

PEN PARK EMPLOYEE NEWSLETTER



ADMINISTRATOR'S CORNER

By David Morrow

These are rough times for state parks. With economic conditions making employment and education seem like privileges, recreation is hardly thought of as a necessity, which is why state parks make an easy target for governors and state legislators looking to cut costs. This problem has become so bad the National Trust for Preservation has placed state parks and historic sites nationwide on its latest list of America's 11 Most Endangered Historic Places.

According to the organization, 26 states have seen reductions in state park funding, which I believe is an underestimation. This means cuts in staffing, maintenance, and access. A recent New York Times article regarding these impacts included photos of donation boxes, signs that read "No services available due to budget cuts" and a picture of a motorcycle club whose members have volunteered to mow lawns, but perhaps most descriptive is a picture of a picnic table overtaken by a sea of weeds.

Reductions in state park budgets are akin to stepping over a quarter to pick-up a nickel, as a Reno radio host recently said. Not only do state parks provide affordable recreation opportunities and close to home getaways, they preserve some of the nation's most significant natural and cultural resources. The economic impact of Nevada's 25 state parks is approximately 12 times greater than the agency's general fund appropriation. It has been estimated that Nevada's state parks generate in excess of \$62 million to state and local economies from their operation and expenditures by park visitors. At a time when Nevada's tourism economy is suffering, it makes NO sense to cause further impacts by cutting State Park's budget.

Between now and the next legislative session, we need to get word out about the value of Nevada's 75 year old state park system. The lines at Lake Tahoe Nevada State Park, the full beaches at Lahontan and the throngs of visitors at Valley of Fire should be a pretty good indication of the importance of state parks, even in these tough economic times. I recall a recent comment from a park patron that emphasizes what I believe to be the true value of parks and recreation. He said, "I will give up a lot of things, including steak dinners, before I quit boating." Or the comment I heard the other day, "If I have anything to say about how my taxes are used, they won't close parks so prisoners can have TV and exercise facilities."

Parks are important to over three million Nevada residents and visitors, who I hope will stand up and be counted during the next few months.

DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR

By Steve Weaver

Serving as the Deputy Administrator for the last nine months has been enlightening, challenging and rewarding...all three good reasons for sticking around after already achieving eligibility for retirement a year and a half ago. While keeping heavily involved in Planning and Development affairs and getting our new Chief of Planning and Development, Mark Davis, up to speed, I have become more involved in field operations than ever before...especially at Tahoe, where I serve as acting regional manager.



Typical lines to get into Sand Harbor

Working all three days of the 4th of July weekend at Sand Harbor, Cave Rock and Spooner/Backcountry was particularly enlightening and rewarding. I couldn't help but admire the teamwork, professionalism and fortitude of our field staff under trying circumstances with people coming out of the woodwork attempting to find their place in the sand...or the boat ramp or the trails.



Busy Boat Ramp at Sand Harbor

DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR (con't)

The contrast between the management units couldn't be more profound...hundreds of happy people, many with dogs, walking the trails around Spooner Lake and in the Backcountry, thanking me for what a great job our staff are doing to maintain the trails and facilities. At Cave Rock and Sand Harbor, boat parking and launch ramps are at a premium...some unhappy people if anyone impedes their progress getting on the water! Similarly, some people don't like others infringing on their staked claim on beach space. And, the attempted gate crashing and excuses for trying to get into Sand Harbor after the place gets filled to capacity and closes is truly an eye opener!



A typical day at Sand Harbor

Although I did help out with collecting fees from walk-ins at Sand Harbor, and at the Sand Harbor Boat Launch fee booth, mostly I had a chance to walk around, observe, talk with staff and the public...and take photographs...over 350 total...with lots of people recreating. We need the same from all the parks for use in the media presentation I'll be developing for the 2011 session of the Nevada Legislature. SEND ME YOUR BEST BUSY DAY PHOTOS before the end of September! We need all the help you can provide to convince legislators that the public is truly benefiting AND USING their State Parks!

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT (P&D)

By Mark Davis

Personnel Changes

Shortly after the Spring 2010 P&D PEN Article was written, **Ned Wallace** was offered a position at the Capital Mall in Washington DC. Ned worked on projects at Buckland Station (Day Use Area), Lahontan (Carson River Delta, 9th Street Equestrian Area), Lake Tahoe (Van Sickle Bi-State Park, located at Stateline on the south shore), Mormon Station (Shed Repair/Reconstruction), Big Bend (Boat Lagoon Retrofit), Washoe Lake (Bicycle Path) and many more. Ned did an excellent job for us at P&D. He is already sorely missed.

Projects Recently Completed

The new Kershaw-Ryan Contact Station was completed the end of June. The contractor had some items to correct. This project was designed and managed by **Marc Lepire** and he supervised and coordinated with the consulting engineers. **Joe Cyphers** performed the site design. **Dion George** assisted **Marc** with contract documents and bidding of the project.

Dion was the construction manager. This project was a fast paced project. **Marc** and **Dion** discovered some inappropriate materials being installed on the project and put the contractor on notice. The contractor quickly took control of the situation and had his sub-contractors correct the deficiencies. This project was performed by **Eagle View Contractors**.

*Kershaw
Ryan's
Completed
Contact
Station*



The Spring Valley Floating Dock Renovation was quickly executed from design through completion. **Dion George** was the project manager. He worked with the field staff at Spring Valley to complete the work. Field staff and a Nevada Division of Forestry (NDF) crew performed the construction for this very successful project.

