

PEN

PARK EMPLOYEE NEWSLETTER



ADMINISTRATOR'S CORNER

By David Morrow

As everyone knows **Bob Martin**, a legend in Nevada State Parks, said his final farewell on Saturday, July 14, 2008. It was a perfect Saturday afternoon at Mormon Station with great food, lots of friends, family, and past and present associates from the division, department and other government agencies. Steve Weaver almost got through his talk without shedding a tear, but ultimately his voice cracked and could barely get the words out. I believe everyone in the crowd felt just like Steve, happy for Bob, but sad to no longer have the opportunity to work and laugh with him on a daily basis. Despite considerable speculation Bob did not make his signature gesture, perhaps because time had taken a significant toll on a personal feature he historically had been so proud to display. Bob will be missed by everyone, not only due to his great sense of humor, but for all he contributed to State Parks during his thirty year career.

JULY 2008

OCTOBER 1978



Unfortunately, **Bob** is not the only employee the division has lost to retirement or other employment opportunities. There was a large contingent of former employees at Bob's retirement party, and it has only been a few weeks/months, since we all said farewell to **Jim Prida**, **Dominic Bravo**, etc. It has been a bit overwhelming to attend so many retirement and farewell parties over the year, but at the same time it has been reassuring to know that we still have a number of outstanding employees ready, willing and able to step-up and fill some of the vacancies.

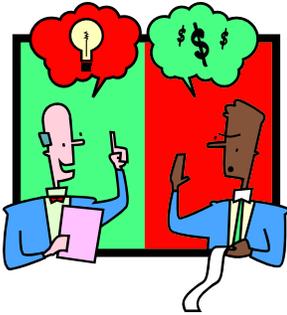
I have been very impressed at how well employees have done operating other parks and programs impacted by retirements and resignations of critical park staff. Washoe Lake, Ft. Churchill and the Recreation Trails program all seem to be doing very well due to the efforts of some very talented and dedicated employees. Nevada has an excellent state park system, one, I believe is capable of surviving retirements, resignations and budget cuts. We are confident that with some shifts in how we administrate our parks, regions and programs we will be able to replace some of the employees lost to retirement and other agencies and still keep moving our agency forward.

OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE

By Allen Newberry

As time flies by we have had several employees "pull the pin" and move on to higher ground; at least we hope they are on high ground. In May, **Jim Prida** (Park Supervisor)' fondly known as the Colonel of Ft. Churchill, retired with a great sendoff organized by the region and hosted at Ft. Churchill with a afternoon luncheon and a "Prida Roast" by fellow employees and others he worked with at the park. In July, **Bob Martin** (Senior Landscape Architect) also went on to a great skiing, golfing, fishing, and hot roding retirement program. **Bob** organized his own retirement party, which was held at Mormon Station. Everyone had a great visit with two previous administrators present (Wayne Perock and John Richardson) and with Dave Morrow. Bob's parting comments could not be interpret for the faint hearted. It is an e-moon (_X_) transcribed message. We will miss these two men and wish them well on their current journey.

Sitting in the waiting room the other day, I picked up a health magazine that described the Jungian Dream Work of the self. It stated, "The Self is the regulating center of the total personality, conscious and unconscious. It is the archetype of wholeness and the force of creativity, integration, healing, and love within the psyche. Through symbolic imagery, the Self is able to unite opposing elements of the personality creating a perspective that is more than the sum of its parts. It is, thus, the source of our dreams and of the enduring themes and patterns reflected in human history and culture. The path to wholeness and "completion" of the personality what Carl Jug called individuation, involves the deepening awareness and integration of the unconscious personality. The more attention we give to the Self and the richer the dialogue with it, the more we receive in return."

OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE*By Allen Newberry*

Another writer (Christian Larson of 1910) said, “When the will wills to be what it is (the ruling power) and feel the action of this power, the mind will enter a strong, serene state, because the action of the real will is perfectly serene, and its power is immensely strong.” One might say what does all this have to do

with a Park Employee Newsletter? In the last few months, not everything we have worked on has been positive with the current condition of the state. It is said that the positive mind has the power to think whatever it may want to think and this is the real secret of self. So for now, we are all trying to think positive knowing that the future of parks will change as proposed programs become reality.

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT (P&D)*By J. Steve Weaver*

In case you missed it, we sent **Bob Martin** off to retirement with a bang. It was party time at Mormon Station on July 12, when Bob retired after 30 years and one month with the division. Bob will truly be missed. He left his mark on facility design, construction and renovations in virtually every park site in the state system. He was always willing to provide technical assistance to anybody and everybody in the division. And, of course, we’ll all miss his great sense of humor.



Bob Martin, Dave Morrow and past administrators, Wayne Perock and John Richardson

Bob’s last project was the new campground at Big Bend of the Colorado, which included the new fee booth, day use parking and additional waterfront ramadas seen in the previous PEN.

Big Bend got another major facelift. Work on the boat lagoon has just been completed. That project included repair of several shade ramadas, American Disabilities Act (ADA) access and especially stabilization of the eroding slopes adjacent to the lagoon. The erosion was largely due to heavy user traffic up and down the slope. To stop continual erosion, several block terraces were constructed between the boat parking lot and the lagoon, which will prevent the sandy bank from sloughing off into the lagoon. Stairways were installed for pedestrian traffic. This \$314,000 project was primarily funded by a 75% federal Boating Access grant, courtesy of

