



PEN

PARK EMPLOYEE NEWSLETTER

ADMINISTRATOR'S CORNER

By David Morrow



Spring is normally a time of year that I really look forward to, but this year is different. Although I am looking forward to warmer weather, my annual fishing trip and perhaps a visit with my kids, I am not looking forward to saying goodbye to someone who is truly an institution in Nevada State Parks.

Allen Newberry has made the decision to retire, at the end of May, after 36.6 years as a State Park Ranger, Supervisor, Region Manager and Chief of Operations and Maintenance. His career has included many locations around the state; Lahontan, Valley of Fire, Spring Valley, the Panaca Region Office and Carson City. **Allen** likes to refer to himself as being around since the Pliocene era, which according to my research is a period of time approximately 2.4 million years ago. Although **Allen** doesn't look quite that old, some of his stories about what it was like working for State Parks when he first started his career, seem a bit prehistoric. He always likes to mention, to anyone willing to listen, that when he started for State Parks, you didn't apply for a position, but were simply directed to move to your next assignment, usually with very little notice and no moving allowance. He also makes a point of showing everyone, where his camp sized trailer was parked at Lahontan, which was right in the middle of the day use area. Not being nearly as old, I can only imagine what it was like in those very early days with Nevada State Parks.

Like many of you I really appreciate all **Allen** does for State Parks, his many years of dedicated service and his occasionally transformation into the "**Eddie** Persona," which conveniently allows for a less conventional approach to life. **Allen** and **Eddie** will be greatly missed and never truly replaced. Those of us left to continue on will greatly miss his humor, knowledge and unwavering support. I have been fortunate to get to know **Allen** over the last few years and can honestly say that I have never worked for a more honest, dedicated or hard working individual in my entire 36 year career in state parks.

Like all of you, I wish to thank **Allen** for all he has done for Nevada State Parks and wish him a long and enjoyable retirement.



OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE

By Allen Newberry



Allen circa 2009 and 1974

This is the last PEN article I will be doing unless I become a guest contributor in the future. I will be retiring at the end of May after a lifetime journey with good friends and associates along this state park path. **Eric Cronkite** was the administrator when I began my career at Valley of Fire. Additional administrators I worked with include **Nolan Kiel, John Meder, John Richardson, Wayne Perock** and **Dave Morrow**. This gives you an idea of my overall ability to be patient. I also worked with several different regional managers as I worked the maze of parks; they include **Roy Orr, Al Schloredt, Dick King, and Dave Nishium**. I worked under **Roy Orr's** direction twice (remedial training on my part).

State Parks has been a good home and my family has fond memories of being raised in the parks. We lived at Valley of Fire, Lahontan, Spring Valley and Cathedral Gorge. Our children wore out several big wheels on the Valley of Fire residence hill. They also had lots of rides around the park in my old R69S BMW/MC with Stieb side-cart. My wife, **Sherry** and I made several exciting trips to St. George when two of our children were born.

My wife (which is my better part) and I have made many friends and throughout the state of Nevada over the years. The hardest part of leaving is missing all the good people I have had the pleasure to associate with daily. If I ever find my Clivis file, I will send it to **Joy** for future editions. This was one of the lost casualties of moving to Carson from Panaca.

A note from the past: "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." Christian D. Larson (1910).

OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE (CON'T)

Remember to keep the faith, pull the plow, and keep your chin-up. Along time ago I took an obligation that said "I would seek to preserve a cheerful spirit even in the midst of irksome tasks and weighty responsibilities and I will endeavor, so far as my power lies, to be unselfish in service and devotion to the welfare of others." I have tried to keep this obligation mostly in my life, sometimes I do well, sometimes I haven't done so well, yet we have all kept moving mostly forward.

The last six months as the chief of operations and maintenance have not been fun, because of the budget crisis, yet with the outstanding leadership shown by **Allen Biaggi, Kay Scherer, Dave Morrow** and all of the other administrators in the department, I have witnessed much tenacity, care and assistance. We can all be thankful for this group of individuals that have, in the midst of irksome tasks and weighty responsibilities, constantly done all they could to protect the department, agencies, and employees. You are going to be left in good hands with this group of extremely talented and dedicated professionals. The worker bee's at the division are top notch too; and they do all they can to support the parks and staff statewide.

The next generation will also do well; look always forward and keep your hands on the oars.

"elpoep tuoba tol a syas ginht thgir eht gnioD" - Eddie

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT (P&D)

By J. Steve Weaver

As per usual, we are still leaping tall buildings with a single bound and moving as fast as a speeding bullet, despite staff and budget cuts. An occasional ski outing or round of golf helps keep things in perspective.



Kershaw-Ryan Campground Under Construction

After going 25 years without a campground (due to the 1984 floods that pretty well wiped out the entire park), Kershaw-Ryan finally has a new 15 unit campground, plus a campground host site. Included is a restroom/shower building, shade ramadas, tables and grills for every site, and a new well and potable water system. The official opening is scheduled for the end of March.

The new visitor center expansion and remodeling project at Valley of Fire is rapidly nearing completion. Included is a

new auxiliary office building with brand new fully furnished office cubicles and a conference/break room, separate public restroom building, and a new entrance foyer with refreshment/snack dispensing machines. The new administration annex and public restrooms are located side-by-side, immediately behind the existing visitor center building.

New VOF Visitor Center Annex & Restroom

Marc Lepire is the project architect and had project management assistance from **Tom Tabacco**.



The total project budget was \$1.75 million, but has yet to include new carpeting, a remodeled Nevada State Parks Cooperative Association (NSPCA) sales area and hopefully, completion of the last two interior exhibits. The latter three items will be put out to bid under separate contracts.