*Spring
Valley's Dock
Completed*



Wild Horse's fish cleaning station was recently completed. This project was designed and construction managed by **Bob Beck**, with minor assistance from **Dion George**. It was completed in early June, just in time to be enjoyed by this season's fishermen. This project was performed by **Impact Construction**.

*Wild Horse Fish
Cleaning Station
Completed
(showing ADA)*

**Projects Under Construction**

The Ranger Residence, Storage, Photovoltaic Off-Grid Power System and Site Improvements at Berlin Ichthyosaur State Park should begin construction near the printing of this article. Principle staff was: **Marc Lepire** (Ranger Residence, Storage Design and consultant oversight), **Joe Cyphers** (Ranger Residence site design and Ichthyosaur site drainage) and **Dion George** (assisted in the design of the Photovoltaic Off Grid power System and Mechanical/Plumbing design, project specifications, project assembly and distribution). **Dion** will also be the construction manager with assistance from **Marc** and **Joe**. The low bidder for this project was **Bison Construction**.

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT (Con't)

The historic nature of the design on this project will be enjoyed by park visitors and staff for many years to come. Construction is anticipated to begin in August. Project completion is expected by the end of the year.

Mark Davis took over the **Van Sickle Bi-State Park** project. It was on hold, for a few months, due to some water service application delays with the Public Utility Commission (PUC). In early July, the PUC gave us approval to move forward with the installation of the water line. If all goes well, we should be able to complete most, if not all of the work this year. The contractor returned on July 26 to complete the project. In order to finally complete the project, we must connect the water line to Edgewood Water Company. Edgewood Water Company must gain authority, from the PUC, to expand their service area to the improved portion of our park. This must happen before we can connect to Edgewood Water Companies water system. We are hopeful this will occur in the near future as well.

We had a successful bid opening for the Interior Renovations at the **Valley of Fire Visitors Center**. **Marc Lepire** has been the project manager and is supervising a consultant team (The Dube' Group). Work includes refurbishing of the interior finishes, relocation of the Nevada State Parks Cooperative Association (NSPCA) sales center (to allow for occupancy when the NSPCA space is closed) and storage. We are in the process of executing a contract with **Franklin Construction** and will commence construction in the near future. **Dion George** assisted in the bid opening; he will also be the construction manager for the project.

The **Washoe Lake Site Wide ADA Retrofit Project** recently had a bid opening. This project is managed by **Eric Nelson**. The project was consultant designed. This is 100% funded by the State Public Works Board (SPWB) Statewide Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Capital Improvement Program (CIP) project. This project upgrades most of the existing improvements in the park and makes them accessible. It does not provide any new building improvements. **K7 Construction** is the general contractor and will begin work on July 19.

Projects Advertising & Bidding

The South Fork has two projects that have been funded and in the design process until recently. It was in the best interests of the two projects to bid the similar work, so Phase 1 of the shoreline improvements was combined with the campground improvements. The low bidder for the merged portions of the projects was **Impact Construction**. Project updates include the following:

South Fork Campground Improvements- Eric Nelson performed the design for this project. **Eric** was assisted by **Joe Cyphers** for civil engineering requirements. This project is 50% Question 1 (Q1) bond funded and is matched with 50% of federal Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) grant money. **Dion George** took over the project when the

drawings and specifications were near completion and will continue supervising this project.

South Fork's South West Shoreline Improvements- Ned Wallace was the original project manager for the boat ramp, access road and parking (Phase 2), with assistance from **Eric Nelson** for the ramadas and related improvements (Phase 1). When **Ned** left us, the project was split into two phases for bidding. Phase 1 of the shoreline improvements includes the shade ramadas and related improvements. **Dion George** took over the first phase of the project when the drawings and specifications were near completion. **Dion** will continue supervising this project, which is funded by 25% Q1 bond money and 75% of Boating Access grant money. **Joe Cyphers** will continue with Phase 2.

When the opportunity arose for additional federal Boating Access grant money, P&D decided to apply for an amendment to the grant in order to change the percentages and increase the scope. The grant amendment is currently pending. The expanded scope for this project is a paved access road, paved and striped parking lot with ADA access to the existing comfort station, and additional solar lighting for the parking lot and ramp/dock component. At the Shoreline Improvement component, we requested an increase to the scope which included concrete pads, concrete picnic tables, fire rings, and barbeques for all for the shade ramadas, and ADA improvements for four of the ramadas. This will delay the award of the South West Shoreline Improvements (less the dock, ramp, parking and lighting) until we receive approval of the Boating Access grant. In the meantime, we are awarding the campground portion. **Impact Construction** agreed to extend the shoreline improvement bid amount for 90 days from the bid date. As soon as we get grant approval for the scope expansion, we will add this work to the campground contract and commence the work in a timely manner.

**Design Projects**

At **Beaver Dam**, by late fall, a **new well and solar powered pump** may become a reality, to replace our old spring collection system that has periodic contamination problems. A hydro geologist was hired to survey and make a determination on the best locations for the new well. An archaeologist survey found a number of cultural resources on the area of the proposed equestrian campground, which will affect the development of that area. Other options and locations are now under review. **Joe Cyphers** is in charge of design and construction management. This project is currently funded by a \$55k federal LWCF grant that will be matched with a like amount of Q1 bond monies.



Dion George will also supervise installation of an ADA retrofit at the Big Bend boat lagoon, to include a concrete walk extension, stairway modification and accessible concrete tables.

