

# PEN

# PARK EMPLOYEE NEWSLETTER



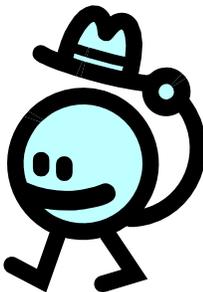
## ADMINISTRATOR'S CORNER

*By David Morrow*

It's hard to believe Labor Day is just around the corner, which signals the end of a busy summer season for many parks and the beginning for parks like Valley of Fire. I received a number of very nice letters from appreciative park visitors, who took the time to recognize their positive experience. I'm always impressed by what staff has done to make a visitor's stay more enjoyable. I'm impressed by how many compliments we receive, especially when budgets have been so drastically reduced. There were some pretty heartwarming stories, from our efforts to make a family reunion the enjoyable event it should be at Mormon Station to Valley of Fire's teamwork to find lost hikers in 100+ degree weather.

I know how hard all have worked and I'm proud to be associated with such a dedicated group of employees. What always stands out to me is the selfless dedication common in Nevada State Park employees. Sometimes I feel as though the dedication and willingness to do what it takes to keep parks clean, friendly and safe is a bit of a curse, because no matter how much is cut from our budget; we still find ways to get the job done. But knowing the pride everyone has in their job, there's really no other way it could go. Unless someone is very familiar with State Parks, they don't realize all that goes into operating and maintaining a park, developing a trail program, managing a construction project, ensuring the bills are paid and properly accounted for and all the personnel matters are properly handled. I don't know how much sleep **Bob Mergell** has gotten this summer, but from all the call-outs I have seen, I'm sure it's not enough. How do you go home at the end of a shift that involved responding to the drowning of a young child or the fatal crash of a cyclist or spending the entire day tracking down accounting error or calming down an angry caller?

My hats off, to everyone who works for State Parks and all your hard work and dedication. If I receive 25 complimentary letters, I know there are 20 or 30 times that many people who had the same experience, but didn't take the time to write a letter. Hang in there, for most of you there is a light at the end of the tunnel, except Valley of Fire. For the Valley crew, the light is still not visible.



## DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR

*By Eric Johnson*

Haven't written a PEN article in a while, thought it was time. Northern region has had an excellent year so far with full reservoirs and higher than normal visitation in most locations. This additional revenue has come at a price with more incidents/call-outs and more strain on employees and systems. When you think about each park being essentially a small, self-contained town with all the associated issues, it's amazing what we are all able to handle.

As most of you are aware, the N. Region is looking for a new manager. For anyone thinking about applying, there are a few things I've learned:

- It's a good job.
- You make decisions based on information, not opinion.
- People do weird stuff.
- Listen to all sides of the argument.
- Deal with problems while they are still small.
- Try to understand your customer's expectations.
- The main function is to make sure everyone has what they need to provide recreation in a safe, functional park.
- The natural resources in a park can't speak for themselves, we have to do that.
- Acknowledge and appreciate those that know more about a topic than you do.
- It would be difficult to find a better group of people to work with. Park folks are generally independent, think outside the box, function with the visitor in mind and are OK with that fuzzy line between work and life. This applies to the supervisor out in the middle of the night looking for an overdue party. The interpreter, giving the fifth program that week and doing it with the same enthusiasm as the first. The repair specialist, working in the mud and wind to get a system online before the weekend. The ranger, trying to explain to "extra happy" campers that it is 3 a.m. and it's time to call it a night. The accountant, still at work well after shift to ensure the parks have accurate budget recaps. The seasonal in the fee booth listening to the 50 person tell them why they didn't pay on the way in. The seasonal in the field, fighting burnout in late July as they clean up another restroom with yet another mess on the floor.



The new job in Carson is going to be an adjustment for me. I'm having trouble admitting that I report to work in an office building and identify myself with the 19 year old kid picking up dead carp and digging countless outhouse holes – doesn't seem like it was that long ago.....I'll do my best.

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT (P&D)*By Mark Davis*

In the Spring PEN, we discussed the departure of **Steve Weaver**. He is undoubtedly one of the most significant retirement losses P&D has experienced. Steve had a significant impact on our parks statewide. His tireless dedication was not lost even upon his retirement when he performed one last "Number 1 Top Priority" before leaving. He designed one last set of timber stairs for Lake Tahoe Nevada State Park. After he "left" us, he even went up to assist in their construction by setting control points, laying them out, and getting the crew started.



In this PEN, please note the excellent teamwork between the northern region, southern region, Lake Tahoe and P&D staff. Working together during this quarter was a true pleasure. We hope to continue this cooperative relationship and teamwork that is developing.

I have been visiting the parks to familiarize myself with our parks, their needs, park and regional staff and the park visitors. This has been a great experience for me. I hope to continue this process so P&D can attend to the needs of our parks, park staff and visitors. I believe we should work as a team to resolve emergencies, develop and construct projects and help resolve maintenance issues. P&D staff and I are here to ensure these needs are met. Please don't hesitate to let regional management staff and I know about any emergencies, concerns and assistance you may need. We are here to help! We will drop what we can and do everything we can to help park staff resolve problems.

Projects Recently Completed

**Flood Mitigation project at the Big Bend of the Colorado:** In the last PEN, we wrote of a flash flood at Big Bend. With 100% funding assistance from Risk Management (and a meager \$1,500.00 deductible payout), P&D in cooperation with **Russ Dapsauski** and **Kelly Kolhoss**, were able to get an emergency contract underway to repair the damage. **Cruz Construction** stepped up to the plate and executed the work in a timely manner. This too was a great team work project. **Russ Dapsauski**, **Kelly Kolhoss** and **Dion George** managed the construction. From the execution of the contract, the project was completed in approximately one week. The portion of the park that was damaged is now restored to its original condition.

The **Ranger Residence, Storage, Photovoltaic Off-Grid Power System and Site Improvements at Berlin Ichthyosaur** was completed with the assistance from park staff and northern region's maintenance staff, resolving minor code issues. The project provides solar power to many of the structures, a much needed ranger residence and resolved some

site drainage and erosion issues. This was a 100% Question1 (Q1) Bond funded project.

