

PEN PARK EMPLOYEE NEWSLETTER



ADMINISTRATOR'S CORNER

By David Morrow



As park and recreational professionals, we should be concerned about a growing trend in America, increased screen time spent on computers, cell phones, video games and television. The latest Parks & Recreation magazine had an article entitled *Returning to Nature*. It asked its members and other recreation and park

professionals to become engaged in the growing movement to reconnect children with nature. The article cited a growing trend of children who do not have the same connection to the outdoors as generations before. Of course some of us who qualify as "members of the generations before" category didn't always have access to radios and TVs and thus found the outdoors a wonderful place to spend time. My childhood memories are filled with hiking, fishing and playing in the outdoors from sunup to sundown.

Another publication, *Last Child in the Woods*, written by Richard Louv's, has evoked a wide response from parents, educators, elected officials and concerned adults who agree with the author's premise that children are increasingly afflicted with a "nature deficit disorder."

Louv states in the introduction of his book: "The shift in our relationship to the natural world is startling, even in settings that one would assume are devoted to nature. Not long ago, summer camp was a place you camped, hiked in the woods, learned about plants and animals or told firelight stories about ghosts or mountain lions. As likely as not, today 'summer camp' is a weight-loss camp or a computer camp. For a generation, nature is more abstraction than reality. Increasingly, nature is something to watch, to consume, to wear-to ignore."

By now you are starting to wonder how this all impacts the State Parks. The answer is that if this trend continues, our parks will go unvisited and it will be increasingly difficult to get the needed political support. But perhaps more important, future generations will grow up without learning about and experiencing the wonders of the great outdoors. Imagine a future generation of people who have not caught a fish, explored a cave or hiked a new trail. Imagine future leaders that have no connection to nature and care little about all the special features in the world. How can we help, by doing more to provide interpretive education, working with scouts and other outdoor groups and making an effort to work with

school groups, whenever the occasions arises. The involvement in getting young people out in our parks and teaching them about the things we all love should be one of our top priorities.

OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE

By Allen Newberry

The sun is still up and shining as we have passed through the legislative process one more time with some significant progress. We have lots of people to thank for their assistance at the budget office, Legislative Counsel Bureau (LCB), the directors' office, division employees statewide, and from key legislators that have supported our parks. In my tenure, I have never seen parks receive the number of replacement vehicles we received (61). This will greatly enhance our fleet and operations and maintenance programs statewide. Many thanks go to everyone for hard work and support of our parks. Many other great things happened during the process, which I am sure you are all aware of at this time. The process begins again as we will now start to build the next budget for the 2010 – 2011 biennium.

We have had a few long timers retire this year who will be missed and we hope their lives go well with their retirements. **Mike Nolan** retired from the budget office. **Mike** was our Budget Analyst that helped us put the budget together and pull the loose ends into a proper package. His tremendous support to the Department and our agency is greatly appreciated. **Phares Woods** retired in January and **James Black** in July. That is a lot of intuitional memory and I am sure both will be missed in the parks, yet their legacy will linger.



David Morrow and Allen Newberry presented Jim Black with his Nevada State Park retirement card and plaque.

I have almost learned to cuss as we begin to work on expenditures and purchase of some of our equipment. I never thought I would think of the word truck as a four letter word until the past few weeks.

OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE (Con't)

The other new four letter words include Toyota, Dodge, Ford and Chevy. It is a long story for a tall root beer. Anyway, our purchasing team has done a great job, with special thanks to **Eric Johnson, Pat Marker, Kim Lee, Jim Cole, Steve M. Weaver, Terry Hansen, and Kelly Kolhoss** for the midnight lamp burning to pull everything together out of the magic hat.

I was in Senator Lee's office and asked for a copy of a quote he had posted in his office. I think this sage advice can allow us to focus always on the positive and to work together as we press forward for the good of our parks. The quote is from Howard W. Hunter:

“Mend a quarrel. Seek out a forgotten friend.

Dismiss suspicion and replace it with trust.

Write a letter. Give a soft answer. Encourage youth.

Manifest your loyalty in word and deed. Keep a promise.

Forgo a grudge. Forgive an enemy. Apologize.

Try to understand. Examine your demands on others.

Think first of someone else. Be Kind. Be gentle.

Laugh a little more. Express gratitude. Welcome a stranger.

Gladden the heart of a child.

Take pleasure in the beauty and wonder of the earth.

Speak your love and speak it again.”

I get much feedback as a member of the Education Review Committee for the Center of Outdoor Ethics and one press release speaks of the new now younger generation and the fact that we are not reaching them in either the front country or backcountry. We need to work hard to turn the hearts of the children to the outdoor leisure experience so they too can learn to love the outdoors and benefit mentally and emotionally from their presence in the natural environment. It will be up to us and the next generation of park employees to figure how to get them out to experience the desert, the mountains, and the many varied experiences and educational opportunities parks provides. Let's do it!

As I read park reports, I can see the world of park management and visitor experiences is changing. I appreciate the professionalism of all our field staff and the planning and development section as we continue to tackle difficult problems and make parks work. We owe specials thanks to **Bob Martin** for his many trips to Valley of Fire and Big Bend to assist in construction management of the new campgrounds in these parks. These parks represent the next generation of services for the public with full hook-ups and full use facilities for our visitors. Special thanks is also owed to everyone of you that greet the park visitors daily and assisted them to have a positive recreation experience in Nevada's great parks. Thanks for a job well done!

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT (P&D)

By J. Steve Weaver

A multitude of capital improvement projects have been recently completed or will be finished shortly. For example,

June saw the grand opening of the new Sand Harbor park store and snack bar concession. A number of VIP guests were present for the ribbon cutting, including Governor Gibbons. Everyone agreed that the new facility is a hit. Staff Architect, **Marc Lepire**, was the project manager for the concession interior remodeling.