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT (Con't)

The **Cave Rock Boat Launch Area Improvements** will be managed by **Eric Nelson**. This will be a consultant designed project. This project will include: a feasibility analysis; public participation; site design; permits; a joint Nevada Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) and Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA) environmental document-public scoping; simulated photo analysis/scenic study (if required); tribal consultation; construction documents; coordinated project management for sidewalk and curbing replacements (with several small overlooks along the west sidewalk with railings and barriers to keep vehicles off of sidewalks); partial reconfiguration of parking to allow for longer boat trailers; installation of a fish cleaning station; removal of an old boat ramp at the south end and slope protection/enhancement; installation of a small group ramada (4 tables); improve accessibility at restroom; and the main day use facilities area. This project is expected to be funded as a 75% Boating Access grant and 25% of Q1 bond and EIP funds.

Capacity Study: The Lake Tahoe Regional Manager and related staff have hired a consultant to perform a capacity study at Sand Harbor. The capacity study will look at all improvements and services and once the capacity study is complete, projects will be developed that conform to that study. Pending results of the capacity study, **Sand Harbor's Boat Ramp and Parking** will undergo a feasibility analysis to realign and enlarge boat parking, replace the boat ramps and fee booth, and expand, reduce or provide services as determined by the capacity study. Items determined to be feasible will start the design process by consultant **A/E Teams**. This project will be managed by **Eric Nelson**.

Joe Cyphers is also working on **Sand Harbor's Diver's Cove Walkway and Erosion control project**. Design is expected to be complete by fall, with construction anticipated in spring.

The Washoe Valley Bike Path, Phase II design documents are near completion. They are being reviewed by Washoe County. **Ned Wallace** was the original project manager for this project. Since his departure, **Bob Beck** took over the project, with assistance from **Joe Cyphers**. **Bob** is currently making modifications to increase the distance from East Lake Boulevard in order to reduce the volume of excavation, drainage requirements and asphalt. The project should bid at or near mid-August. **Bob Beck** will be the construction manager for this project. This project was designed in a fairly short period of time. **Joe** and **Bob** did an exemplary job of picking up where **Ned** left off. The project is funded with \$175,000 Washoe County 1 Bonds, \$175,000.00 State Lands Q1 bonds, and \$140,000.00 of State Park Q1 bond money.

Funding Requests

We have applied for two CIP projects for the Valley of Fire Visitors Center. The projects go hand in hand with each other for a much needed replacement of the heating and cooling system and a new roof with mechanical screen. These parts of the building are in disrepair and have caused many issues with the water damage to the building. Additionally, SPWB has

applied for a statewide roofing program CIP, which will be key to re-roofing the Cathedral Gorge's Visitor Center. We are hopeful these projects will move forward to the Governor, then on to legislature for final approval and funding.

PLANNING*By Jenny Scanland*

I couldn't do anything without others. The word "team" has really come home to stay with me this past quarter when thinking about the budget and jobs and lack of grant money etc... so this leads to my non-traditional PEN submission:

THANKS to the parks who helped promote the 75 Mile Club. I have to admit, it is thrilling to see an idea explode into reality! Please call or email me or **Joy** for more information on it or go to the website; everything is on the website! Speaking of which, thanks go to **Alyce** and **Joy** for their hard work. **Alyce** is always there to help me update the website with my plethora of planning documents and **Joy** helps me tie my shoes (and many other critical things that help me function on a day to day basis!).

Thanks to **Kim Copeland**. For pete's sake, what would I do without my trusty grant finance right hand, light a fire under me, catch my mistakes person!

Thanks to **Valley of Fire, Jim Hammons** and **Russ Dapsauski** and crew! Valley of Fire's general management plan is complete, on the web and signed! What a great experience!

Thanks go to **Peter Maholland** for dragging me around the backcountry on a very important and crazy conversion problem with **Aina Trodden** from State Lands.

Thanks to the **D side** of P&D, for putting up with my light coffee recipe and being true partners in crime. Thanks to Steve Weaver for the AAA top priorities and keeping me on my toes...I mean trusting me to leap tall buildings in a single bounded ream of paper and my Photoshop program (he, he).

Thanks **Marc Lepire**, for not running with scissors past my cubicle. Thanks **Jen Dawson** for jumping with enthusiasm on old grant money and for letting me be a part of the new bike trail.

Thanks to **Eric Johnson** for the great bench for the 75th anniversary marketing effort....it raised \$\$\$\$ for a community garden for kids here in Carson. Fighting childhood obesity with education on nutrition and getting outside!!!!



LAKE TAHOE NV STATE PARK (LTNSP)

By Dale Conner

We've had a fun summer so far at LTNSP. The park organized, hosted and/or led quite a few events through July.

In June, **Dale Conner** helped lead a small, but enthusiastic, group of kayakers on a tour from Sand Harbor to the Thunderbird Lodge property, where we were also fortunate enough to get an abbreviated tour of the Lodge itself. Many thanks go to **Pat Fried** of **Great Basin Sports** for volunteering her time and efforts in being our guide. **Dale** and **Pat** will be leading another tour in September.



Todd Anderson and **Linda Bauder** hosted a booth at the Children's Environmental Science Day in July. They had a great time playing "Tree Bingo" with the kids and are already looking forward to next year's event. **Dale** and **Linda** have finished working on the Junior Ranger program! Junior Ranger t-shirts arrived this week and they look great. We're still waiting on booklets and hats from the printer and are excited about starting the program soon! **Linda** and **Dale** have also been trying to complete an interpretive exhibit that is going to be installed in the Sand Harbor Visitor Center.

