

PEN PARK EMPLOYEE NEWSLETTER



ADMINISTRATION

By Eric Johnson

Been a somewhat wild ride over here for the last few weeks. Budget submittal deadlines were moved up substantially compared to previous years. We conducted the park budget presentations in the nick of time. Thanks again for taking the time to put those together. Our goal is a systematic approach to addressing both immediate and future needs. These needs include the obvious, equipment and deferred maintenance, but there is a need for a renewed focus on historic preservation and natural resource rehab and restoration. I was pleased to see several parks included expanded programs for re-seeding, replanting and noxious weed control. There was also more emphasis on protection of historic structures.

We can't ever take our historic resources for granted nor does our role - just hoping nothing happen to them while on our watch. A proactive approach to preservation is one of our primary missions, I'm pleased to report this is occurring in most parks. As with any resource, we can't fix a problem if we are not aware of it. We work in a park for a period of time and we see the same things every day and may or may not see structures or other resources degrading - because we see them every day. Monitoring is the foundation of managing.

As an example: I worked in the southern part of the state for a number of years and transferred to Fort Churchill. As is expected, I spent a lot of time assisting at Lahontan. During one of these visits, the Lahontan ranger commented how he was surprised the vegetation on the dunes hadn't been damaged very much by the repeated parking of boat trailers and vehicles. He couldn't see a change, because he looked at the same beach every day. I had been gone for a while, but spent several years at Lahontan so had a different point of reference in regard to the dunes. The vegetation had been pushed back 20-30 feet while I was gone. After a cycle of three or four ranger's, the vegetation could conceivably be destroyed for 50 yards with no one the wiser because the baseline changes with each new employee.

My point: Monitor resources in your park. We don't need expensive equipment, just a constant benchmark or point of reference.

As you know I'm not a real kumbaya guy, but I do have to say I appreciate all of you and what you go through every day. Not many jobs have such a direct impact on so many people.



DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR

By Kirsten Strange



The State Park academy was held in balmy Laughlin, Nevada on January 21 - 23, 2014. This was the first academy the agency has had since 2008, since the 2013 Legislature approved the funding to be restored every other year, effective in FY 2014. This year's academy included short training sessions on relevant issues such as solar system operations (in the parks, not in the sky), interpretive programs, how to apply for grants, the always popular timesheet review and FMLA, and other exciting training from the Chief of P&D, Mark Davis on contracts. There was plenty of time to meet and socialize with fellow employees during the afternoon field trips to the Oatman Ghost Town, Big Bend of the Colorado State Recreation Area and the Grapevine petroglyphs, as well as at group-dinner each evening.

Kyle Groth looking at the Grapevine Petroglyphs. →



← View of Mountains around Oatman Ghost Town.

There were good comments and ideas received from the participants from the surveys. Those comments and ideas will be used by the next planning committee for the 2016 academy. Being part of the planning committee was a great experience, a lot of work and rather stressful, but very fulfilling. I would recommend it to anyone interested in being part of the next academy.

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT (P&D)

By Mark Davis

A Question 1 (Q1) bond sale in the amount of one million dollars is currently being sold for State Parks. The money should be ready to obligate to new projects on or about April 22, 2014. We submitted 39 projects for the 2015 State Public Works Division (SPWD) Capital Improvement Projects (CIP). We tried to focus on projects that take care of what we have and replacing what has exceeded their useful life. Some 338 contracts have been initiated by the field. Those following owner-contract delivery are finding out how much faster things can go. If you need assistance, please give us a call.

PROJECTS COMPLETED

BIG BEND OF THE COLORADO, RESIDENCE #1



The residence is now complete and the Brunjes family has moved in. The project was completed with two contracts, and even some work by Jonathan himself. The project was managed by **Marc Lepire** and **Blake Clark**.

SOUTH FORK, SOUTHWEST SHORELINE PHASE II



The new restroom, American with Disabilities Act (ADA) parking space and road improvements are now complete and is in use. The project was designed by **Joe Cyphers** construction was managed by **Bob Beck**.

WILD HORSE CAMPGROUND IMPROVEMENTS

This project is complete and the new shade ramadas, pull through sites, etc, are now in use. **Marc Lepire** designed the project with assistance from **Joe Cyphers**. **Bob Beck** managed construction with assistance from **Marc Lepire** and **Joe Cyphers**.

PROJECTS UNDER CONSTRUCTION

BIG BEND EROSION CONTROL AND SHORELINE IMPROVEMENTS

This project is well underway. The **U.S. Marines** came in and did some sheet piling work at the boat lagoon. They didn't have enough time to complete it. Work underway includes shoreline nourishment by **Jonathan Brunjes** and his staff, sidewalk and shade ramada construction and a new CXT via contracts. Due to endangered species, the sheet piling may not be completed this season. However, we keep trying to find alternatives. Before the printing of this article, we are hopeful to solicit and contract the dredging of the lagoon to complete the overall project. This project was designed by **Joe Cyphers**. Construction will be managed by **Joe** with assistance from **Blake Clark**. It was funded with a \$497,750 Boating access grant, \$167,917 in State Parks Q1 Bond and staff in-kind match.

CATHEDRAL GORGE POWERLINE EXTENSION



Cody Tingey worked with **Lincoln County Power** to get a great price to install power to the day use area and campground at Cathedral Gorge. **Mark Lepire** managed

the project's plan review, construction, and inspection. This was a fast track project that didn't have time to make it into the last PEN.

NEW ECHO CANYON CAMPGROUND



This project includes the development of a new access road (shown above) and campground between the ranger residence and the day use area. The project is well underway with the access road is near completion and campground grading is underway.