The sewer treatment plants at both Sand Harbor and Memorial Point are now officially decommissioned. Both facilities are now tied directly to the Incline Village sewer treatment plant. A federal grant procured by Incline Village General Improvement District (IVGID) paid for ¾ of the \$1.5 million cost. **Joe Cyphers** coordinated the project for us.



Another proud achievement was completion of the Mormon Station - Campbell property site improvements. These include paved walkways, picnic pads, drinking fountains, irrigation systems and landscaping. Engineering Tech, **Bob Beck**, served as the project manager for the design layout and construction of this facility, with the able assistance of his supervisor, **Joe Cyphers**. This great new facility opened just in time for the July 4th “Pops in the Park” concert.

Marc Lepire and **Tom Tabacco** have also been working diligently to get Phase 1b of the Home Ranch Stabilization/Restoration project ready to bid, hopefully sometime this fall. A number of problems have been encountered during the design phase, resulting in some delays; we had hoped to have the project out to bid last December. New roofs have already been installed on all six of the major historic buildings on the 5.5 acre historic site. **Tom Tabacco** supervised the roof installation and will also be supervising the next phase of construction.

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT (CON'T)



Valley of Fire - Mouse's Tank New SST Restroom

Seven of the infamous old vault toilets at the Valley of Fire have been replaced this summer with a big thanks to Landscape Architect Supervisor, **Bob Martin**. **Bob** was also responsible for the new SST restrooms at Hobart Lake and Marlette Peak, which was just installed in the Tahoe backcountry. Other SST units have been ordered for the Ft. Churchill group area, Fisherman's Point and the White Flats Fishing access at South Fork and a third one for Rye Patch's lower campground. **Bob Martin** is supervising these installations with assistance from **Ned Wallace**.



Bob Martin (aka Bathroom Boy) really gets into his work.

Bob Martin is also managing construction of the new Valley of Fire RV campground loop. This new RV camp (w/ electrical & water hookups) is expected to be completed by sometime in September. We will of course, need to have a ribbon cutting and grand opening ceremony. We expect the new RV loop to be an instant success.

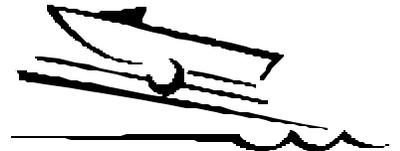
Valley of Fire is also getting a \$2 million expansion and remodeling of its visitor center, including a new auxiliary office structure and public restroom, and a new entrance foyer with refreshment/snack dispensing machines. Bids are expected to be opened sometime in October with construction to be completed next spring. And, of course, there are three

new ranger residences scheduled to go out to bid in September, with completion scheduled for February 2008. The new residences will be a welcome relief for staff, who have had to make due for decades in sun baked trailers. **Marc Lepire** is the project manager for all of these capital improvement projects, with able assistance from our engineers, **Joe Cyphers** and **Ned Wallace**.

The new Big Bend of the Colorado RV campground is also under construction and is expected to be completed before the end of the year. This 24 site loop will have sewer, water and electrical hookups. Everyone is expecting the campground to be full almost immediately upon opening. Big Bend is also getting a new RV dump station, air conditioned fee booth, paved day use parking and a paved overlook access road and parking. Just because he didn't have enough to do at Valley of Fire and elsewhere, **Bob Martin** is also managing these Big Bend projects.

But, that's not all Big Bend is getting. To go along with the new campground, fee booth, etc., a new ranger residence and seasonal trailer pad should be completed by early next spring, with **Tom Tobacco** as the project manager. Meanwhile, staff engineer **Ned Wallace** has completed the plans and submitted a grant application for over \$250k of federal Boating Access Funds to stabilize the eroding banks of the boat lagoon and add several new shade ramadas. The total cost of these Big Bend improvements will exceed \$7 million, funded mostly by Question 1 bonds, along with some federal Land & Water Conservation and, hopefully, federal Boating Access funds.

Ned Wallace also submitted a federal Boating Access grant proposal to Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW) for the Lahontan North Shore Marina ramp



extensions for low water conditions. Construction could take place this fall, since we are having a low water year. **Ned** is also working with **Bob Martin** to engineer Buckland Station's day use area development, which is primarily focused on a fire suppression system for the newly restored Buckland Station. This project had been held up, awaiting the summer FY '07 Q1 bond sale. Now that the funds are available, we should be able to get the project out to bid this fall.

Meanwhile, **Tom Tobacco** has just completed the campground ramada projects at both Washoe Lake and South Fork. This should address a major public complaint, i.e. lack of shade. **Tom Tobacco** and **Ned Wallace** are also working together on South Fork's southwest shoreline ramadas and boat ramp project, which we hope to fund with federal Boating Access funds, through NDOW, next year.

Tom Tobacco is also serving as the project manager for Sand Harbor's maintenance shop renovations project, which has just been completed. **Tom** has also been assigned the Old Las Vegas Mormon Fort adobe repair project, which will be funded with fee overage and Q1 funds; this project will hopefully be underway very soon.

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT (CON'T)

Joe Cyphers, Supervisor of Professional Engineer, has been providing engineering assistance on several smaller projects requested by field staff, Tahoe's Slaughterhouse Canyon Road, Sand Harbor Best Mgmt. Practices, Valley of Fire's ranger residences, and Kershaw-Ryan's campground and entrance station office. He also negotiated a draft agreement with Nevada Department of



Transportation (NDOT) to tag onto their SR 317, a paving project in Rainbow Canyon for Kershaw-Ryan's entrance road paving project, now scheduled for 2009.