Our background picture was not detailed enough, so we were able to get professional photographer, **Peter Spain**, to volunteer his time. **Bill Champion**, **Linda** and **Dale** took **Peter** on a hike to the Christopher's Loop area of the backcountry; where he was able take some great pictures looking down on Tahoe and Sand Harbor. Many thanks go to **Peter** for his efforts and high-quality photographs. → → →

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In mid July, **Dale** worked with the Lake Tahoe Shakespeare Festival to present an environmental program for kids and their parents. With about 35 people in attendance, **Dale**, Park Aid **Whitney Hoote**, and two Shakespeare employees performed an environmental version of Dr. Suess' Lorax on the Shakespeare stage. Afterwards, **Bill** and Park Tech, **JoAnn Kayo** led an interpretive walk around Sand Point.



Other events this summer include hosting the start of the Trans-Tahoe swim, where participants swim across Lake Tahoe from the shores of Sand Harbor. **Jay Howard** said this event went off without a hitch. **Todd** completed the Special Use Permit for the Thunderbird Run, in which we hosted a paddle board race from Sand Harbor to Thunderbird Lodge and back. Sand Harbor also holds a special event every night of the week in the form of the Lake Tahoe Shakespeare Festival performances. The festival runs seven nights a week and includes music shows every Monday and Friday.

There is an ongoing capacity study in progress at Sand Harbor. **Jay** put together a plan using contracted employees to interview our visitors and doing traffic counts on a daily basis. We are interested to see the results.

At the other end of the park, **Bill** led four wildflower walks, as well as, a full moon hike on the Flume Trail. **Jay** helped shuttle people to Marlette Lake, where they hiked across the Flume to Tunnel Creek. I heard from a participant that the hike was "just perfect!"



LAKE TAHOE NV STATE PARK (con't)

Bill also helped host the Tahoe Rim Trail Ultra Endurance runs at Spooner Lake and in the backcountry. In these races, participants *choose* to run 50 kilometers, 50 miles or 100 miles! Yet, out of 385 participants, only 50 dropped out and about 60 people finished the 100 mile portion!

We have several upcoming events as well:



- July 28 at Sand Harbor, we are hosting the Northwest Region Lifeguard Championships. By the time you read this, we hope our lifeguards will have represented us well with several first place finishes. Either way, we are proud of them, as they've had several legitimate "saves" this season and have done a great job keeping the beach safe.

- July 31 will be the Big Blue Adventure Race that runs through Sand Harbor and Spooner Lake/Backcountry. This fun event kayaking, biking and running.

- Later in August, we'll have the Xterra Ironman Race, which always draws top athletes and is held at Spooner Lake/Backcountry. It's a fun race to watch and the athletes are amazing.



- On August 17, the 13th Annual Lake Tahoe Summit will be at Sand Harbor. **Jay** is organizing the details of this event, which was last held here in 2006 and draws many "big" names from the political world. This year, **U.S. Senator Harry Reid** will be here and there is a rumor that President Obama may attend. We shall see.

A couple of new things: This year, we started selling beach supplies at the Visitor Center. Nevada State Parks Cooperative Association (NSPCA) sales have more than doubled as a result and public response has been positive. **Kerrin Nichols** and **Melody Champion** have been kept busy restocking the shelves! Our new restaurant at the park is the **CharPit Sand Harbor**. The Harbor House restaurant closed shop at the end of last year and the **CharPit** was selected as the new concession. They specialize in hamburgers and their popular "malt shop." So far, things have worked out well.

Of course, there's also still the normal stuff at the park, with June/July visitation exceeding 300,000 and fees for the same period equaling about \$400,000; both figures are for Sand Harbor alone. Kudos go to seasonal fee staff, led by Park Tech **Jennifer Byers**, for collecting all that money and answering the same questions 250,000 times. Our outstanding field staff, including **Ryan Bird** and **JoAnn Kayo**, worked extremely hard this year. Here's a good indication of the amount of bathroom cleaning they've done; Sand Harbor has gone through 3,300 rolls of toilet paper so far.

Joe Fontaine and **Mike Shipman** say hello to everyone. Our maintenance crew has been kept busy, doing everything from fixing sewer pumps at Spooner Lake to installing gates and

tire rippers at the Sand Harbor boat ramp, to making daily runs in the trash truck.

With everything going on, we have welcomed help from a few volunteers this year. Filling in the gaps this year has been **Michelle** and **Kaite Howard** and **Marina Conner**. We appreciate the work they have done covering fee booths and the main office, as well as, cleaning bathrooms! Hope everyone is having a safe summer.

NORTHERN REGION

BERLIN-ICHTHYOSAUR STATE PARK

By Jeff Morris

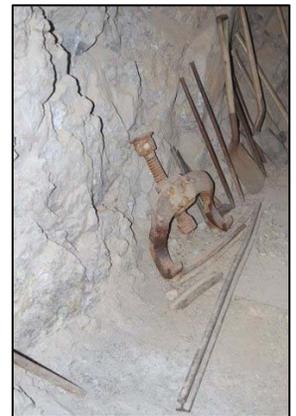
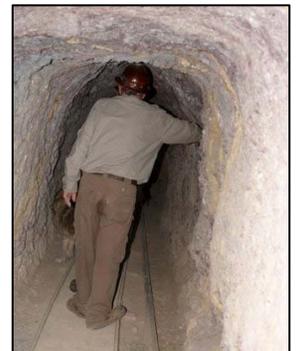
The big news from Berlin this summer is the re-opening of the Diana Mine for tours. The "Grand Re-Opening" took place on July 9 and was attended by several folks who made it all possible.