Also nearing completion is the Fort Churchill Buckland Station day use area development, which is primarily focused on a fire suppression system for the newly restored Buckland Station. There will also be several picnic sites and a modest amount of landscaping. **Ned Wallace** is the project engineer, with construction management assistance from **Bob Beck**.

The new North Shore Marina boat ramp extension project, funded with a federal boating access grant is now complete. What has increasingly become the norm in recent months; we got a score of bids with the low bid at half our budget. Accordingly, we've been able to get a lot more for our money, while keeping some anxious contractors in business. In this instance, we were able to amend our \$101k federal grant and finally remove the large earth mound directly off the end of the boat ramp that has been interfering with navigation for years. The ramp extensions will allow boat launching under all but the lowest water level conditions. The ramp extensions will also accommodate the new sled dock purchased last year. **Ned Wallace** was the project manager, with construction managed by **Bob Beck**.

Meanwhile, the Rye Patch boating access funded project is now underway. Again, we had a score of contractors show up at our February 12 bid opening, with the low bid at almost exactly half our \$165,000 budget. This project consists of installation of shade ramadas at each campsite in the Boat Ramp (upper) Campground, along with ADA retrofits for two sites and access to the restroom/shower building and a fish cleaning station sewer system upgrade. With the cost savings involved, we are also adding a badly needed replacement irrigation system to the project scope. **Ned Wallace** is the project Engineer, with **Bob Beck** as the project manager and **Eric Nelson** is doing the irrigation design.

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT (Con't)

Both equestrian trailheads at Washoe Lake are getting new restrooms and other site amenities, thanks to a \$100k federal RecTrails grant, augmented by Question 1 (Q1) bond funds. A new double Sweet Smelling Toilet (SST) unit will be installed adjacent to the corral area at the main park equestrian area and two portable toilets under a shade structure will be installed at the North Ramp equestrian area. Project completion is scheduled for June. **Tom Tabacco** is the project manager.



Bids were opened for the new Washoe Lake Maintenance Shop and Storage Building on March 18. While not as spectacular as some other recent bids, the low bid was still about \$100,000 under the \$500,000 construction budget. **Mark Lepire** designed the building, with engineering assistance from **Joe Cyphers**. **Tom Tabacco** will be the construction project manager. This new facility includes a vehicle maintenance bay, offices, dark room, staff restroom and storage mezzanine. It's scheduled for completion around the 20 of July.

Savings from the Washoe maintenance building will help augment \$300,000 of Washoe County (WC1) bond funds and State Lands Q1 bond funds to construct a 2.4 mile paved bike path along East Lake Blvd from the end of the existing park road pavement near the equestrian group area, to the northeast corner of the park. **Ned Wallace** will engineer the project. This will represent the first link of an around the lake bike path in Washoe Valley.

After years of continuous struggle, it appears the first phase of development for the Van Sickle Bi-State Park will finally get off the ground this summer. Funded by a \$2.8 million Environmental Improvement Program (EIP) bond construction budget, phase 1A includes a new paved park access road with park entrance features, a multi-use trailhead with paved parking, SST restrooms, picnic sites and water and underground utility infrastructure for future phases. Significant drainage and environmental restoration work is also planned.

Wild Horse will be getting a new fish cleaning station this spring, thanks to a \$15,643 Boating Access grant. **Bob Beck** drew up the plans, while Fallon region maintenance staff will be in charge of installation.

South Fork has an approved Boating Access project, augmented by Q1 bond funding. This involves the installation of picnic ramadas and a new boat ramp along the southwest shoreline; if we get really good bids, we might even be able to pave the boat parking area. **Ned Wallace** and **Tom Tabacco** are collaborating on this \$408,000 project, with a \$235,000 federal share. Bids are scheduled to open in June.

Meanwhile, South Fork will also get a campground refurbishment, with the biggest change consisting of the installation of shade ramadas at all of the sites that currently lack shade. Some sites are also being reconfigured to accommodate multiple vehicles, which seems to be a favored tradition among campers in recent years. A couple of ADA accessible sites are included, along with a campground host site with hookups. A \$130,775 Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) grant will be matched with Q1 funding for the campground upgrade. **Eric Nelson** is currently finishing up the plans, with the intent of putting this project out to bid in May. **Tom Tabacco** will be the construction manager.

After an earlier park closing scare due to budget cuts, Ward Charcoal Ovens' campground upgrade project is back on track. With a \$125,000 federal LWCF grant, matched with Q1 monies, all 14 existing campsites at Ward will get gravel camp pads, new shade ramadas, tables, grills and fire rings. Two sites will be converted to ADA accessible sites, and a campground host site added. A water distribution system will also be added. **Eric Nelson** is putting the finishing touches on the plans, while **Bob Beck** will be getting the project out to bid this May and will supervise the construction.

We are still hoping to get a drill rig in the Tahoe's backcountry early this summer, in an effort to provide at least one hand-pump well for the backcountry campgrounds, most likely at the Marlette Peak campground. A Desert Research Institute hydro-geologist has already inspected the site and given us his positive recommendation. **Joe Cyphers**, Supervising Engineer IV, is in charge of this project, which is being partially funded by private donations.

Joe is also supervising the replacement of the existing package sewage treatment plant at Spooner Lake this spring, with a larger capacity model. He is also assisting park staff with plans for sidewalk upgrades at Sand Harbor's Diver's Cove.

J. Steve Weaver and **Joe Cyphers** recently collaborated on submittal of a \$720,000 federal Scenic Byways grant for the Fire Canyon Overlook at Valley of Fire. Since only two requests were made statewide, we are a bit optimistic that we'll be successful. If approved, this project will include a paved two-way access road to the overlook from White Domes Road, paved parking with bus spaces, a SST restroom, interpretive displays and drainage/erosion control improvements.