J. Steve Weaver is still working with a consultant team to complete the \$3 million Phase I development plans for the new Van Sickle Bi-State Park in the Tahoe Basin. The 90% plan review is underway, but the estimates are considerably over our budget. The first phase may be limited to the main access road, underground utilities and hopefully a trailhead with restrooms. Our California partner, the California Tahoe Conservancy, plans to add improvements to the California side of the park, including a day use picnic area and restroom, historic structures stabilization and additional underground utilities. Some or even all of these items may need to wait until the second phase. Construction is now planned to start in the spring of 2009. The grand opening will most likely be delayed until the spring or summer of 2010.

Steve is also still working with consultant teams to complete the master planning process for the Beaver Dam State Park, along with site restoration and dam decommissioning for the Schroeder Reservoir. Right now, the planning and site restoration processes are both on hold, awaiting feedback from Federal Emergency Mgmt. agency (FEMA) regarding the site restoration of the former Schroeder Reservoir.

Meanwhile, Park & Recreation Program Manager **Jenny Scanland** has essentially completed the Dayton State Park Master Plan, with close cooperation from Lyon County, the Town of Dayton and local citizen groups. She is also managing a contract with UNLV's Landscape Architecture and Planning Research Program, to facilitate master plan revisions at Spring Mountain Ranch, South Fork and Valley of Fire, using funds from a federal Land & Water Conservation Fund grant. The planning process for South Fork began in mid-November, with **Randy Moore** taking over as the project manager. That plan is essentially complete, currently undergoing one last final review.

More recently, the Valley of Fire and Spring Mountain Ranch (SMR) master plans were initiated. Due to a spectacular rumor that the state was going to sell the ranch to developers for a housing subdivision, a standing room only crowd showed up at the first SMR public workshop.

Jenny would like to once again thank all field staff who have been conducting the ongoing park user survey in their respective parks and turning in the filled out forms. Having

this updated user data will help the division in a number of ways, especially assuring we meet visitor needs for both services and facilities.

NEW EMPLOYEE

By Alyce Cloutier

Welcome to **Eric Nelson**, the newest employee to the division office in Carson City. Eric replaced Larry Chapen as Landscape Architect Assistant II. He has 14 years with the State of Nevada, all with State Parks.



Some of you may recognize Eric. Eric was a Park Ranger before he changed careers. He worked at Washoe Lake, Valley of Fire and Lahontan. At Lahontan, he was promoted to Law Enforcement Specialist. His total relaxing and educational experience at Lahontan was about 12 years. He had the opportunity to work with many former and current park employees in the Fallon, Carson and Las Vegas regions. He went back to school (UNLV) for four years and received his Bachelor's degree in Landscape Architect and then worked with Lumos Associates in Reno for the past six years. Eric will be doing project management and landscape architecture design work, contracts, and bid work statewide for Question 1 projects.

RECREATIONAL TRAILS (RTP)

By Cheryl Surface

The Recreational Trails Program received 23 applications for nearly a million dollars in grant funds. The Ad-Hoc Nevada State Recreational Trails Advisory Committee recommended 19 applications receive funding. Among those applications submitted for RTP funds were several Nevada State Park projects from South Fork State Recreation Area, Wild Horse State Recreation Area, Washoe Lake State Park and the Division Office.

The second Regional Trails Training for Nevada and Northern California took place May 18-20, 2007 at Galena Creek Park, near Reno. Three State Park employees attended the training, one from Spring Mountain Ranch, one from Washoe Lake and one from the Environmental Improvement Program (EIP) team. Thanks to the three of you for taking the time to become involved in educating yourselves regarding trail design, layout and construction. Training in 2008 will take place in conjunction with the first ever Statewide Trails Conference to be held at Lake Tahoe, May 13-15, followed by the Regional Trails Training May 16-18. Mark your calendars for this and do not miss the opportunity to learn about the latest trail building techniques.

Summer season brings with it, project inspections. Thanks to all of you who take the time to showcase your state park trail systems. Should you want assistance in design, layout or maintenance issues regarding trails within your park, please contact me.

Carson Region

DAYTON STATE PARK & WASHOE LAKE STATE PARK

By Domenic Bravo

The Dayton State Park Master Plan is in its final phases, so soon we will have a new and exciting park. A big focus will be to conserve and promote the historic mill site and other important historical aspects of the park. There have been many new interpretive programs developed because of **Donna Silva** and **Lynn Stevenson**. **Lynn** has been invaluable in helping to create great programs like “Nature Buddies” and has been instrumental in getting some of our historic programs back in place.

It has been a great start to our summer. The park is sporting new shade ramadas that helped with the 108 degree weather (Ok it was only one day, but still muy caliente). We have completed a few projects including the upgrades to the North Ramp residence and a few of our restroom buildings. Water repairs are still a constant reminder of how much I enjoy digging holes. On the bright side it’s like playing in the mud.☺ We continue to eradicate White Top and other noxious weeds, it is crazy to see where some of these things grow.

Boating has been intermittent. However, with the receding water we have had to remove our small (park made) dock. We are in dire need of rain (I can only snow dance, so any help with a rain dance would be appreciated). NDOW pulled out of our wetlands programs, so we have had to streamline our education program. We manage to still accomplish this with a special thanks to **Terri Ozawa** who continues to change her schedule and meet the needs for this important program. Well enough of my random rambling, have a great summer.



LAKE TAHOE NEVADA STATE PARK

By Jay Howard

Well, here we are, smack dab in the middle of those dog days of summer. Chaos reigns all around. As we all plod through these last months of the summer season, keep reminding yourself how much you love your job. For us here, this point is easier to buy when the snow gently falls and things begin to blessedly ice up. Actually, **Rob Holley** was right with his prior PEN comments, the highs and lows of visitation simply keep the year interesting. Each season has its silver lining. Depending on the task at hand, extreme crowd control or sleepy office work, it’s all good.

