beyond the park boundaries” and hope the new person will continue these efforts.

Does an Interpreter ever, actually retire? There was a look of dismay on the face of the Pioche Elementary School secretary when I told her I would be retiring. Jo is my age, but she never thought of me as aging or retiring. Her first words were, “but you’ll still come on field trips with us, won’t you?” Well, how can I just quit doing the hikes I love doing with these kids?

I also started thinking about the shortage of interpreters in the West. Perhaps it is more competitive in California or Arizona;



Cody and “Minnie Me” son, Braxton being preped early for a future with NV State Park rangers.

but in Nevada, we have had a hard time filling ranger and interpreter positions when they’ve become vacant during the past ten years. Within the next five years, about three-quarters of our staff will be retiring, and some of them have been buying out years of retirement to leave us even sooner.

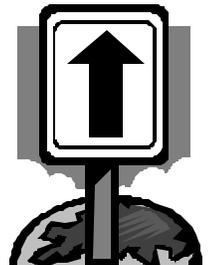
Another stumbling block to recruiting rangers and interpreters for Nevada is the conception that many people have of Nevada. Every day, I talk to visitors who tell me they had no idea Nevada could be this beautiful. Even the stretch between

Las Vegas and Alamo, along U.S. Highway 93, with the grandeur of the jagged and twisted limestone mountains and the long stretches with no traffic impresses a lot of people. Then they reach Pahrnatag National Wildlife Refuge and see lakes, streams, and lush green fields, and their notion of Nevada goes right out the car window. What must prospective employees think of Nevada if their only experience has been to visit Las Vegas or Reno casinos? There is so much more, and I have been talking to visitors who might be prospective employees (college students or rangers from other states), trying to get them to think about moving here to work. Please, someone take this job and love it!

CAVE LAKE STATE PARK & WARD CHARCOAL OVENS STATE HISTORIC PARK

By Steve Gray

All is well in the White Pine County Parks. We are warmer than usual this year, which has increased fees, however, we aren’t forming any ice for our upcoming events. The White Pine Fire and Ice Show is scheduled for January 19-20, 2008. It appears we are going to have quite a few returning sculptors. I just hope we get the ice, because we can always create the fire.



Since our land acquisition in the spring went in to effect not much has changed. We have to manage more roads and primitive camp sites, but the public has been very cooperative and seem to appreciate what we are trying to do. We closed a few roads and OHV trails that had destructive erosion issues and that has been the biggest complaint from the public. Signs are going to be our first priority this spring. We need to make sure everything is obvious for our users.

This hunting season was a great success at Cave Lake. Visitation and fees increased in the month of October. All the hunters seemed very pleased by the park’s resources in making their trip enjoyable.

Ward Charcoal Ovens is looking fantastic thanks to **Marla Bjorklund**. She has been diligently cleaning and building log benches. Her expertise in lawn maintenance is creating a new Ward Golf Course (LOL). Marla, thank you for all your hard work!



Terry Ivins continues to ensure everything is operational. I still remember the times before he was here and I immediately want to forget. His knowledge and ability to work in the two parks for a full forty hours a week have made all the difference. I see it, the region sees it and most of all the public appreciates his work and knowledge of the surrounding areas to compliment their trips to the parks. I hope everyone is well, and I hope to see as many staff as possible at this year’s Fire and Ice Show.

ECHO CANYON STATE PARK*By Ben Johnson*

Public Lands Day was held at Echo in early October and was a huge success. All of the students from Lincoln County High School participated in the event. Trails were cleaned and fixed and fences repaired and put up. The educational stations were well received.



With no moisture this year the reservoir is at an all time low. All visitors and employees are requested to bring bottled water on their next visit. If we all work together, we can get the reservoir filled. The fish prefer Dasani.

I would like to take this time to bid Barbara Rohde a fond farewell. Her many years of service have been a great inspiration and help to me. I wish her well in all her future endeavors. I know she will keep busy with her many projects and volunteering (at Echo). We will miss you.

KERSHAW RYAN STATE PARK & ELGIN SCHOOLHOUSE STATE HISTORIC SITE*By Bruce Winslow*

DO YOU NEED SOME LEAVES?! After having lived in the desert for 30 years, I learned there are consequences to having all of our great shade trees in the summer! It has been many years since I participated in the fall ritual of leaf raking and burning the piles. Having grown up in the Midwest, I can remember the sites, sounds and smells of that annual game. Luckily, we have the young men from Caliente Youth Center assisting with this project.