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT (P&D) (con't)

This project is funded with \$223,000 in Q1 bond, for the access road and is also funded with \$2,100,000 in Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act (SNPLMA) grant money for the campground itself. **Eric Nelson** is managing the project and is supported by **Joe Cyphers** and **Marc Lepire**.

PROJECTS BIDDING**CAVE LAKE COMFORT STATION AND DRAINAGE REPAIRS**

The balance of the work for this site is currently bidding. By the printing of this PEN, we hope to have construction underway to complete the project. Day use improvements and ADA work may be added during construction via additional funding sources. This project is currently funded by \$500 in Q1 Bond, \$7,500 in user fee overage, \$20,000 in utility fee surcharge, \$30,665.60 in pine creek funds, \$40,292.80 staff in kind match and \$103,959 in Land & Water Conservation Fund (LWCF). **Marc Lepire** is managing this project.

DESIGN PROJECTS**KERSHAW-RYAN STATE PARK SHOP BUILDING**

A new shop building is under design for fast track construction at the maintenance area. The building will be a wood framed structure with a stand-alone fire suppression system. No power or heat is included in this portion of the project. Funding for this project comes from \$36,000 in Category 95 funds, staff in-kind labor and \$45,000 LWCF grant money. The project is being designed by **Marc Lepire** and **Blake Clark**. **Andrew Porter**, **Matt Elmer** and **Jamin Hunter** will assist in bidding and construction management.

OLD LAS VEGAS MORMON FORT, HISTORIC MUSEUM ADOBE REHABILITATION

This project will restore the adobe, exterior doors and windows of the historic museum building. **Mark Davis** is coordinating the project with SPWD and assistance from **Jamin Hunter** and **Russ Dapsauski**. This is wholly funded through the SPWD 2013 CIP in the amount of \$350,000. The project is currently under consultant design.

SAND HARBOR SIDEWALK REPLACEMENT

This project will replace asphalt walks with concrete walks, the beach overlooks will be removed and replaced with smaller, more functional units and Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) beach access at the main beach will be provided. This project has been assigned to **Bob Beck** for design through construction administration, supervised by **Joe Cyphers**. The project has been submitted to TRPA for permitting by **Dana Dapolito**. Based on permitting and funding, we anticipate bidding to commence in August with construction in late August to early September. The project is currently funded with \$58,308 in Recreational Trails grant, \$58,308 in EIP, \$91,805 in Lake Tahoe License Plate (LTLPL) grant, \$35,000 in donated funds through the Tahoe Fund. Additional EIP dollars are expected to make the project whole.

SAND HARBOR BOAT LAUNCH PLATE EXTENSION

Project design is complete and waiting on approval of a Boating Access grant and permitting through Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA). **Joe Cyphers** is managing the project with assistance from **Bob Beck** during construction. **Dana DaPolito** is assisting with the TRPA permitting process. It is funded with a \$15,502 LTLPL grant. A Boating Access grant was requested for \$82,508 to make the project whole. We anticipate approval of this grant by the end of April. Once the grant is received, we will bid the project and commence construction as quickly as possible.

LAKE TAHOE, BACK COUNTRY, RED HOUSE STRUCTURAL STABILIZATION

The Dube' Group (architect consultant) is currently designing the stabilization project. Due to limited grant availability, the project may need to be performed in three phases.

The project is funded with \$20,000 in a 2013 Historic Preservation Fund grant (through SHPO), a \$5,000 Thunderbird Foundation grant, Dube Group in-kind donation of \$1,250 and Lake Tahoe Nevada State Park Category 05 funds in the amount of \$3,444 for a total project budget of \$29,694. The project is being managed by **Dana DaPolito**, EIP Coordinator, with assistance of park staff and P&D.

SPRING VALLEY POWER REPLACEMENT (DESIGN THROUGH CONSTRUCTION)

SPWD hired **PK Electrical** as their design consultant and is currently underway. With repeated power outages, we requested they expedite the design. We expect it will bid in early fall and construction will commence immediately thereafter. This project is funded with \$1,625,362 in CIP dollars and State Parks Q1 bond money in the amount of \$350,000. **Cliff Davidow** is the SPWD Project Manager. **Mark Davis** is managing the project until it gains traction then **Joe Cyphers** and/or **Blake Clark** may take over.

VALLEY OF FIRE EAST AND WEST ENTRANCE PAY KIOSKS AND UNDERGROUND POWER

Due to higher priority projects, this project was delayed. However, we expect it to gain traction soon. We will be adding to this project the replacement of overhead power to underground power. The project will be managed by **Marc Lepire** with the assistance of **Joe Cyphers**.

VALLEY OF FIRE WATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS, PHASE II, A NEW WELL

Over the course of the Phase I water tank project, we concluded that the existing well is in need of being replaced. This is due to some shifting of the earth causing issues with the existing well casing. This project is funded with \$340,000 in State Parks Q1 Bond money, \$59,220.00 staff in-kind match, \$351,619 LWCF grant money and \$7,522.11 in Utility Surcharge. This project is being designed by **Blake Clark** with assistance from **Joe Cyphers**. **Blake** will manage the construction of this project. This is a high priority project.



IT'S TIME TO RETIRE

By Joy Elwood

LAKE TAHOE NEVADA STATE PARK (LTNSP)

By Jay Howard



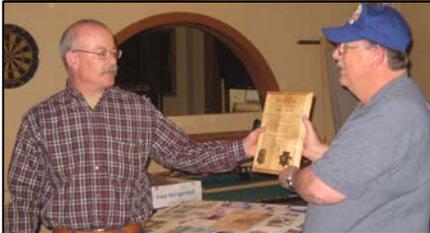
Pictured to the left is **Eric Johnson** giving **Alyce Cloutier** her retirement plaque at her retirement party; her last day was February 28. The party included current and already retired division and field staff members, which made it feel more like a



reunion. Her holiday spirit and zeal along with her hard work will continue to be sorely missed. It is so sad to see the empty cubicle. I saw her a couple of weeks later and she said it still felt like a vacation not retirement. She is definitely enjoying the free time to work out in the mornings, go on walks and actually read a book. We are all glad she is enjoying a well-deserved retirement.