**Valley of Fire Visitors Center Remodel:** Upon completion of this project, State Public Works Board (SPWB) required some additional modifications to the Visitor Center before receiving a Certificate of Occupancy and closing out the project. We found some materials in an abandoned state building that could be repurposed and correct the issues and with assistance from park staff and cooperation from State Buildings and Grounds, we were able to resolve the issues. The project is pending receipt of some last minute SPWB required signage. Upon receipt of those signs and installation by park staff, the project will be able to receive a Certificate of Occupancy and will be complete.

**Marc Lepire** and **Dion George** have been managing the project. Visitors of the park have already been able to enjoy the improvements. We hope park staff and visitors will be able to enjoy the improvements for years to come. This was a 100% State Parks Q1 funded project.

**New Van-Sickle Bi-State Park:** This project was managed by **Mark Davis**. It was a 100% Environmental Improvement Program (EIP) Bond funded project and got quickly underway as soon as the weather allowed. At the end of the project, we ran into a lack of fire flow and pressure. It did not meet the requirements of the two fire districts and prevented us from being able to complete and open the park. The fire flow problems were quickly resolved. However, we still had inadequate pressure for the temporary irrigation installed under the contract. Lake Tahoe and the northern region staff banded together with their resources and staff to replace the irrigation system with a low pressure drip irrigation system that works well. Maintenance staff from the both of them should be commended for their efforts and talents; it was a great cooperative effort. We were able to open Van Sickle Bi-State Park on July 22, 2011. It is a beautiful walk-in and equestrian park.

Projects Under Construction

**New Well and Solar Powered pump at the Beaver Dam:** Bids were opened and a contract is being processed the project will soon be underway! This will provide a much needed resource at Beaver Dam. It will replace our old spring collection system that has periodic contamination problems. **Joe Cyphers** is in charge of design and construction management. It is funded by a \$55k federal Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) grant that is matched with a like amount of Q1 funds.

**Two Cabins at the Rye Park:** Bids were opened and a contract is being executed. This project is a 100% Q1 Bond funded project. The project should be underway soon. This project is also a partnership project between P&D and northern region staff. The contractor will pre-manufacture cabins, assist region staff in placing and tying down the cabins and pour the concrete necessary to meet Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards. Region staff will prepare the sites, connect power, install heater units, and complete the sealing and finishes for the cabins.

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT (Con't)

**Marc Lepire** and **Dion George** worked together on the design of the cabins. **Marc** completed and advertised the contract documents and will be the construction manager for this project, with some assistance from **Dion** when necessary. We anticipate this project will be constructed very quickly. We expect great cooperation between region and P&D staff. This project should be complete before the first snow flies! The project is 100% funded by Q1 bond with an estimated \$45,000 cost.



**Washoe Lake Bike Path:** P&D ran into some unforeseen right of way issues that required re-alignment and re-design of the bike path. This caused some delay of the project. However, we are glad to say project design is complete and bids will be opened this month. We expect to begin construction in September. This contract will be a fast track project, dependent on inclement weather. **Bob Beck** has been doing the design work, with oversight by **Joe Cyphers**. **Bob Beck** will be the construction manager for this project. This project is funded by \$140,000 State Parks Q1 bonds, \$175,000 State Lands Q1 Bonds & and \$175,000 Washoe County 1 Bonds.

Design Projects

**New Echo Canyon Campground:** This project is funded with \$150,000 in Q1 bond and \$1,200,000 Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act (SNPLMA) grant money. The design is underway. **Eric Nelson**, **Joe Cyphers** and **Marc Lepire** will be the designers of the project. We hope to bid this project in late spring to early summer of 2012.

**Lake Tahoe, Cave Rock Boat Launch Area Improvements:** This has been delayed due to the uncertainty of funding streams. However, it appears we are closer to our cash match, funded through EIP, Lake Tahoe License Plate Funds and Q1. These funds and in kind match from staff work will achieve 25% of the total project cost as a match to the 75% of Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW) funding. 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 three shade ramadas with barbeque grilles and picnic benches; improve accessibility at restroom; and the main day use facilities area.

**Lake Tahoe, Sand Harbor Capacity Study:** The capacity study is well underway and expected to be complete by late August to early September.

**Lake Tahoe, Sand Harbor Divers Cove Walkway, Erosion Control and Picnic Area Sidewalk projects:** **Joe Cyphers** has been working with **Peter Maholland** on all of these projects and all are being funded through EIP and Lake Tahoe License Plate funds.



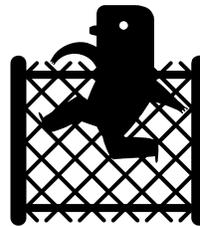
**Washoe Lake Campground Improvements:** This project will be funded with 50% Q1 bond and 50% LWCF for an estimated cost of \$386,654. **Eric Nelson**, **Marc Lepire** and **Joe Cyphers** will be working on the design. **Bob Beck** will be the Construction Manager. The design is underway, but progress has been temporarily set back, due to funding on other projects requiring their advancement.

New Projects

**Lake Tahoe General Management Plan:** This project has been funded with EIP funds and is moving forward. A consultant has been hired to perform the General Management Plan for all of the management units in the basin. The results of the Sand Harbor Capacity Study will also be included. **Peter Maholland** and **Jay Howard** are managing this project.

**Valley of Fire Roof, Mechanical and Mechanical Screen Replacement:** This project was funded by \$261,458 SPWB Capital Improvement general obligation bonds and \$121,071 Q1 for a total of \$382,529. This project will replace the leaking roof, aged vision screen (which blocks the view of the roof mounted mechanical equipment) and the Heating, Vent and Air Conditioning (HVAC) equipment for the building. **Mark Davis** will be managing this project and first planning meeting will be this month.

**Valley of Fire East Contact Station:** A new Contact Station will be added at the east entrance to the park. It will be solar powered and self sufficient. This project will be funded with 50% Q1 bond and 50% LWCF funds. **Dion George** will be managing this project with the assistance of **Joe Cyphers**.



**Tule Springs Fence:** This new fence will protect the property from construction dumping and protect paleontological finds within the property from being damaged by vehicular access. It is funded with \$1,000 Q1 Bonds and \$64,000 Pine Creek Funds. **Dion George** is managing this project.

Emergency Projects.

