



# PEN PARK EMPLOYEE NEWSLETTER

## ADMINISTRATOR'S CORNER

*By David Morrow*

It is obvious from looking at Nevada State Parks visitation records for the last ten (10) years that visitation is virtually flat with slight increases and decreases that seem to be based on park specific issues, such as weather, water level or availability of space. For most of the last ten years the economy has been robust with relatively cheap transportation costs, so it is very difficult to measure the impact the recent downturn in the economy will have on park visitation. It is also very hard to determine what impact \$3-\$4 per gallon gas

prices will have on future park visitation. I think it is clear that visitation, park revenue and our operating budget will be impacted, but unclear as to what extent and for how long. It is my opinion that while we need to recognize these issues and deal with



them, we need to remain focused on our core values, mission and more long term trends in park and recreation use. To that end, I thought it might help to provide a few of the trends identified by the Outdoor Recreation in America Coalition:

- Americans continue to participate in a wide range of recreational activities. While this participation varies by region, income and race, outdoor recreation is a pervasive leisure-time use across the nation. Nine in ten Americans (87%) participated in an outdoor recreation activity over the past twelve months.
- Beginning in 2001 and even more strongly in the 2003 thru 2007, a long-time pattern of increasing outdoor recreation participation changed into a downward trend. Factors such as concern over possible terrorist acts, competing leisure time opportunities on the Internet, video games, and increased cable and satellite TV channels were all identified as possible factors.
- There was also a significant decline in frequency of participation in outdoor recreational activities. There was a 5 point drop between 2001 and 2003 in the percentage of the public reporting participation in recreational activities.
- The drop in frequency of participation was especially noteworthy among young adults, a trend first noted in 2001. It is also noteworthy that this group reports

high access to the internet. 18-29 year olds are now less likely to be frequent recreation participants (19%) than Americans between the ages 30 and 44 (24%) or those 45 to 59 (22%). Four in 10 young adults are likely to engage in recreation activities either monthly or never.

- Previous surveys demonstrate widespread public recognition of the positive opportunities to the quality of life resulting from participation in outdoor recreation. The public links recreation to overall happiness, family unity, health, improved educational opportunities and deterrence of crime and substance abuse. Declines in participation in so many recreational activities and the overall frequency of participation clearly put the benefits arising from recreation participation at risk.
- Of those who have visited a public recreation site recently, most are willing to pay more in fees than they are being charged. But this willingness has decreased from earlier studies, likely reflecting more higher fees being charged.
- The studies show an interesting correlation between recreation participation and environmental attitudes, with those most concerned about the environment being especially active in recreation.

So what does all this mean for the future of Nevada State Parks? As already mentioned, it is my opinion we should not lose focus on aligning our parks and programs with some of these major trends rather than just addressing short term problems or recreational fads. Our focus, despite short term budget problems and the current recreational rage, should be on developing ways to better market the wide array of opportunities that exist in Nevada's State Parks. In partnership with other agencies, we need to develop programs to get kids and families in our parks, because it's good for their physical and mental health and it will help develop future support for all of the wonderful resources. We need to continually find ways to generate more of our operating budget from sources other than the state general fund. We need to exploit the economic benefits of historic places, recreational opportunities and watchable wildlife and find ways to garner the support of those who benefit from those activities. Most of all we can't lose site of our historic purpose, the value of environmental stewardship and the benefit to society of enjoying and have fun in the outdoors.



**ADMINISTRATOR’S CORNER (con’t)**

I encourage everyone to develop or participate in at least one program that connects kids and or families to your parks or programs. Further, I would like each of you to become more involved in the communities you work in and that are affected by the park or programs you manage. I also encourage everyone to sponsor or approve programs like: Leave No Trace, Tread Lightly, Last Child in the Woods or support groups such as the Boy/Girl Scouts, YMCA or other like minded youth groups. It would also be helpful for all of us to take a more active role in regional or state tourism groups. The long term health and well being of Nevada’s parks, recreation areas and historic places depends on us.

**OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE**

*By Allen Newberry*

This spring, we have been busy with our Recreation Trails grant and had two additional class graduations in April. In the first week of April, we conducted a Leave No Trace (LNT) Masters class at Ft. Churchill State Historic Park and we appreciate the courtesy attended to this group by park staff for their hospitality and assistance. Those who graduated from this class include **Brad Larkin, Domenic Bravo, Jennifer Dawson, Myron Jeffs, Paul Schmidt, Peter Maholland, Kristen Lefebre** (all from State Parks), **Jerry Buzzard** from Washoe County Parks and Recreation, and **Devin Galloway** and **Hans Degn** representing boy scouting units in the area. Additionally, we had two former employees; **Bernadette** and **Robert Francke**, who took the course hoping to be able to assist as volunteer trainers in the future. We are looking forward to spreading the LNT outdoor ethics message to our park users when and where possible. We also have LNT hang tags in Spanish for parks that may wish to use this in park programs and presentations. A special thanks to **Bruce Winslow** from Kershaw-Ryan and **Haven Hornapple** from the National Outdoor Leadership School for assisting to run the master’s course.