With the dry weather and extra warm temperatures, there have been a large number of new people learning about Kershaw-Ryan, which means the information kiosk has been restocked weekly. The Elgin Schoolhouse is closed for public tours until next spring, but there have been a lot of folks braving the challenging State Route 317, Rainbow Canyon Road, anyway.

SPRING VALLEY STATE PARK*By Andrew Porter*

Fall has arrived at Spring Valley. Park Aid **Louis Benezet** has retired to his "digs" at Caselton, NV for the winter; Park Aid **Trisha Tibbitts** has gone off to St. Petersburg, Russia to teach Russian children on a semester's hiatus from the University of Nevada at Reno. **Corry McBride** is finishing his 5th summer at the end of October. We had an interesting summer here at Spring Valley. A very hot and dry summer led to water levels for the Eagle Valley Reservoir reaching lowest point since the 70's, which left half our boat dock high and dry. We did have one storm at summer's end, which dumped close to 1 1/3 inches of precipitation in three days followed by another long

period of heat and drought. Because of the drought, we thought we had a handle on weed abatement, but that one storm led to an amazing proliferation of noxious weeds, mostly puncture vine, but an unusual find was the three marijuana plants discovered growing in one of our campsites!!



Once again **Andrew Porter** was able to participate in a couple of extracurricular events, which were of benefit both personally and educationally. He attended the National Trails Day hike at Quaking Aspen Spring in the Delamar Range south of Caliente on June 2. Then he was a Leave No Trace presenter for National Public Lands Day at Echo Canyon State Park on October 3. I think this year the entire student body of Lincoln County High School participated as part of their homecoming activities.

Lee Hiatt has had a busy summer, assisted by crews from NDF, in trying to finish up a flood control project in Horsethief Gulch. They have placed gabion basket structures, cement channel barriers and cleaned out the flood channel adjacent to our campground...just bring on another 100-yr. flood; we'll be well prepared this time!

The Historic Stone Cabin had another successful season, despite lack of a viable volunteer force. We were able to have a respectable amount of "open" dates, with each opening counted as a "tour." This year, we've had 79 tours for 1,046 persons, ranging from individual people, to multiple families and even large groups. We've had the Pioche Elementary 1st Grade class, several Las Vegas area Boy Scout troops and a group of 14 Boise, Idaho smoke jumpers hiking their way back from a fire in the area. We've had visitors from all over the 50 states, as well as a few foreign countries (Denmark, Germany, and Norway).

A sampling of visitor comments: "Just like the house I lived in as a child," "My grandmother (Mina Walker) was born in Spring Valley;" "My father was a ranger here; I lived in the park residence (former Park Supervisor Larry Hall's son);" "Historic preservation at its best", "Glad to see history and education preserved in a trusting environment;" "Our family has been coming to this area for over 35 yrs. to visit. Nice to see this old cabin restored;" "Thanks so much to the people responsible for this, so we can glimpse back in time;" "Great job! Truly awesome!;" "Wunderbal!;" and "W-a-a-y Cool!"

Things have slowed somewhat after the hectic "busy season." The pace will quicken a little with the late Fall fishermen, the big and small game hunters, the firewood gatherers; then around Thanksgiving, the Christmas tree hunters; and followed by the onset of winter (we have already reached a few 14-16 degree nights) the ice fisherman and die-hard winter campers. Soon we will once again be in "winter mode." Until then, everyone have a pleasant and enjoyable fall season.



LAS VEGAS REGION

SPRING MOUNTAIN RANCH STATE PARK

By Cheryl Fretwell and Rick Keller

The trees here at the ranch have now gone from summer's green to the beautiful yellow and gold of fall. The park has quieted down a bit. The deer, bobcats, coyotes and foxes have taken over, much to the delight of our park guests, who hope of catching a glimpse of them. Our summer was busy as usual with picnickers and theatergoers. It was so nice to have a full crew on board this year. We kept the park in top shape and still move forward with park projects.