**Spring Mountain Ranch Flood Damage Mitigation:** The park just received flash flood damage and we are seeking funding from Risk Management with a \$1,500 deductible to be paid by the park. This project has not yet been approved by Risk Management.

PLANNING/RECTRAILS (RTP)*By Jenny Scanland*

A lot of folks seem confused as to the changes in the “planning shop” over the past year. I am still here, there is no RecTrails person. I am doing both of the main federal funding programs, as well as, the normal parks and recreation/planning duties. I am searching far and wide for any pots of grant monies I can find and working closely with **Dave Morrow** and development folks to get things done.

State Parks; Beyond Our Boundaries

This is my new mantra for the next biennium! It’s important to remember that while we have boundaries for each state park, the ‘opportunity boundary’ for recreation goes beyond our parks. I am working with the **American Discovery Trail** (ADT) Coordinator **Ted Oxborrow**, in Nevada. We want to begin the exciting and difficult task of developing a community of folks across Nevada along the American Discovery Route to support outdoor enthusiasts from around the world to come to Nevada and visit this trail. The trail is not federally designated yet, but other states such as California, Delaware, Missouri and others, have surged forward with their sections and marketed their sections of this “Destination Trail.” This effort is not an easy one, but it is happening and will take years to accomplish. It also takes unending support and enthusiasm to complete. The Washington DC component of the ADT stated Nevada was the first state to map their trail using Geographic Information System (GIS) and have a direct partnership with ADT in their state!

Nevada’s Route: The trail crosses Nevada east to west and travels through six of our state parks. That equals visitors! Our role in this endeavor is to use our existing parks as keystones, safe havens, trail hubs (just to name a few of the labels used at meetings). I am working with the Nevada’s ADT coordinators and a few outfitters and small towns, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and U.S. Forest Service (USFS), to begin marketing the route and our parks this year with events to spark interest across the nation and beyond. The ADT folks have met face to face with private landowners and small towns across the trail/route, to build support and it is happening. Private ranches and small towns like **RO Ranch**, **Carvers**, **Eureka**, and **Baker** are jumping in to be a part. They understand the economic opportunities in making the route and portions of the route ‘doable.’ The six state parks on the route are Lake Tahoe Nevada (backcountry), Washoe Lake, Ft. Churchill, Berlin-Ichthyosaur, Ward Charcoal Ovens and Cave Lake. There will be more and more folks trickling through, and using our parks as safe havens and informational hubs for the trail/route is the key.

I will be designing online and paper brochures on sections of Nevada’s+ ADT that folks can download and use to travel from one park to another for our marketing and informational purposes. Much of the marketing will be through the National ADT and Mt. Bike Nevada and other businesses and towns. Vehicles of choice include jeeps, horseback, mountain bike, motorcycle and your feet. There are alternate routes already GPS’d (Global Positioning System) for motorized folks. The Mt. Bike Nevada Tour in September will be using that route for the first time with organized partners, BLM, USFS and the

Nevada Chapter of the ADT. Wilderness routes have some additional mapping work to be done and should be completed by the end of this year due to “reality checks” during **Brian Starks** ultra-run just completed at the end of July. We are hoping to get the maps online as ‘recommended routes’ by January of 2012. Building the “trail community” across Nevada will be a longer task, but is in the works.

**Brian Stark**, renowned ultra runner, just finished his 500 mile run across Nevada July 24. His record was 11 days, 7 hours, 28 minutes, 490 miles, a total of 34,000 feet altitude gain, 15 mountain ranges, two snakes, and 80 elk. ADT is putting challenge ads in multiple running magazines, blogs and other social media such as the Outdoor and Running magazine for others to try and beat his record. All of our six parks, the small towns of Baker and Carvers and private ranches met Brian with open arms and even cake! They were thrilled and the fever is running high!

August 10, **Trevor Oxborrow** of Nevada Trail Expeditions is being supported by ADT, Parks and **Trigon Mt. Bike Company**, on a record setting race across Nevada and our state parks. Again to set records that will be a challenge for others to complete!

The Backcountry Horsemen are completing two sections of the ADT the weekends of September 3 and 10. They will enter Tahoe’s backcountry on Sunday September 24. The other section is the **Arc Dome Wilderness** over the Toiyabes and doesn’t include a state park. Pass the word for all these events so folks will come out and watch. More will be found on the websites/Facebook and blogs for folks to keep track later.

**MOUNTAIN BIKE NEVADA!** From Sept 10 through the 18 or 19, 20 mountain bikers will be traveling in one group all the way across the state on the ADT through all six state parks. This event is co-sponsored by State Parks and I will be on the support team hauling extra bikes and bikers that drop...literally. This is a highly extreme trip with full support for camping at Ft. Churchill, Berlin-Ichthyosaur and Cave Lake state parks and riding directly through the other parks. This is a chance to get great photos and to give them our best. Work travels fast and these folks are extreme ultra mountain bikers from Nevada, California and other parts of the globe. They are paying to go on this trip (vacation through the outfitter). We need to put on our best behaviors and get the word out State Parks are awesome! We will be using traditional media and all social media outlets possible to get the word out on this extreme ride. There are several bike companies supporting and sponsoring, so media will be expanded well past state parks. Another great aspect is that this race is raising money for Nevada Schools through the Nevada Public Education Foundation! Positions are still open for riders at [www.mtbikenevada.com](http://www.mtbikenevada.com). So pass on the word! A chef is cooking every night! Our own **Steve Gray** ‘was’ on the riders list, but has broken this thumb which is now held together “bionically” with metal screws and had to drop from the race. We are much bummed for **Steve**; he was doing this as a personal goal. We are holding his position open just in case. Kudos’s to **Steve** for getting his buddies to sign up and go on the trip!