*Left to Right, Back Row: Peter, Domenic, Hans, Myron, Brad, Haven, Jerry, Bob and Bernadette. Front Row: Paul, Jennifer, Bruce, Devin and Kristen.*

In the second week of April, we sponsored a Tread Lightly Master program in Carson City, again using Recreational Trails’ funds. Tread Lightly is a nationally recognized program that promotes ethical outdoor behavior by users for both motorized and non-motorized recreationists on our public lands. Tread Lightly emphasizes: (T) that we travel and recreate with minimum impact; (R) that we respect the environment and the rights of others; (E) that you educate yourself, plan and prepare before you go; (A) that we allow for future use the outdoors and leave it better then you found it

and; (D) that you discover the rewards of responsible recreation. We had a great group of participants that enthusiastically assisted in teaching and learning during this two-day training session. Graduates included: **Dave Morrow** (not pictured), **Randy Moore, Brad Larkin, Charlie Wells, Andrew Bass, Chris Macek, Scott Egy, Jennifer Scanland, Eric Johnson, Bob Mergell, Terry Ivins** and **Allen Newberry** (not pictured). **Kim Toulouse** attended and represented the Nevada Department of Wildlife. Our instructors for the course included **Mary Van Buren** and **Larry Eads** from Tread Lightly.



*Left to Right, Back Row: Charlie, Larry, Kim, Mary, Eric, Terry, Domenic and Bob. Front Row: Scott, Chris, Jenny, Brad, Andrew and Randy.*

We give special thanks to all that participated in the two training programs this spring. It is a great time one can commit and also well worth the investment of time as we assist others to become better informed in making ethical decisions as they use our parks.

A thought from the past: “When we desire different things, we should cause different things to be created, and not try to make things already created different from what they are. This, however, is constantly being done; the result is, we not only misplace things, but we interfere more or less, with the natural inclinations and best motives of nearly every person whom we came in contact.”

We are gearing up for a busy season, preparation of the budget for the next biennium and working to keep the parks open, operating and safe.

**PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT (P&D)**

*By J. Steve Weaver*

Thanks to all of you for providing input into the State Public Works Board’s “Facility Condition Assessment” spreadsheet, which we used as the nucleus of a comprehensive list of completed, already funded and still needed maintenance projects, as well as, capital improvement projects. After prioritizing these projects, we will be better able to establish our budget for the next biennium, and seek non-general fund sources for high priority projects that may not make a very likely tight budget cycle.



**PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT (Con't)**

The big news late from P&D is the completion and opening of our new 24-site campground at Big Bend of the Colorado State Recreation Area the last week of March. This \$4 million addition represents our first effort toward a full utility hookup RV campground in the entire Nevada State Park system. This new campground has sewer, water and electrical hookups, along with flush toilets and hot showers. It also has a two-lane RV dump station.



**New Big Bend Pull-Thru Campsite**



**Big Bend Campground Restroom/Shower Bldg.**



**New Big Bend Contact Station/Fee Booth**

Big Bend also got a badly needed air conditioned contact station/fee booth, new paved day use parking and a paved overlook access road and parking, along with several new picnic ramadas. **Bob Martin** was the project manager for all these major projects, and has done an outstanding job. Truly a grand finale for his 30 year career with State Parks (Bob will be retiring in July 2008).

In addition, Big Bend is getting a major uplift at the boat lagoon. Several terraces are being formed between the boat parking lot and the lagoon to prevent the sandy bank from sloughing off into the lagoon, largely due to heavy user traffic. Several additional picnic ramadas are included in this project, which is being funded largely by a 75% (\$288,500) federal boating access grant, courtesy of Nevada Department of

Wildlife (NDOW) and U.S. Fish and Wildlife (USF&W). **Ned Wallace** is the project engineer, with construction management by **Tom Tabacco**.

Last but not least, Big Bend is getting a brand new modular ranger residence with a Southwest Pueblo architectural motif. **Tom Tabacco** is also the construction project manager, with help from other P&D staff. Both the boat lagoon and residence are currently under construction. Construction should be completed by the end of the fiscal year for both projects.



**New Big Bend Ranger Residence**

Also under construction, but nearing completion, are two new ranger residences at Valley of Fire. The new residences will be a welcome relief for staff, who have been living in 1970 vintage trailers. In the near future, we also hope to construct a third new residence near Overton to serve the Valley of Fire backcountry area. **Tom Tabacco** is the construction project manager with a budget of \$650,000 for the three residences. Staff architect **Marc Lepire** and engineers, **Joe Cyphers** and **Ned Wallace**, have all lent their expertise towards these long-awaited staff residence projects.



**Valley of Fire residence modular sections being fitted together.**

Meanwhile bids were opened March 27, 2008 for the Valley of Fire Visitor Center expansion and remodeling, including a new auxiliary office structure and public restroom, and a new entrance foyer with refreshment/snack dispensing machines. The fact that we got ten bids, all within budget, is a sign of the times for the current bidding climate. Construction should be complete sometime in late summer. **Marc Lepire** is the project manager.

The original Old Las Vegas Mormon Fort exhibit building recently underwent a \$32,000 facelift. The adobe mud face was refurbished and the parapet wall has had a color matching metal cap installed, which should considerably reduce erosion of the adobe mud in the future. **Tom Tabacco** is the project manager.

**PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT (Cont.)**

Phase 1b of the Dangberg Ranch Stabilization/ Restoration project is once again underway, after a winter weather respite, and should be completed in May or June 2008. This \$248,000 project includes replacement of deteriorated wood siding, trim, windows, etc., and exterior painting for five historic structures, including the main ranch house. Interior heating, ventilation and some replacement electrical wiring for the ranch house is also included. **Marc Lepire** provided architectural expertise for this long awaited project, while **Tom Tabacco** is once again the construction project manager.

**Marc** and **Tom** are also collaborating on the Sand Harbor Visitor Center Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) ramp, walkway and bear-proof trash enclosure. Bids came in slightly under budget, and that project is also now underway. They are both also responsible for the design and construction of the Washoe Lake Maintenance Storage Shed, which should go out to bid sometime this 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 next fall. **Ned Wallace** is the project manager.