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



Eroded Boat Lagoon Bank – Before



Completed Big Bend Boat Lagoon Terraces

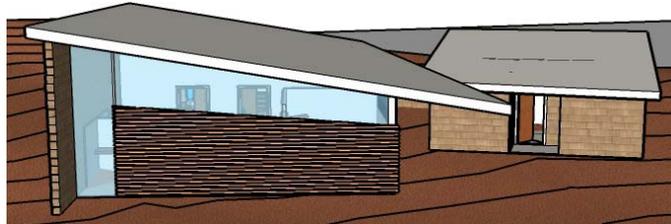
Federal Boating Access grant applications have also been submitted for South Fork, Cave Lake and Spring Valley. South Fork’s project involves the installation of southwest shoreline picnic ramadas and a new boat ramp. **Ned Wallace** and **Tom Tabacco** will be collaborating on this \$408,000 project, \$235,000 are federal funds. Boating Access grants have also been requested for new decking on the boat docks at both Cave Lake (\$12,375) and Spring Valley (\$33,882). Cave Lake’s dock will be getting a new Apitong Teak wood deck, which should be much more suitable for the extreme winter conditions. It will also allow easier removal of snow and accelerate snow melt on the deck surface. On the other hand, Spring Valley will be getting a low maintenance aluminum dock deck.

Ned is also currently working on Fort Churchill’s 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. Because May’s bids were well over budget, **Ned** has done some design modifications and hopes to rebid the project in the next month or two.

Two new staff residences have already been installed at Valley of Fire, and a third is underway. The new residences are a welcome relief for staff, some of whom have been living in 1970’s vintage trailers. Staff Architect **Marc Lepire**, engineers **Joe Cyphers** and **Ned Wallace**, and project manager **Tom Tabacco** have all lent their expertise towards these long-awaited residences.

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT (Con't)

The big news now at Valley of Fire is the initial construction of the new visitor center expansion and remodeling project, which includes a new auxiliary office structure and public restroom, a new entrance foyer with refreshment/snack dispensing machines, a remodeled Nevada State Parks Cooperative Association (NSPCA) sales area and hopefully, completion of the last two interior exhibits. The new administration annex and public restrooms will be side-by-side, immediately behind the existing visitor center building. Construction should be complete this fall. **Marc Lepire** is the project manager. The project's budget is \$1.75 million.



Valley of Fire Visitor Center Additions Perspective – Restrooms on Right

Phase 1b of the Dangberg Ranch Stabilization/Restoration project is finally complete. This \$248,000 project included replacement of deteriorated wood siding and trim, windows, etc., and exterior painting of five historic structures, including the main ranch house. Interior heating, ventilation and some replacement electrical wiring for the ranch house were also included. **Marc Lepire** provided architectural expertise for this long awaited project, while **Tom Tabacco** is once again the construction project manager.



Dangberg Main Ranch House Exterior Restoration



Restored Dangberg Carriage House



New Sand Harbor Visitor Center Concession ADA Ramp and Eating Deck

Marc and **Tom** also collaborated on the Sand Harbor Visitor Center ADA ramp, walkway and bear-proof trash enclosure. A second ADA ramp was required by code in order to allow more than 50 people at one time to utilize the eating deck that is part of the visitor center concession.

We finally received approval of a \$101,730 federal Boating Access grant for Lahontan's North Shore Marina ramp extensions. 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. Construction should take place this fall. **Ned Wallace** is the project manager, with construction managed by **Bob Beck**.

Joe Cyphers, Supervising Engineer IV, has been working on Valley of Fire and Spring Mountain Ranch's water system upgrade projects, along with new wells at the Kershaw-Ryan and Tahoe Backcountry campgrounds. Improvements to the water distribution system are pretty much complete at Spring Mountain Ranch. Meanwhile, new wells have been drilled at both Kershaw and Valley of Fire. While the water at Kershaw is apparently useable, with some treatment for high iron, we still need to do some more test pumping and water quality testing at Valley of Fire to determine if the water from the new well is usable. Initial indications there may be some major problems. We are hoping to provide at least one hand pump well for the Tahoe Backcountry campgrounds, most likely at the Marlette Peak campground.

A \$539,000 contract was awarded for the Kershaw-Ryan campground, despite the high bid prices. Construction will commence in mid-August. 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 with hot showers, shade ramadas at each campsite and a new RV dump station. **Eric Nelson** has been working diligently on the design and bidding as project manager. Meanwhile, plans are nearly complete for the Ward Charcoal Ovens Campground Improvements project, but construction is going to be postponed for now.

Eric is also working with **Tom Tabacco** and **me** on campground improvements at South Fork. This project involves the reconfiguration of some sites to accommodate multi-families or small groups, additional shade ramadas and some landscaping; budget permitting. **Tom** and **I** will also be working, in the near future, 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 could be finished as early as this fall, but will probably carry over into next spring. South Fork has a budget of \$205,000, including a \$75,000 federal Land & Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) grant, while \$179,700 is budgeted for Spring Valley, also including an \$89,850 LWCF grant.

Design of a new custom built residence and separate garage for Berlin has been initiated, with construction to take place next spring or summer. In keeping with the historical context

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT (con't)

of the town site, the residence has been down sized to two bedrooms and one bath to keep the structural scale similar to other structures in the vicinity. A separate two car garage with workshop will be constructed nearby. **Marc Lepire** is designing both new buildings to emulate the architectural style and materials used for the adjacent historic buildings.

Marc is also redesigning the proposed Washoe Lake Maintenance Storage Shed to provide expanded storage, office space, and an extra bay for vehicle maintenance. Construction is scheduled for completion by next June 30. **Tom Tabacco** will provide construction management for both the Berlin and Washoe structures.

I am currently working with the State Public Works Board's (SPWB) ADA Coordinator to implement accessibility retrofits at Sand Harbor and Lahontan. Sand Harbor will be getting a handful of accessible picnic sites, replacement of some of the deteriorated asphalt picnic area walkways, new accessible drinking fountains, etc. Bids will be opened in August. A number of restroom accessibility improvements are already underway at Lahontan, primarily revolved around accessible parking and walkways at many of the vault restrooms scattered around Lahontan. Total budget is approximately \$700,000 for both Lahontan and Tahoe, utilizing SPWB's Capital Improvement Program (CIP) bond monies.