This year, so far, has been an eventful one. We kicked things off with our Tahoe Nevada Visitor Center and Park Store grand opening event. We were honored to have the governor speak as well as Mark Twain himself (played by local favorite **McAvoy Lane**). Other speakers included **Allen Biaggi**, **Jeannette Banaldi** of Harbor House (park store) and, of

course, our very own **Dave Morrow**. This event, which included entertainment and activities, went very well.



Other events the park recently hosted include: Trans Tahoe Swim (a 12 mile swim across the lake), UltraMarathon (includes 50K, 50M, and grueling 100M backcountry endurance runs), and United States Lifeguard Association Regional Finals, where the park Beach Patrol team did very well (congratulations to them). The park will further host the Trails and Tails running event, XTerra Triathlon Nationals and the Tahoe Big Blue Adventure Race.

Park concessions, Spooner Lake Company (cross-country ski and bike rental), Shakespeare Festival and Harbor House, all contribute to the park’s peak season insanity. We also look forward to the possibility of a new Sand Harbor kayak concession next year. Mix in with this the standard summer visitor hordes and all related beach, backcountry and traffic control issues, and you end up with one heck of a good time around here. It’s all good. I trust it’s good where you are. Till next time, luck to all.

FALLON REGION

On August 20th, division staff had lunch and said a fond farewell to Stacey Patane.



It was sad news to bear when Stacey informed us all that she was leaving State Parks and going to State Forestry. Many jokingly called her “traitor,” but all wish her the best and much success in her growing career in devours. She worked in the division’s accounting section for two years before accepting the daunting task of being Fallon region’s Accounting Assistant III for the next 2 ½ years. Her knowledge and experience were key to whipping things into shape in the region and, for a little person; her big shoes will be hard for the new person to fill. – *By Editor, Joy Elwood*

BERLIN-ICHTHYOSAUR STATE PARK*By Jeff Morris*

As we all grind through another busy summer season, I would like to use this opportunity to recognize and thank the people who keep this park running smoothly. First and foremost, I wish to extend a deep debt of gratitude to the entire maintenance staff at Fallon Hq. They were able to complete the seasonal cabins in which I now reside in. After seven years of living in Ione (now population 7), I now have a “home” in the park.

Also, after returning for his eighth season, **Robin Riggs** also has a “home” in the park. He had previously occupied my couch for the last few seasons. His dedication and willingness to return each year is a blessing. I would also like to thank V.I.P.’s **LaDonna Hughes** and **Wayne Kirk** for their efforts especially on those long holiday weekends. They have been a great asset to the park, as we have been short staffed this year. Finally, I would like to thank Park Supervisor, **Mike Dinauer**, for his ability to keep morale high and the park running smoothly. The sign of a true professional is to make a difficult job look easy. I wish everyone a safe and gratifying summer season.

LAHONTAN STATE RECREATION AREA*By Rob Holley*

It’s already mid-August. I can scarcely believe summer is nearly over! We had a full contingent of rangers for the first time since 2000. It’s a good thing, too. As surrounding communities continue to grow, so does Lahontan’s visitation. Visitation through the end of June was up 4% from last year, and July was amazing. With July 4 falling on a Wednesday, we experienced holiday weekend visitation from June 29 until July 8. It was amazing and exhausting! Thankfully, 2008 is a leap year and we won’t have another mid-week 4th until 2011.

The vast majority of Lahontan’s visitors are hard-working honest people who enjoy the sun and surf with a few suds for good measure. This spring, with the help of **Bob Conrad**, the Department Communications Officer, we began utilizing fliers, signs and media pieces to encourage good citizens to call when trouble is “brewing.” Our goal is to help protect these good people from harm through early detection of criminal or suspicious activity and notification of law enforcement before a situation escalates to the level of a true emergency. Additionally, through consistent enforcement efforts, we are attempting to discourage would-be criminals from coming to Lahontan (or at least from committing crimes while they are here).

With only two-thirds of one season behind us, it’s too early to tell whether or not our efforts have succeeded or if it’s merely coincidence. Nonetheless, we are all pleased the number of violent batteries, gun/weapon calls and juvenile/underage drinking crimes has decreased significantly over the last year.

Special thanks go out to all my staff. Lahontan Dam Ranger, **James Hunting**, made a valiant stand until July 30, when he transferred to Washoe Lake. Both last and this summer, he

restored confidence to Lahontan Dam’s visitors, who had only seen a ranger part-time during 2004 and 2005. **James** and his staff managed to keep the park clean and fees collected despite continual setbacks. **James** is a first-class man who worked hard during his two years at Lahontan Dam. He’ll be sorely missed as both a friend and co-worker.



Fern House returned for her 25th season and continues to run a tight ship in the fee booth. Long-time Lahontan seasonal, **Brad Larkin**, will be filling the Lahontan Dam Ranger vacancy in mid-September, after completing his probation at Valley of Fire. Welcome back **Brad!**



Myron Jeffs, the Delta Ranger, is experiencing his first season at Lahontan. In a continual state of amazement, he spent Memorial Day weekend with various veteran rangers. He has taken to his duties naturally and is successfully overseeing the noxious weed abatement program, the backwaters fencing project and redesigning and construction of the delta equestrian trailhead.

Ranger **Mark Fox** continues to pitch in wherever needed and without being asked. He fills in the gaps at Lahontan Dam and Silver Springs by helping out with cleaning routines, trash, fees, fence building, woodcutting and whatever else is needed. Additionally, he holds down the weekend swing shift, responding to visitor calls for assistance and rooting out criminals and fugitives, who would do harm to the good citizens camped at Lahontan.