**Ned** is also currently working with **Bob Martin** to engineer Fort Churchill's Buckland Station Day Use Area development, with its primary focus on a fire suppression system for the newly restored Buckland Station. There will also be several picnic sites and a modest amount of landscaping.

Now that we appear to have all the approvals, we should be able to get that project out to bid, with a bid opening in May.

Completion scheduled for this fall.

**Joe Cyphers**, Supervising Engineer IV, has been assigned the Valley of Fire and Spring Mountain Ranch water system upgrade projects as his current top priorities, along with a new well at Kershaw-Ryan. Bids have already been opened for Valley of Fire and the project is underway. Bids for the Spring Mtn. Ranch and Kershaw-Ryan projects opened on April 9, 2008 and are also underway.

**Eric Nelson** is working diligently on the Kershaw-Ryan and Ward Charcoal Ovens campground improvement projects, both are to be constructed this summer/fall. Plans are nearly completed for the \$450,000 Kershaw-Ryan phase 2 campground improvements, and should go out to bid in the next month or so. This will allow us to finally complete the 16-unit RV/trailer camp loop with a new potable water well to serve the campground and other park facilities. This new

campground will also feature flush restrooms and hot showers with shade ramadas at each campsite and a new RV dump station.

The design for Ward Charcoal Ovens' \$250,000



campground upgrade is still being refined, prior to bidding (hopefully) by late spring. This 14-site campground will be improved 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 South Fork campground improvements and the Tahoe Backcountry campground development projects. The South Fork project involves reconfiguration of some sites to accommodate multi-families or small groups, additional shade ramadas and landscaping. The Tahoe Backcountry project involves development of a new primitive campground near Hobart Reservoir to include 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 the fall of 2008. Both campgrounds already have Sweat Smelling Toilet (SST) vault restrooms installed, thanks to **Bob Martin's** efforts last year.

Our consultant team has completed the on-site geotech work and a "LIDAR" topographic survey of Beaver Dam's former Schroeder Reservoir site. This will now allow completion of a preferred alternative plan to be presented to Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for final approval, and a determination of whether the dam decommissioning and flood damaged site 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 working with another consultant team and our partnering California Tahoe Conservancy towards completion of plans for the \$3 million phase I development (funded entirely by Tahoe Environmental Improvement Program (EIP) bonds) of the Van Sickle Bi-State Park at Stateline. Although not officially open, this park already gets a considerably amount of public use. Given the likelihood of extremely tight budgets for the foreseeable future, every effort has been made to virtually eliminate operating expenses with the initial development. Accordingly, the first phase will be limited to basic infrastructure with the only real public use facility comprised of a multi-use trailhead on the Nevada side for hikers, mountain bikers and equestrian. Initially, the only maintenance anticipated is servicing the double unit SST vault restroom at the trailhead, with a budget limited strictly to donations. The project is scheduled to be bid next winter, with construction to take place during the summer of 2009.



**PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT (Cont.)**

Meanwhile, **Steve** is also working with the State Public Works Board (SPWB) to implement ADA retrofits at Sand Harbor and Lahontan. Sand Harbor will be getting a handful of accessible picnic sites, while a number of vault restrooms scattered around Lahontan will be getting accessible parking and access walks. Rye Patch is also getting accessibility improvements for the boat ramp restroom using Catagory 95 deferred maintenance funding. **Bob Martin** is coordinating this effort.

NDOW recently indicated they would entertain new federal boating access grant applications for South Fork, Washoe Lake and Walker Lake. The South Fork project involves the installation of southwest shoreline picnic ramadas and a new boat ramp. The Washoe Lake project includes a new breakwater and dock at the main boat ramp facility. Both of these projects require a 25% match from State Parks. On the other hand, NDOW and USF&W will be funding 100% of the cost of installing a new boat ramp, relocated boat parking, and possibly new shade ramadas at Walker Lake, on the condition that State Parks provides the engineering and project management. **Ned Wallace** will be coordinating the grant applications and engineering for these projects, with project management assistance from **Eric Nelson** and **Tom Tabacco**.

Park and Recreation Program Manager, **Jenny Scanland**, has completed and distributed the Spring Mountain Ranch master plan, with assistance from University of Nevada Las Vegas' School (UNLV) of Architecture, Landscape Architecture and Planning Research Program. UNLV is also helping her to get the Valley of Fire's master plan underway. Meanwhile, **Randy Moore** has completed the South Fork master plan, and has already started on the Cave Lake and Ward Charcoal Ovens' park master plans.

Last, but not least, we sadly said good-bye to **Cheryl Surface**, who left us for greener pastures in Reno. She had been our Recreational Trails Program Manager. Fortunately, there is a lot of interest by some very qualified applicants for the job. We expect to have it filled sometime in May. The position is federally funded.

**PLANNING UPDATES**

*By Jenny Scanland*

Well, we are busy, busy, busy. As you all may know **Cheryl Surface** left us in January for Washoe County Parks. We had a great farewell lunch and will miss her dearly.



**Recreational Trail Program (RTP)** - RTP received 24 applications. Five are from State Parks totaling \$404,230. I had the best time bugging the heck out of the parks and was able to write and submit four applications for signage and Nevada Conservation Crews (NCC) time to complete trail maintenance in the following parks:

- Berlin-Ichthyosaur
- Lahontan
- Ft. Churchill
- Rye Patch

- Ward Charcoal Ovens
- Lake Tahoe
- Mormon Station
- Echo Canyon
- Beaver Dam
- Spring Valley
- Spring Mt. Ranch
- Big Bend.