This summer, Lahontan will be getting a new equestrian trailhead, in the vicinity of 9th Street near the Carson River Delta. This facility will be complete with a SST restroom, connector trails, primitive campground, and access road improvements. **Ned Wallace** is the project engineer; he is expecting to put this project out to bid in April.



After finally getting Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) approval of our preferred alternative, work is progressing on both the master plan and construction drawings for Schroeder Reservoir site restoration at Beaver Dam. Construction is expected this fall and will include the complete removal of the old dam remnants and concrete spillway. Stabilization of the built-up sediment behind the dam will be accomplished by a combination of rock structures and re-vegetation. Meanwhile, the master plan should be completed by early summer.

Tom Tabacco will soon be working on site design and installation of shade ramadas at the Spring Valley day use and group use areas, along with the Ranch Campground. These projects will hopefully be underway by early summer. \$179,700 is budgeted, including an \$89,850 LWCF grant.

Design of a new custom built residence and separate garage for Berlin is nearing completion, with construction to take place this summer. In keeping with the historical context and scale of the Berlin town site, the residence has been downsized to two bedrooms and one bath. A separate two car garage with workshop will be constructed nearby. **Marc Lepire** is designing both buildings to emulate the architectural style and materials used for the adjacent historic buildings. This project is being funded entirely with Q1 funds.

The process has been initiated for replacing the structurally threatened dam at Cave Lake. Nevada Division of Wildlife (NDOW) will be funding the bulk of the cost, with a \$440,000 Q1 contribution by us. NDOW is currently drafting a consultant Request for Proposal.

PLANNING

By Jenny Scanland

Land and Water Conservation (lovingly known as LWCF)
Many folks are not aware of this program as it flows through the state office here in Carson directly to development. We have what are called "outstanding conversions" that are impacting our work and funding, if you want that story, call me and have a seat. There will be approximately \$400K available this year, but we still have not heard from the National Park Service to see if we are actually going to get it!



The funding world is in turmoil and it all seems to be running downhill, or not.

The SCORP, Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan, is due the end of May. So I will be glued to my keyboard to get that draft to the National Park Service soon.

Master Planning Update

1. Policy #35-1 is being rewritten to hopefully streamline and eliminate duplicity. Master plans are a component within the General Management Plan, which now will include all aspects of park management. The draft will be out soon I hope.

2. Valley of Fire is a "GO"! Our application for assistance from the National Park Service's River and Trails Program was approved. We are getting ready to put the questionnaire on the website and planning a date for the first open house sometime in April/May.
3. Cave Lake – Brochures and public comment handouts are on the website. We handed hundreds of them out at the Fire and Ice Show in January. Many comments were received and you can go on our website under master planning to read about it. Public meetings are not scheduled yet.
4. Beaver Dam, which is again up and running is under contract with a consultant who is also working with FEMA in the removal of the old Dam and restoration of the creek.
5. Echo Canyon has been dropped back down the list and Washoe State Parks is up for 2009-2010 General Management planning.
6. I am working with the Carson River Sub-conservancy, **Eric Johnson**, and the NV Land Conservancy on a Habitat Conservation Plan for the lower Carson River to include Dayton, Ft. Churchill, Carson River Ranches and Lahontan!
7. I am working with P&D on bike trails at Washoe Lake State Park.
8. And I'm working with **Randy** in RecTrails as we work through a mire of projects and not enough funding.
9. As the world turns....squander yourself for a purpose!



RECREATION TRAILS PROGRAM

By Randy Moore



ARE YOU GOIN'?

I sure hope you are!!
In case you missed the email, here it is again; an introduction to the Nevada State Parks "GETTING OUTDOORS IN NEVADA" campaign.

The mission is to reintroduce children and their families to Nevada's great outdoors and encourage them to explore and develop positive personal relationships with nature and all it has to offer.

The result of this mission will be greater physical well being; improved psychological well being; increased cognitive functions; strong and respectful social skills; and instilling stewardship responsibility and appreciation for our parks and environment.

To accomplish this mission, we will provide opportunities that will ensure and encourage exploration and immersion of and in the outdoor experience.

RECREATION TRAILS PROGRAM (Con't)

This will be achieved by:

- Coordinating and promoting State Park programs that encourage personal interaction with nature and the environment.
- Provide resources to raise awareness and understanding of the importance of this mission and encourage the involvement of public, private and non-profit organizations.
- Be proactive in our communities.
- Replace “screen” space with “green” space – taking the Virtual Techno to the Natural Technical
- Provide opportunities for families to bond and make the outdoors a team sport.
- Create unstructured activities and opportunities for play and exploration – free time for kids to be kids... at any age.

We are already getting started, and there are some great opportunities for promotion and involvement. Washoe Lake and Fort Churchill are sponsoring “Let’s Go Camping” and “Camping For Beginners” in which a lottery for applicants will be conducted and the top five will be treated to a family camping experience in the parks with all the amenities provided.

April 19 is Earth Day. Many communities are having events. This is a great opportunity to get involved by having a booth or better yet have some event at your park that encourages kids and families to be **GOIN’** somewhere!

June 6 is the American Hiking Societies National Hiking Day. This is a great opportunity to lead hikes in your parks and get people **GOIN’**. So great in fact, that **Dave** (the Administrator), will waive the entrance fee for any one that will come to your hiking event!!! Wow!!! Thanks **Dave**!

And of course there are the regular holiday’s that allow for opportunities to reach out to and be a proponent of getting people reacquainted with our great State and show how important recreation is to it’s good health and quality of life. If you are doing a hike, let me know soon and we’ll get it on the National Hiking Society website calendar.



But remember if we’re not **GOIN’**, then others won’t be **GOIN’** either.

I'M GOIN'! ARE YOU?