Rye Patch is also getting accessibility improvements for the boat ramp restroom, along with shade ramadas for the Boat Launch (Upper) Campground and modifications to the fish cleaning station to remedy drain problems. A federal Boating Access grant in the amount of \$180,000 will be submitted by **Ned Wallace** in August for these combined projects.



Boating Access grant requests are also being submitted for Sand Harbor's boat launch parking area, a new Walker Lake boat ramp, a replacement fish cleaning station at Wild Horse, and

for a snow blower for use at Tahoe's Sand Harbor and Cave Rock boat launch facilities. Even though we'll be required to put up a 25% match for most of these grants, NDOW and USF&W will be funding 100% of the estimated \$312,500 cost of installing a new boat ramp, relocated boat parking, and possibly new shade ramadas at Walker Lake. This deal is based on the condition that State Parks will provide the engineering and project management. The initial phase of the Sand Harbor boat launch parking area involves a consultant feasibility study for reconfiguring the parking to make it operate more efficiently, and possibly allow a few more parking spaces. \$100,000 is budgeted for consultant fees, which include construction documents, once a satisfactory conceptual plan is devised. Total budget is estimated at \$750,000-\$800,000. **Ned Wallace** and I will be coordinating the grant applications. **Eric Nelson, Ned Wallace** and **Joe Cyphers** will provide project management for these projects.

Park and Recreation Program Manager **Jenny Scanland** has been scrambling to cover not only the federal LWCF, but also the federal RecTrails program since Cheryl Surface left the division. She has still managed to negotiate a contract with the University of Nevada Reno (UNR) to do a statewide State Park Visitor Survey Economic Analysis, and has continued to make some progress with the Valley of Fire master planning process.

Meanwhile, **Randy Moore** has initiated master planning for Cave Lake's master plan.

PLANNING EXTRA

By Alyce Cloutier



Planning and development isn't all paperwork, these photos were taken of **J. Steve Weaver**, Chief of Planning and Development, immersed in his work at South

Fork. He is using a GPS surveyor tool to determine where the end of the new boat ramp would be. It's nice to see **Steve** really get into his work and out of the office for a change.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL! *By Alyce Cloutier*



P.O.S.T. graduates Glenn Shepard and Cody Tingey are being sworn in by Administrator Dave Morrow in May 2008.



Park Supervisor Steve Gray (far right), was presented the "2008 Citizen of the Year" award by Ely Mayor John Hickman (left) and White Pine County Chamber of Commerce, Executive Director Evie Pinneo (middle), for his services to the community.

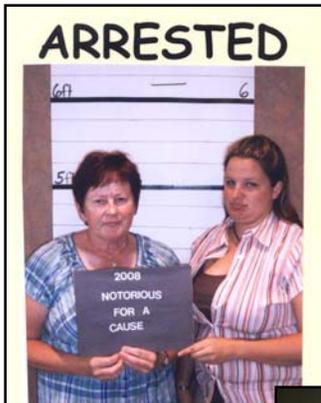
CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL!

By Alyce Cloutier



Carson Region Facility Supervisor, Eldon Chouinard, received his 15-year service plaque from Administrator Dave Morrow.

Division office's Administrative Assistant Joy Elwood received her 10-year service plaque from Administrator Dave Morrow.



Linda Mulkey (Director's Office, on the left) and Christi Latragna (State Parks, on the right) were arrested on July 16 by March of Dimes staff. Christi raised \$137 to bail out of jail. Congratulations to Christi on a worthy cause.

A CPR class was given in June. Several from the division office and both Carson and Fallon regions attended. Recognize anyone?



and Livestock Co., a collection of cattle and sheep ranches, orchards and other businesses in Douglas County and California's Alpine County that grew to 48,000 acres by the middle of the 20th century. In 1905, the company founded the town of Minden. It contains more than 18,000 artifacts and several thousand documents, which are mostly cataloged and are the basis for the park's interpretive exhibits and programs.

Several of the buildings' roofs were replaced in 2007, and the park has seen many additional changes in more recent months. The siding and windows on the bunkhouse and the windows in the upper part of the carriage house were replaced. Repairs were made to building trim, columns on the front of the house and window screens and shutters on several buildings. The exterior of the main house, bunkhouse and laundry building were all painted, and the railing around the upper part of the front porch was also restored. As a result of all of this work, Dangberg Home Ranch is much closer to evoking its glory days of the 1920s and 1930s.

Douglas County Master Gardeners have been working on the gardens and flower beds, adding new plants and planning for fall and spring activities. The lawns surrounding the main house are being reestablished by park staff, and plans are underway to replace the site's 100-year-old cottonwood trees with new saplings. Tree replacement will be accomplished in stages, so as to preserve some of the shade and atmosphere they provide around the park's core buildings.



Inside the buildings, staff and volunteers have been creating displays to help tell the story about the Dangberg family and Carson Valley ranching. These include toys and games from the 1910s through the 1930s, fine china and other dishes from the 19th and 20th centuries, food preparation implements used at the ranch throughout its history, books from 1843-1988, vacuum cleaners as old as 1920, and phonographs, records and stereos from throughout the 20th century. The lives of the ranch's residents are illustrated through displays of photographs, furniture, books, memorabilia and other items that belonged to each individual. Displays of hunting and fishing equipment, sporting goods, and clothing are in development.

Scheduled tours are now conducted Wednesday through Sunday and reservations can be made at 775-783-9417 or dangbergranch@parks.nv.gov. Several large groups have toured the ranch recently, including the Eagles and Agriculture Workshop, Carson Valley Cruisers auto club, the Fifty-Plus organization, and the Carson Water Sub-Conservancy District.