Kershaw-Ryan put together their own application for a brand new mountain bike trail and **Allen Newberry** applied for another round of training for Leave no Trace and Tread Lightly.

Cross your fingers and see how we rate with the other projects that total \$1,585,375 this year! We should know by end of May 2008.

The RTP position was opened almost immediately after Cheryl's departure and closed on March 14, 2008. We will have had interviews and hopefully a new person on board by the time you are reading this!

The 9<sup>th</sup> street equestrian trailhead at Lahontan and the Washoe Lake restroom projects received another 50K and 70K respectively from past years' carryover funds to complete those underfunded projects. You were all great to work with!

Until then, contact me with any RTP questions you have. There are another 40 or so RTP grants out there in progress by other folks around the state. As soon as the new person comes on board, we will be focusing on the 2006 grants State Parks received for trail maintenance and signage and will update you with how much you have already spent on NCC trail crews and how much you need to spend on signage according to the 2006 grant. We will also be coordinating the new grants, if we are funded in 2008 on the signage portions of those grants.

**Land and Water Conservation (lovingly known as L&WCF)** Many folks are not aware of this program as it flows through the division office here in Carson City directly to development. But in the past several years the following parks have received this funding:

- Kershaw Ryan Campground Phase 1 and 2 and the paving project to come.
- Ward Charcoal Ovens Campground, yet to happen.
- Washoe Lake Campsite Ramadas
- Big Bend Paving and Fee Booth
- South Fork shade structures, master planning and upcoming campground renovations.
- Spring Mt. Ranch master planning
- Upcoming Valley of Fire master planning
- Sand Harbor Visitors Center and Facilities upgrades

Thanks to the "D" side of "P&D" for all their hard work on getting these projects on the ground! If I may, I would like to quote **Ned Wallace**, Engineer extraordinaire, "You make it up and we make it happen!" There are another 35 L&WCF grants out there in process around the state by counties and cities.

**PLANNING UPDATES (con't)**

**Master Planning Update** - Oh ya! I almost forgot the part of my job that I was hired to do; with everything else it is amazing we got anything done with master planning, especially with no budget. **Randy Moore** and I are working feverishly; well we think we have fevers most of the time.

Plans are complete and on our website for Dayton and South Fork.

The following are ALMOST on the website, just a few more tweaks here and there:

- Dangberg Home Ranch
- Mormon Station
- Spring Mt. Ranch

STILL in process (and pushed back due to no travel money)

- Valley of Fire
- Cave Lake
- Ward Charcoal Ovens
- Beaver Dam, which is again up and running partially due to the FEMA process for the dam collapse!

So this spring, Valley of Fire, Cave Lake and Ward Charcoal Ovens will begin to receive maps and verbose written material to review, it's a lot of fun! We will begin public meetings in July 2008 and later for Valley of Fire due to heat.

Let's see what else the parks never get to hear about.... The Dayton Valley River Implementation group is working together to try and connect Dayton State Park with Ft. Churchill with a trail along the river in the next decade. There is a lot more, but only so much time in the day. Please call or send an email every once in a while. I'd like to hear from you all out there in the Wild Wild Nevada!

**2008 STATE PARK ACADEMY**

*By Alyce Cloutier*

The 5<sup>th</sup> Park Academy took place in Carson City, Nevada, January 31-February 1, 2008. We had approximately 60 attendees. This year's committee members included: **Dave Morrow, Steve M. Weaver, Domenic Bravo, Dale Conner, Anthony Beauregard and Michele Hudson**. The committee put together a great program and the tours to the State Museum, State Railroad Museum and the State Capitol were outstanding. Thanks again to **Nevada State Parks Cooperative Association** for donating shirts and paying for the snacks, lunch, banquet night, and the **Plaza Hotel** for the accommodations. Thanks also go to the **State Legislature** for the conference rooms and their audio visual equipment. And we won't forget to thank all the guest speakers, especially our out of town speakers **Lorrie Pompei**, Leadership Unlimited, from Reno, who did the "Coaching/Mentoring/Team Building" and our keynote speaker, **Patti Klein**, U.S. Department of Interior, Bureau of Land Management, Utah, who did the session on "Leave No Child Inside."

This year's theme was "**SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE.**" The conference truly had something for everyone. Governor Gibbons dropped in to say a few words to attendees on the

first day. From the evaluations received, this year's academy was the best one ever despite a few minor glitches on the first day. There were multiple sessions going on so the attendee's had a choice of which sessions they wanted to attend.



*Lorrie Pompei-Mentoring/ Coaching/Team Building*



*Steve Lewis-Facilitator for forum/vision workshop*

There were also sessions the entire group attended such as "Tourism: Marketing Recreation in Rural Nevada" (**Jolyn Laney**, Tourism), "Leave No Child Inside" (**Patti Klein**, BLM), Coaching/Mentoring/Team Building (**Lorrie Pompei**, Leadership Unlimited), Nevada State Parks Cooperative Association (**Karen Moessner**), a question & answer session with the three chiefs (**Dave Morrow, Allen Newberry and J. Stephen Weaver**), which tied into the Forum/Vision workshop with

facilitator/moderator **Steve Lewis**, UNR. The last speaker, **Gary MacDonald**, was the motivational speaker who hopefully got the attendees geared up before they left that day.