Ranger III, **Tony Beauregard**, suffering from similar setbacks as the Lahontan Dam crew, has persevered through yet another summer. Both visitation and revenues are up. All staff get frustrated with the daily inability to keep up with the trash and restroom mess of thousands of campers. Considering this daunting task, they have done a great job. Long-time Park Tech, **Mike Cavanaugh**, continues to motivate fewer staff to do more than before. Many thanks go out to Mike. **Cynthia Johnson** runs the Silver Springs fee booth and has done a great job – again with fewer staff than in past years.

My hat goes off to all my staff. Without loyal, dedicated and capable staff at all levels, Lahontan could not be maintained at the same level from year to year. These hard-working folks have not only maintained the status quo, but have been able to move Lahontan forward in all areas, keeping it the premiere camping destination in Northern Nevada.



I hope your summer has gone as well as ours. Until the next issue, be safe and take care.

RYE PATCH STATE RECREATION AREA*By Paul Schmidt*

Talk about global warming! I don't think I have ever experienced 112 degrees before! The water level at Rye Patch is dropping fast. If we don't get a good winter this year we will be looking at a dry lake bed next summer. We have the 'Burning Woman' event out here over Labor Day weekend; I guess it would be appropriate to have it on a dry lake bed!

We still haven't filled all our seasonal slots at Rye Patch. We even have free housing available with a big screen TV and pool tables, but we still can't lure 'em out.

There is a lot of project work being completed needless to say. Jim's been busy spraying knapweed and tamarisk along with the state agricultural crew. Park Aids, **Colleen Bologna** and **Amy Morast**, have been busy staining and tree trimming, along with the normal "growler patrol."

Park Aid, **Dan Hetzer**, is now our resident equipment mechanic and is tasked with basic maintenance repairs. Dan lives in the one remaining habitable trailer along with is three mutts. It is now referred to as the Hetzer Hotel.

I still commute back and forth each week to Minden on my days off. The drive out isn't bad, but the drive home can be a long one. When I worked at Sand Harbor, driving was about 5 hours per week (1 hour/per day). Now it's 5 hours per week with two 2 ½ hour drives. My wife sometimes calls me Stranger Paul, instead of Ranger Paul.

Hope summer ends soon. I'm ready for cooler temps!

SOUTH FORK STATE RECREATION AREA*By Jim Wilkinson*

We were extremely busy through the end of July. Every park use indicator showed positive increases. We are fortunate to have a dedicated seasonal staff trying to ensure visitor services are being met. The unsung efforts of our seasonal staff are what keeps the park going.

Joe Hawkins has returned for his third season as the Seasonal Maintenance Specialist. Aside from supplying us with bottled water & a stocked refrigerator, **Joe** has been constructing the new shade structures being installed in the developed campground, keeping the Tomera Ranch area green and being an all-around handyman. His efforts are highly appreciated.



Oma Walliman transferred from Lahontan to be with us. Her efforts and willingness to keep the facilities and grounds clean are highly appreciated. She needs little direction and has never failed to complete her rounds.

Chad Madix is a quasi-musician who keeps a good attitude and has become adept at hauling trash to our dumpsters. He has become an expert in properly loading trash dumpsters and ensuring maximum loads are being carted off by Elko Sanitation. One of these days, we are going to heap so many trash bags onto a 2 cubic yard dumpster the bottom frame is going to collapse. We appreciate the efforts of **Elko Sanitation**. They willingly haul off any amount of trash bags, as long as they are in or on top of the dumpster. We appreciate the service.

South Fork is nearing completion of revising its Park Master Plan. Thanks to **Jennifer Scanland** and the **University of Nevada Las Vegas** for doing this and also allowing park staff to voice any opinions, concerns and revisions. Public and working group comments were highly appreciated. The public would like to see practical improvements such as extending the existing potable water line, adding an additional boat ramp and group-use area and other camping improvements. We are looking forward to the final edition.

The park has survived extended drought like conditions in 2007. Rain has been very sparse. Temperatures in the mid-nineties have been the norm. We really do not have a norm or mean that is consistent. Since inception, South Fork has seen it all. Enjoy the rest of you summer.

WILD HORSE STATE RECREATION AREA*By Kristin Lefeber*

Wild Horse has seen its share of activity this season. With two new seasonal employees, we had a great start. Tragically, we lost one of our employees to a lake accident over the busy Fourth of July weekend. We greatly appreciate the many boaters who helped us with the search for Park Technician, **Anthony Lovern**, and the rescue of his companions. Anthony's memorial was attended by Park Supervisor, **Andrew Bass**, and his remaining seasonal employee. We would like to extend our thanks to all who offered condolences and helped us through the difficult times. **Eric Johnson** even took time out of his busy schedule to come up and help with the daily maintenance of the park during this very trying period.



Just when everything was beginning to calm to normal, a lightning storm started a large fire just northeast of the park. We have had a large influx of firefighters trying to extinguish the blaze.

WILD HORSE STATE REC. AREA (con't)

Many other fires were also burning in the state and resources were stretched to the max, leaving the firefighters with few means other than the engine they arrived in.

A kitchen was quickly set up to feed them and they used the park for showers, fueling and sleeping on our front lawn. We also had the only phone for miles, because cell service is spotty at best. As the fire grew to over half a million acres, so did the number of firefighters sleeping on the lawn! Fortunately, we had some heavy rain that dramatically helped contain the fire and the crews finally had the upper hand. They were here over a week and are a very respectable group. You'd have to get up early enough to see them spread out over every spot in sleeping bags, but by 6:00 a.m. they had everything picked up and there was no trace they had been there at all. For the sheer number of people, they have been great at picking up after themselves and fellow workers. They are welcome here anytime! Now that our slack time is over, it is time to welcome in the hunters!