CARSON REGION

DANGBERG HOME RANCH HISTORIC PARK

By Mark Jensen

State Parks acquired Dangberg Home Ranch Historic Park in 2005. The park consists of the Dangberg Family's house and several outbuildings on 5.5 acres. The site was settled in 1857 by Carson Valley pioneer Heinrich Friedrich Dangberg, Sr. H. F. Dangberg, Sr. His children founded the Dangberg Land

DAYTON STATE PARK

By Lynn Stephenson
Bugs, Kids and History
 Kids, history, and bugs are sum up this season at Dayton State Park, and did we mention the bugs? June beetles and fire beetles are having an exceptional year. Attracted to any light, they swarm the bathrooms and greet unsuspecting visitors with their cheery hissing.

Unsuspecting visitors often make their own not-so-cheery noises to greet the bugs, too.

This has also been a great year for kids at the park. We're seeing a lot of kids enjoying the lawn, the river and the Mill with their parents. Park staff learned to make cattail ducks, a Paiute toy, and very few kids leave the park without a duck in hand to remind them of their visit.

Nature Buddies, Dayton's preschool nature program, is going full force. In June, 27 kids with 10 parents in tow learned about the plants and animals living in or near the Carson River. The program culminated in an exciting hike to the Carson River where the staff stood ankle deep in water to help each child cross timbers laying over Cardelli Ditch.

This season, Dayton's educational program focused on the history of gold discovery in Dayton. For the second year, local historian **Stony Tenant** led a tour of the Rock Point Mill. Every inch the gentleman rancher, Stony's lanky good looks, his handlebar mustache and his ever present cowboy hat add authenticity to his stories of mills on the Carson River. Stony painted a bleak picture of the arduous life in early Dayton and the attempts of newly arrived Easterners to make their fortunes working the Comstock Lode, milling ore and supplying the miners with their needs. He made the ruins of the mill come alive; the sixteen foot diameter water wheel that could hold 6,000 pounds of water when full, the ten-foot-wide water flume and the gondola running four miles from Silver City to transport ore to the mill.

The park also welcomed **Pat Neylan**, who told the tale of the discovery of gold in Gold Canyon, and the "damn blue stuff" (silver) miners found to be so worthless, it was used to pave streets. Visitors were also introduced to the scheming behavior of "Ole Virginy," the namesake of Virginia City who never actually "made it" as a miner, and who earned the epitaph "Pancakes" by being too lazy to make bread.

As the days get hotter and hotter, Dayton is looking forward to welcoming visitors to our cool, green lawn and covered picnic pavilion; just maybe not so many bugs.

LAKE TAHOE NEVADA STATE PARK

By Todd Anderson

We at the Sandy Harbor thought we were going to have an easy summer. It started at a very slow and comfortable pace (visitation wise) until the Fourth of July weekend. Everyone was speculating whether or not gas prices and the overall economy would combine to make this a pleasant summer. By "pleasant summer" I mean visitation levels that would utilize half or most of available parking spaces; a reasonable amount. However, Sand Harbor being one of the premier swimming beaches at one of the most popular destination areas would prove our fate.

We arrived on the morning of the fourth to a line of cars backed up on the highway to almost Incline Village. They were waiting for our tiny fee booth to let them into Sand Harbor. Even though our park boundary is on the border of Incline Village and State Route 28 travels through the park, we are no longer conducting any law enforcement activity on the highway corridor. We have one travel lane into the park and had three very busy people collecting fees and issuing passes. The line did not appear to move and cars began to park in places we didn't know vehicles could park, in order to avoid waiting in line. The usual screeching of tires and horns-honking filled the air with man-made noise.

Let's fast forward a little bit so this doesn't become a long story. The boat ramp filled before 9am, we open at 8am, and all of our 540 parking spots filled as fast as we could keep our Samsung cash processor racing along, smoke belching with each surge of the cash drawer jumping from its lair. It survived. We closed the gates and abandoned the mayhem on the highway.

Now, normally we would be chasing people away from the no parking/tow away zones directly in front of the park. This would net about 100-200 walk-ins from the allowable parking areas 3/4 of a mile on either side of Sand Harbor. However, the little buggers (vehicles) were parking on the highway, off the sloped banks, in the brush, in our turn lanes, over the fog lines and just about everywhere something on wheels could fit. We now had almost 900 walk-ins instead of 100-200. People drag their patio barbeques down the highway to have the luxury of barbequing at Sand Harbor. We have approximately 40 barbeques in place for the public, so savvy clients bring their own. You're probably wondering where we put the 100's of extra barbeques. Well, I'm not sure myself, but they were out there and we managed not to burn down our business. Have you heard of the phrase "standing room only?" Our little park enjoyed almost 30,000 in attendance over the weekend.



LAKE TAHOE NEVADA STATE PARK (con't)

We were saved by previous Park Supervisor **Rick Keller** assisting with operations during the tribulation. He was most helpful as he sort of wrote the book on "Dealing with Too Many People." Thanks Ranger **Rick!**

Hopefully you, the reader, have survived my abbreviated version of our countries most celebrated holiday at Sand Harbor, as I survived the long version. In other news, Shakespeare has started and it's an all-new venue with professional actors and actresses. Each year they make little improvements and enhancements over the previous years. If you haven't been, it's a relaxing and enjoyable way to get some culture. This year's shows include: Richard III, A Midsummer Night's Dream and Cambio, which is sort of a dance musical set in Cuba. For information, call 888-27-SHOWS. I received no compensation for this pitch.