Then two weeks after Alyce left, **Steve Silva** retired. Law enforcement rangers had their own cake party for Steve during the LE refresher training. His other retirement party also included current and past staff, as well as ones from other agencies. The Executive Director of POST, Richard Clark even presented Steve with a nice gold,



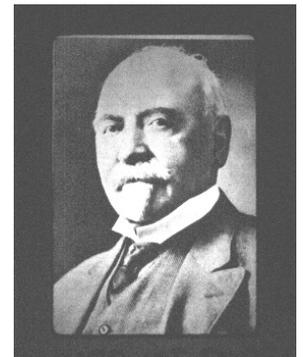
engraved, pocket watch. We haven't had to miss him much, because he is still volunteering time as he wraps things up in his office before his replacement comes in and continues to handle

law enforcement projects that never end. But make no mistake, he is enjoying the retired life; camping, airplanes, spending time with his son on Spring Break, etc.

Greetings everyone, hope all is going well with spring planning. Things have been very busy here at Tahoe; surely a sign of things to come this summer. Instead of going on too much about this, I thought I would include the text of the newest interpretive 8x8 foot panel at the Sand Harbor Visitor Center, written in-house by park staff with production funded by the enterprise fund. Hope you enjoy it.

Water Works for the Comstock - Within the borders of Lake Tahoe Nevada State Park is the historic Virginia Gold Hill Water System. This remarkable feat of engineering is listed on the National Registry of Historic Places and is designated a National Historic Civil Engineering Landmark. It was later said in a report for the Nevada legislature, *the plan was bold, its accomplishments remarkable.*

The first strikes of the Comstock Mining District were made in 1859. Excitement grew when the black rock and odd bluish mud found in the Virginia range assayed out at a value of \$867 per ton in gold, but \$3,000 per ton in silver! This promise of wealth caused the surrounding mining camps to quickly grow into modern cities and the Comstock District was soon home to the largest silver strike in the world. But the vast riches of the Virginia Range meant nothing without a consistent water supply. This precious resource was needed to fuel steam engines, mill tons of ore, support growing mining populations, and fight devastating fires. The short supply of water in the hills around Virginia City meant it would not be long before the liquid riches of the Sierra Mountains were seriously considered. The Virginia Gold Hill Water Company saw opportunity and devised a plan.



In 1871, the water company hired German engineer Herman Schussler to design a system to carry water from the eastern slope of the Sierras to the Comstock. The greatest challenge was getting water through Washoe Valley. To accomplish this, 7 miles of pipe were laid across the valley in just 6 weeks using nothing more than manpower and mule teams. The pipeline used the head pressure which developed coming down the Sierras to push water up and over the Virginia Range—a mechanism known as an inverted siphon. At the time, this marvel was the highest pressure pipeline in the world at over 800 pounds per square inch. A diversion dam was built on Hobart Creek and over 14 miles of wooden box flume were completed to convey the fluid. Five-Mile Reservoir was constructed in the Virginia Range to provide water storage, and ice cutting during the winter. Virginia City residents celebrated with hours of bonfires and fireworks when the first stream of water reached the District on August 1, 1873. Soon, using nothing more than gravity and pressure, 2 million gallons of water were conveyed over 21 miles to the Comstock each day.

LAKE TAHOE NEVADA STATE PARK (con't)



Demand grew, and superintendent John Bear Overton began building a second pipeline, as well as more box flume, in 1875. JB's ingenious strategy also included a daring plan to reach into the Lake Tahoe basin and tap the resources of Marlette Lake, a small logging reservoir high in the Sierras. The dam at Marlette was raised and a 4-mile box flume was built to a tunnel at Tunnel Creek. The nearly 3,994-foot tunnel, bored from the east and west slopes of

the Carson range, was completed on May 13, 1877. Additional flumes carried water from the tunnel to the pipes.

In 1887, the system was expanded a final time with a third pipeline and more box flumes. Hobart Reservoir, named after Company president Walter Scott Hobart, was constructed in 1888 above the diversion dam. The 8-mile North Flume was also built to capture the water from several creeks north of the tunnel, in what is now Incline Village. The Virginia Gold Hill Water System now boasted 46 miles of box flume, 21 miles of pipeline, a tunnel, 4 reservoirs, 6 maintenance stations, and the ability to deliver over 10 million gallons of water per day to the Comstock.

While the excitement of the mines had begun to slow by the end of the century, water was still needed for the towns of the old Comstock. Due to deterioration and bankruptcy, failures across the system were rampant. The first and third pipelines were removed and used to replace flume in the Virginia Range. The North Flume was abandoned in 1944 and the tunnel collapsed in 1957. The Curtis Wright Corporation purchased the water company from Hobart Leonard that same year to pursue a federal missile testing contract. They replaced miles of flume with pipe, but failed to reopen the tunnel. The contract was later lost. The system was sold to the State of Nevada in 1963, and with a few modernizations such as a diesel pumping operation from Marlette, the flow of water was restored. Although most of the system has been repaired and upgraded, the second inverted siphon from 1875 remains today and the system continues to operate.



Red House Maintenance Station

NORTHERN REGION

CAVE LAKE AND WARD CHARCOAL OVENS STATE PARKS

By Allen Wooldridge

Cave and Ward made it through winter, looking forward to take advantage of the spring weather and ready to tackle projects. Seems like we spend all winter huddled in our shops with a giant fire, working on this, that and the other. Now we both have shops over flowing with signs, kiosks, trail markers, Carsonites, and gallons of super deck ready to give the parks a coat of "newness".