**PLANNING/RECTRAILS (RTP) (con't)****Park To Park Pedal – Extreme Nevada!!!**

A short story: About a year ago, a fella with the last name of **Simpson** (no not Bart) dropped a hand drawn map of a “really great century ride” he and his wife **Anke**, (yes our own Anke) thought would be a really cool ride. It was scribbled on a crumpled piece of paper and had dots showing Echo Canyon, Kershaw Ryan, Spring Valley and Cathedral Gorge state parks on it. I thought, okay, I’ll fax it down south and lo and behold, those folks already had this idea in their heads and they are making it happen on Saturday, October 8, 2011! My phone and email is full of questions since I posted this on bike magazine and clubs on Facebook. Ha! I wish them a full house! Send folks to [www.lincolncountynevada.com/Lincoln-County-Nevada-Pedal.html](http://www.lincolncountynevada.com/Lincoln-County-Nevada-Pedal.html) or just have them call the parks

for more information. Really awesome bike shirts will be available for purchase and I am definitely getting one since I can’t be there. BIG KUDOS’S to those parks! What a public and private partnership success! I’ll be there next year!



For 2012, a group ultra-run is already in the works across the ADT. I will keep everyone informed and get all information on the Internet and to the parks as I get it.

**Park’s Programs: (federal money)**

Some incredible things are happening this year. We are finishing up trail grants that were huge successes in six parks: Echo Canyon, Spring Valley, Valley of Fire, Ward Charcoal Ovens, Washoe Lake and Rye Patch. These 2008 grants are now almost finished. Kudos’s for the folks who worked with the crews and did double time to get the tremendous work load completed at the parks, as well as, the extra work to upgrade those facilities! Also kudos’s to Washoe Lake for completing the newest and greatest equestrian facility! Check it out if you are in the area!

Now for the bad news: The Recreational Trails Program and Land and Water Conservation Funds are both in critical jeopardy in Washington. It is likely that both programs may be allocating zero dollars for a few years to come after this final round. There are a few grants funded for State Parks this year, including cabins at Berlin Ichthyosaur and Wild horse, east entrance fee booth at Valley of Fire, and a comfort station with solar and other upgrades at Cave Lake. RecTrails will probably not be reauthorized and this is the very sad end of a great era of funding for trails nationwide. I will keep folks up to date if there are any changes.

**Planning**

The General Management planning process is kicking off for Lake Tahoe Nevada State Park. This is a large and diverse planning process funded by the Environmental Improvement Program (EIP). **Peter Maholland** and **Jay Howard** are leading the charge and a consultant has been hired. The process has already begun, so keep your eyes on our website for news.

**NEW DIVISION EMPLOYEE** *By Alyce Cloutier*

Welcome to **Shirley DeCrona**, the newest employee to the division office in Carson City. Shirley replaced **Linda Mulkey** as our Contracts Manager. Shirley has 16 years with the State of Nevada.



Shirley came to State Parks from Bureau of Corrective Actions, Division of Environmental Protection, as a Management Analyst II and prior to that she worked for the Division of Forestry for over four years as a Management Analyst I.

As the Contract Manager for State Parks, she writes and processes contracts and permits.

She will work with field staff and assist them with their contracts, permits and leases. She also will be working with concessions and long-term agreements. She is looking forward to mastering our many and diverse contracts.

**LAKE TAHOE NV STATE PARK (LTNSP)**

*By Joe Fontaine*

Now that the snow has finally stopped, business is picking up around Lake Tahoe. Believe it or not, it’s at the end of July and there are still substantial amounts of snow in some of our high altitude backcountry areas. The lake is nearly at its maximum depth now and has risen nearly six feet since last fall. Not bad for 191 square miles of water surface area.

We have had many personnel changes here as well, with nine employees leaving for other opportunities. Hopefully this is a sign of an improving economy. During this turnover we said goodbye to **Linda Bauder**, who has left to work with Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT) in Carson City. Good Luck Linda!

In other news, our four concessionaires are enjoying the arrival of summer. We have the **Char-Pit** slinging some mean burgers and serving ice cream too. The **Shakespeare Festival** is in full swing with their production of The Twelfth Night, and also some summer music shows including local’s favorite **Mumbo Gumbo**. **Spoooner Lake LLC** is also up and running with mountain bike rentals after the snow finally started to melt off. Our newest concession, **Sand Harbor Rentals**, is keeping visitors very happy at the boat ramp with kayaks and paddle board rentals.



LAKE TAHOE NV STATE PARK (Con't)

Our rangers, **Jay Howard, Bill Champion, Dale Conner, and Todd Anderson** are keeping busy with the summer crowds and helping me with sewer pump repairs. As soon as one is fixed, two more break. Murphy was an optimist, and the poo must flow, hopefully away. On the maintenance side, we built a Jr. Ranger Headquarters area in our main office that has been popular with the kids. **Mike Shipman** has built us some new fee tubes that are unmatched in size, strength and weight. I don't think we'll have to worry about anybody breaking into these fee tubes for a long, long time. We also managed to get an original life boat from the historic **S.S. Tahoe** that will soon go on display in the visitor center. The **S.S. Tahoe** was a four hundred foot steamer that was scuttled off of Glenbrook in the 40's. Special thanks to the **Nevada Railroad Museum** for this neat piece of area history (I still have no idea why the railroad museum had an old boat). I also wanted to thank **Charlie Wells** and **Jeff Jones** for their help with the Van Sickle irrigation system, and especially to **Charlie** for his help with the Sewer Plant Control wiring. He was able to help me decipher and wire in, so that it actually worked.

It is encouraging that during these tough economic times with high gas prices, the public still sees State Parks as a great deal for their recreational dollar. As always, we encourage you to come visit us in Berlin to enjoy the town site, fossils, mine tour and star gazing. Have a safe and productive summer.

FT. CHURCHILL STATE HISTORIC PARK

*By Mike Dinauer*

This is my third summer at Fort Churchill. The first summer we had a staff of five. Last year there were four of us. This year we numbered three. Should this trend continue, next summer there will be two of us. The summer after that only a single employee will remain; one highly skilled in HMI (Human Machine Interface) and in 2014 the park will be turned over to robots.

2011 has been a slow year thus far. We are down in revenues, visitation and just about every category for which statistics are kept. Apparently, budget woes have kept quite a few school groups from visiting the Fort this year due to the cost of bus transportation.

**NORTHERN REGION**

Northern Region said a fond farewell to their Facility Supervisor, **Pat Marker**. **Peggy Harris** decorated the cake with big-boy toys Pat has worked with over his lifetime.