We just hosted the 31st annual Trans-Tahoe swim, which is only exciting for about 30 seconds. It's a relay race, approximately 12 miles in length, from Sand Harbor to Tahoe City. They begin with a land-rush style start off the main beach and away they go, without much fanfare. It's not much of a spectator event, but each year sees several hundred participants who strive for bragging rights. Each team has six members who roughly share the burden of a 12 mile swim. Support boats carry the relay swimmers across the lake and track the swimmers along the way.

This year's staff has been one of the best ever in my 13 years. The teamwork amongst all 21 of our seasonals has been outstanding. With such a large group it's easy to have personality conflicts and attitudes go south. When buffalo chips are down and the dung hits the spreader, everyone has pitch forks in to make things flow smoothly. My appreciation goes out to all of our summer staff; we're giving you a raise this summer for all of your dedicated work!



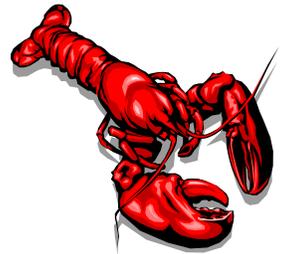
On a more somber note, we had a drowning yesterday (7/21) of a firefighter from New York. He jumped in the water, stated he couldn't breathe and then sank in about 8 to 10 feet of water at the southern end of the main beach. His 14 year old son jumped out of the boat after him and then had trouble himself. The brother-in-law of the victim jumped in as well and he too had problems. Fortunately, we have very young and professional beach patrol staff that responded immediately and were able to rescue everyone even though not all were saved. Had this scene occurred anywhere else, the outcome would have been more horrific. **Jex, Alisa** and **Duke** were pulling people out of the water as fast as they could and performing lifesaving maneuvers. Beach Patrol is more or less the front line troops at Sand Harbor and they are almost always first on scene to any situation in the area. They are frequently utilized

by the local fire department to locate and establish incidents requiring medical aid. Thank you Sand Harbor Beach Patrol.

I don't mean to leave out the southern and western parts of Lake Tahoe Nevada State Park: Spooner, Cave Rock, Backcountry and Van Sickle. These backcountry areas are where we have transient camping for free. Yes, camping for free in Nevada State Parks. You get a job at the Stateline Casinos and then build your own stylized and personalized bush-camp-home in the woods out back. Occasionally, you steal and stockpile stuff to make ends meet or because you need six bicycles. At the end of the summer, you leave most everything that never had any real value, because others will come and clean it up for you. It really is one of the best values available in Nevada State Parks, all sarcasm included.

Honestly, we don't see much of **Bill Champion** during the summer, but we know he's out there fighting the good fight. Spooner and Cave Rock also have issues with their parking lots filling and only one man is there to prevent chaos and madness from taking over, **Wild Bill Champion**. Actually, **Bill** has a really good crew and they do a lot with a little, the Nevada State Park's way.

Also of recent interest, we are attempting to keep our boat ramp open as long as possible. Some parts of the ramp had a two foot drop off and boaters were getting their trailers hung up on the lip at the end of the ramp. Since we're not allowed to add/fill, a group of us hearty souls donned swim trunks and masks and pulled rocks off the lake bottom to shore up the break-over angle. This allows trailers to roll off the end instead of drop off the end. I'm wearing a lobster-red sunburn due to four hours in the water. I highly recommend waterproof sunscreen. It sounds more fun than it really was, but imagine swimming, hunting for rocks the size of basketballs and larger. You take a deep breathe, dive to the bottom and wrestle a rock from its anchored floor home and then bob up and down with a 40lb rock moving it 50 yards to its new home at the end of the ramp. It was very Nevadaesk, like mining, only under water, "hold-your-breathe-mining" (hee-hee-hee). Beach Patrollers **Hailey** and **Danielle**, Park Tech **JoAnn** and Park Aids **Ryan** and **Peter** and I moved about 10 yards of rock. Ok, not really, but it was a lot and probably could be measured in cubic yards. Public response was at first inquisitive, "what are you looking for?" and then very appreciative as many are regular users of the ramp.



You never know exactly what you'll be doing from day to day at Sand Harbor, but one thing is for sure, it's always a day at the beach! Have a great summer.

MORMON STATION STATE HISTORIC PARK

By Eric Reimann

The grass is always greener at Mormon Station State Historic Park...even bigger, better, and greener this season.

MORMON STATION STATE HISTORIC PARK (con't)

That's the mantra of Mormon Station, with the new and improved 3.76 acres of park to enjoy, thanks to the spring 2008 opening of the Campbell property extension. This new area adds vintage-style drinking fountains, state of the art BBQ's, picnic tables, and meandering pathways to wander and enjoy the splendor. It has certainly been a hit with tourists and locals alike.



Also new this year are several bear-resistant trash receptacles, which help make the entire park (and town) a cleaner, and surely a safer, place for people and bears alike. Thanks go out to **Casey Fromm** and **Mike Shipman**, from Sand Harbor, for assisting with the installation.

Overseeing the staff's dutiful shuffle is **Suzanne Sturtevant**, park supervisor, who also manages the Dangberg Home Ranch. Doing the daily hustle and bustle at Mormon Station are **Eric Reimann**, **Dan Beauchamp**, **Sue Thomas**, and last, but most assuredly not least, we give a huge Mormon Station welcome to **Barb Owens**. She is our "fescue rescue" expert and takes great care of the lawns and grounds. We extend a thanks to those at Sand Harbor for sending her our way, and a round of applause can be heard for **Mike Harasha** for helping her get familiar with the ins and outs of Mormon Station.



The price of Petrol (that's British for gasoline) seemingly has not affected visitation to the park, as we have already seen visitors from many of the 50 states, as well as England, Italy, Russia, and even Tinn, Norway, the boyhood home of the famous mail carrier, Snowshoe Thompson.