In between shop projects, we had an event or two! We didn't get a large amount of snow this year, but it was pretty darn cold all season. Luckily we got just enough of the white stuff to have Fire and Ice event. The sculptors are getting great at going with the flow and making the most despite weather. It just adds to the challenge, as if building a six foot snow sculpture on ice wasn't enough of a challenge. This year we had 13 sculptures. The sculptors worked quickly in warm conditions to get them done in time for judging. Thanks to **Terry Ivins**, **Josh Ivins**, and **Matt Elmer** for helping get all their gear on and off the ice. The great thing about the event is we having groups keep coming since the first year. The Rotary Fishing Derby was the next weekend and boy was it a record year. We had almost 100 more registered fisherman (about 740) and almost 200 extra vehicles. The first fishermen started coming up to the lake at about 2:30 a.m. and the train of vehicles didn't stop until about 9:30 a.m. I still get night sweats thinking about parking all of those vehicles. Luckily, once the fishermen were parked they were in good spirits, and looking to land the \$5,000 fish! Even better, the two events didn't have any law enforcement issues.

Now, back to those shop projects. Ward has been busy working on our RecTrails grant. We are revamping our interpretive trail, which about 80% of visitors use. The trail is 12 years old and in need of help. We are replacing the brochure with 13 panel stops along the trail. Design is going well and the signs will hopefully go in the ground this summer. We are also installing a new entrance sign, and directional signs throughout the park. Additionally, Ward is getting new fencing at the Ovens parking lot, and a fresh new layer of gravel. Next time you come to Ward, it will look remarkably different and new, well, besides the 140 year old ovens. Cave is in the process of its own facelift. We had 33 new 6' expanded metal picnic tables, and 12 new BBQ grills delivered as I type. They will replace all our old fiberglass splinter traps in day use. The day use spots will also be re-stabilized and even be level! Our Lakeview comfort station is contracted and should start here in the next couple weeks. We hope everyone has a great, busy, and safe summer, hopefully with some water.

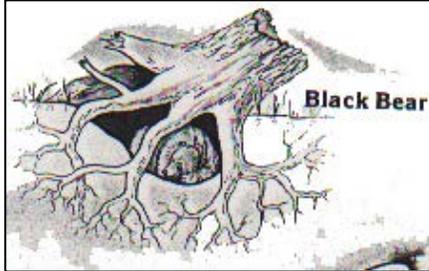


FT. CHURCHILL STATE HISTORIC PARK

By Mike Dinauer & Kim Clawson

Like many of the other parks, winter at Fort Churchill is a time when we catch our breath after a busy season, plan for the coming year and complete as many projects as possible before the new season begins...NOT!

The truth of the matter is this is the time of year staff awakens from a long winter's slumber, like Black Bears coming out of hibernation. After having the telephone turned back on and checking e-mails, reservations for our group use area and Scout Camp have filled up fast. The schedule also looks busy for spring and summer with school field trips and scout camping groups lining up for history talks and cannon firings.



Kim has had to recruit new volunteers to work at Buckland Station. The original crop of volunteers quit. Kim was pretty hard on them making them arrive 20 minutes before their start time and having them stay at least 30 minutes after they were scheduled to leave.

When Scott went to P.O.S.T., he must have majored in office work. We hardly ever see him. He goes through three reams of paper a day which is normal for someone who types 700 words a minute.

Tony Calmese is our only returning seasonal employee from last year. He didn't want to come back, so we promised him a new work truck to drive and he accepted; we lied.

Does anyone know what happened to the "Senior League?" (The yearly pass holders who were on the two week park rotation, except Washoe Lake, Jennifer only let them stay seven days.) They just disappeared one day and never came back. Curious.

RYE PATCH STATE RECREATION AREA

By Josh Ivins



Well spring is upon us again and it is time to fire up all the systems and see what surprises winter has brought us this year. As with all of the other water-based parks in the state, our main concerns have been with what the lake level is going to do and is there going to be enough moisture for anything to survive. We are currently sitting at around 9,000 ac/ft. in the lake, which is about 5% of capacity. So far, boats have still been able to launch from the shore with no problems and we are hoping for a continuation of that for the rest of the season.

Fishing has been pretty good so far. We have been working with NDOW and Pershing County Water Conservation District and the commercial carp fishing group to keep our game fish alive this year with the low water conditions. We spent two days on the lake removing carp. We removed 10,000+ lbs from the reservoir. Here is a good picture of Jim with the haul. With the water warming up, fishing should continue to get better. If you get a chance, come out and visit with us and catch some fish.



Seasonal Hiring went well this year with everyone accepting jobs offered. We are glad to be welcoming back **Annetta Egbert**. This will be Annetta's third summer with us, and we are grateful for her dedication to the position. We have a lot of good projects to work on this spring and summer to keep our seasonal staff busy. We have plans for a couple of new irrigation systems to help keep our trees and plants alive. We will be re-staining all of our tables and signs as well as some of the wood on our facilities and buildings. We are also in the process of getting new roofing on both the ranger residence and the shop.

This will be the second year for the AIS station running at Rye Patch, and are all wondering if the lake goes dry, will it be considered "Cleaned, Drained and Dried"? We will be welcoming a new AIS employee this year, since the one from last year felt that watching paint dry might have been more entertaining. The length of the season, and any changes with the program are still up in the air as of right now. We'll trudge on with the program anyways because that is what we do.

We are hoping for a mild summer with a lot of opportunities to make improvements in the park and spend time with our visitors. We are looking forward to a very successful 2nd Annual Rye Patch Nugget Shoot on September 27. Here's to a productive and safe summer season to all of the parks.