In October, we hosted our second annual Civil War Re-enactment. This program was a huge, as we had re-enactors from all over the west participating. It is truly an amazing sight to witness a couple hundred men dressed in blue and grey battle it out in our main pasture, complete with black powder muskets, cannons and horses. Park visitors were enthusiastic and enjoyed talking with the re-enactors including Honest Abe himself. We hope to continue this program as it brought many first time visitors to the ranch. One week later, we were inundated with mountain men participating in this year's Mountain Man Rendezvous. This annual event is a favorite with the locals and is very well attended.

The Spring Mountain Ranch Docents have the ranch house looking very festive for the holidays, like something right out of Currier and Ives. Between maintenance and ranger staff, the fire is always burning by the time the first docent arrives for their shift. Our park visitors are very happy to be able to warm up by the fire before the tour. It would be nice to say that since we have quieted down a bit here, we could all settle in for a long winter's nap in front of that fire, but alas, we have projects in the works. So it goes here at SMR.

The 2007 Park Ranger Bike Patrol class held at Lake Tahoe in November. This was taken on the flume trail. From Left to Right: **Todd Anderson, Dale Conner, Jay Howard, James Hunting and Rick Keller.**



VALLEY OF FIRE STATE PARK

By Amber Heman

While most parks are slowing down, Valley of Fire is just now entering the busy season with our campgrounds filling up every weekend. Work is still being done on our new extension to Atlatl campground and we hope it will be wrapped up soon.



We have had over 15 interpretive activities in the last two months, which included star gazing, campfire talks, power point presentations, and of course our Halloween Jubilee. On October 27, over 125 people attended our 5th Annual Halloween Jubilee with **Captain Don Bolton**, which included fun, games, costumes, and lots and lots of

candy. We've also had countless weddings, the M.S. bike ride and Brass Challenge come through the park. Another fun event at Valley of Fire was the Leave No Trace Masters course which included two of our rangers, **Amber Heman** and **Donald Bolton**, and 13 other eager outdoorsmen.

Along with the busy season, we have a new ranger, **Glenn Shepard**, joining us from New York and our L.E. Park Ranger III, **Stephen Santee**, was re-commissioned and is now armed and dangerous.

Stephen Santee, park ranger at Valley of Fire was reinstated as a peace officer, November 8, 2007. Here Steve is being congratulated by Las Vegas Regional Manager Terry Hansen.



FORMER PARK EMPLOYEE LOSS

By Wayne Pe rock

Wilbur Earl Wiewrecht, 89, passed away November 15, 2007 in Carson City, NV. He was born May 26, 1918 in Portland, OR and had been a resident of Carson City for 41 years.

He was an Army Veteran of WWII, participating in the Battle of the Bulge. Wilbur was one of the original employees of the Oregon State Park System, serving for 20 years. He also served 17 years with Nevada State Parks, responsible for the writing and placement of the Nevada Historical Markers.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Ralph and Lean; son, David; and stepdaughter, DeeAnn Parsons. Wilbur is survived by his wife of 34 years, Celia; son Mark; brother, Harvey; two granddaughters, Shelly Santo and Deena Lien-Richards; and one great-grandson, Quinn Richards.





#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 am happy to report the Department of Personnel has converted their system from social security numbers to employee ID numbers. All personnel documents are now processed with the employee ID number, which is the same number we use on our timesheets. This includes performance evaluations and work performance standards, as well as direct deposit slips. Of course though, there are exceptions. The W-4 and all PERS and PEBP documents still require the employee's social security number.

Most of our seasonal employees are now laid off and we did not have a lot of changes among our permanent employees since the last PEN. Time to take some annual leave and catch up on long overdue projects.



NEW PERMANENT EMPLOYEES

Glenn Shepard started as commissioned Park Ranger I at Valley of Fire on 9/24/07. **Debbie Wren** accepted the Accounting Assistant III position at Fallon Region Headquarters on 10/15/07.

PROMOTIONS

Cheryl Fretwell promoted from her seasonal Park Ranger Technician I position at Spring Mountain Ranch to their new permanent Administrative Assistant I position.



GOOD BYES

David Mensing left Carson Region's Parks Regional Manager position on 10/5/07. **Stacey Patane** transferred from her Accounting Assistant III position at Fallon Region Headquarters to the Division of Forestry on 8/24/07.

TRANSFERS

Brad Larkin transferred from his commissioned Park Ranger II position at Valley of Fire to the commissioned Park Ranger II position at Lahontan.