*Gary MacDonald, Motivational speaker*

The multiple other sessions included budget (**Mike Nolan**), purchasing/contracts (**Shannon Berry**), volunteers (**Wayne Kirk**), GPS technology (**Don Cassidy**), GIS technology (**Eric Warmath/ Jeff Schmitz**), how to get money (**Jenny Scanland**), law enforcement/firearms and use of force simulator (**Tony Beauregard and team**). Tony's staff put several different scenarios together for the participants. Attendees who used the firearms use of force simulator (FATS) enjoyed it thoroughly.



*Scott Egy, firearms simulator*



*Law Enforcement scenario, victim fallen down stairs, applying first aid & transport safety.*

View more photos on the website at [www.parks.nv.gov](http://www.parks.nv.gov) and the results of questions and answer session.

**EARTH DAY**

*By Alyce Cloutier*



On April 20<sup>th</sup>, State Parks participated in the Earth Day celebration at Idlewild Park in Reno. While it was sunny and clear, it was also very cold and windy. State Park employees

manned the booth: **Dave Morrow**, **Jenny Scanland** (pictured above), **Alyce Cloutier** (pictured above), **Christi Latragna**, **Domenic Bravo** (pictured below), and **Ned Wallace** (pictured below). We had over 250 people come through our booth asking questions about parks and trails. We had information on recreational trails, tread lightly, leave no trace, and a coloring book for the kids along with information about keeping the kids connected to the natural environment. We gave out recycled bags that included a one day complimentary pass to the first 150 people that came to the booth.



Elsewhere, on April 26<sup>th</sup> at Squaw Valley, Jay Howard and Peter Maholland also had a booth for the Earth Day celebration.

**CARSON REGION**

**LAKE TAHOE NEVADA STATE PARK**

*By Bill Champion*

Hello to all from Lake Tahoe! Anyone remember that old TV show “High Mountain Rangers?” It was filmed at Tahoe and featured a cast of attractive, young and fit men and women carrying out their duties year round in the Sierras. The reason I am thinking of it is because this is the time of year (winter) when we all get the old question ‘what do you guys (and gals) do in the winter? Well, if you were a high mountain ranger you stayed close to a cozy fire and radio and chatted with each other about your personal problems until the call came in – “we have an emergency!” Cue to the snowmobile warming up and it’s off you go into a blizzard with no hat on to rescue whoever. I think it was all downhill for rangers after that show. Now whoever asks that question is let down when they hear what it is we really do in the winter, mostly.

Here is a list of things done in the winter, so listen up Mr. Visitor:

- Oops, the park is still open and seasonal staff are gone! Guess I will have to clean bathrooms, empty garbage, pogy and check fees.
- Hmm, people are not paying fees and vandalizing the bathrooms! Guess I will have to take corrective action.

- The phone is ringing off the hook! Everyone wants a piece of me (it’s nice to be wanted)! Reservations, get that fee audit done, move that snow and start planning that commercial permit, special event and photo shoot.
- Uh oh, division just called and I have ‘til yesterday to turn in budget justifications, fee permit orders, monthly, biannual, annual and semi-monthly reports, (I know that one is coming soon!) emergency action (fill in the blank-plan), training record, etc, etc.
- The sun is getting higher in the sky – Oh, my God – it’s the summer season! Start checking the applications for hiring, order the supplies, start de-wintering equipment and facilities, get your Nevada State Parks Cooperative Association (NSPCA) stuff, and make sure the dumpsters are locked because the bears are back!

The disappointed visitor turns away, glassy eyed and feeling sorry he asked the question, but there is a happy ending. I have a new truck idling in front of the office on Memorial Day weekend and I am discussing my personal problems with my co-workers when the call comes in “the fight is on – rangers needed!” Hey – this job is pretty “Hollywood” after all!

**WASHOE LAKE STATE PARK**

*By Donna Silva and Paula Ault*

On the first day of spring the squirrels came to play.

On the second day of spring the bald eagles flew away.

On the fourth day of spring the Washoe winds were churning.

On the fifth day of spring the Easter Bunny came.

On the sixth day of spring the groups have given their names.

On the seventh day of spring the noxious weeds are here.

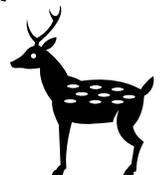
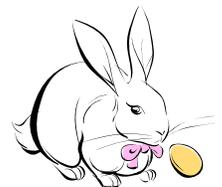
On the eighth day of spring the park is full of deer.

On the ninth day of spring a little pup was found.

On the tenth day of spring the tents are on the ground.

On the eleventh day of spring we are finished with our song.

On the twelfth day of spring we would like to say so long!



## FALLON REGION

### FALLON REGION HEADQUARTERS

*By Ernest Cecil*

At Fallon region we're all enjoying our new maintenance and seasonal vehicles. They're great! Thank you everyone who worked hard to get us these much needed and appreciated new trucks.

As of now, all the new radios, toolboxes and various other equipment are installed and working properly, thanks to great teamwork from our Fallon region maintenance staff. I would like to add a special thanks to **Charlie Wells** for jumping in and helping with all the radio installations. Thanks to all of you, it's a pleasure to work with such a great group.



This season were adding a new position, the Water Guy, **Doyle Nicholson**. We're all looking forward to working with him. We think he'll make a great addition to our team.

The 2008 season is going to be a great one. Everyone is working hard to make the parks a fun, safe place for all who come and enjoy. **Peggy** and **Debra** are working overtime to get everything ready for the seasonal staff coming on board. We welcome them as they do a lot of clean up work around the park, as well as, multiple other tasks. The park rangers are out also cleaning up along with their everyday ranger duties.