The park is hosting numerous events this season, including the Mormon Battalion Living History Day, the Carson Valley Magiko BBQ-Bike Ride and Ice Cream Social, two Young Chautauquas, many bike rides, classic car poker runs, weddings, the Pony Express Reenactment and re-ride, and the 25th annual Pops in The Park 4th of July Concert and Extravaganza, with none other than the Reno Philharmonic Orchestra.

Of course, we would be remiss if we did not take a moment to mention the 89th annual "Candy Dance," which will bring food, music, and artisan arts and crafts to the park and the town of Genoa on September 27 and 28. Annual attendance for the event usually exceeds 40,000 visitors.

We would also like to note that we here at Mormon Station were honored to host the retirement barbeque for **Bob Martin** of P&D on July 12, 2008. Good weather, good food, and good people were the order of the day, indeed. The best of luck (fishing) to you, **Bob**, and to each and everyone, our heartfelt wish for a great summer and fall 2008!

WASHOE LAKE STATE PARK

By Terri Ozawa

What's in the Washoe Wind? - There have been big changes in 2008. **Domenic Bravo** and **James Hunting** both moved to Wyoming to be closer to their respective families. Washoe and Dayton forge full steam ahead with our intrepid lone ranger **Donna Silva**.

Our lake is getting smaller everyday and boaters are singing the blues. Seasonal staff who returned this year are **Paula Ault**, **Terri Ozawa**, **Sarah Ravenelle**, **Caleb Karges**, **Albert Lea** and last but not least **Drew Alvarez** our chief noxious weed slayer. New park aids this year include **Kyle Casci** and **Joe Landis**. **Jeff Jones**, our maintenance specialist, has been busy on those usual summer projects and is now partnering with the Carson region staff to complete several other projects.

While our neighbors in California battle endless wildfires, we are under a thick pall of smoke. Visibility is often very low.

This spring brought some surprising rains, and spring was cool so there were an amazing variety of wildflowers for our May 10 walk. Washoe Lake hosted its first ever National Get Outdoors Day on June 14. While we did not get a huge turnout, those who came thoroughly enjoy themselves. Other programs this year are Beginning Map and Compass, a wetland birding walk, stargaze, Dutch oven cooking and more. Hope you all are having as great a summer as we are. See you in the fall!



FALLON REGION

BERLIN-ICHTHYOSAUR STATE PARK

By Mike Dinauer

Quoting from the summer 1999 PEN, "Berlin-Ichthyosaur State Park visitors are a hearty lot. With gas prices (about \$1.50 a gallon) and the threat of 30 minute delays with road construction...still they come." Funny how some things never change.

This is the second summer in a row we have been unable to fill our seasonal position. I realize most parks are dealing with personnel issues, but for us that position represents 25% of the summer staff.

BERLIN-ICHTHYOSAUR STATE PARK (con't)

Thank goodness for the valuable assistance and hard work from volunteers **LaDonna** and **Wayne**. **LaDonna** is busy keeping the fossil shelter and visitor center open to walk-ins. **Wayne** has been working on displays in the Assay Office while continuing to offer Mill and Mining tours and town-site tours conducted on holiday weekends.

Robin Riggs is back for his ninth season. We just can't get rid of the guy! He seems to enjoy being out here and the visitors do enjoy his tours. So as long as he is willing, we will keep allowing him to come back.

Jeff's weapon of choice, in his ongoing war against weeds, is the Stihl Model FS-100RX string trimmer. He has made good progress on the trails and around the buildings in the town-site.

Last winter's severe weather took a heavy toll on the animal population. For the first time since I've been here, I have not seen a single cottontail.

FT. CHURCHILL STATE HISTORIC PARK

By Jennifer Dawson

This summer we had to say goodbye to our Park Supervisor **Jim Prida**. **Jim** retired with 34 years of service with State Parks, 18 of those years were spent at Ft. Churchill. It was hard to say farewell to him and all of his knowledge about this park, although he did come back and volunteer at Buckland Station for the 4 of July weekend. He can't get enough of this park! He thoroughly enjoyed his retirement party and he said he got enough gifts to decorate his new house in Reno. We wish **Jim** the best of luck in his retirement!



Park visitation has been down a little, so this has given us the opportunity to work on special projects and just catch up on the day to day stuff. The weeds have been out of control this year and we have fought many a battle against them. I'm sure some of the other parks are having this same issue. We have made a dent in them, but there are still plenty to go around. It's a good thing we still have the goats to help us out.

We welcomed back long time Park Tech **Howard Wren** for his 15th season and **Justin Starks** for his second summer. **Sarah Hunter** also started her first year. They are doing an outstanding job! Well, we better get back to the weeds. Hope everyone has a great, safe and fun summer!

RYE PATCH STATE RECREATION AREA

By Paul Schmidt

Man is it smoky! I'm just glad the smoke isn't closer! We started off slow this year with a poor turnout on Memorial Day (bad weather). It's now July 4, but it's still a lot slower than past years. We only had about 120 camps and 100 boats per

day over the holiday. We are still seeing the big RVs, but not many of the smaller campers. There are also more tents showing up.

We're up to full staff this year, with **Colleen Bologna** returning for her third year. New hires are **Glen Reid**, **Terri Cox**, and **Jennifer Rasmussen**. Everyone seemed to find a niche here at the "patch;" with **Colleen** at the booth, **Terri** on deposits and NSPCA, **Glenn** on repairs and **Jennifer** working in the field. Of course, we all pitch in on routines!

The lake level is expected to drop down to around 5,000 ac./ft. by September so we could have a short season. We'll have to pray for lots of snow this winter in order to bring it back up to a useable level next spring.



Were getting lots of projects done: weed spraying and mowing in infested areas, new signs installed, trail work, and painting and staining, just to name a few. That's about it for now. "The rest of the story" will come later this fall.

