


In-Situ

Newsletter of the Nevada Archaeological Association Spring 1999

Spring Board Meeting and 28th Annual Conference to Be Held in Reno, March 19-20

The next NAA Board Meeting will be held in Reno, Nevada on March 19th, in conjunction with our 28th Annual NAA conference. The board meeting will be held from 3 to 6 PM at the Sands Regency Hotel. As is always the case, all NAA members are encouraged to attend. After the Board Meeting, there will be a no host bar get together at the Sands.

On Saturday, the paper presentations will begin at 8 am and conclude at 4 PM. This year, the papers presented will present a wide range of topics. While too numerous to give a complete listing in this newsletter, the presentations include the archaeology of a city dump in Old Carson, technological and distributional studies of Southern Great Basin ornaments, the history and industrial archaeology of the Eagle Salt Works, the Big Springs archaeological site, an alternative economic model for precontact Truckee Meadows, and a look at a Middle Archaic house pit site from White Pine County. During the conference, a book sale will be ongoing.

Following the papers, our general membership meeting will occur. During the general membership meeting, nominations will be taken for seats on the Board. Immediately after the election of the 1999 Board, there will be a

new Board meeting. All members are urged to attend the general membership meeting and help nominate and elect new Board members.

The Saturday evening banquet will feature Dr. Catherine Fowler as keynote speaker. Prior to the banquet an auction will be held which will feature Navajo jewelry for the third year running. The auction will occur from 5:30 to 7:30 PM Saturday night, followed immediately by the banquet.

The conference will conclude on Sunday with a walking tour of Reno, weather permitting.

If you have any questions concerning the Board meeting, please contact Bill Johnson at 702/566-4390. For questions concerning the conference, please contact Oyvind Frock, arrangements chair, at 775/826-8779 or Alice Baldrice, program chair at 775/687-6361.

The Sands Regency is located at 345 N. Arlington Avenue in Reno. The reservations phone number is **1-800-648-3553**.

The rates at the Sands are:

\$41.00 single or double occupancy Sunday through Thursday.

\$61.00 single or double occupancy on Friday and Saturday (no Saturday arrivals).

Note that these rates are good until February 26th. Please mention NAA when reserving your room.



Welcome New Members!

I would like to welcome some new members to the Nevada Archaeological Association. Wally Ward of Fallon, Cindy Eccles, Keith Stever of Pioche, and Leo Karpinski, Forest Service Archaeologist in Elko, have joined us for 1999. Also, as a result of our efforts to bring UNR and UNLV students into the organization we have four new members who are graduate students at UNR. These are Helen Walborg, Janice M. George, Leah Bonstead and Jessica Kinchloe. We are glad to have all of you as members and encourage you to submit items for publication in the newsletter or in the NAA Journal, the Nevada Archaeologist. Remember, as NAA members you are always welcome at the quarterly board meetings. Field trips are part of each board meeting, so join us for some fun and interesting times. I also urge you to participate in our annual meetings by presenting papers summarizing your research. See you at our Reno meetings this March!

Submitted by Anne DuBarton

Membership Renewal

Don't miss out! Renew your membership today! Those of you who have renewed your membership for 1999 will receive a card attached to this newsletter. Those who have not renewed will receive a second renewal notice attached to this newsletter. Please renew today. Contact Anne DuBarton, membership chair, at 702/895-0534, if you've misplaced your renewal information. It's such a deal!

Passport In Time Projects in Nevada: Summer 1999

There will be two Passport in Time, or PIT projects held by the US Forest Service in Nevada this summer. Jim Winfrey, Forest Service Archaeologist, will be spending three weeks this summer traipsing with volunteers in the vast Monitor Mountain area of Central Nevada. These volunteers will be completing sample surveys for prehistoric sites. This is a continuation of last years' project.

In addition, Fred Frampton, Forest Service Archaeologist in Elko, and his PIT volunteers will be assisting the University of Nevada, Reno, in the excavation of a Chinese mining camp known as Island Mountain. Island Mountain was a small community of Chinese placer miners. The camp was established in 1873 and remained in existence until 1915. The 1880 census indicated a population of 50 people, of which all but 2 were Chinese. Excavation will focus on learning more about Chinese miners and how they adapted to living in a foreign land. The University of Reno will be running the excavation; providing analysis and a report of the findings. Dr. Donald Hardesty will be the principal investigator. Also lending their assistance will be Dr. Priscilla Wegars of the University of Idaho and Dr. Gene Hattori of the Nevada State Historic Preservation Office. **Excavations will occur July 28-30, August 2-6, and August 9-13.**