SOUTH FORK STATE RECREATION AREA

By Robert Misiti

South Fork has been busy preparing for the upcoming summer season. With reservoir waters still good, we are anticipating another successful year. With the nice weather on the weekends, people are already coming out and enjoying the park. Fishing is dominating



our visitation right now. We are getting more and more boaters on the reservoir and our shorelines are seeing more and more people. It feels like this is a tell-tale-sign that we are in for a busy season.

South Fork got help from our local community in painting the inside of our ranger station. The walls and ceiling got a new coat of paint and it looks a whole lot better now. We went from the pale beige/white to a light blue on the walls and gave the ceiling a new coat of white paint. The offices look so much brighter now and the walls are now one color. It's amazing how a new coat of paint can make all the difference.

Next we moved on to the comfort station. We already sanded it down and are looking to put a new coat of stain on it as soon as weather permits. This project, like the ranger station, is going to be supported by our local community. Elko Juvenile Probation has been supportive, as they send us the kids who have been sentenced to community service hours and help us complete these projects. So far this program has worked great. Hopefully the next time these kids come out they will appreciate the park a little more since they invested some time and labor into it. From the parks perspective, I never knew getting into trouble could be so good.

We are also looking to give our single vault CXT at Coyote Cove a new coat of paint. It really needs it and were excited to have this done by May. We are pleased to report there are concrete stairs down by the Saddle Dam for our fisherman to use. The stairs offer a more improved and safer way of accessing our shoreline.

As part of South Fork Improvement Shoreline project, we got road base at Coyote Cove. This improved our roads so the ride isn't so "bumpy". We also got a new double vault CXT at Coyote Cove. The area desperately needed one and is sure to get plenty of usage in the years to come.

This year I am going to expand my presentation from the Birds of South Fork with the Land Animals of South Fork. I am hopeful NDOW will continue their presentations and our stargazing event, which was a great success last year, can be even bigger. **Paula Ault** will be holding Dutch oven cooking events. The peach cobbler demonstration will offer something new to our program.

We will continue to support the community and local law enforcement agencies by taking part in the Annual Tip-A-Cop fund raiser for the athletes of the Special Olympics. Last year, the event raised over \$4,000 and South Fork helped raise just over \$2,000. This is a great and I am looking forward to walking around with the athletes and trying to raise as much money as I can. The event is on May 2 and if anyone would like to contribute to the event and support the athletes, I will make sure donations make it to the organization.

Paula, Jeff and I have been and will continue to be busy getting the park ready for the summer season. We have fee tubes to paint, seasonals to be trained, weeds to be sprayed and, as always fees to be collected. I imagine both Memorial Day Weekend and July 4 will be busy. Hopefully we will have a new ranger to welcome the park soon. **Nick** resigned to pursue other opportunities with NDOW. This leaves the park and the agency with the challenges in finding someone else who will have the unique opportunity to become a member of Nevada State Parks and leave their imprint on this park. Thanks for staying with me and have a safe summer.

WILD HORSE STATE RECREATION AREA

By Andrew Bass



Yes, visitation is down, because of good weather. Beautiful and warm winter days encouraged early ice melting and end the ice fishing season early. Unfortunately, the lake is also too low to use the boat ramp and the shore is too soft to launch, so no boating. This last week brought more snow than I saw all of January and February, so maybe it will help the lake out a little. I

expect it to be short lived, because the tribe recently been approved drawing the lake down to 2,000 acre feet because of an "emergency". We can only hope this doesn't really happen.

On a brighter note, the campground is looking great with new shade ramadas, site pads, and fire pits. The shade should definitely help improve visitation. The visitor center continues to get better with its newest addition. The museum quality restoration of the cycle mower turned out great. Replacement of wooden parts is always fun when there is almost nothing to go off of for a pattern. The grass board, rod, and tongue were all made from scratch. Logos and graphics are also pretty fun to recreate, but are very accurate after extensive research and reviewing of archive photos.



SOUTHERN REGION PARKS

BIG BEND OF THE COLORADO STATE RECREATION AREA

By Jonathan Brunjes

Winter has long left us and the camping season is coming to an end. Big Bend is gearing up for a busy spring and summer. With temperatures already hitting the high nineties, we expect a busy boating/swimming season. We have been hard at work re-nourishing the parks beaches and removing dead brush to make room for larger crowds. We planted 300 trees throughout the park as part of an NDF grant to replace trees that died from mistletoe.

P&D Engineer, **Joe Cyphers** has been overseeing the installation of new side-walks with ADA trails down to the river. Additionally, we will install new picnic tables, grills, and relocate two shade cabanas closer to the beach. A new CXT restroom was installed on our north beach; visitors are already complimenting. This was all part of a Boater Access Grant through NDOW.



We welcomed over 60 Marines from Camp Pendleton, CA in March. They assisted in the installation of rip-rap material around the new restroom and also used the park for their swift water training exercises. They transported sections of expandable bridges up the Colorado River to Big Bend and off loaded Humvees and Transport Trucks, etc.



We enjoyed having all those who participated in the Parks Academy tour the park. I have to give a big THANKS to all our staff and volunteers. They did a fantastic job this fall and winter working on numerous projects, painting, pruning, raking, etc. to get the park in tip top shape. So with that, have a good spring and bring on those triple digits!!

CATHERAL GORGE STATE PARK

By Marcia Wadsworth

Yeah, seasonal workers are back in the saddle, so to speak, after the winter break! We are all glad to be back to work and hopefully supervisors are happy to have us. ☺ I am working on my eighth season at the Visitor Center. **Vicki Castaldo** is back helping at Cathedral Gorge and at Beaver Dam. **Cody Tingey, Dawn Andone, Shaylen Budreau** and **Jim Cole** are always here to keep things going year round. **Dawn** and her husband **Scott** just returned from a life-long dream vacation to New Zealand. They enjoyed a wonderful time!!!