Before I go, I would like to give a few thanks to **Pat Marker**, **Scott Payne**, **Dave Pardew** and **Charlie Wells** for doing a great job of keeping the parks up and running and for always being willing to do whatever is needed to get the job done. Also, thanks to **Eric Johnson** and **Pat Marker** for always looking out for us by getting us tools or parts we need to get the job done or just saying a few nice words of praise. Thank you for all you do! Have a great season. We look forward to seeing you at the parks.

### BERLIN-ICHTHYOSAUR STATE PARK

*By Mike Dinauer*

After a long winter, things are starting to return to normal here. Tour season starts soon, our returning seasonal, **Robin Riggs**, is coming back for his 9<sup>th</sup> tour duty and several groups have made plans for their annual outings.

Also on tap for this season is the beginning of a natural resource project funded by Nevada Division of Forestry (NDF), which will keep staff busy. A 150 foot shaded fuel break will encompass the forested areas of the park. This will take several years to complete. The archeological site survey just began and trees have been marked for removal. Plans have been made to remove the wood and cutting will be done by NDF Trustee crews. This project, along with the treatment of 15 acres of cheatgrass completed last fall should lessen the ever present threat of wildlife. It will be a busy summer season and we hope everyone stays safe.

### SOUTH FORK STATE RECREATION AREA

*By Jim Wilkinson*

Thanks to a strong winter, South Fork Reservoir had very good ice fishing conditions through the end of February. At one time, the ice was well over 18" thick. In all, we had ice over the reservoir thru March 21. As usual, migratory waterfowl of all species like the rare and elusive American Coot were there to greet the open water. It continues to amaze me how they know when to show up. We have hundreds of ducks and Canadian Geese here.

Fishing continues to be good with a recent report of a 10 pound Cutt-Bow Trout being caught. A Cutt-Bow is a cross between a Cutthroat and a Rainbow Trout. We truly have an outstanding fishery.



My family and I were able to make some visits to Oregon State Parks along the Southern Coast of Oregon between the California State line and Coos Bay. I would highly recommend these parks to anyone.

One new day-use park called Tsereriadun/Garrison Lake State Recreation Area, which is located in Port Orford, Oregon, really stood out. Thanks to a lucrative State Lottery system, Oregon is using some of their lottery proceeds to purchase coastal lands and other property from willing sellers and then turn these areas into state parks and recreation areas. Garrison Lake is less than two years old. They also just purchased the infamous Prehistoric Gardens/Dinosaur Tourist site area and are currently converting this over to another state coastal park. What is really impressive, in my opinion, was that Oregon chose not to charge day-use fees at a number of their parks. I am not clear what their thinking is on this, other than this is what they chose to do.

Another observation is Oregon State Parks seems to really rely on volunteers for actual physical presence. They seem to have park managers who manage two or more areas. Park volunteers are the actual on-site presence to assist visitors and to deter any illegal activities. I noticed they made above average park host sites, which had full hook-ups, a storage shed and were situated in nice areas.

**SOUTH FORK S.R.A. (con't)**

Thanks to my son, who fell asleep while playing his DVD player, we were the recipients of a dead vehicle battery. Being the prepared person I am, the only thing I forgot to put in our survival box was a pair of battery jumper cables. Due to this dead battery, I was able to meet the park host, **Joyce Hreben** and Park Manager, **Frank Eckersley**. I now understand how some of the people I help feel. It is a relief to be able to continue on your way. My family and I truly appreciated their help. My overall impression of our visit was highly positive. That and the fact we found a lot of sea agates, make us want to go back to this area again. The areas were clean and they only offered minimal facilities. Obviously, the beach area is the attraction. I also need to emphasize if any of you have a chance, to please visit Cape Arago State Park near Coos Bay. The coastal scenery is spectacular. I also had the chance to kill a colony of Scotch Thistle. These were actively growing along the side of a trail that was coincidentally by their botanical gardens. I hope I got them all.

We would like to spotlight our returning seasonal employees, **Joe Hawkins** and **Oma Walliman**. **Joe** and **Oma** have several productive seasons under their belts. We appreciate their willingness or sheer desperation to return. We also have two new seasonal employees in **Graig Cropper** and **Matt Shaw**. We simply cannot exist without our seasonal staff. We are highly appreciative of being fully staffed this year. This is a luxury we have not had in years. We expect

better fee compliance and better services to our visitors. I wanted to thank **Pat Marker** for the excellent, cost efficient work he did in getting the new trucks to us. Let's hope for a good spring and summer. We wish you the same.

**WILD HORSE STATE RECREATION AREA**

*By Andrew Bass*

"I think something on the front tire broke." "I was stuck for hours." "If we want to get to town we better park a truck out at the highway."

These are just a few phrases that the memories of winter bring up. With inadequate and aging equipment, snow

removal has been a challenge at best. Big thanks to the Fallon region maintenance crew. After the front axle housing on the plow truck broke, they quickly sourced out another truck and transferred brackets, wires, and other parts to get me moving snow again.

Winters are a bad time to be without a plow. Even local NDOT was having fun. With the park road drifted in bad enough, their plows couldn't get through. With



broken equipment of their own and being short staffed, the park managed to stay snowed in for a few days. But with the right equipment, it doesn't take long to get it back open and the fishermen back on the ice.

Huge thanks go to Park Tech., **Kristin Lefeber** who was able to work a couple of months this winter and then actually volunteered for the rest of the winter. I don't think the novelty of plowing snow has even worn off yet. Ah, plowing snow is a blast. There is nothing like spending hours doing a job that undoes itself in less time then it took to do it in the first place. And if you do get snowed in, then snowmobiling just gets that much more fun.