The Passport In Time program is a nationwide volunteer program. For a PIT catalog listing these projects and others occurring on Forest Service lands throughout the nation, please write to:

The Passport In Time Clearinghouse
PO Box 31315
Tucson, AZ 85751-1315

Or call: (520)722-2716

An adventure awaits you!

submitted by Gretchen Burris

REACHING AN APEX AT APEX

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is proposing to exchange lands on the northeastern edge of the Las Vegas Valley near the railroad siding of Apex. The area has relatively gentle alluvial fans and valleys punctuated by steep, rugged limestone mountains and hills. Archaeologists from HRA, Inc. (Heidi Roberts, Rick Ahlstrom, Laureen Perry and David Valentine) took on the task of building and testing a model for prehistoric use of the uplands in the Apex project area.

The model predicted utilization of rockshelters in the lower reaches of the mountains, with occasional lithic procurement sites in the saddles and on flat ridges. Field work for the model testing phase was completed mid November. Roughly 60% of the uplands were inventoried to BLM Class III standards (during which the crew often cursed the fact they weren't born mountain goats). A total of

seventeen archaeological and four historic sites was located and recorded.

Eleven of the sites were rock shelters near the bases of the mountains. The majority of the sites contained limestone grinding slabs. One site contained prehistoric pottery, and one rock shelter had a buried grass mat. The absence, or near absence of chipped stone artifacts is an interesting aspect of these sites. Charcoal and/or burned bone is a common component of many of the rock shelters. Mitigative efforts could yield important information on when and who, were utilizing what resources in this rugged terrain.

Of the remaining eight prehistoric sites, seven of them are lithic scatters created when locally available cherts were being procured. The last prehistoric site is an open air habitation site consisting of a rock alignment against a cliff face with grinding and chipped stones artifacts and buried charcoal.

Three of the four historic sites are associated with historic mining and mineral exploration. One of the sites contains over thirty large, well built cylindrical rock cairns. They follow the Nevada mining regulations pertaining to claim monuments to the letter, and are the most beautiful claim cairns that the author has ever seen.

The last historic resource found is the remains of an acetylene flashing beacon, or "blinker beacon," built for the Los Angeles to Salt Lake City airway. Air mail was first flown over the route early in 1926, but beacons were not constructed until the following year, after

responsibility for airway lighting was passed on to the Department of Commerce. The site is atypical for a blinker beacon, as the site was a wooden tower with a concrete slab foundation. Typical blinker beacons were skeletal steel towers set on wood beam foundations.

HRA, Inc. has plans to publish and distribute some of their contract reports. Look to see the final Apex report as one of the first HRA "Publications in Archaeology."

Submitted by David Valentine

Y2K Nevada Archaeologist

As Journal Editor of the Nevada Archaeologist for the year 2000 and in celebration of the Y2K phenomenon (once in a lifetime), William White would like to extend an invitation to any avocational or professional archaeologist to submit a previously unpublished paper for publication in the NAA journal. Thematic in orientation, the 2000 journal will focus on petroglyph and /or pictograph (rock art) research as it pertains only to Nevada. Submitted papers can deal with any subject associated with the glyph/graph problem domain such as: is it art; a new style description; current trends in Nevada research; results of a site recording project; efforts at chronometric age determination; shortcoming of the shamanic or hunting magic models; etc.

Because of the number of potential submitters and as a matter of NAA budgetary constraints, any submission should be no more than 10 pages in length, double spaced at 12

font, and no more than 2 pages of photos, tables, and/or graphs. Photos should be originals and no larger than 4 X 6 inches, preferably in black and white format. Submitted papers should follow some semblance of AAA style guide that includes a short abstract (single space and smaller font OK) and references.

Deadline for submitting your best finalized effort will be June 30, 1999. If interested, please do not hesitate in calling William White at 702/895-1416 or email <whitew2@nevada.edu> or snail mail at Harry Reid Center for Environmental Studies, Box 454009, University of Nevada, Las Vegas, 89154-4009, by March 30, 1999, so that he can have a feeling of how many papers will make up the journal. William looks forward to closing this century out with the best journal ever!

1998 Winter Meeting Held in Tonopah

During the Board meeting in Tonopah, it was announced that Lincoln County Chapter Member Barbara Rhode was developing a web page for their chapter. Barbara volunteered for the project after completing a community college course on the subject. For more information, please contact Bill Johnson at 702/566-4390.