Big news at Cathedral Gorge is the new power hookups in our campground. With the professional help from **Lincoln County Power District #1** and work from state park employees, this major event was accomplished. So far the reception of this new amenity has been overwhelmingly received by visitors. Good job all!

We are constantly working on the Annual Park to Park Pedal, which is coming up on Saturday, October 11. This event requires many hours of planning, organizing and implementing what was learned from last year to make it successful. Riders love this event and come back each year and bring friends. We are proud of the success of this event. This will be our third annual ride.

Our co-worker, **Nevin Birkmier**, retired. We are all going to miss her as are the campers and visitors. We wish her a happy retirement. **Neil Cheaney** from Pioche was hired to help at Cathedral Gorge and Beaver Dam. We are looking forward to him coming on board April 14.

Shaylen Budreau, with help from the Caliente Youth Center groups has been and will be spending a lot of time and effort preparing trails at Beaver Dam for the upcoming Gravel Grinder event. This biking event traverses on dirt and gravel and through some rough terrain. This is the second year for this event and everyone has put in extra time mapping and cutting trails for this specialized ride on June 21. I have only been back to work for a few days, so if I have missed something important, I am sorry. It is good to be back and we are all looking forward to a great summer and fall.

KERSHAW –RYAN STATE PARK

By Andrew Porter

Spring may be taking its sweet time getting here, but the season has definitely arrived. The park has been designated **Nevada Travel Network's "2014 Hidden Treasure of the Year."** An omen for another successful year. We appreciate Kershaw as a treasure, but we will be working on making it a tad less "hidden."



KERSHAW –RYAN STATE PARK (con't)



If you happen to be in the park, stop by and peek in the greenhouse - all of the cheery variety of green growth will be enough to tell you that master gardener **Ken Adams** is back and on schedule to beautify the park. Every season, Ken looks forward to trying different cultivars and flower arrangements to optimize the famous “Kershaw sparkle”. We will be sure to showcase our progress via Facebook.

Volunteer and camp host-extraordinaire, **Mark Goin** continues to dedicate day after day to keeping the campground weed free and impeccably neat. Mark’s keen attention to detail have many of our visitors commenting that one could “eat off of the restroom floors,” which may be true, but we do not encourage verifying this.

Veteran Big Bend of the Colorado seasonal **Eli Jobe** will be joining the Kershaw team this season for a chance to enjoy working conditions that do not approximate those of working on the surface of sun. Eli is currently an Outdoor Parks and Recreation major at Southern Utah University and we are excited to be part of furthering his education and establishing the foundation for what promises to be a successful career.

All in all, we have a lot going on this spring. Here are some highlights:

- **Matt Elmer** will be lending his expertise and vision towards his park entrance vegetation enhancement project soon. Development of this unused area has been needed for some time.
- We are proud recipients of grant funding secured by the **Nye Communities Coalition** for outdoor education training and materials for elementary aged children in the area.
- **Ben Johnson** and his legendary charm were awarded the purchase of a complete outdoor movie set-up from the Lincoln County Commissioners. Yes, we will be having Movie Night at Kershaw again!
- Thanks to **Mark Davis, Marc Lepire, Blake Clark, Jenny Scanland,** and the **L&WCF** we can begin bidding and construction on a new garage/shop structure soon.

- Joint efforts from **IMBA** (International Mountain Bicycling Association), the **City of Caliente**, State Parks and **BLM** continue to gain ground towards the development and construction of a local Mountain Bike Trail System, which is very exciting!

OLD LAS VEGAS MORMON FORT STATE HISTORIC PARK

By Daniel Wassmund

Spring came quick and was greatly welcomed here. Our outreach programs have picked up. We have been loaning out our traveling teacher trunks for in-class history programs and I have been making visits to schools giving programs to up to 700 kids. **Beth** and I just finished up our “spring cleaning,” which consisted of mucking out our creek and pond system. The water has never been clearer, now all we need is fish in it again. We also just wrapped up our first Dutch Oven Cook-off for Nevada’s sesquicentennial celebration. Many delicious meals were made, my favorite being the almond joy sticky-buns and the trash can turkey. A good time was had by all, and we look forward to having another one again next year.

A new record was set for total gift shop sales in the month of March, thanks to ancient State Parks employee **Ray Richardson**. I swear he has been moving our merchandise like stocks on Wall Street. I would also like to welcome our new seasonal employee, **Jenny Eischen**, who has been helping us weed the grounds and will be helping us with our irrigation projects into the summer.

As of now we are currently booking lots of school and tour groups and gearing up for our next couple programs. Coming up we have the Helen J. Stewart Birthday Tea, the Helldorado Parade, and a new gem and mineral dig program all scheduled in the next couple months. Things are looking pretty exciting so far this spring for us here at the fort.

SPRING VALLEY AND ECHO CANYON STATE PARKS

By Josh Rhein

The calendar is turning towards spring and while ice may be melted off both lakes, night time temperatures and weather are keeping us guessing about the season. Staff are gearing up for another exciting season. Spring also means time to welcome back our returning seasonals; **Kyle Hunt, Sue Lewis and Phil Trousdale**. Joining the team this year are **Dawne Combs, Stephen Combs and Ruth Scott**.

Our next event is our Annual \$50,000 Tagged Fishing event, which is taking place the first weekend in May. Afterwards, we have our “Hooked on Fishing, Not On Drugs” event the second weekend in June at Echo. We’re hoping to top last year’s attendance numbers for both events. In other exciting news, the new RV campground Echo Canyon is moving right along. It’s a big project, and so far it’s smooth sailing. The new campground will be a great asset to the park.