LAKE TAHOE NV STATE PARK (LTNSP)

By Dale Conner

All is well at Lake Tahoe Nevada State Park. Among other things, Park Supervisor **Jay Howard** is working to put together a Sand Harbor capacity study. This arose from a plan to close the unit to walk-in traffic in the near future. Most of us are aware of the overcrowding issues during Sand Harbor summers. It will be interesting to see the results of the study. **Jay** has also been spending time working with the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA) and Tahoe Region Conservation District (TRCD) on how best to manage Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) inspections that are now required at all Lake Tahoe boat ramps. One of the recent proposals to fund the program included a \$36 dollar inspection fee, in addition to the \$15 that we charge. Yikes!

We didn’t have all that much snowfall early in this winter and the lake’s level is still low. Despite that, Park Supervisor **Bill Champion** reports his fee collections (and envelope counting) at Cave Rock have gone through the roof this winter. This is a direct result of the AIS inspectors posted at the fee booth. Apparently their presence has stirred the consciences of Cave Rock visitors and the honor system is working the way it should. Thankfully for the Spooner Lake concession operation, there has been more snow recently. This has helped to turn around a relatively slow start to the season for **Max** and **Patty Jones**, the owner/operators of the Spooner Lake Outdoor Company, which runs the park during the winter.

Sand Harbor’s boat ramp has been closed to boats on trailers since last fall due to the low water. Kayaking, which has really grown in popularity at the park the last few years, has fortunately been unaffected. **Mike Shipman** and I started reviewing seasonal lifeguard applications online today and noticed there are 201 approved applications for a Park Aide I! A sign of the times, I guess, and it will be nice to have seasonal help back in the park. Other than that, it has been another typical off-season (November 1- March 15) at Sand Harbor: Fees collected: \$23,059.38; Visitation: 64,317.

Joe Fontaine and **Mike Shipman** have been busy fishing cups out of sewer lines, repairing broken pumps, building and installing gates, and pitching in wherever needed. **Todd Anderson** and I feel fortunate to have a good working relationship with maintenance staff. We work together to accomplish goals, regardless of class or title. Maintenance staff regularly helps with routine tasks such as cleaning bathrooms and shoveling snow, while the rangers assist with projects such as the boat ramp gates and boardwalk repairs. It helps us to accomplish things more efficiently and it also just feels good to work within a team framework like that.



I’d like to add that I recently took my family for a visit to Rye Patch. Paul (and Jeanine) Schmidt and Jim Hawkins took us all for a tour and I felt very impressed with the park and the job those guys have been doing. I highly recommend a visit!

NEW DIVISION EMPLOYEE

By Alyce Cloutier



Welcome **Linda Mulkey**, our newest employee at the division office in Carson City. **Linda** is our new Contracts Manager. She has 10 ½ years with the State of Nevada.

Before being assigned to State Parks, **Linda** worked in the director's office for two a half years as a Management Analyst working on many different

projects assigned. She also worked as the contract manager for the Division of Environmental Protection for three and a half years.

As the Contract Manager for State Parks, she writes and processes contracts. She works with field staff and assists them with their contracts, permits and leases (this was previously done by Joy Elwood). She also has taken over duties from **Randy Moore** in dealing with concessions and long term agreements. She also retains her previous job's duty as the Safety Coordinator for the Bryan Building.

NORTHERN REGION

BERLIN-ICHTHYOSAUR STATE PARK (BISP)

By Jeff Morris



It took a little longer than 10 years, but delirium finally caught up with Park Supervisor **Mike Dinauer**. He spent his last days at the park chasing imaginary snakes off

the roadways. Fortunately, he is in recovery as he has accepted the Park Ranger position at Fort Churchill. We wish him a speedy recovery and warm thanks for the many years of dedicated work and guidance he provided.

DANGBERG HOME RANCH STATE HISTORIC PARK

By Mark Jensen

Over the winter, staff at the Dangberg Home Ranch Historic Park have been busy preparing for a new season. We've been working to solve our collection storage problem and researching local history. Volunteers and staff continue to catalog the park's collection, particularly the archive of family correspondence and other documents that provide a plethora of information both momentous and quotidian. Artifact displays are being revamped and special exhibits planned. We're also excited about creating a volunteer gardening club to lead the charge in recreating a large flower garden at the park.

Park Supervisor **Suzanne Sturtevant** and Interpreter **Mark Jensen** have been promoting the park to anyone who will listen. The park's community of boosters have been doing the same--particularly its dedicated volunteers and returning Park

Tech **Gail Allen. Mark** has been honing his public speaking skills by making several presentations to local clubs. In January, he was honored to be the featured presenter at the



Douglas County Historical Society's monthly speaker series.

Clothes for special occasions on display.

In 2008, the park staged two exhibits.

A display of clothing and jewelry was held in October, and a holiday and toy exhibit concluded the season in December. Both were well-received and will be repeated in 2009, but expanded with displays of additional treasures from the Dangberg collection. Other exhibits to be staged during the year include an exhibit of books, newspapers, sheet music and other published materials, with items dating from 1843 to the 1960s. They show what people did with their spare time before television and video games. Visitors will be able to see the schoolbooks that educated their grandparents and great-grandparents, read the same newspapers, and learn about the songs they sang. A "Dangberg Short Stories" exhibit will be an opportunity for the park to tell some of the tidbits of Dangberg's family history. Artifacts, documents and photographs will tell tales of world travel, military service and personal tragedy. Visitors will learn about family friend George Weller, who was awarded the 1943 Pulitzer Prize in recognition of his reporting on an emergency appendectomy performed by a U. S. Navy Pharmacist's mate aboard a submarine in enemy waters. They will learn about three world's fairs and how Nevada was represented. Hear about a 21-year-old woman's experiences traveling through Europe in 1929, and learn how skunks make good pets. Dates and times for the exhibits will be posted on the park's web page.



Christmas brings out the fine china.