The Society for Historical Archaeology Annual Meeting, 1999

The annual SHA meeting was held in Salt Lake City in January. Several NAA members were seen wandering the halls of the Salt Lake Hilton during the meetings. Some members from rural Nevada were heard to comment about the advantages of movies theaters and sporting goods stores, both of which were eagerly patronized by these isolated members.

Board Member David Valentine presented both a paper and a poster at the meetings. He reprised his airline beacon paper (some of you may have heard a version of this at a previous NAA meeting) and presented results of his thesis work at American Canyon. Yours truly (DuBarton) and Susan Edwards also attended, although for once we didn't do any presentations. Several other NAA members were in attendance. Next years' meetings will be held in Quebec, Canada.

Submitted by Anne DuBarton

A Chapter of the Archaeological Institute of America Opens in Las Vegas

The Archaeological Institute of America has opened a new chapter in Las Vegas. Rich MacDonald of the MacDonald Center for Ancient History and UNLV co-sponsored the kick off campaign for the Las Vegas chapter with a free lecture by Dr. Brian Fagan entitled, "The Rape of

the Nile." Dr. Fagan presented an interesting and animated discussion of the history of archaeological activities in Egypt. Prior to the lecture, Rich hosted a dinner party that included representatives from the MacDonald Center, UNLV, Archaeo-Nevada and NAA.

If interested in membership in this new chapter, you can contact Marcia Garcia at the MacDonald Center for Ancient History at 702/458-0001.

Submitted by Bill Johnson

Ward Charcoal Ovens: A Brief History

Located approximately 16 miles south of Ely, Nevada, on the Cave Valley Road (which parallels US Highway 6/50) is Ward Charcoal Ovens State Park. The park contains six well preserved charcoal ovens, two kilns, an interpretive trail, a day use area and a campground (under development at this writing).

The Ward Charcoal Ovens were operational from 1876 to 1879, during the silver boom years of the Ward Mining District. The associated town of Ward had a population which soared from 12 people to 1,400 in 1876. The town flourished for four years, but by 1879, the silver ore "pinched out" and most of the population left town for greener pastures. The Ovens were eventually phased out completely due to the depleted ore deposits and the shortage of available timber.



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The Ward Charcoal Ovens served a variety of purposes after their usefulness as charcoal ovens ended. They sheltered stockmen and prospectors during foul weather, and had a reputation as a hideout for stagecoach bandits.

The Ward Charcoal Ovens are 30 feet high and 27 feet in diameter at the base; shaped like a beehive. The walls are 20 inches thick with 3 rows of vents. The ovens once held approximately 35 cords of wood each. The ovens were made from locally quarried rock located directly southwest of the ovens. The rock is tertiary volcanic and quartz latite tuff.

This summer, several interpretive programs will be given at Ward Charcoal Ovens State Park (and neighboring Cave Lake State Park as well). Some of these programs are listed later in this newsletter under the Calendar section.

For more information, please contact:

Jack Tribble, Park Ranger
Ward Charcoal Ovens State Park
P.O. Box 193
Ely, Nevada 89301

Submitted by Gretchen Burris

Call for Events Listing: Archaeological Awareness and Historic Preservation Week

If you are planning an event for Archaeological Awareness & Historic Preservation Week, or would like ideas and assistance in planning an event, please contact

Alice Baldrice of the State Historic Preservation Office. The SHPO will be developing a brochure to publicize events. This brochure is an ideal way to publicize your event. Please contact Alice Baldrice at 775/687-6361, for more information. ***Act quickly, as the deadline to get information in to Alice for the brochure is March 5, 1999.***

Chapter and Affiliate News **Am-Arcs of Nevada**

Our field trips have been suspended during the winter but our monthly meetings continue. 75 people attended our December dinner meeting and heard Kelly Dixon, archaeologist on the Comstock, discuss the 1998 excavations at the Old Corner Bar in Virginia City. Several Am-Arcs member have been active in these excavations and the related lab work.

In January, Greg Haynes of D.R.I. presented a slide program on the Holocene archaeology on the Nevada Test Site.

For further information on Am-Arcs, contact Oyvind Frock at 775/826-8779.

Archaeo-Nevada

Archaeo-Nevada meets the 2nd Thursday of each month at 7:30 PM at the Southern Nevada Community College, West Charleston Campus in Building B, Room 203.

Members of Archaeo-Nevada enjoyed a presentation in January of Native American music presented by Howard Hahn.



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The February program was presented by Bruce Lund, Refuge Coordinator for the Moapa Valley Wildlife Refuge. The program was entitled, "Natural History of the Upper Muddy River Valley".

On March 11, 1999, Harold Steiner will discuss the Old Spanish Trail.