BERLIN-ICHTHYOSAUR STATE PARK

*By Jeff Morris*

Summer has finally reached us here at Berlin and we are busy maintaining the park, providing tours of the mine and fossils, and expanding our visitors' experience with the creation of a town guide. Through the generosity of the **Wilhelm Hoppe Foundation** and the talents of local artist **Ron Frichter**, we will be providing a pamphlet to each visitor to further help them experience the town site and encourage use of our freshly weeded and rocked trails. Berlin was fortunate to hire two new seasonals this year to help with projects and give tours during our busiest time of the year. **Karsen Case** returned after a nine year hiatus and quickly picked up where he left off. **Les Noel** joined the staff and has been conducting very informative and entertaining tours of the mine. We are having a banner tour season with both the fossils and Diana Mine seeing a 32% increase in participation this year. In fact, June saw the highest one month total for revenue collection in this park's history. Hopefully this trend continues as we must strive to be more financially self-reliant.



To make matters worse, Scout Camp flooded in March, making it inaccessible. When Scout Camp reopened, the clubs and other groups who had made reservations in May and June were notified that the area was ready to use. As each and every reservation date approached the river would rise and then fall only to rise again. At times the river went up and down more than the one working elevator in the Bryan Building. Then on June 15, Scout Camp really flooded with water going past the fee tube at the entrance. It finally reopened on July 20.

Sometimes things just weren't meant to be. **Paul Schmidt** scheduled an astronomy program for the beginning of June.

Unfortunately, the night of the event was cloudy and the program was rescheduled for July 9. Only 30 people attended compared to 160 participants last year. What happened you ask? It seems there was a glitch with the event announcement. It never made it to the media.



**FT. CHURCHILL STATE HISTORIC PARK****(Con't)**

In June a very expensive custom made 4X4 RV pulled up to the park entrance where it burst into flames. After



extinguishing the blaze, Park Supervisor **Paul Schmidt**, determined the cause was a pack rat nest in the engine compartment. Immediately, we checked under the hoods on all state and personal vehicles. Oh no, we have a pack rat nest epidemic at Fort Churchill. After cleaning the affected vehicles, we tried to keep the rodents out using moth balls, rat bait, mint extract and loud radios in the engine compartments, all with limited success. That's when yours truly was forced to once again employ the use of the 'Buckets of Death' which were used successfully for many years at Berlin Ichthyosaur. To date, the 'Buckets of Death' have claimed 28 victims.

With a combined total of 182 years of living experience **Paul, Howard Wren**, and I appreciate the efforts of our 'Artist in Residence' Camp Host **Richard Massey**, and his wife **Nalini**. Richard came to us a few short months ago, but became sidelined with double knee replacements, followed by a neurological disorder. He is now on his way to recovery and we thank them both for their hard work. See you in the fall.

**SOUTH FORK STATE RECREATION AREA**

*By Jim Wilkinson*

We have survived another summer pretty much intact. The new developed campground and southwest shoreline improvements were a huge hit with all of our regulars and helped contribute to park record visitation and revenues. We were standing room only until the middle of July. We had high heat, high water and high visitation.

We ran out of Multi-Use UF-1B's and could have easily sold another 50 if we had them in stock and when visitors had their checkbooks out. **Michele Hudson** and Northern Region headquarters contributed what it could and did their best to help us out. We appreciated your efforts.

With record visitation comes stress on both resources and park staff. I think we held out really well. We will need to look into getting donated equipment from the local mines and see if we can somehow smooth out a large section of shoreline that is currently usable, but not user friendly. We also need to find a way to get a dock kids can use to swim off of and visitors can use for fishing. It would be a huge hit. Lo and behold we received a dock donation from Cave Lake that we will try to find the best way to utilize. Thanks **Steve!**

We thank our seasonal staff for plugging away and trying to keep the grounds and facilities as clean as possible.

**Nick Brunson** successfully graduated from the Nevada

P.O.S.T. Academy and is now a full-fledged, Category 1 State Park's Peace Officer. Congratulations to Nick!

We hope you enjoy the last month of summer and stay safe.

**WASHOE LAKE STATE PARKS**

*By Park Staff*

Wow! Can you believe for the first time in many years we have some fish tales to tell! Yes, the water has returned to Washoe Lake after huge spring snowstorms. Some of the surrounding areas of the Sierras ended up with over 65 feet of snow. As of August 1 some of the higher elevations still had large deep snow drifts.

Both of our boat ramps are open and usable. Some boaters are starting to return. We just have to somehow get the word out about our lake being back! It seems like every time we have a few low water years and then the lake fills again the boaters are slow to return. Maybe in this new age of businesses waving signs to attract business we could send someone out to highway 395 and wave a sign. We do have an old **Parkie Packrat** costume available. Any volunteers?

One group of visitors that did not waste any time in returning to the park is the fisherman or fisher people if we want to be politically correct. They are hitting all of the "hot" fishing spots at the park. We have heard several fish stories from visitors on the types and sizes of the fish they are catching. Last week a couple stopped by the main fee booth to inquire about additional fishing spots at the park. The fee collector asked the male driver if he had caught any fish here yet. He replied why yes "I caught a pretty big catfish." From the rear seat of the car, a lady hollered out the window "Who caught that big fish?" The male driver stated, "Oh yeah, she caught the fish." The fee collector asked if she could see the fish because the lady was so proud of it. Sure enough it was a big one weighing in at 7.5 pounds. Now that may not be a big fish to everyone, but it was to both staff and visitors after so many years with no fish. We hope to hear more of these fish stories for a long time to come.



Other summer news: Our equestrian area grant project is nearly complete with the installation of new corrals with roofs and feeders, horse washing stations, new trees and irrigation, new water troughs, a 230 x 175 foot arena completed with sandy footing, wind fencing to protect the group reservation pavilion from those strong Washoe zephyrs, new signage and more. Come see it and send your equestrian friends! It is a great place to camp overnight with your horse. Thanks to **Jenny Scanland** for getting the grant!

A new little Dawson rangerette was born on August 24. **Alexandra Grace Dawson** came in at 7 pounds 11 ounces and 19 inches long. Happy Summer everyone!

**WILD HORSE STATE RECREATION AREA**

*By Andrew Bass*

Dandelion root coffee turns out to be a fairly similar substitute for the real thing. Park Aid **Josh Dutra** did an excellent demonstration on how to make this bitter drink during one of our many Saturday evening programs this summer.