State Mine Inspector **Ben Viljoen**, who was instrumental in helping the park re-open the mine, led the first tour of the day. In attendance was **Hal Newman**,



who worked in the Diana back in the 40's and 50's. He shared many stories of his days in the mine and life in Berlin back in the day.

Since opening, 164 visitors have entered the mine. Inside they see several period items which include an ore cart, dynamite boxes, a stope and ore chute, a winze, timbering, and actual gold bearing quartz veins. Many historical hand tools, several of which were donated by **Mr. Viljoen**, and an air drill are also on display in the mine. This walk through solid rock gives visitors a true sense of what turn of the century mining was like in central Nevada.



Other good news was the donation made by the **Wilhelm Hoppe 1994 Living Trust**. Park staff was able to purchase a new laptop, power point software and projector for conducting interpretive events for various schools, civic organizations, and scout groups. We also ordered three new kiosks for the park. A special thank you goes out **John Martze** and **Dr. Reinhard Richter** of the foundation for their generous support in the past few years.

CAVE LAKE/WARD CHARCOAL OVENS STATE PARKS

By Steve Gray

I missed the last article; hence, I have a lot to say. Going back to January, we had a good Fire and Ice event. We ended up with about 4,300 people over the course of three days. We had 22 sculptures on the ice. Right after that event, we had the annual Ely Rotary Ice Fishing Derby. That generated about 1,200 people in one day. They start arriving at midnight to get their secret ice hole reserved, but by 6:00 p.m. everyone is gone. January is now a close tie for the third busiest month for visitation, and it is showing the highest county tax revenue increase, which is good for everyone.



I was able to hire **Allen Wooldrige** to be the Commissioned Park Ranger at Cave Lake. He graduated from University of Nevada Reno (UNR), and worked for Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW) for a couple years at different capacities. By the time this is published, he will be well in to the Police Officers Standards Training (POST) Academy. I wish him luck!



Allen came just in time for “Cocktails and Cannons.” This is a new event that really worked out great. It was combined with bath tub boat races, fireworks, sea food dinner, BBQ, and of course a full bar of

cocktails.

The dinner was FRESH salmon, clams, crab legs, mussels, shrimp, etc. The cost was \$35.00 per



ticket, and we were able to sell 180 dinner tickets. We received a grant for \$8,000 to build a swim dock/firework launcher. We were able to shoot fireworks off from the middle of the lake, and now everyone swims from it in the lake. It is built 100% out of aluminum. We were able to beat Cave Lake’s record for the number of vehicles. Our new record is 703 vehicles at one time. The old record was 612. Of course, we are going to apply for the top 100 events in North America from the American Bus Association. I hope to achieve the recognition again with a new event.

With **Allen** gone in POST, we are still a little short staffed. We are trying to keep up on projects, but it is tough trying to maintain the parks at the same time. Ward Charcoal Ovens has been a little slow. The new campground rumor still needs to be spread. I hope everyone has had a good summer.

DAYTON STATE PARK

By Russ and “Eddie”

Dayton is blessed with a hard working volunteer this season. **Russ Champion** is a seasoned volunteer. He previously worked as a Campground Host at Valley of Fire since 2004. **Russ** has been at Dayton since May of this year and is willing to work on any projects, well almost. He will not stir up the brown trout at the dump station, because he knows that is **Charlie Wells’** job-security job.

Russ served thirteen years (Korean War) in the military ending his career as a Sgt. First Class. When he retired from the military he was a Mess Sgt; he says he is now just a mess! **Russ** was discharged honorably at a fast trot out the door. He is a graduate of the University of Washington with a B.S. in Business. He has 35 years experience working with HVAC and commercial refrigeration. He is an avid photographer, golfer, and tennis player. He is also a backpacker and was the state coordinator for National Trails day in 1993. He is a world traveler with photographs taken from around the world.

The Dayton stump and limb crew has been busy cleaning up the park and making it fire safe this season. Many limbs have fallen, due to light winds and rain, and have been removed to the ever growing burn pile (burnt already four times this season). The crew also removed dead trees and sagebrush park wide allowing seniors and vets to harvest the wood. Weeds have been pulled, cut, mowed, weed-eaten, and sprayed throughout the season. We had Nevada Division of Forestry (NDF) assistance for two days thanks to funding from Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT) at the end of the fiscal year. They did a great job.

For the 75 anniversary we did a special Tread Lightly trainer course on July 17 with six graduates. Attendees included employees from State Parks, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), State of Nevada, and the private sector. The event was funded by a Recreational Trails federal grant.

We have had many return campers this season. One camper was a WWII vet and was a tail gunner on a B-17 (Flying Fortress).

The fee tube has been moved to encourage self payment of fees; a Dayton favorite. No snakes to date and all is well. A.K.A. “Eddie” is Allen Newberry.

FT. CHURCHILL STATE HISTORIC PARK

By Paul Schmidt

Summer greetings from Fort Churchill home of the \$2.00 UF-3. The month of May saw the usual flood of school groups. The kids have a blast when we fire the cannon. The educational field trips also include history talks, adobe brick making and touring the museum and fort ruins.