Thanks to a grant from the **Nevada State Parks Cooperative Association**, the park is able to host a speaker series. Launching the series will be **Michael Fischer**, a long-time park supporter who is also the director of Nevada's Dept. of Cultural Affairs. He will portray ranch founder H. F. Dangberg, Sr., in a Chautauqua presentation on Saturday, May 30, at 11:00 am. Additional speakers will be presented monthly through summer and fall.

DANGBERG HOME RANCH STATE HISTORIC PARK (Con't)

Now that word about the Home Ranch is getting out to the public, we're anticipating our phone will be ringing off the hook for tour reservations. So, we're expanding the park's tour schedule just a little more with the addition of a second Saturday tour. As the season starts, tours will be offered Wednesday through Friday at 10:00 a.m., and Saturday and Sunday at 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m., beginning in mid-April. A volunteer docent training program is also in the works, so even more tours can be offered. Tour reservations are required and can be made by contacting the park at 775-783-9417 or dangbergranch@parks.nv.gov.

RYE PATCH STATE RECREATION AREA

By Jim Hawkins

More improvements coming to Rye Patch! Campers can look forward to 23 new shade structures in the upper campground and the addition of two ADA campsites with easy access to the comfort station. Sunday gatherings at the fish cleaning station to free up the clogged sewer line with plungers and a pip snake is now all in the past. The problem has been corrected with a short line from the station to a septic tank. This is a welcomed remedy from the previous design in which bubbling fish slurry boiled out from the cleanouts in the campground at the end of every week. A big thank you goes out to all those involved in making these projects happen!

The park has had a lot of fishermen this winter. Excellent ice fishing conditions kept people coming out despite the bitter cold and blustery weather. With the ice now gone, fishing remains outstanding and visitation is up for this time of year.

Congratulations to **Paul Schmidt** who recently received the Park Supervisor position at Fort Churchill. **Paul** and I enjoyed working together for three years. He will be missed at Rye Patch and we wish him well at his new park.

We welcome back returning park aides, **Colleen Bologna**, **Terri Cox**, and **Amy Morast**. I look forward to an enjoyable summer with such a great crew. I hope everyone's winter went well and is looking forward to the '09 summer season.

SOUTH FORK STATE RECREATION AREA

By Jim Wilkinson

Greetings from South Fork. I need to first correct an error I made about **Bob** and **Robyn Mergell's** son's name. Alex is his correct name. I apologize for the error and confusion.

I want to wish **Bob Mergell** and his family the best in his transfer to Lahontan. Thanks for all the time you spent here and the efforts you made. It was a pleasure working with you.

I wanted to give a sincere thanks to **Lou Schack** and **Barrick Gold** of North



America for their generous donation to South Fork. As you can see, South Fork finally has a tractor to call its own. This orange beauty is a 35 Horsepower Kubota with the wonderful new hydrostatic transmission's "Feather-Step" hydraulic servomechanism reduces the need for dramatic pedal pressure, enabling smooth forward-to-reverse directional changes with precise control. We hope this tractor provides years of invaluable service.

Second, I want to thank **Eric Johnson** and **Pat Marker** who went all out looking high and low for the best tractor price in Nevada. Of all things, the best price was found right here in Elko. And last, but not least, I wanted to thank **Northern Nevada Equipment** for their generosity in giving us the best possible price. I was told by staff at Northern Nevada Equipment on several occasions that the price they gave us was "an absolute steal."

I want to commend **Allen Newberry** for his 35 plus years of dedicated and selfless service to Nevada Division of State Parks. In his time as the District Ranger for Region V, I can honestly say the parks were the cleanest and most visitor friendly parks of our time. The campsites were spotless, restrooms were clean and orderly, and all grounds were kept up. We respected **Allen** and we worked hard for what we had.



I truly feared the quarterly park inspections, because **Allen** had standards and expectations that were, to put it mildly, difficult to attain. I appreciated the time spent out at Beaver Dam and had a lot of fun working with his son, **Ben**. Thanks for the discipline and work ethic you instilled in me and that I received from your supervision. You will be truly missed. When you get to walk out of the division office for the last time, you will be a free man. No more battles with the legislature. Please enjoy life. I wish the best to you and your family.

We are expecting a good year for visitation and fees. The reservoir will be at least 90% of capacity and we are selling a lot of annual permits already. The ice is off and the slow trickle of visitors will turn into a raging current. The sound of jet-skis will be coming soon. I hope everyone has a safe year.

WASHOE LAKE/DAYTON STATE PARKS

By Donna Silva

First, Washoe's news: Now that the calendar says it is spring, we are finally getting the winter weather that never came. The past couple of weeks have brought a steady stream of storms with rain, wind, snow and more wind. One day last week the winds were clocked at 66 miles per hour, causing two semi-trucks to blow over. Luckily there were only minor injuries.



Due to this late surge of precipitation, there is hope Washoe Lake may come back to provide at least a short season of water-based recreational activities. The day use area beach wake zone buoys are now floating again.



We would like to give a huge welcome to **Jennifer Dawson**, our new Park Supervisor II. We are looking forward to having her as part of our team.

Paula Ault recently returned for another season as a Park Aid II and has been a big help assisting with many different tasks that we are accomplishing in this transition period. The northern region maintenance staff, under the direction of **Pat Marker**, have been doing a fantastic job organizing, prioritizing and completing maintenance projects for both Washoe and Dayton. Kudos to you and your staff **Pat!**

We have two construction projects under way. The new SST and kiosk sign project in the main equestrian area and the new shop/maintenance storage building, a.k.a. **Kevin's** new digs. These projects should be completed by summer. We're looking forward to having you out here **Kevin!**

Well, after three months in a wheelchair, five weeks on crutches and now down to a smart looking blue cane used for balance, I can say I am finally beginning to see the light at the end of the tunnel of this very long recovery from ankle fusion surgery. Going to work in a wheelchair everyday was quite a challenge, but it did feel good to be at work. I want to thank everyone in state parks that assisted me in one way or another through this process and did so much to make an accessible work space available to me at the division office. I especially want to thank my husband **Steve** who was very patient as the main caregiver for so many months.