VALLEY OF FIRE STATE PARK

By Tracy Strassburg

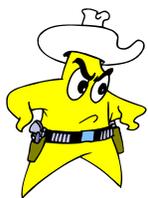
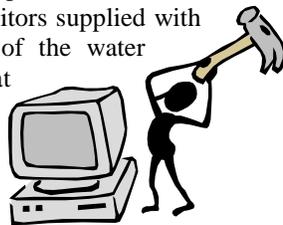


As of the writing of this article, while the northern parks are busy thawing out, spring is in full swing here. With unseasonably warm winter temperatures, December saw a 10% increase in visitation and 13% increase in gift shop sales. Park visitation in January increased 41%, with a 27% rise in the gift shop, and February was up 15% in visitation, with a 9% upsurge over 2013 figures. Despite the frenetic pace, all staff have done an amazing job providing quality service for visitors.

Our non-commissioned ranger **Chris Johnson** was “baptized by fire” when he joined us in October 2013, during the federal government shutdown of the national parks. He rapidly learned camping and permit fees, visitor services, fee booth operations, and everything else in between. Once the dust settled, **Chris** quickly switched gears and jumped right in by developing interpretive programs, attending statehood sesquicentennial meetings, and planning and promoting First Day Hikes via an awesome interview with KTNV ABC Channel 13 News. Valley of Fire’s First Day Hikes were wildly successful; we hosted 353 people who participated in 10 hikes – 80% of total First Day Hike participation for Nevada.



A heartfelt “thank you” to P&D for the new 30,000 gallon water storage tanks installed in September. The tanks were quickly tested when the park’s well malfunctioned on December 27 (while the campgrounds were full of course). Fortunately, after being filled from multiple water deliveries, the new tanks were able to keep park visitors supplied with potable water. Before implementation of the water telemetry system, which came online at the beginning of March, the park well and storage tanks were operated manually. Sadly, two weeks later, we were forced to revert back to manual operation. The picture (at right) surely reflects how **Jim Hammons**, **Stephen Santee**, **Rod Lewis**, and **Jamin Hunter** feel about the system now!



At the end of February, law enforcement rangers attended law enforcement refresher training in northern Nevada. Much appreciation to **Russ Dapsauski** and **Rick Keller** for assisting staff in their absence. Unfortunately, as a consequence, **Russ** will no longer be permitted to empty fee tubes due to injuries he sustained. Rumor has it that **Jim Hammons** and **Eric Johnson** received a healthy dose of “payback” during the air soft gun training. Jim was overheard commenting that he was “bruised, battered, beaten, and bullet-riddled.”

State Parks’ first Dutch Oven Cook-Off for the 150th Nevada Anniversary was held on February 8. Valley’s very own **Ben Plummer** and his wife



were among the contestants. Participation was much greater than expected; with over 100 hungry observers in attendance. We learned that it’s very difficult to wait for judging! We would also like to express our gratitude to Cathedral Gorge for the use of their Dutch oven tables.

The World Atlatl Competition was also a success. The weekend’s events in mid-March drew more than 440 visitors to the park. Most people were thrilled to have a hands-on experience with a weapon that has been used for over 25,000 years. Additionally, visitors learned that nearby petroglyphs at Atlatl Rock illustrate the very same weapon.

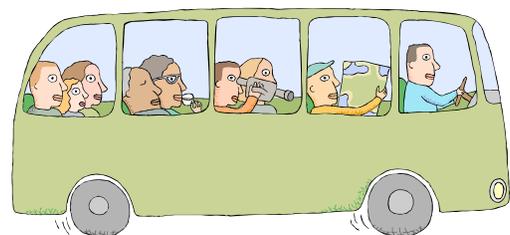
Kyle Groth and **Tracy Strassburg** have been busy directing efforts towards the creation and upkeep of Valley of Fire’s new Facebook page. The two have done a tremendous job in expanding the park’s multimedia exposure through postings of park events, real-time campground status, current wildflower reports, and significant weather events. They also recently shared Nevada State Parks’ “Park Profiles” series, which featured **Craig Robinson**. Photographs and posts have been well-received and the comments, “likes,” and “shares” continue to accumulate.



Stacy Alfonso, **Jay Wanta**, and **Lee Gallier** celebrated March 17 with the return of **Thomas Fitzsimmons** and **Heather Jolley**, who rejoined the park for the season. The exhausted gift shop duo of **Trisha** and **Michelle** were also happy to have **Jennifer Tobiasson** return. With Jennifer’s arrival, hopefully they won’t be as terrified every time a UPS or FedEx truck pulls up in front of the Visitor Center!

We would also like to inform everyone that Valley of Fire will offer a Leave No Trace (LNT) Master Trainer Course sponsored by the National Outdoor Leadership School (NOLS). The course will be held November 10-14, and is open to State of Nevada personnel first. Enrollment is limited to 12, and three slots have already been filled. If anyone is interested in enrolling, or for additional details, please contact **Sandra Hufford** at (702-397-2088). Thanks to **Andrew Porter** for his assistance with the program.

No rest for the wicked...April’s schedule includes the Clark County Fair, the annual Easter program, weekend presentations, events, guided hikes, and the first Children’s Atlatl Endurance Challenge. Both campgrounds continue to operate near capacity and tour bus season has kicked off. Whew, then it’s on to May! Hope everyone has a productive and successful spring.



NEVADA STATE PARKS PUBLIC REPORT CARD

By Joy Elwood

This data is based on our visitor surveys for 2013 and is compared with results from 2012.

Parks were given 14,966 surveys to distribute. Per their monthly reports they only gave out 9,975, which means 66.7% of the surveys were distributed in 2013, which is an increase. We received 2,595 surveys, which is 60% increase over the year 2012.