SOUTH FORK STATE RECREATION AREA

By Jim Wilkinson

We hope you all are having a good summer. South Fork has remained consistently busy since the first part of June. Our water levels have remained constant at 95% capacity. So far, it's been a great year for the visitors.

Our staff has remained positive and we have done a good job with keeping up on basic services. Sincere thanks to **Joe**, **Oma**, **Craig** and **Matt**. We also want to wish **Craig** the best as he was recently hired by the Transportation Security Administration to work at the Salt Lake International Airport. Your efforts were appreciated.

We also want to wish **Mark Bivens** the best as he explores Nicaragua for the next two months and possibly more. When life throws you lemons, you need to make lemonade and that is what **Mark** is doing. Going native and immersing him self in a foreign land, we hope he finds what he is looking for. Whether it's doing missionary work or just knowing how truly good we all have it and appreciating the standard of living that we enjoy. The door is always open here and we hope he returns with peace of mind and a refreshed outlook on life.



WILD HORSE STATE RECREATION AREA*By Brandy Fordin*

We're off to a good start here at Wild Horse this summer. We broke an all-time record for visitation during the 4 of July holiday. Our interpretive programs have been a huge success. Some topics have included Flint and Steel, Wildflowers, Reptiles, and Dutch Oven Cooking. Many thanks go to **Joe Doucette** from NDOW for bringing his owl out and giving a talk. Everyone really enjoyed the show!

We were also lucky enough to have a trail crew come up for the day and build a much needed trail to the Day Use beach. They did an excellent job and the trail has had some serious use in the last month.

Due to a late spring and extra moisture, we have had a fantastic array of wildflowers this year and it's been a pretty cool summer. No complaints here! In fact, we had ice on our lawn where we were watering on July 12. Nothing like freezing temperatures in the middle of the summer!

We have two great new additions to the park this year. The first is a Kabota 900-RV. I don't know how the park functioned P.K. (Pre-Kabota). Not only is it fuel efficient, but it has thousands of other great uses. Our ATV trail is in tip top shape this year thanks to that wonderful little machine. The next addition is the wood-chipper, which I have named "Chuck" (How much wood can Wood Chuck chuck? A lot.). We now have mulch-a-plenty to use around the park.

Water levels are holding nicely this year and fishing seems to be really good. The only down side are the problems we've been having with the fish cleaning station. First, we had the system back up on us, flooding the area with fish guts. The smell was fantastic, as you can imagine. Next, the grinder motor went up in a blaze of glory.

Our supervisor, **Andrew Bass**, was able to take an old motor and piece it together with the burnt out one to make one functional unit. But the Frankenstein grinder didn't last long. It had a serious melt down during the 4 of



July weekend when there was a line of people waiting to use it. This meant buckets of fish guts for us to deal with. Andrew was again able to nurse it back to a working state. We have our fingers crossed that it will last the rest of the summer!

It has been an interesting summer to say the least. We have had nothing but compliments on how the park is clean and nice. It is always nice to know our hard work is appreciated. Our next project this summer is to irrigate the lawn. I'm sure everyone is looking forward to a hose free future up here.

Lastly, I want to thank my boss, **Andrew** and my co-worker, **Kristin** for entertaining me for the summer. It's been fun!

PANACA REGION**CAVE LAKE STATE PARK & WARD CHARCOAL OVENS STATE HISTORIC PARK***By Steve Gray*

It has been an interesting year to say the least. We have been a bit slower than in years past. Is this due to high gas prices??? Our Las Vegas visitors have been visiting the parks less and less. I have noticed weekend warrior visitation is down (people arriving late on Friday and leaving on Sunday). It seems now people are coming up and staying longer in the campgrounds. It is not uncommon these days to see people camping for 5-7 nights. White Pine County has seen a decline in tax revenue generated by tourism, so I know we are not the only ones.

Fishing at Comins Reservoir has declined due to Northern Pike eating everything in the lake. The Northern Pike are now over 20 pounds. You can still catch fish, but it is pretty slow. This decline in fishery has brought more boats to Cave Lake, but the normal high visitation of campers that normally fished Comins have decided to go other places. Cave Lake has had excellent fishing for small planters. The big German Browns have not been caught this year, but I have personally seen two over ten pounds.

Productivity on projects at Cave Lake and Ward Charcoal Ovens has been slow this year. We have several projects that need to be finished up, but due to weather and equipment needs we have been trying to get as much done as we can. **Dessa Stroud** is completing her 13 season with State Parks. WOW!!! I want to thank **Dessa** for her dependability and dedication. **Marla Bjorklund** is starting her second season. She has been a great asset filling in for me on my days off and maintaining Ward Charcoal Ovens to extremely high standards. The park looks great!!!

Terry Ivins, as usual, has really helped to keep everything operational. With all the water line breaks and erosion problems, **Terry** has been plenty busy. We will continue plugging away on our projects and try to keep a smile on our faces. I wish all State Parks the best, and remember my quote... "It's all entertainment."

KERSHAW RYAN STATE PARK & ELGIN SCHOOLHOUSE STATE HISTORIC SITE*By James Ahlstrom*

Ever since I can remember Kershaw-Ryan has always been a great place to be during the summer. You can always find something fun to do no matter the time of day. You can go on a hike, play horseshoes, go swimming, play volleyball, have a picnic, observe the wildlife, or just relax in the shade.



KERSHAW RYAN STATE PARK & ELGIN SCHOOLHOUSE STATE HISTORIC SITE (con't)

From what I understand there will be even more fun things to do as time goes on. The process of building a new campground has finally begun and an awesome bike trail will be built some time after. I remember when Kershaw-Ryan was closed for reconstruction, me and my family would often walk to Kershaw and hike around a bit. Since then this park has changed a lot and has had a ton of work put into making it the awesome place it is today.