Now for Dayton's news: Dayton is running in winter mode now although, until the recent rains, it did not seem much like winter. There have been quite a number of dog walkers and even a few picnickers and campers out this winter. Our hosts **Ken** and **Liz Tait** have been holding down the "fort" all winter. They have really been a huge help since I was out of commission for awhile. Until next time...

WILD HORSE STATE RECREATION AREA

By Andrew Bass



"This is way better than the ditch!" One of the many comments visitors had about the ice skating rink this winter. It takes a lot of work to have an ice rink and help from Park Aid **James Cox** has been greatly appreciated. It's all worth it to see smiles on faces. Now we need to work on a larger sledding hill. Another great addition to the park this year is a power ice auger funded by donations. With nearly two feet of hard lake ice, hand augers can be somewhat tiresome. People

never seem to be able to thank you enough when you drill them a hole in the ice in just a few seconds. It's defiantly fun for the ranger to be a hero for the day.

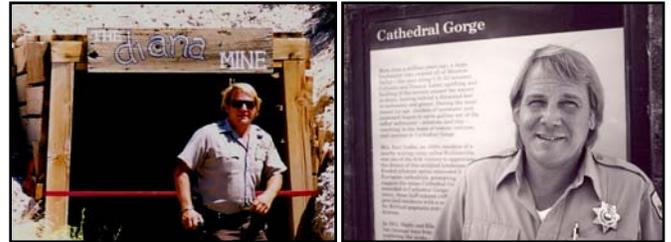
As I write this, the calendar says it's the first day of spring. It may not look much like it with a foot of snow on the ground and the lake still frozen over, but the warm sun and 50 degrees on the thermometer have me out in a t-shirt. I see the forecast is for more snow so I guess the chains get to stay on the plow truck a little longer.

PANACA REGION

PANACA REGION OF STATE PARKS

By Joy Elwood & Dave Morrow

With short and unexpected notice, **Steve M. Weaver** submitted his registration and is bidding farewell too all his many friends, family and associates. While everyone anticipated his departure, we didn't expect to say our goodbyes until June. We certainly don't want him to leave without a proper farewell and expression of our appreciation for all he has done for State Parks.



Steve began his career at Berlin Ichthyosaur State Park on March 18, 1986. Berlin is one of Nevada's most remote and unique that can boast having a historic mining town as well as the State Fossil. **Steve's** efforts there, as **Mike Dinauer** can attest, will not be forgotten. It takes a very special person and a very supportive family to live in such an isolated location. **Steve** worked at Berlin until February 26, 1991, when he departed State Parks to pursue an interest he always had in Africa. He returned on February 19, 2001, after being courted by **Wayne Perock** and **Allen Newberry** to be Panaca's regional manager, where he has been until his departure on April 17, 2009.

Steve loves the outdoors and has devoted his entire life to some form of resource conservation, protection and promotion. He has had a number of successes, but perhaps his most important contribution was to help expand the boundaries at several of the parks on the Panaca region. He developed a close relationship with the state's congressional delegation and the local community leaders that helped get several thousand acres of federal land transferred to the State.

Steve told me his wife and son are looking forward to life in South Africa. His son has many fond memories from their annual visits to Africa. We are certainly sorry to see the **Weaver** family leave, but would like them to know they'll be missed. We wish them the best and hope their new adventure turns out even better than anticipated. Dave and I told Steve that he needs to stay in touch. There are a bunch of us who would love to visit him, on his South African Ranch. Hopefully they'll send us some exotic pictures from abroad.

CAVE LAKE STATE PARK & WARD CHARCOAL OVENS STATE HISTORIC PARK

By Steve Gray

It is that time of year again when the snow finally melts away. Ward has been buried in the snow until the first week of March. The snow pack on the mountains has been reported to be 124% of normal. It isn't a banner year, but we should have enough water to wait for one. With Memorial Day weekend happening so early this year, I hope the roads have a chance to dry out before all the visitors show up.

As always we have plenty of projects to be completed, and yet every time we think we can start, another storm drops 4 inches of snow. P&D are going to start the Ward Charcoal Oven's campground improvements. From what I have been told it should go out to bid by mid May. This will be exciting for the soon to be hired ranger to have a nice remodeled campground to encourage visitors.

As of March 25, the ice is still on the lake. It is starting to melt fast. Many visitors are starting to arrive with boats and tents, only to be disappointed by the ice and cold. This year's **Fire and Ice Show** drew a record crowd of over 4,200 people to the small lake. The warm temperatures we had that weekend really helped get people out to watch the show. The grants are already in for next year. Last year we were able to solidify \$10,900 for the event. (For pictures of the winning sculptures, see page 11.) The **American Bus Association** and their delegates choose Ely and Cave Lake to host their annual conference in June. Remember, this is our last year to be eligible to achieve the title of Top 100 Events on the International List for the lifetime of the event. This is marketing you can't buy or I can't anyway.

The ice fishing derby followed Fire and Ice with a record crowd. We ended up with 571 paid participants (\$34,000 was raised for local scholarships), and the park saw about 1,200 people that day. The **Ely Rotary Club** really does a great job endorsing Cave Lake and they had over 30 volunteers to help **Terry** and me. Our day starts at about 2:30 a.m. and we are lucky to call it quits by 6:00 p.m. It wouldn't be so bad if it wasn't below freezing the whole time. You can only walk on ice for so long.

I hope everyone had a great winter and let's start the next summer off great. I would like to thank all the wonderful staff that came up in January to help with the events. It is hard enough to plan events and it is nice to see our staff eager to help. THANK YOU!!!