Speaking of summer, it's been a hot one. At least that's the general consensus of staff when the thermometer peaks all the way up at 88 degrees. Of course winter didn't end until the middle of June. It made for a slow start in visitation, but the lake has been full and crowds came and filled up the campground. The water went over the spillway from the first week of May until July 20 and it's only the second time I've seen it

spill in ten years. This definitely makes for better boating. A park full of visitors is good for revenue and thanks goes to Park Tech **Paula Ault** and **Josh** for their hard work in trying to keep up with the extra restroom cleaning, litter pick up, and fee collection.

**SOUTHERN REGION**

**CATHEDRAL GORGE AND BEAVER DAM STATE PARKS**

*By Marcia Wadsworth*

Greetings one and all!!! Where have all the people gone? Visitation is down this year so far, but we are confident things will improve with time and cooler temperatures. We are working hard, keeping busy and greeting each visitor with a smile. Mid-August, September and October are typically busy and we are ready!

Projects of rehabbing trails, maintenance and cleaning, training sessions, photos taken and cataloged, plus all the routine work are found in abundance at our parks. Park Supervisor **Cody Tingey**, Park Interpreter **Dawn Andone**, Park Tech III **Shaylen Budreau** and Maintenance Specialist **Jim Cole**, plus the three stalwart seasonal employees, **Derek Lloyd**, **Nevin May** and **Marcia Wadsworth** are enjoying their jobs and association. Every day is an adventure.



Showing community spirit, the State Parks entered a creative, fun float in the **Panaca Pioneer Day Parade** on July 23. We are looking forward to participating in the Lincoln County Fair in Panaca during the first weekend of August. The Washington County Fair in Hurricane, Utah follows during the second week of August. These events give us an opportunity to educate others and create interest in our parks. People are amazed at what the Nevada State Park system has to

offer with beautiful, inviting, clean, fun activities and restful, breathtaking scenery for their family's recreational enjoyment.

**Shaylen, Derek, Jim, Cody** and **Dawn** have been working hard at Beaver Dam with a Great Basin Institute work crew who were here in conjunction with a trail grant. They have been rehabbing the Water Fall Trail in preparation for dedication of that trail to the Civilian Conservation Corp who worked so diligently during the 1930's to help establish and build the budding idea of State Parks in Nevada and other states. There will be new interpretative signs and information installed to give visitors a glimpse into history, thanking and remembering those men who worked tirelessly for you and me to enjoy the bounty and beauty of State Parks.



Beaver Dam will host the **Nevada Trappers Association** for the second year on August 19-21. Many fun activities for this special rendezvous are planned including shooting contests, horseshoe competitions, raffles, dutch oven dinner and more. We are hoping for a great crowd to enjoy the fun.

A Nevada tourism film crew visited Cathedral Gorge recently while putting together a film about our own Nevada Highway 93. They included the other Lincoln County parks and got some good footage to present in the finished product. **Dawn** was interviewed for the narration of the film. We are hoping to have the film up on the park's web site very soon.

Cathedral Gorge's specialized event is the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Dutch Oven Cook-off, scheduled for Saturday, September 17. We are expecting a variety of good food and new participants this year. If it is anything like preceding events, it will be a fun, palette pleasing activity for all to enjoy!

Just one more thing, the **Park-to-Park** bicycling event will be held on Saturday October 8. This event will start at Kershaw Ryan move on to Cathedral Gorge, Echo Canyon, Spring Valley and back to Kershaw. It will offer the cycling enthusiast a challenging course and breathtaking views. Mark your calendars and come join the fun!

**KERSHAW-RYAN STATE PARK STATE PARK***By Dawn Andone*

**Jay Howard** this one's for you...and everyone else too.

The history of the Kershaw-Ryan State Park is as colorful as the canyon that surrounds it.

- 1888-1904: Samuel and Hannah Kershaw homestead in the canyon. The abundance of water in the form of seeps and a year round stream makes it the perfect place to grow crops and plant an orchard.
- 1904: Hannah Kershaw sells the land to James Ryan, an eminent Southern Nevada cattle rancher.
- 1934: James Ryan and his wife Martha Ann gift the 40 acres known as Kershaw Gardens to the State.
- 1934-1935: The boys of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) turn Kershaw Gardens into a picnicking and camping destination. They spend their days building restrooms, stone fireplaces, picnic tables, retaining walls, and the crown jewel...a wading pond filled by a natural warm spring.
- 1935: The Division of State Parks is decreed and Kershaw-Ryan State Park is dedicated.
- 1984: FLASH FLOOD! Imagine just sitting down to eat your lunch, a thunderous sound is heard and a 35-foot wall of water comes barreling down the canyon. That is what happened to a park volunteer on a summer day in 1984. He managed to escape the torrent; his truck and the park were not so lucky. The majority of facilities built by the CCC were washed away and the park effectively destroyed. A couple of apple trees, the wading pool and one restroom are all that remain. With no funds to rebuild, the park is closed.
- 1990: A \$26 million dollar bond issue to improve State Parks and Wildlife refuges is passed and ratified. Some of the monies are set aside to rebuild Kershaw-Ryan.
- 1994: Construction starts.
- 1997: The new and improved Kershaw-Ryan State Park reopens having been closed for almost 13 years.
- 2010: Kershaw's new campground opens; the road is paved and a new fee station/office is built. Camping and picnicking may still be big park attractions, but today there are even more activities to keep you busy at Kershaw-Ryan.



April showers bring May flowers rang true this season. On Arbor Day, kids from Caliente came out to plant flowers grown in the greenhouse. By May those flowers were adding beautiful color to the canyon. They also planted two apple trees to complement the two remaining apple trees planted by the Kershaw's over 100 years ago. Back for another season to take care of our beautiful gardens is gardener-extraordinaire **Ken Adams**.

For the second year, the park, in cooperation with the **City of Caliente**, hosted volleyball and horseshoe tournaments over Memorial Day weekend making it a very busy time for everyone. After the tournaments, children and adults alike were amused during the first ever **Movies under the Stars**. Staying true parks, they chose to show the perfect movie...yes...you guessed it...Yogi Bear. How could it get any better? Yogi Bear under the stars in the park!