Additional Note: "Park Aid, **Kristin Lefeber**, has been a tremendous help this summer. She has been a key player in keeping the park functioning without a missed step. Thank you Kristin." - Andrew Bass

PANACA REGION

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

By Barbara Rohde



(Left to right: The George Schroeder Family: Granddaughter, Rose Schroeder and Virginia. George was head engineer of the dam at Beaver Dam.)

Breaking news from Beaver Dam! Rose Schroeder and her daughter Virginia came to see what remains of Schroeder Dam, over the July 4 holiday week. Virginia was just in 8th grade when her father, George Schroeder, was working on the dam and suffered a fatal heart attack. She and her mother did

come for the dedication of the Dam when it was completed and named in his honor. When the dam was breached two years ago, the dedication plaque was brought to the region office for safekeeping. **Cody Tingey** was able to get a photo of the ladies with the plaque. He and **Shaylen Budreau** took the family out for a tour of the park, despite record-high temperatures on July 4 and 5.

How hot WAS it?? The National Weather Service was predicting record-high temperatures for this date (July 4), and the recording thermometer at Cathedral Gorge obliged with a reading of 107 degrees. The digital recording thermometer was saying only 101; anything over 100 is hot! It may not be setting an actual record, but in the 20 years I have been keeping weather records for Cathedral Gorge, it did hit 104 on July 4, 2001 (and 105 the next day) and July 1, 1999 hit 104, though it cooled down ten degrees by the fourth. What is of greater concern than the heat is the lack of rainfall. We have recorded only 2.79 inches year-to-date and everything is just dry, dry, dry! Despite the heat,



many of our campers think the camping experience is diminished if they cannot have a campfire! However hot it was, think about **Nevin Birkmier**, who took part in the 4th of July parade in Caliente (on her regular day off), as part of the Panaca Volunteer Fire Dept.

Two first-timers joined the staff this year: **Derek Lloyd** at Beaver Dam and **Marcia Wadsworth** at the Cathedral Gorge/Visitor Center. **Derek** was born and raised in Panaca and is learning the ropes from **Shaylen**. Marcia is working just two days a week, mostly on **Barbara's** days off at the Visitor Center. Also born and raised in Panaca, she is discovering things she never knew about this area! She enjoys meeting many different people that come to Cathedral Gorge and hopes to come back next year. Marcia's daughter **Marinda (Willoughby)** was a Park Aid from 1993-1998, at Cathedral Gorge, Echo Canyon and Cave Lake; then she got married and moved to Utah. However, she is back for a season at Kershaw-Ryan, where she enjoys taking care of the park that washed out when she was just a young girl. However, she is getting tired of hearing about how there aren't as many flowers as there were when **Lynn Wood** worked there.... There is, however, more lawn to take care of!

CATHEDRAL GORGE STATE PARK, VISITOR CENTER & BEAVER DAM STATE PARK (Con't)

Bruce Winslow, the new Park Supervisor, is finding challenges of his own, in getting the campground construction back on track, and in writing the management plan for Elgin Schoolhouse! Bruce comes to us from the Bureau of Land Management, where he worked in Caliente and Ely as an Outdoor Recreation Planner. He also worked in Zion National Park, where he was a Backcountry Ranger and for Utah State Parks. Welcome, Bruce!

Cathedral Gorge is gearing up for the third annual Dutch Oven Cook-off. This year we are trying it in August. The first year was in July, in record-high 104 degree heat. Last year, in September it was cool and rainy. Cody has gotten some interest from some Dutch Oven clubs in the Las Vegas area and we hope this event will grow and attract more chefs to participate!

PANACA PARADE ALBUM



(Nevin is holding the white flag, second from the left. Visitor Center volunteer Liz Russell took this photo and sent to us.)



CAVE LAKE STATE PARK

By Steve Gray

It has been an adventure here at Cave Lake this summer. With our recent land acquisition, new management of the lands started in early April. We had a few complaints, but it went rather smoothly. I am gearing up to enter our master planning process hopefully next year. **Dessa Stroud**, our long time Park Aid, returned again for another fun summer. **Terry Ivins** has been doing some extraordinary work with the SWECO, a glorified dozer made for building trails, on the newly acquired property. I think we will have a better control on our anarchy camping soon.

All the grants for this year's Fire and Ice Show have come in and our budget keeps getting bigger and bigger. The American Bus Association has awarded Nevada Division of State Parks with having one of the top 100 events in North America. Tens of thousands of events try to make the top 100 every year. It is absolutely fantastic to get this recognition in rural Nevada.



The **Ronald McDonald House Charities** have planned three camps this year. Each camp consists of about 40 kids. These kids come up from Las Vegas and enjoy camping, canoeing, fishing, swimming, crafts and many other camp activities. The **White Pine Tourism and Recreation Board** and the Nevada Division of State Parks help host the activities. The lake is still wet, the firewood keeps us warm and never try to watch ice form. Until next time, I hope everyone has a great summer's end.

KERSHAW RYAN STATE PARK & ELGIN SCHOOLHOUSE STATE HISTORIC SITE

By Bruce Winslow



Hello there. My name is **Bruce Winslow** and I have been the park supervisor for since the end of April. We have been busy at our wading pool, since the local (Caliente) swimming pool is closed all summer for repairs.

I am looking forward to having a new campground, park office and maintenance building, along with a paved road in 2008. These projects will be a culmination of many hours of planning and budgeting by division and park staff.