KERSHAW-RYAN STATE PARK & ELGIN SCHOOLHOUSE STATE HISTORIC SITE

By Bruce Winslow

Kershaw-Ryan is opening a new phase of operations. A new 15 unit campground will be open on March 30. There has not been a campground here since 1984 when two flash floods wiped out the park's facilities. When the park reopened in 1997, the area formerly the campground was turned into flood



control structures and the new campground is sited a mile down canyon and on the other side of the flood control structures (gabions and road). (See a picture of the campground on page 2.)

The park also had underground sprinklers installed in the turf areas of the day use area. It will save on labor, because we won't have to move hoses and sprinklers every hour, but that extra time will be used on campground management.

In the near future there will be a new entrance station/office built by the campground and road will be paved when the Nevada Dept. of Transportation (NDOT) repairs and reopens S.R. 317 in 2010 (maybe). Now all we need is some additional staffing to assist with all the new stuff!! Enjoy spring time!!!

LAS VEGAS REGION



Park Interpreter **Scott Egy** and Ranger **Steve Micklus** shoveling snow at Spring Mountain Ranch.

SPRING MOUNTAIN RANCH STATE PARK (SMR)

By Park Staff

What a winter we had! For at least one day, we had more snow at Spring Mountain Ranch State Park than at Lake Tahoe

(verified by the SpooonerLake.com webcam). When the Clark County School District declared the next day a snow day, we practically filled the parking lot with families coming out to play in the snow. We must have had 20 snowmen in the picnic area (and an occasional snowwoman). Since then, we had three more days where the snow stuck, so we are expecting a beautiful, green spring here at the ranch, followed by a hot, fiery summer for all the fuel load growing in.

Fortunately, we just had Nevada Division of Forestry (NDF) at the park to discuss our long term fuels reduction plan. Maintenance Repair Specialist II **Tim Palmer** has taken the lead on this program with his background in fire service. He will be working with local cooperating agencies to ensure that fires do not reach our borders, and those that do, will be attacked aggressively to protect the park's significant historical and natural resources.

Steve Micklus just got back from the Park Ranger Conference in California and unfortunately his training gave him a lot of fresh ideas and contacts. While he was not impressed with the trinkets on display at Hearst Castle, he did learn a lot about park management and operations from some of the leaders in the field. Thanks to all those, especially **Terry Hansen** and **Alyce Cloutier**, who made it possible for him to get this invaluable training.

SPRING MOUNTAIN RANCH STATE PARK

(Con't)

Park Interpreter **Scott Egy** is completing several significant park projects. With financial support and time donated by the **SMR Docent Organization**, they xeriscaped the pool area with native plants and planted a Docent Memorial



“Park Volunteer” **Emma Keller** planting fruit trees in the Docent Memorial Grove (behind her are **Cheryl Fretwell, Randy Ralphs, and Scott Egy**).

fruit orchard along the main pasture fence line (in recognition for the tremendous contributions Docents have made to the park, some of whom are no longer with us). **Scott** also made a personal visit to **Peg Westberg**, personal secretary to former owner **Vera Krupp**. **Ms. Westberg** donated several invaluable items to the ranch, including Vera’s platinum wedding ring (no, not the one with the 33.3 carat diamond), a lapidary tree, numerous photos, her Clark County Deputy badge, Diamond V embroidered linens, and a 400 year old German bible. He will be working with maintenance staff **Tim Palmer** and **Randy Ralphs** on installing a new, secure **Vera Krupp** exhibit inside the ranch house. Now if he could just get **Liz Taylor** to donate the actual Krupp diamond...

Rangers **Steve Micklus** and **Russell Nutt**, Park Aid **Mike Ward**, and **Tim Palmer** are working on finishing trail work up Sandstone Canyon, as well as, installing new ranch fencing along our maintenance road. **Randy Ralphs** continues to get the irrigation system online, install irrigation for the memorial orchard and native garden, spray weeds, and keep our pastures and lawns green as Ireland. Administrative Assistant **Cheryl Fretwell** continues to pull her hair out trying to get seasonal paperwork in and patching fixes into the park’s Excel spreadsheets (she is really looking forward to **Tami’s** visit).

We have our seasonal staff back: Park Aids **Deb Rohlman, Mike Ward, Roy Buttorff, Kevin Roach**, and Park Tech **Carolyn Richardson** for her 20+ season. We also received a little help from Tahoe. Park Tech **Deb Snyder** is working on an interpretive sign plan for our trails and a vegetation restoration project at our new water tanks. A shout out to **Bill Champion** and **Jay Howard** for letting us borrow her for a month to get this important work done.

We have a lot of family activities coming up, including numerous full-moon and new-moon hikes (very popular hikes by the way), the 2nd annual Easter Egg Hunt, and our Spring Fest. These will fill out what should be a very busy season at Spring Mountain Ranch.



VALLEY OF FIRE STATE PARK

By Amber Heman

Spring is arriving at Valley of Fire and so are visitors. With spring comes our spring interpretive schedule, which is full of fun hikes and activities. We kicked off our activities on February 14 with a new K-9, hike which turned out successful for both us and the dogs. On February 21, we had our first Leave No Trace Trainers Course, which filled up with 12 participants. Most were from southern Nevada, but we also had one all the way from Seattle, WA. We hiked almost 10 miles; students covered many interesting topics and had a good camp out. Fortunately no one got lost or injured.



Participants of the Leave No Trace Trainers Course.

Also with the spring season, all of our seasonal staff have returned. We were in desperate need of the relief they give us. Also a new Mechanic III, **Peter Gallegos**, joins us from NDOT. **Glenn Shepard** left us to go back to New York to be closer to family. He will be missed but we are all happy for him.