As fall approaches, and the temperatures cool a bit, we are entering an even busier season. Our first ever **Park to Park Pedal-Extreme Nevada 100** commences. The 103 mile ride starts at Kershaw-Ryan and takes peddlers through the towns of Caliente and Pioche, and through three other state parks: Cathedral Gorge, Echo Canyon, and Spring Valley and then back to Kershaw-Ryan. We encourage everyone to come along for the ride, or volunteer to help out. If you would like to participate, sign up at [www.lincolncountynevada.com](http://www.lincolncountynevada.com) or to volunteer, call **Jonathan Brunjes** at 775-726-3564.



The **Annual Pumpkins in the Park** event takes place on October 29 and our **Winter Wonderland Toy Drive** is December 10 this year.

**OLD LAS VEGAS MORMON FT. STATE HISTORIC PARK***By Don Bolton*

Summer at the Old Fort has been HOT, but steady. We started off in June with our annual **Settlement Day Breakfast**, which brought over 500 people into the park for a wholesome breakfast of scrambled eggs, bacon, potatoes, and pancakes. The weather was nice and the crowds were pleased. We had some big name guests that included **Councilman Bob Coffin**, and **Henderson Mayor Andy Hafen**, just to name a few and even had **Representative Joe Heck** serving up eggs and bacon to the public.

The Old Fort is considered part of the **Cultural Corridor**, which is a string of museums, historical places, and libraries in downtown Las Vegas. Each organization works closely with each other and helps each other with advertising, foot traffic, and labor. Just recently we had a pedestrian bridge completed over Las Vegas Boulevard between the Las Vegas Natural History Museum and the Lied Discovery Center. **Scott** and I even got to meet outgoing **Mayor Oscar Goodman** at the dedication, and no, we did not have a Gin Martini with him!

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

Other events planned for the summer are with several guest speakers such as **Bill Durbin**, from the **Nevada Division of Mining**, who will be discussing the minerals and mines in Southern Nevada, **Linda Miller** will be portraying Helen J. Stewart for an interpretive talk, and we will have **Margie Klein** from **NDOW** over for a talk on Southern Nevada Wildlife. We also recently had a group of volunteers stop by to redesign, rebuild, and revitalize our garden area with the help of the **Home Depot**. The gardens look great now!

Finally, the Old Fort is receiving a sidewalk embellishment and banner poles as part of the Downtown Improvement Project for the Cultural Corridor. Also, I gave a 30-minute interview on local radio station **Mix 94.1** with JC, the morning show producer, and talked about the Southern Nevada State Parks. There should be a link on-line to hear the full interview at [www.mix941.fm](http://www.mix941.fm). Check it out and let me know what you think. We were also featured on several news stations such as **Fox 5 News**, **Channel 3(NBC)**, **Channel 13 News (ABC)**, and **Local Channel 99** for various stories on the Old Fort and our programs. We here at the Old Fort hope that all of you have a wonderful summer!

## SPRING MOUNTAIN RANCH STATE PARK

*By Park Staff*

We have been very busy at Spring Mountain Ranch. We are experimenting with allowing charcoal grills during the extreme fire season to increase visitation, and this created quite a bit of extra work to make sure the grills are extinguished and cleaned out before closing. It seems to be working though, since even weekday visitation is up even during the hottest days.

We had one of busiest days ever this past Easter, with over 1,700 visitors. The Easter Egg hunt was attended by over 300 children! We would like to thank **Cody Tingey**, **Pete Gallegos**, and **Scott Egy** for their help in making it one of our most successful days ever, and helping keep the park safe with all those people. There were people everywhere, and there was no way we could have kept up on routines and trash without their help. Seasonal staff: **Carolyn Richardson**, **Deb Rohlman**, **Mike Ward**, and **Al Ing** all deserve a shout out for keeping up with the crowds.

We have a busy fall planned, with Interpreter **Mandy Keefer** planning a ton of living history events: Owners Day, Pioneer Day, Civil War, and Mtn. Man Rendezvous. She also has planned a Halloween Spooktacular, Astronomy in the Park, and Ranch Christmas, along with a new docent class.

We would like to say good luck, but not goodbye, to our mate **Tim "MacGyver" Palmer**, who took a job with Nevada Division of Forestry (NDF) as a Conservation Crew Supervisor. **Tim** was one of those great maintenance people, a jack of all trades, but could still stop whatever he was doing to help out a visitor or fellow employee. Hopefully, we can get him and his crew out here after he's completed all his

training, and get ten times the work out of him (at least in one day)! We also wish Ranger **Dean DeFoe** farewell and goodbye as he tries his luck as an Enforcement Agent with Gaming Control (pun intended).



Dean DeFoe, Jan Keller, and Carolyn Richardson getting the SMR road reopened on July 5, 2011. Photo courtesy of Fox 5 News.

On July 5, after finally getting cleaned up from the 4 of July, we got hit with a major flash flood that we are still cleaning up. It was incredible to see a one foot high wall of water come through the wash, and in only a few minutes, it had completely covered the roadway. When it subsided, there was a two foot high pile of sand and rocks preventing any egress for the stuck park visitors and docent. Park staff that day: **Mike Ward**, **Carolyn Richardson**, **Cheryl Fretwell**, **Dean DeFoe**, and volunteer **Jan Keller**, worked tirelessly to get the main road opened up so everyone could get out by 5 pm. Even as we got everyone out, Super Summer Theatre started to come in; as they say... the show must go on (fortunately it was only rehearsals).

The Super Summer Theatre plays have been going very well this season. They had one of their biggest hits with **Annie** in June. Even though not a lot of people attended, **The Drowsy Chaperone** in July garnered them some of their best critical reviews ever. We imagine they will be getting huge crowds with their August production of **Fiddler On the Roof**. Come check them out if you are in the Las Vegas area; it's a great way to cool off from the summer heat as the nighttime temperatures have been mild this year.

## SPRING VALLEY AND ECHO CANYON STATE PARK *By Dawn Andone*

A bad day of fishing is better than a good day at work...especially if it is FREE FISHING DAY! Cast a line from the shore, a boat or a float tube. That is exactly what a few hundred people did at Echo Canyon during the Kids' Fishing Derby on one beautiful day in June. For one little fisherwoman you could never call her day of fishing bad.