FT. CHURCHILL STATE HISTORIC PARK (con't)

The month of June saw a flood of a different kind as the Carson River overflowed into the low lying areas in the park. On Free Fishing Day, several mud encrusted would be anglers could be heard asking the mud encrusted park staff if there was a mud free place where they could get to the river to fish.

I would now like to take a moment to introduce and welcome aboard our new camp hosts, **Curtis** and **Mary Lou**. They are both doing a great job and they love residing in the park. In addition to her regular duties, **Mary Lou** also wants to volunteer at Buckland Station.

On Friday, July 16, at about 3 p.m., **Curtis**, who had just left for town, came zooming back into the park. He promptly notified **Robert Groberg**, our second year seasonal who was literally holding down the fort by himself, that there was a fire near Buckland Station behind the Mergell residence. **Curtis**

dialled 911 while **Robert** responded to fight the fire. A lightning strike exploded a cottonwood tree, which ignited other trees, dry grass and a nearby corral with a horse in it. State park employees from Lahontan and region maintenance battled the blaze for about 45 minutes before fire units from the NDF, BLM and Lyon County Fire showed up.

Shortly thereafter, when **Eric Johnson** arrived on scene, the fire knew it didn't stand a chance and it promptly went out. Thanks to everyone who helped extinguish the blaze.



The long, cold and wet winter turned into a long hot dry summer, the perfect combination for growing weeds. Chemical warfare continues to be waged. We went around spraying a variety of herbicides on different types of weeds only to have their cousins spout up a month later.

It's been an enjoyable summer with a great crew. Sincere thanks go to **Howard** and **Robert**, volunteers, **LaDonna** and **Jeanine** and **Tony** and **Cole** (the weed abatement crew) for all of their hard work.

SOUTH FORK STATE RECREATION AREA

By Jim Wilkinson

Having undergone knee surgery and being penned up in my residence for the past three weeks, it's really good to be back at work. I am now a prisoner of my office, but at least I am in the park.

I want to specifically thank **Nick Brunson** and **Jeff McKovich** with the rest of South Fork's staff for doing an outstanding job the past four weeks. Your hard work is sincerely appreciated.

We are hoping for the best with the planning and implementation of a South Fork Meadow Rehabilitation Proposal. This project was proposed and is being spearheaded by **Ryan Shane**, who is the Resource Management Officer for

the Elko Office of the Nevada Division of Forestry. We truly appreciate what Mr. Shane is trying to do. Total project cost is expected to be over \$162,000. This desperately needed project will rehabilitate the South Meadow section of South Fork. This area, which is above the inlet to South Fork Reservoir, is probably 90% noxious weed cover and is over 300 acres in size. The scope of the project is to start weed control, rehabilitate the meadows, and stabilize sections of South Fork that are eroding. An on-site tour was completed on July 15 with numerous staff from State agencies and private individuals, including the original landowner of the South Fork, **Mr. E. Tomera**. Our first priority is removing dead weed cover. So if anyone has access to approximately 500+ goats, we could really use them to get this project started.

Our other top priority for the rest of this year is to finally complete the South Meadow Trail Extension Project. This project will go hand in hand with the South Meadow Rehabilitation Project. Type II road base will be installed along the entire length and a new parking area is being installed.

I wanted to give a big thanks to the seasonal staff, **Jackie Gooch**, **Jane Reinhardt**, **Brandon Barnum** and **Bryce Johnson**. Continually doing routine custodial services everyday and maintaining a positive attitude is difficult. Your hard work and efforts are appreciated.

In closing, I am constantly reminded of the phrase that "Tough times never last, but tough people do." We hope the rest of your summer is safe.

WASHOE LAKE STATE PARK

By Matt Scherer & Teresa Heenan

We have been very busy organizing activities for our community. To start off this season, we hosted an Easter egg hunt in coordination with the **Pleasant Valley Volunteer Fire Department**. Fighting the cold, the Easter Bunny still made his grand entrance via helicopter to start off the festivities for all of the kids. There was a great turnout and everyone enjoyed their Easter thanks to the good organization of the volunteer and staff.



Over Memorial Day weekend, there were great numbers that took advantage of the beautiful Washoe Lake campgrounds. The Midnight Madness softball tournament brought in many teams, which stayed at our park. They were thankful for the low cost and convenience of continuous re-entry due to the scheduling of their games.

In June, we began to see nicer weather and more visitors started coming to the park. Also in June, a reporter from the Reno Gazette Journal stayed at the campgrounds and proceeded to write a very nice and informative article on the park. The article showcased our trails and our beautiful scenery.

WASHOE LAKE STATE PARK (con't)

Summer programs began with our Wildflower Walk, which can't be beat. It was held twice, involving a hike to Deadman's Creek and the Dunes. Botanist, **Ann Pinzl**, led an informative and intriguing program with aid from our parks own **Terri Ozawa**. **Terri** can tell you everything about micro-water bugs to the tallest trees and everything in between.

Next an Introduction to Global Positioning System (GPS) seminar was held. **Steve Silva** gave a very informative presentation to our visitors. After the presentation, visitors were sent out to search for three caches throughout the park with their newly attained knowledge.

Our "Hanging in the Wind" program featured a local hang gliding instructor who taught the ins and outs this popular Washoe Lake activity. Beginning at Duck Hill and ending at the landing area near the front entrance of the park, students learned the ropes of proper hang gliding etiquette. The landing area is also widely used for remote control planes, and on the right day you might see an octopus and this floppy eared friend flying through the air.