Since working here I've noticed there is a lot of time put into moving sprinklers. Some of the projects I would work on would take me all day, because I would have to change sprinklers every hour and some every half hour. Luckily Kershaw has just recently had a new water well built, and this July some workers will start installing an underground sprinkler system. This new sprinkler system will save a lot of time and should keep the grass areas more free during the day for visitors. This same group who is going to work on the sprinklers are the same workers who will be working on our new campground.

This summer has been really busy at times and other times it's just the squirrels and me. I don't mind it when the park is empty, because I can get a lot done without being distracted. I've learned a lot since working here and it has made me respect park rangers and state parks even more. Now every time I come to this park, I can see the hard work put into making of this park. I can't wait to see what this park will look like two years from now.

SPRING VALLEY STATE PARK

By Andrew Porter



Newsflash! Living proof that there are still dinosaurs among us occurred recently when one 'Parks Dinosaur' sighting was documented and caught on film. Another later-age 'dinosaur' was documented, but reluctantly eluded being captured by lens at a brief staff meeting. 'Parks Dinosaur' **Pete Gill** was presented with his **35-year** plaque, while **Lee Hiatt** received his **10-year** plaque. Congratulations to these fine

employees for contributions, knowledge, skills, abilities and their perseverance.

Spring Valley is not only experiencing the normal 'midsummer doldrums,' but we are trying to cope as best we can with the decline of visitors, vehicles, fees, etc. brought on by the economic 'slump' that has affected all of us. We are trying hard to keep focused on our individual job responsibilities, and keep a positive outlook, in the face of potential budgetary and perhaps new and different operational strategies and changes we might have yet to face. It helps to have a veteran crew the likes of **Corry McBride** and **Trisha Tibbitts**, both park aids with several seasons experience

behind them, as well as **Andrew Porter**, Park Technician, who earlier this year passed his 10-year mark.



We would also like to extend congratulations to **Trisha Tibbitts** on her upcoming marriage. She will become Trisha Pearson Saturday, July 25. May you both have many happy years ahead of you!

Other than these statements and events, it's business as usual at Spring Valley State Park.

LAS VEGAS REGION

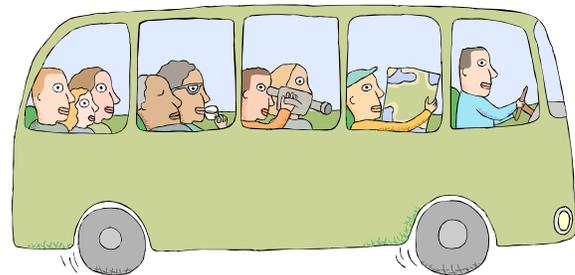
VALLEY OF FIRE STATE PARK

By Don Bolton

The summer is here at Valley of Fire. It is getting HOT, HOT, HOT!!! We are looking forward to a good summer. We are excited to have **Glenn Shepard** return from POST Academy in Carson City and by the end of July, **Dean Defoe** will be returning from POST Academy in southern Nevada.

We replaced our old trailers with two modular homes. Rangers **Heman** and **Shepard** are MUCH happier with their new homes. They are quite nice. We are also installing a third new modular home for another ranger, which will give us a total of five on-site homes.

Visitation has slowed a little due to high temperatures, but we are still getting lots and lots of tour buses. In fact, on July 4, we had just over 200 people stop by the visitor center for the entire day. But about at 3:30 p.m., seasonal staff members **Jack Ratcliff** and **Sandra Hufford** radioed the visitor center informing them that 10, yes 10, buses had entered the park. The buses were from American Asian Tours. They brought over 500 people to the visitor center in its final hour of operation for the day. It was pretty chaotic, but we served them and made a lot of sales.



Ranger **Bolton** provided interpretive programs through the second week of June. He was still getting good crowds for his programs. He ended the interpretive season with guest speaker **Margie Klein** from NDOW providing visitors with a program about wildlife in Nevada. She brought videos, animal pelts and hand-outs for the kids. It was a great success and the park will look forward to having her come back again in the fall.



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 Nevada Division of State Parks
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PERSONNEL



By Anke Simpson

Like every year, this has been a very busy summer. Despite the hiring freeze our parks were able to hire most of their seasonal staff for the 2008 season, and we were able to fill a couple of permanent positions in the middle of May. Our pay raise came through and all classified employees received a 4% cost-of-living adjustment on July 1, 2008.

NEW PERMANENT EMPLOYEES

Our two new permanent employees both started on May 19, 2008. **Robert Collins** accepted the Facility Supervisor III position for the Panaca Region and **Zach Million** filled the Park Interpreter I position at the Cathedral Gorge Visitor Center in Panaca.



GOOD BYES

Jim Prida retired from his Park Supervisor II position at Fort Churchill on 5/31/08 with almost 34 years of service. **Bob Martin** retired on 7/11/08 from his Landscape Architect Supervisor position at the division office with 30 years of service. Both spent their entire time of state service with the Division of State Parks and will be missed.



Domenic Bravo left his Park Supervisor II position at Washoe Lake on 6/1/08 to become the new Administrator of Wyoming State Parks. **James Hunting**, commissioned Park Ranger II at Washoe Lake, left his position on 5/31/08 and also moved to Wyoming to be closer to family. **Mark Fox** transferred from his commissioned Park Ranger II position at Lahontan to a position

at Hawthorne Nevada Highway Patrol on 7/4/08. **Myron Jeffs** resigned from his commissioned Park Ranger II position at Lahontan on 7/4/08 and accepted a position with Utah State Parks. Good Luck to all of them in their new adventures.

"Love the world as your own self, then you can truly care for all things." - Loa Tsu