**PANACA REGION**

**PANACA REGION HEADQUARTERS**

*By Susie Adams*

The weather is finally warming up and we're beginning to see park employees gear up for the big season. Maintenance personnel are de-winterizing and preparing to fix all the leaks caused by old man winter. As for the office, it's been budget, budget, budget with a little personnel thrown in for good measure.



The biggest story at Panaca Region is the lack of personnel. Ward Charcoal Ovens has been without a ranger for well over six months now leaving **Steve Gray** and **Terry Ivins** to hold things together at both parks and as you all know, our



beloved Park Interpreter, **Barbara Rohde** retired at the beginning of January. She stops by occasionally with a big smile on her face, although she sounds even busier than she was before she retired. She remains active in the same organizations and activities as before (only now she isn't paid, hmmm...).

We sent **Cody Tingey** off to Peace Officers Standards and Training (POST) at the end of January. I'm sure they are enjoying his energy and enthusiasm in Carson City as much as we are missing it here. We are counting off the days until his return and I'm sure his family is too.

**PANACA REGION HEADQUATERS (con't)**

Then, on the first of February, our Facility Supervisor, **Kim Lee** tendered his resignation to go on to bigger and better things. His sense of humor and ability to put things in their proper perspective will be sorely missed. He truly is family. We wish him the very best in his next excellent adventure. I might also mention that he took our park dog, PC, with him and she was getting to be such a good mouse catcher.



We are happy to welcome back some of the regular seasonals. **Jonathan Brunjes** is helping out in the Visitor Center as time allows. He is a full time student across the border at Southern Utah University in Cedar City. After working a couple of seasons with us a few years back, he returned to school to major in parks and recreation. We must have made a good impression. My pal **Nevin May** and **Derek Lloyd** (also a student) have both stepped in to help out **Shaylen Budreau** in Cody's absence. Here's hoping everyone has a safe, happy summer!

**CAVE LAKE STATE PARK & WARD CHARCOAL OVENS STATE HISTORIC PARK**



*By Steve Gray*

Our winter events are finally over. The White Pine Fire and Ice Show had 3,300 people and the ice fishing derby had

1,300 people. That is a lot of people in the park over the course of nine days. Since we made the American Bus Association's Top 100 Events in North America, we have a wonderful opportunity. If we can do it two more times, we will make their top 100 international list for the lifetime of the event. This is difficult, because it is necessary to change things up

every year. You have to provide additional services, better access and more of everything. It is a good challenge. If we can make the top 100 International list, it will mean free marketing for the park and open up many different avenues for funding and qualifying for different grants.

We are all working to get the campgrounds open and clean up the park after the long winter. The ice coming off fast. **White Pine County School Teachers** started an "Ice Pool" this year. You buy a raffle ticket for \$5.00 and guess when the tripod (three logs that are 27 feet tall) will fall through the ice. I attached an analog clock to the outside of one of the logs. When it hits the water, it shorts out giving us the exact time it hit the water. The winner gets half the proceeds and the rest goes to support the earthquake victims in Wells, NV. It is amazing how many people drive up to the park to see the tripod.

Ward Charcoal Ovens is doing absolutely fantastic. **Terry Ivins** and I would like to say, "Thank You **Marla Bjorklund**." She has done an outstanding job at the Ovens. Her interpretive skills, attention to detail, maintenance abilities and cooperativeness have made her a great asset to the park. Now that the snow is melting, we can start managing our resources around the park. We are currently upgrading the campground with the help of **Eric Nelson**. The campground is going to be 300% improved from where it is now. Thank you **Eric** for your hard work in making this happen.

I have to admit I have been enjoying my free time by being able to take a few weeks off last month, but in two weeks, the 24/7 drama begins for many of us. I hope everyone has a good summer and all you rangers keep your powder dry!!!!

**KERSHAW RYAN STATE PARK & ELGIN SCHOOLHOUSE STATE HISTORIC SITE**

*By Bruce Winslow*

Just like most of the other state parks, Kershaw-Ryan and Elgin Schoolhouse are waking up after a slow winter season. The tree buds are coming on, the birds are returning and soon the visitation will increase.

New things are happening for Kershaw-Ryan. The contract for a new water well is out on the street, which soon will be followed by a contract for a new campground (15-units) and an underground sprinkler system at the day use area. No more hauling hoses and sprinklers around the turf areas!!! Next year we'll have a contract for a new office/entrance station. We acquired about 1,500 acres of Bureau of Land Management (BLM) land under the Lincoln County Conservation, Recreation and Development Act of 2004. A grant request is in the works to construct 13 miles of mountain bike (non-motorized) trail on this property as Phase I of a total 25 mile trail, which will eventually expand onto adjacent BLM land.

Elgin Schoolhouse will now be charging a \$1.00 museum admission fee and there will be a new sign telling visitors it is a state park unit. Now all we need to do is get State Route 317 rebuilt.

**SPRING VALLEY STATE PARK**

*By Andrew Porter*

The winter without end is finally faltering. A light is beginning to shine at the end of the tunnel. It's about time.



For us here at Spring Valley, this winter may very well become a bench mark. **Pete Gill** may have endured harsher winters in his many years here, but I for one have not. We've experienced frequent snow showers punctuated by occasional heavy blizzards, with low temperatures in the negative double digits. Although visitors mainly stayed away, we kept busy. We became well acquainted with snow shovels this winter. It seemed **Lee Hiatt** was never without a snow shovel in hand, and he would spend days shoveling only to have to shovel again after returning from his days off. I can only imagine what you in the northern parks went through!