The following is the overall rating for all state parks:

		<u>Increase or Decrease over 2012</u>
Excellent	79.3%	3.5% Decrease
Good	17.4%	2.9% Increase
Average	2.4%	.7% Increase
Poor	.4%	.2% Decrease
Unacceptable	.5%	0% No Change

THE REGIONAL SCORES

The following is the ranking of the regions based on the highest amount of Excellence: first Southern Region and second Northern Region.

The following is the ranking of the regions based on the lowest amount of below average ratings: first Southern Region and second Northern Region.

THE PARK'S SCORES

These results are based on a minimum return of 30 surveys for the year. 30 samples are generally recognized as the minimum number required providing statistical valid survey results. So, only 16 of 23 parks made the list.

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

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Berlin-Ichthyosaur | 6. Spring Mtn. Ranch |
| 2. Cathedral Gorge | 7. Washoe Lake |
| 3. Cave Lake | 8. Mormon Station |
| 4. Big Bend of the Colorado | 9. Old Las Vegas Mormon Ft. |
| 5. Spring Valley | 10. Wild Horse |

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

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Berlin-Ichthyosaur | 6. Cathedral Gorge |
| 2. Cave Lake | 7. Wild Horse |
| 3. Big Bend of the Colorado | 8. Washoe Lake |
| 4. Old Las Vegas Mormon Ft. | 9. Ft. Churchill |
| 5. Spring Valley | 10. Ward Charcoal Ovens |

ACTIVITY PARTICIPATION

The following are the report activities done in our parks and a comparison from 2011's participation:

		<u>Increase or Decrease over 2011</u>
Relaxing Outdoors	73.5%	3.9% Increase
Hiking/Walking	53.8%	3.5% Decrease
Camping	50.2%	8% Increase
Picnicking	37.7%	7.8% Increase
Group Activity	2.6%	8% Increase
Pleasure Driving	27.5%	2.4% Decrease
Nature Study	17.2%	3.5% Decrease
Photography	32.8%	8% Decrease
Historic Sites	25%	11.4% Decrease
Special Events	9.1%	2% Increase
Boating	17.6%	.9% Increase
Fishing	24.7%	11% Increase
Swimming	2%	13% Decrease
X-Country Skiing	6.1%	4% Increase
Snowplay	.8%	.2% Decrease

So the following are the top 10 activities enjoyed at our parks throughout all of Nevada:

- | | |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Relaxing Outdoors | 6. Pleasure Driving |
| 2. Hiking/Walking | 7. Historic Sites |
| 3. Camping | 8. Fishing |
| 4. Picnicking | 9. Group Activity |
| 5. Photography | 10. Boating |

EXPENSES

More money is spent within a park's county, by 49.8%, than outside the park's county. The public spent 48.6% more from 2012 w/in a park's county (\$209,036.69 to \$406,868.08) and spent 43.5% more outside a park's county (\$114,318.39 to \$202,489.11). Top five expenses were in order: Fuel/Vehicle Expense, Groceries/Picnic Supplies, Restaurant, Hotel/Lodging, and Other Supplies. Highest average expense per person was on Rental Equipment and the lowest average expense per person was for Bars.

150th CELEBRATION IN THE NEVADA DAY PARADE

By Joy Elwood

In 2014, since October 31 falls on a Friday, for the first time in many years, the official Nevada Day State Holiday will be on the actual anniversary of our statehood! With 2014 being our Sesquicentennial, what a fitting way to celebrate by making a Nevada State Park float! With the 31st actually falling on a Friday, the Nevada Day Parade will take place on Saturday, November 1. Details on the parade's theme have not been released yet, but it is safe to say it will relate to the sesquicentennial celebration. So get out on your creative thinking caps and help our division come up with a float design. We want to tackle this project early and get many volunteers to help out for this momentous occasion.

Please submit thoughts, ideas, volunteering time to Eric Johnson before your busy season leaves you too swamped to think. Thank you in advance for your time, creative juices and efforts.





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

Return Service Requested

PERSONNEL

By Anke Simpson

Spring is here and seasonal hiring packets are arriving by the truck load. I am also pretty busy with recruitments for permanent positions. Currently we have vacancies for two Park Interpreters, two Maintenance Repair Specialist IIs, one Park Ranger I, one Administrative Assistant II and one Law Enforcement & Training Specialist. The class specifications for the Sr. Law Enforcement Specialist have been changed to incorporate more training functions for non-commissioned staff, and the title was been changed. There have been quite a few changes among our permanent staff since the Fall Pen.

Promotions:

After working for State Parks for 23 years, **Kirsten Strange** promoted from her Administrative Services Officer II position to Deputy Administrator on 12/23/14. **Cheryl Fretwell** accepted the Administrative Assistant III position at the division office on 3/31/14 and is moving from her Administrative Assistant II position at Spring Mtn. Ranch to Carson City. Congratulations to both of them!

New Permanent Employees:

Jennifer Wilson started in the Administrative Services Officer II position at division on 3/13/14. Jen promoted from her Management Analyst II position at the Attorney General's Office.

Retirements:

The division office had to say good bye to two long time employees within a few day of each other.

Alyce Cloutier retired on 2/28/14 from her Administrative

Assistant III position with 24 years of State Service. **Steve Silva** retired a few days later on 3/5/14 from his Sr. Law Enforcement position with 34 years of state service. Both worked their entire state career at State Parks.

Terminations:

Randy Ralphs left his Maintenance Repair Specialist II position at the Old Las Vegas Mormon Fort/Southern Region Headquarters on 3/3/14.

Nick Brunson transferred to the Department of Wildlife on 3/14/14 to promote to a Game Warden position.

Mandy Keefer left her Park Interpreter position at Spring Mt. Ranch on 4/5/14 to move to Tennessee.