SPRING VALLEY STATE PARK

By Andrew Porter

After a seemingly endless bitter and dry winter, summer has finally arrived. Somewhere there in between, spring came up short and never showed. Now the sub-zero temperatures and the accompanying headache of frozen, bursting pipes have passed and we now work to the rhythms of heat, thunderstorms and infrequent rainfall. A Spring Valley summer is never typical, but always enjoyable.

Pete Gill still holds the fort. He has always been an essential part of the Spring Valley experience, much like George Washington Rock or the reservoir. A destination of sorts. First time visitors are always inquiring into the whereabouts of Mr. Gill. **Lee Hiatt** has a lot on his plate this summer. He deals daily with a myriad of plumbing and irrigation issues. It seems our park has some years behind her and her age is showing.

We are fortunate enough to be equipped with a full crew this year. New comer **Louis Benezet** is quickly learning the ways and means of Spring Valley. He has also become our resident botanist, ever vigilant in The War on Weeds.

Trisha Tibbitts has once again returned and falls back into the job like a true professional. She will be leaving us shortly, when she travels to St. Petersburg, Russia to teach English. **Corry McBride** continues to be reliable year after year as a valuable work-horse. He takes it all in stride, as park operations have become second nature to him. A great crew like this one makes it look too easy. There is not much else really and I would rather relay it in person anyway. Maybe this upcoming winter? Well, back to it! Don't just survive the season, love it!

PEN article. Since not much has been happening at Spring Mountain Ranch, I finally found a few moments of time and decided to put a few things to paper.

First, we would like to welcome a few new members to the Spring Mountain Ranch team. **Russell Nutt**, formerly of Valley of Fire and Floyd Lamb State Parks, has returned from Iraq and is now on board here full time. He is glad to be here, being one of the unfortunate few assigned to transfer a park from state to local management. We also welcome **Carolyn Richardson** from Floyd Lamb as well. She is a longtime park employee and wife of former ranger **Ray Richardson**, who word has it, is enjoying his retirement. Brand new this season is Ranger, **Steve Micklus**, who moved here from Illinois and park aids, **Deb Rohlman** and **Mike Ward**, both Blue Diamond locals.

We would also like to wish a get well to park aid **Roy Buttroff**, who is still on medical leave and we hope to have back soon.

Unfortunately, it is with sadness I inform you of the passing of docent **Lamond LeFevre** on May 9. Many of you may remember **Lamond** as "Old Bill Williams" during the park academies. He was the founder of the Pioneer Day Living History Program, an active volunteer at the park and helped us with numerous activities and programs. I will always remember him dressed in his mountain man clothing, Dutch oven cooking up at the Old Bill Williams camp and laughing and telling stories in his booming voice to all who would listen. He truly cared for the park and we have lost a great man. **Docents Don Schwartz & Lamond LeFevre** (on the



right) doing a Mountain Man living history demonstration.

VALLEY OF FIRE STATE PARK

By Don Bolton

Contrary to recent local news broadcasts, Valley of Fire was not struck by a heavy rainstorm delivering up to 2 inches of rain. It was only over half an inch. The only notable result, other than some minor debris in the road, was a parking violation. A visitor didn't want to park her SUV in the mud. Instead, she parked it on the concrete handicapped parking pad. Then she and her family proceeded to hike to and from Mouse's Tank for a total of 1/2 mile though water and mud ("?").

Valley of Fire has had a great July. We acquired some new employees and made some additions of facilities to our park as well. Valley of Fire added two more Law Enforcement Rangers, **Dean Defoe** and **Amber Heman**, and an Interpretive Ranger, **Don Bolton** to our staff. **Dean** comes to us from Las Vegas where he gained a background in Law Enforcement.

LAS VEGAS REGION

SPRING MOUNTAIN RANCH STATE PARK

By Rick Keller



It has been a while since we submitted a

VALLEY OF FIRE STATE PARK (Con't)

Amber migrated down to Valley of Fire from California, where she worked at Bodie State Park. **Don** moved to Nevada from Atlanta, Georgia, where he worked for the City of Jefferson.

We are in the process of adding seven new SST's throughout the park (see picture on page 3). Most are near completion. The new extension to Atlatl Campgrounds is looking more like a campground now. Many of the new camp sites are coming along with no problems. We are excited about these new changes. Be sure to stop by and see our new additions and welcome our new rangers.

NEVADA STATE PARKS COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION (NSPCA)

By Karen Moessner

As the newest employee of NSPCA, I was privileged to go on the latest "road trip" to several northern State Parks the weekend of June 15-17. Members who attended included **Ginny Selwood, Roy Orr, Helen Mortenson, Jean Miller, Jane Holcomb** and **Danny Riddle** and his wife Vikki. We rented a huge van and donned our NSPCA hats, shirts and name tags and started out from the Reno airport.

First stop was Sand Harbor at Lake



Tahoe for the grand opening ceremony of the new Visitor Center. It was a great success. The snack shop provided wine, appetizers and live entertainment. NSPCA provided the engraved souvenir wine glasses. The celebration was well attended and spattered with dignitaries. Dave Morrow opened the ceremony and introduced the guest speaker, Governor Jim Gibbons, who promptly said that no one told him he didn't have to wear a suit and tie. The Visitor Center is spectacular. Visitors were swarming in and out and soaking up the history of the special ecosystem we call the emerald of the West.

Our next stop was Fallon for food, rest and then on to Berlin-Ichthyosaur. **Eric Johnson** joined us at our hotel and off we went to tour the parks in his region. We were greeted by **Mike Dinauer** and **Jeff Morris** at the entrance. We entered the new blacksmith shop with many artifacts of days gone by. One of the highlights for me was a tour of the Diana Mine. The interpretation made us feel as if we had actually been there during the rush for gold and silver. We viewed the newest addition, the Berlin Incline Mine shaft. It looked so real and the mine site was now much safer for visitors, because the dangerous hole had been covered and fenced off. We also viewed the mill and saw the new roof. The mill is overpowering with its series of large gears and ropes and pulleys. The rangers told us of various donations to help put back the pulley system that had fallen down in disrepair.