Now the ice is gone, fish are being planted and our visitors are becoming more numerous. The Eagle Valley Resort is hosting an fishing derby in April 2008 and we hope to kick off the season with a good turn out. We should be amply prepared. Shortly we'll be bringing on **Corry McBride**, a returning seasonal with several summers under his belt. **Corry** easily falls back into the park rhythm without missing a beat. Back from her adventures in Russia, we'll welcome **Trisha Tibbitts** just in time for the infamous Memorial Day weekend. She should have some good stories to tell. From all of us at Spring Valley, we wish you a busy and safe summer!

**LAS VEGAS REGION**

**SPRING MOUNTAIN RANCH STATE PARK**

*By Steve Micklus and Rick Keller*

The desert is blooming at Spring Mountain Ranch and visitation is picking up. Several park improvements were achieved this winter, capped off by our February fencing project. Everyone pulled together to extend wooden fencing around the picnic area. We were pleased to have **Mike Shipman** come down from Carson City to help get the job done. Thanks **Mike**!

In early March, **Scott Egy** hosted the first of three Leave No Trace courses for the year. It was the first time the course was open to the general public. A wide variety of people attended the event and it was a great success. Easter was an extremely hectic time at the park. By 9 a.m. the ranch was over capacity.

Later in the afternoon the Docents hosted an Easter Egg Hunt for the children. Candy and prizes were given to participants.

The following weekend the park was home to the 5<sup>th</sup> annual Red Rock Rendezvous. The park was filled with climbing enthusiasts from around the world. Night hikes are being hosted once again this year. Due to high demand, the number of hikes has increased. Attendees get the chance to walk the trails under the cover of dark. It is a great opportunity for visitors to view wildlife and gaze at the night sky.



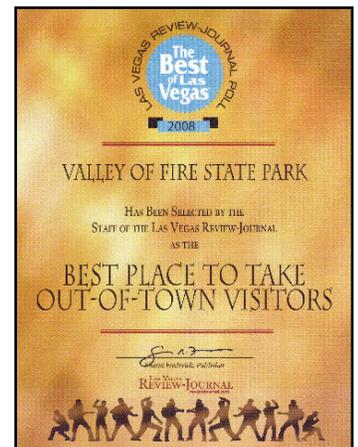
I (**Rick Keller**) would like to thank **Jay Howard** and **Allen Newberry** for allowing **Mike Shipman** of Lake Tahoe NV State Park to come and help us with the fence project. The project took longer than anticipated, but was well worth the effort. We replaced nearly 1,000 linear feet of barbed wire with 3-rail ranch fencing through the picnic parking area, making the area look much more inviting and conducive to the "ranch" look of the park. We would still be working on it (as we approach our busy season) had we not had **Mike's** help. It was a good teamwork project as well, since everyone on staff pitched in to help get it. It also saved the state a tremendous amount of money, since the low bid was nearly \$50,000 for a private contractor to do the same job.

**VALLEY OF FIRE STATE PARK**

*By Don Bolton*

Valley of Fire State Park has been experiencing a great Spring season. We have witnessed a significant increase in camping due to our new RV sites. Campers really seem to be thrilled to have new hookup sites available. The hookup sites have nearly been full since they opened on December 17, 2007.

Valley of Fire hosted several interpretive programs such as "The Big Deal about Big Horn Sheep," "Desert Survival Skills," and "Leave No Trace Awareness." We even had a Grad Student, **Kelsey MacNamara**, from Montana State University give a nighttime interpretive talk to 63 campers about her experiences doing geology work in Valley of Fire. We will once again be hosting the World Atlas Association Competition, which has proven to be a very fun, cultural event for attendees from around the world.





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### VALLEY OF FIRE STATE PARK (con't)



Spring is also bringing back the Las Vegas Astronomical Society, who will be visiting the park with large telescopes for the general public and campers to view the stars. Easter Sunday was a fun day for all the little kids (and big kids) as they were surprised by a visit from the

Easter Bunny. **Sandy Hufford** wore a bunny suite and “hopped” from campsite to campsite and picnic area to picnic area saying hello to the kids, posing for photos, and passing out Easter candy. We made contact with over 200 kids in just two hours time.

We have been receiving a large amount of calls from people wanting to visit the park during the peak of the blooming season for the wild flowers. We are expecting the flowers to reach their peak during the last two weeks of April.

### PERSONNEL

*By Anke Simpson*

It is getting very busy around here. Several of our parks are already starting to hire their seasonal employees. Even with our hiring freeze, we have been able to hire several new permanent employees:

### NEW PERMANENT EMPLOYEES

We have four new employees that started on April 7, 2008.

**Doyle Nicholson** accepted a brand new Water System Operator I position at the Fallon Region Headquarters. **Rodney Lewis** started in the Maintenance

Repair Specialist II position at Valley of Fire and **Paul Keyser** started in the new Maintenance Repair Specialist II position at Big Bend. **Mark Jensen** accepted the new Park Interpreter I position at Dangberg Home Ranch. We are very excited to have all of these positions filled.



### GOOD BYES

**Barbara Rohde** retired from her Park Interpreter II position at the Panaca Regional Visitor Center on 1/4/08 with 30 years of service.

**Cheryl Surface** resigned from her Recreational Trails Coordinator (Conservation Staff Specialist II) position on 1/25/08 and accepted a position with Washoe County Parks and Recreation. **Kim Lee** left his position as Facility Supervisor III for the Panaca Region on 2/15/08 to start a new adventure in the private sector. We wish all three good luck and lots of fun.