**SPRING VALLEY AND ECHO CANYON STATE PARK (con't)**

**Chloe Barnes** could not have anticipated when she baited that hook, cast that line, and reeled her catch of the day that it would be THE catch of the day. The fish, with a bright pink tag, would later in the day be revealed to be worth \$5,000 dollars. Not bad for a day's work...I mean fishing. It is the largest money fish to be caught in a derby to date; maybe next year we can give away the big one at the \$50K Derby at Spring Valley. This year's event was held the last weekend of April and unfortunately the weather was a bit uncooperative, making for a bad day of fishing (but better than...well you get the idea). High winds and cold weather kept all the tagged fish, and fair-weather fishermen at bay. Just to make sure no one went home empty handed there were plenty of raffle prizes to bolster spirits.

Before the derbies and after the snow, well the majority of the snow, there was trail work to be done. Thanks to a Recreational Trails grant and help from **Jenny Scanland**, both the Stone Cabin Trail (Spring Valley) and the Ash Canyon Trail (Echo Canyon) received some new tread. In April, teams from **Great Basin Institute** (GBI) hammered, drilled, chiseled, and moved rock to improve access and safety on the trails. Wider ledges and stair steps carved into rocks maintain the natural look, but take the sketchiness out of the areas that presented a rather harrowing experience in the past.

while staffing the visitor center, which has had an average of 20,000 to 30,000 visitors a month, asking if there is a gift shop, or where they can buy water. I was reminded again during each of the 12 incidents we have had; ranging from a five hour search and rescue, multiple medical aids, attacking bees, vandalism, and of course the occasional fender bender. This doesn't even take into account the vehicle lock outs, stuck vehicles or the visitor vehicle break downs and visitor break downs due to heat. Another reminder of how busy we have been is the 100 or so wedding limo's I dodge on the road each month. If I had not been reminded enough, then I always have the welcoming of the French or German tourist, from one of the 200 buses we have a month, asking to take my picture or saying Bon Jour as they surround my office for some postcards or information. Boy, we sure miss the Nevada State Parks Cooperative Association (NSPCA) staff that use to help us cover the Visitor Center.



In all seriousness, we have had a welcomed increase of about 8% in visitation. That increase doesn't include the native Nevadans seen below. We appreciated all that has been done to keep us open and employed during these hard financial times. We are looking towards the future of fall with cooler temperatures, all of our seasonal staff, **Craig's** eventual return, the addition of a new ranger, and hopefully a gift shop (before I go crazy answering the same question over and over again). What am I thinking; I'm looking forward to the busy season!



Just as a note, has anyone seen **Jim Hammons**? He has seemed to have gotten lost in all the work on the gift shops, safety meetings, and tracking beehives. At last report, **Jim** was having fun with new climbing equipment. However, he doesn't take Ranger **Santee** with him anymore after his comment in the last pen about letting go of the rope.

Just one final note, by the time this is published we will have a new addition to the staff, welcoming Ranger **Gaetano Corrado's** new baby! We are just hoping Guy is back from paternity leave to read this.



Now the work starts on the interpretative and directional signs. We need to hurry; **Shawn's** arms are getting tired. **Shawn Bonnell** is one of our happy seasonal at Spring Valley. Our other happy-go-lucky seasonal, **Dave Powers** and **Doug Peterson**, managed to avoid the camera...for now...



Welcome to Spring Valley's Stone Cabin. That's the message the sky blue bird house and festive flowers send. These accoutrements are courtesy of our steadfast volunteer **Alan Malintak**, who plays Cabin Host during the season. Since April the cabin has been open on Sundays; it

will be open on Saturdays in August and September.

**VALLEY OF FIRE STATE PARK**

*By Stephen Santee*

Hello from Valley of Fire. As the rest of the division is in the height of their busy season, we are enjoying the quiet solitude of summer in the Valley. Well sort of! Contrary to popular belief, Valley of Fire is not that slow in the summer. With fewer seasonal staff, most rangers taking vacation while they can, and **Craig** heading out to P.O.S.T., we find ourselves very busy. The first idea that we were still busy came to me



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**PERSONNEL**

*By Anke Simpson*

As our busy seasonal hiring period is winding down, I am starting to process end of season layoff paperwork. We are currently scheduling interviews for three permanent positions: the Communications Systems Specialist II at the Southern Region headquarters, the commissioned Park Ranger I at Valley of Fire and the non-commissioned Park Ranger I position at Buckland Station.

State Personnel just implemented the new "Phase II NEATS Update," which is supposed to make the recruiting process easier and more streamlined. Currently a few glitches still need to be worked out. I am working on recruitments for the new Retail Storekeeper III position located at Valley of Fire which will manage our new gift shop program approved by the 2011 Legislature to create an Enterprise Fund. Also in the works is the recruitment for the commissioned Regional Manager for northern region. Hopefully, all vacant positions will be filled soon.



**Promotions:**

**Jennifer Scanland** promoted from the Rec. Trails Manager position back to her former position at the division office as Parks and Recreation Program Manager on 5/3/11. **Eric Johnson** accepted a promotion from his Regional Manager position for northern region to the Deputy Administrator position at the division office on 7/25/11.

**Terminations:**

We had three retirements in the last few months. **Pat Marker** retired from his Facility Supervisor position with northern region on 6/24/11. **Steve Weaver** retired from his Deputy Administrator position on 6/29/11 with over 32 years of State Service and moved to North Carolina. On 7/29/11 **Linda Mulkey** retired from the State as Management Analyst II/Contract Manager at the division office and went to work for the Federal Bureau of Reclamation. **Tim Palmer**, Maintenance Repair Specialist II at Spring Mountain Ranch transferred to NDF as Crew Supervisor on 6/10/11. **Linda Bauder** transferred from her Administrative Assistant II position at Lake Tahoe for a nice promotion at NDOT on 7/11/11. Unfortunately, the division had to lay off two employees due to the budget cuts effective 6/30/11: **Mark Jensen**, Park Interpreter II at Dangberg Ranch and **Paul Keyser**, Maintenance Repair Specialist II at Big Bend.



**New Permanent Employees:**

**Shirley DeCrona** transferred from the Bureau of Corrective Action at NDEP to the Management Analyst II/contract Manager position at the division office on 8/15/11.