Peter Gallegos

STATE PARKS VISITOR SURVEY REPORT CARD

By Joy Elwood

I have gathered some data based on the final input of visitor surveys for 2008 and compared some of this data with results from 2007. Here are the results. Out of 15,092 surveys sent out to the parks in 2008, we received 636 surveys, which is a .55% decrease over the year 2007 (*over 39% of the surveys were never handed out*).

The following is the overall rating for all state parks:

		<u>Increase or Decrease over 2007</u>
Excellent	70.6%	3.2% Increase
Good	24.2%	.9% Decrease
Average	2.5%	3.3% Decrease
Poor	1.9%	.9% Increase
Unacceptable	.8%	.1% Increase

STATE PARKS VISITOR SURVEY REPORT CARD (Con't)

FIRE AND ICE EVENT PHOTO ALBUM

Here are the winners from 2009's Fire and Ice Event at Cave Lake State Park. *Pictures were provided by J. Steve Weaver.*

THE REGIONAL SCORES

Ranking regions based on the highest amount of Excellence:
 1-Panaca Region, 2-Las Vegas Region, 3-Carson Region,
 4-Fallon Region

Ranking regions based on the lowest amount of below average ratings:
 1-Carson Region, 2-Fallon Region, 3-Panaca Region,
 4-Las Vegas Region

THE PARK'S SCORES

30 samples are generally recognized as the minimum number required providing statistical valid survey results. So, only nine parks made the list.

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

1- Spring Mtn. Ranch, 2-Cathedral Gorge, 3-Spring Valley,
 4-Rye Patch, 5-Valley of Fire, 6-Old Las Vegas Mormon Ft.,
 7-Ft. Churchill, 8-Lake Tahoe, 9-Lahontan.

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

1-Spring Mtn. Ranch, 2-Spring Valley, 3-Ft. Churchill,
 4-Rye Patch, 5-Old Las Vegas Mormon Ft., 6-Lake Tahoe
 7-Lahontan, 8-Cathedral Gorge, 9-Valley of Fire.

ACTIVITY PARTICIPATION

The following are the report activities done in our parks and a comparison from 2008's participation:

	<u>Increase or Decrease over 2007</u>	
Relaxing Outdoors	68.6%	.2% Decrease
Hiking/Walking	2.6%	1.6% Decrease
Camping	48.6%	5.4% Increase
Picnicking	24.2%	14% Decrease
Group Activity	18.1%	3.6% Decrease
Pleasure Driving	32.7%	2.1% Increase
Nature Study	22.8%	.6% Decrease
Photography	35.1%	1.5% Increase
Historic Sites	31.1%	6% Decrease
Special Events	4.9%	1.8% Decrease
Boating	17.1%	.3% Decrease
Fishing	27.2%	4.8% Increase
Swimming	18.4%	5% Increase
X-Country Skiing	2.5%	.4% Increase
Snowplay	.9%	.6% Increase

The top 10 activities enjoyed at our parks are:
 1-Relaxing Outdoors, 2-Hiking/Walking,
 3-Camping, 4-Photography, 5-Pleasure Driving, 6-Historic Sites,
 7-Fishing, 8-Picnicking, 9-Nature Study, 10-Swimming



1st Place Winner - Pony Express Rider



2nd Place Winner – Ghostbusters



3rd Place Winner – Blue Whale (Baleen Whale)



#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

It is getting very busy around here. Several of our parks are already starting to hire their seasonal employees. I want to thank everybody that attended my Seasonal Hiring Paperwork class in March. It was a great turnout. I hope the class made it a little easier to work through the constantly changing forms we have to complete.

There has been a lot of movement among our permanent employees since the last PEN and we are recruiting for a commissioned Park Supervisor II at Rye Patch, a non-commissioned Park Supervisor I at Berlin and several commissioned Park Ranger I positions.

NEW PERMANENT EMPLOYEES

Mark Bivens came back to his old position as a Maintenance Repair Specialist II at South Fork on 11/18/08. **Linda Mulkey** transferred from the director's office to the division office on 12/1/08 as a Management Analyst II and is our new Contract Manager. **Peter Gallegos** started on 3/9/09 as the Equipment Mechanic III at Valley of Fire. **Peter** came to us from NDOT.

TRANSFERRED EMPLOYEES

Jeff Jones took a lateral transfer from his Maintenance Repair Specialist II position at Washoe Lake to the Northern Region Headquarters on 1/5/09. **Bob Mergell** transferred from his commissioned Park Ranger II position at South Fork to a commissioned Park Ranger II position at Lahontan on 2/23/09.

TRANSFERRED EMPLOYEES (con't)

Paul Schmidt laterally transferred from his commissioned Park Supervisor II position at Rye Patch to Fort Churchill on 3/9/09. **Mike Dinauer** transferred from his non-commissioned Park Supervisor I position at Berlin to Fort Churchill as a non-commissioned Park Ranger II on 3/16/09.

PROMOTIONS

Ben Johnson promoted from his commissioned Park Supervisor I position at Echo Canyon to the commissioned Park Supervisor II position at Spring Valley on 1/5/09. **Jennifer Dawson** accepted a promotion from her commissioned Park Ranger II position at Fort Churchill to the commissioned Park Supervisor II position at Washoe Lake on 1/26/09. Congratulations to both of them.

GOOD BYES

Eldon Chouinard retired from his Facility Supervisor III position at Carson Region on 12/31/08 with almost 29 years of state service. **Glenn Shepard** resigned from his commissioned Park Ranger II position at Valley of Fire on 1/1/09 and moved back to New York. **Mike Harasha** transferred from his Maintenance Repair Specialist II position at Carson Region to a Maintenance Repair Specialist position at Buildings and Grounds in Carson City on 3/6/09. **Stephen M. Weaver** will be leaving his position from adventures in South Africa with his family. We wish all three good luck in their new adventures.

GOODBYE!