Then we went to the dinosaur bones. **Robin Riggs** gave an incredible presentation, which included tracing the bones so we all had a vision in our minds about how they were lying on top of one another. Although I had seen them many times before, it is still one of the many wonders of the world to go back in time to an almost eerie land that we have heard of but never saw. The campgrounds were welcoming and there were two new cabins for the rangers. We toured the gift shop containing things from the past, as well as items to be purchased. It was a nice touch. Then we were off to Middlegate Station for lunch and of course, some colorful conversation with the residents, which included a sleepy owl outside in a grove of trees.

After lunch we headed for Lahontan and Fort Churchill. We toured the remodeled visitor center and heard about the plans to set up a gift shop there. We met **Rob Holley** and were caught up in his enthusiasm for the visitor center in its planning stages. The lake was busy with boating and skiing enthusiasts, who in turn keep the rangers hopping.

We arrived at Buckland Station, where **Jennifer Dawson** presented a power point presentation for all the plans for the residence. The remodel is close to completion on the main floor. **Jennifer** talked about having the grand opening sometime in September. The rooms are wallpapered, the wood floors have been refinished and the furniture is from the period. We heard all about the family history, as well as **Eric's** rendition of the ghosts that come out at night in one of the upper rooms. The downstairs has a roomy "theater" where guests can sit and view the DVD, which speaks about the history of the house and its family. The exterior is painted and ready for visitors. The gift shop is nearly set up. Park employees are anxious to launch the program. Then we went to Carson City for more food and rest.

In the morning, we went to Dangberg Ranch. This is where we parted ways, for I had a previous engagement and had to go back to Las Vegas early. The Board met with **Suzanne Sturtevant** who gave the tour. Members told me they were amazed by the history presentation of the ranch. **Suzanne** brought out photos of the family. She also spoke about the many artifacts at the residence including artifacts that have not been displayed as of yet. One member was intrigued by the story of the discovery of a small trunk which contained clothing and other articles of one of the children who had died when he was 5 years old. Another member said she was astounded by all the different kinds of furnishings that were still in the house. Many of the furnishings were antiques, but the rooms were also mixed with decor from the 1960's. Another was surprised to see a grand piano. We all applaud the work and research park staff has done for the ranch thus far and will eagerly watch as progress as the master plan unfolds.

As I reflected on the road trip, on my way back to Las Vegas, I felt proud to be affiliated with a group of such exceptionally dedicated Board members. I am thankful to all park staff who welcomed me. I am thrilled to be a part of State Parks and am eager to help NSPCA grow into the future and make a difference for all parks statewide, for the visitors and for historic preservation.



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Nevada Division of State Parks
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PERSONNEL



By Anke Simpson

Some exciting salary changes were approved during the last Legislative session. All classified employees received a 2% cost-of-living adjustment on July 1, 2007. Another 4% cost-of-living adjustment will be effective on July 1, 2008.

The PERS Retirement Board approved our commissioned Park Ranger I, II and III positions and our commissioned Park Supervisor I, II and III positions for eligibility in the Police/Fire Retirement Fund as of May 17, 2007. Some of our other commissioned positions are eligible on a promotional basis only.

This has been a very busy summer. In addition to the salary changes, we hired about 100 seasonal employees. We also have several recruitments for permanent positions posted at this time. Here are some of our more recent changes among our permanent employees:

TRANSFERS

Russell Nutt transferred laterally from his commissioned Park Ranger II position at Floyd Lamb to Spring Mountain Ranch on 4/23/07, after returning from active military duty. **Steve Santee** transferred from his non-commissioned Park Supervisor III position at Floyd Lamb to the commissioned Park Ranger III position at Valley of Fire on 6/17/07. **James Hunting** also transferred laterally from his commissioned Park Ranger II position at Lahontan to Washoe Lake on 7/30/07.

NEW PERMANENT EMPLOYEES

Bruce Winslow started on 4/30/07 at Kershaw Ryan as the new non-commissioned Park Supervisor I. The Las Vegas Region hired four new Park Rangers on 7/16/07. **Steven Micklus** is working as a non-commissioned Park Ranger I at Spring Mountain Ranch. **Amber Heman** and **Dean Defoe** both started at Valley of Fire as commissioned Park Ranger I's and **Donald Bolton** is the new non-commissioned Park Ranger I at Valley of Fire. **Simonne Purdy** started as the Accounting Assistant III at Las Vegas Region Headquarters on 8/06/07. **Eric Nelson** accepted the Landscape Architect's Assistant II position in the division office and started on 8/13/07.

GOOD BYES

Mike Murphy resigned from his Maintenance Repair Worker I position at Berlin on 4/29/07 to move to Arizona and pursue a career as a Park Ranger. **Weston Shakespear** left his Maintenance Repair Specialist II position at Valley of Fire on 5/11/07 to go to work for Nevada Power. **Tom Knight** also resigned from his Maintenance Repair Specialist II position on 6/15/07 to stay at Floyd Lamb and work for the City of Las Vegas. **Melody Garland** left her Accounting Assistant III position at Las Vegas Region Headquarters and accepted a position with the City of Henderson on 6/19/07. **Jim Black** retired from his commissioned Park Ranger II position at Washoe Lake on 7/1/07 with 28 years of service with Nevada State Parks. **Mike Ray**, commissioned Park Ranger II at Ward Charcoal Ovens, accepted a position with the Lincoln County Sheriff's Department on 7/18/07. Good luck to all of them in their new adventures!