Being known for our numerous species of birds, it was only proper that we held a "Build a Backyard Bird Feeder" program. **Donna Silva, Terri Ozawa** and **Teresa Heenan** hosted this program. Bird feeders were built out of recycled plastic bottles, all different sizes and shapes. Both young and old could enjoy themselves, each decorating their own special bird feeder. Out of state visitors gave us good feedback and everyone had a great souvenir to take home.



Nearly 50 people showed up at Little Washoe for our "Kids Carp Fishing Derby" with 15-20 fish caught. **Jennifer Dawson's** hard work paid off by getting local vendors such as **Cabela's** and **K-Mart** to donate prizes for the derby. With help from



the Department of Wildlife (NDOW) and park staff **Drew Alvarez, Kyle Wiltowsky** and **Matt Scherer**, it made or a great and successful day at the lake.

Aside from our summer programs, there has been a lot of activity at our equestrian area, from hosting endurance rides to every day trail riding and many other groups. ADA construction will also take place shortly, replacing ramps and bathrooms for the use of our handicapped visitors.

To close out the summer season, we will be hosting a "Starlight, Star Bright" star gazing program, "Discover Geocaching" program and last of all a "Beginning Dutch Oven" cooking program for all to enjoy. From us here at Washoe Lake State Park, have a great rest of the summer!

WILD HORSE STATE RECREATION AREA

By Andrew Bass

With a couple inches of snow on Memorial Day weekend and freezing temperatures on July 4, it is clear that global warming has run rampant. Many of the trees were even leafed out by mid June. So far we actually hit 90 degrees one day this summer. I was laughing when I saw one of my seasonals running around in a winter coat and stocking cap in July, but then I went home and got a jacket for myself. It's all good. The wild flowers have been beautiful, the lake has been clearer than I've ever seen it, fishing has been good, and the visitors are still coming up.

Even if there is a significant shortage of funding, I always try to do some kind of improvement the visitors can see. The staff here has been able to put a little extra effort into the beach. We disked the sand, removed weeds, and brought in some tables. It didn't take long for this to become a prime attraction. The historical farm equipment at Wild Horse isn't just for display. Also, thank you South Fork for letting me use the tractor.



SOUTHERN REGION

BEAVER DAM AND CATHEDRAL GORGE STATE PARKS

By Dawn Andone

The coming of spring and summer brings new visitors to the park...as evidenced by this duo catching some downtime in the shade...and marks the welcoming back of our veteran-seasonals. Welcome back **Derek Lloyd, Nevin May, and Marcia Wadsworth!**



At Cathedral Gorge, the Spring-Summer season swung into full-gear with our Easter Event in April. Our first event of the season saw attendance of over 75 people from the area and as far away as Michigan. Kids and adults alike learned the difference between rabbits and hares and why the Easter Bunny leaves eggs for kids to find. Then kids were let loose find the eggs our park bunnies left just for them. Special thanks go to the **Kuehl Family** of Sparks, Nevada who donated the plastic eggs, candy, stickers, and tattoos for the event.



The month of May was a whirlwind culminating in the busy Memorial Day weekend. The weekend started out with the annual parade in Caliente. Everyone was in

the spirit of the day as staff members and their families were on-hand to show the public just how fun visiting State Parks can be. After all, look how much fun **Nevin** is having!

Later that day, we experienced fly-fisher extraordinaire, seasonal **Derek Lloyd**, showing a group of 25 what fly-fishing was all about. The wildly-popular event provided visitors the opportunity to use their new found skills with hands-on instruction from **Derek**. Though everyone attending was a beginner, one young boy showed such natural skill that he mesmerized everyone in the crowd, then with just a little coaching from **Derek**, he cast a perfect line.



The first large annual event since the draining of Schroeder Reservoir, and subsequent decommissioning of the dam, is taking place at Beaver Dam this month. Thanks to the successful lobbying of Ranger **Shaylen Budreau**, the Nevada Trappers Association is holding their 24th Annual Rendezvous at Beaver Dam. **Shaylen, Derek, Jim Cole**, maintenance, and

Park Supervisor **Cody Tingey** have all been working long days installing horseshoe pits, clearing trails, cutting and splitting wood in preparation. Featured event activities include: shooting, trap setting, lure contests, and a potluck and raffle.

Star light, star bright...many stars were seen in the May night sky during the **Las Vegas Astronomical Society's (LVAS)** Spring Fling. Clear nights and warmer weather brought visitors from Vegas, Utah, and as far away as Oregon. Visitors were rewarded with an awesome view of Saturn's rings; the highlight of the weekend.

Fourth of July weekend was quieter than expected, especially since the weather was beautiful. **Tom DeVuono**, from Caliente, shared his flint knapping talent with visitors at Cathedral Gorge. The audience was enthralled with his stories of Native Americans and their hunting and survival skills as much as they were awed by his skill in making arrowheads.



Tom DeVuono wowing his audience



A number of events may be behind us, but we have an even busier autumn season awaiting us! Coming to a park near you (Cathedral Gorge)...county fairs, Labor Day events, the LVAS Fall Star Party September 10 and 11; the Annual Dutch Oven Cook-off September 18 are all on the calendar.

KERSHAW-RYAN STATE PARK STATE PARK

There was a new addition to State Parks' family on July 2 at 3:47 a.m. The **Elmer** family welcomed their new baby boy, **Bridger Kenneth Joseph Elmer**, weighing in at 9 lbs., 11 oz. and 21 inches long.



OLD LAS VEGAS MORMON FT. STATE HISROTIC PARK

By Park Staff

The Old Fort has had a great spring season. We were slammed with school groups and tours. We had some fun and exciting interpretive programs such as Gardening 101; where children planted seeds into our garden. We also had a group for an after-hours event with a tour, candle making, and lots of fun. June was our busiest month yet. We fell just shy of doubling our entrance fees and our NSPCA sales from June of last year!! This was mainly due to having a school group nearly every day of the month we were open and due to our Settlement Day Breakfast event.

OLD LAS VEGAS MORMON FT. STATE HISTORIC PARK (con't)



The Settlement Day Breakfast took place on June 12 and celebrated the day the Pioneers arrived in Las Vegas. **Friends of the Fort** provided all the food (pancakes, eggs, bacon, milk, and water) that was cook via Dutch Ovens. The Old Fort had over 850 people walk into the park that day!!! We were expecting about 350 people, so we were not only surprised, but also very pleased with the great turnout.

We are looking forward to a good summer and fall season with the interpretive schedule. We have our version of the State Park's 75th Anniversary Celebration taking place on Saturday, September 11 with our Pioneer Living Experience event. We hope we can draw an even bigger crowd than we did for the Settlement Day Breakfast. We will be having lots of guest speakers, soldiers portraying the Civil War era, and fun learning opportunities for kids of all ages this summer and fall. We now have a page up on Facebook, so look us up and become a friend of Old Las Vegas Mormon Fort State Historic Park.



In closing, I would like to thank everyone who helped in preparing the float for the Helldorado Parade and a marching unit. I would also like to thank everyone who participated in the parade. The parade was a big success and the float looked incredible. Have a great summer and STAY COOL!!!!



VALLEY OF FIRE STATE PARK

By Amber Heman

With summer heat rising and few tourist, it is nice to have time to work on paperwork and planning. We are hitting the trail during the hottest part of the day to make sure people

have water; it still surprises me how many we find. In total we have handed out over 100 bottles in a month and a half to people who are very pleased. Another thing that comes with the dry heat is the battle with the bees searching for water. So far they are the winners and we are the losers. In other news, **Gaetano Corrado** will be filling our law enforcement position.

We all make mistakes, and sometimes they are funny for everyone else, so we thought we would make a list of these events.



The Top Ten Misadventures of Ranger D. E. Saster:

- 1) Created a sunroof by pulling trigger of shotgun while in shotgun rack.
- 2) Forgot to set the parking brake on truck. It would've rolled down a steep hill if not for an old garage door that was never thrown away.
- 3) Back up truck into same pole twice. Second time there is more damage.
- 4) Got stuck in a ditch, while getting pulled out, accelerated and drove into another ditch.
- 5) While backing up truck, hit Porsche, but passenger thinks they hit something. Truck driver checked mirrors, did not see anything and proceeds to back up and hit the Porsche a second time.
- 6) Truck parked on top of known water leak falls through asphalt.
- 7) Just finished counting and consolidating all monies for a deposit. Hit the money bin and proceed to dump all the cash on the floor.
- 8) Decide to try and break log in half by having one staff member stand on one side, a concrete parking bollard under the middle of log and another employee jumps on other side. Both staff members end up flat on the ground.
- 9) Drive all the way to the bank to place night drop and forget night drop key.
- 10) Get report that campground fee tube is jammed. Empties the tube and feed envelope one at a time, tube jams, empty tube again, feed envelopes in one at a time again, jams again, repeated this process three times before it does not jam.





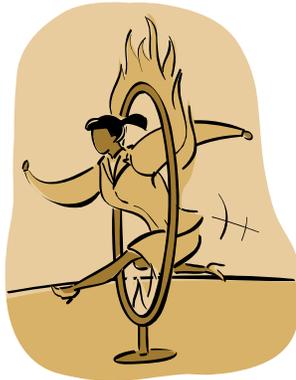
#4162
Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
Nevada Division of State Parks
901 S. Stewart St., Ste. 5005
Carson City, NV 89701-5248

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PERSONNEL

By Anke Simpson

Hiring seasonal employees throughout the season has definitely been more difficult this summer. Each vacant seasonal position has to be approved individually before it can be filled. Each justification to fill request has to go through the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) director's office, State Personnel, our budget analyst at the Budget Office, the Lead Analyst at the Budget Office and the Governor's Office. Despite all that, we have been able to fill most of our seasonal positions. Among our permanent employees there have not been many changes this quarter.



New Permanent Employees:

Nicholas Brunson came to us on 4/12/10 from the Division of Forestry and took a promotion to the Commissioned Park Ranger I position at South Fork. **Allen Wooldridge** transferred to State Parks from the Department of Wildlife on 8/18/10 and promoted to the Commissioned Park Ranger I position at Ward Charcoal Ovens.



Promotions:

Tony Beauregard accepted a promotion from his Commissioned Park Ranger III position to the Commissioned Park Supervisor III position at Lahontan on 5/24/10. **Bob Mergell** promoted from his Commissioned Park Ranger II position to the Commissioned Park Ranger III position at Lahontan on 7/26/10.



Good-Byes:

Marco Negovschi left his Commissioned Park Ranger I position at Valley of Fire on 4/18/10. **Ned Wallace** resigned from his Professional Engineer's position at the division office on 5/7/10 to take an Engineer's position at the National Mall in Washington DC with the National Parks Service.