Field trips are currently being planned for the spring.

For more information on Archaeo-Nevada, contact Howard Hahn at 702/ 564-7912.

White Pine County Historical and Archaeological Society

The Society meets the 3rd Friday of each month at 7 PM at the White Pine Public Museum, 2000 Aultman St. in Ely.

The Society has reprinted a book entitled, "Ely and Her Mines" by Frank Adams. The book was originally published in 1907 and contains many interesting photographs from that era, as well as information you may not find anywhere else. It is, after all, in this book that Ely is referred to as the "Copperopolis of the West". It also has a number of great photographs of residences in Ely. This book may be purchased for \$10 through the Society. You may receive a copy by mail for a grand total of \$12.00 (this includes shipping costs). *Make your check out to: The White Pine Historical and Archaeological Society.*

The address is:

White Pine Historical & Archaeological Society
PO Box 1117
Ely, NV 89301

Be the first one on your block to get a copy of this book!

A reminder that the White Pine Historical and Archaeological Society also has a website:

www.webpanda.com/white_pine_county/historical_society

Elko Chapter

The Elko Chapter will soon have their own web page! When it is up and running, it will feature, among other things, their newsletter and a listing of current events.

Our group in Elko had quite a busy year! We completed the Northside Elementary School Archaeology display the fall of the previous year and it is still holding up very well for being outdoors.

During the spring of 1998 we organized and participated in Archaeology Week with the Northeastern Nevada Museum. Our chapter set up various tables displaying prehistoric hunting, foods from the past, a fossil display and hands-on displays such as flintknapping and toolmaking, where some of our members demonstrated techniques used. A children's table was set up for kids to bead their own necklace and learn to "grind" using a mano and metate. Our group also sold food to help raise money during the event.



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As we jumped into summer we elected to hold a yard sale for our annual fund raiser. We had a few field trips during the summer, one to the Sprucemont historic site & the surrounding area south of Wells and one to the Old Bullion townsite southwest of Elko. On the way to the Old Bullion site smoke could be seen in the distance, we continued to travel to the Old Bullion site, only to discover the area was on fire when we arrived. The fire crews were already on site and allowed us to stay at a safe distance. Much of Old Bullion had been destroyed by an older fire so there are no structures evident, some of the old equipment is around and one can note traces where foundations once stood. The field trips were well attended, by both members and fire crews. Note: the fire was contained in a reasonable amount of time and the fire crews definitely knew how to handle it.

We are finishing up cataloging the artifacts found with the Chinese skeletons in Carlin, NV the previous summer. The skeletons, all from the early 1900's, have been examined by Smithsonian scientists and are presently at the Nevada State Museum. Plans are underway to get them returned to Carlin and reburied in the older part of the cemetery this year, if no living relatives claim the remains. So far we have numerous experts working on finding distant relations and nothing has turned up. I will keep you informed of the future proceedings.

We have an new T-shirt design for our chapter and will be getting that completed in the early part of next year. The mastodon T-shirts in the museum continue to sell, slower in the winter but with the display in the museum it really promotes knowledge and education. If any of you pass by Elko remember to stop in and see

the mastodon display at the museum; it is spectacular.

In conjunction with the mastodon event our group sponsored a drawing contest for the area schools and we received numerous entries. We are wrapping up the compilation of the book which will be published and sold through the museum; proceeds will be kept for the museum.

To wrap up this years' events we had a Christmas potluck at the BLM office, here in Elko. One of our members gave a slide presentation from her recent trip to China, it was great fun and everyone enjoyed the show! For the following year we are looking forward to reburying the Chinese skeletons, beginning to brainstorm for Archaeology week, inviting speakers for the winter months, getting the T-shirts completed, and organizing field trips and membership drives.

Fred Frampton, US Forest Service Archaeologist and Elko Chapter member, is in the midst of organizing summer activities including an excavation of a Chinese mining camp known as Island Mountain. A history of the Chinese in the Mountain City area will be prepared by Dr. Sue Fawn Chung of the University of Nevada, Las Vegas.

Eric Dillingham, Elko BLM Archaeologist, will present a program on the Bettles 52 site in North-Central Alaska on February 25th. This site is a Middle Archaic hunter gatherer base camp which was excavated in 1993. It is located 150 miles north of Fairbanks, Alaska.

For more information, you may contact Stephanie Halliman at 775/777-8266.



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Calendar

February 25, 1999. Elko Chapter. Presentation, "The Archaeology of the Bettles 52 Site in North-Central Alaska". Northern Nevada Museum, 7:30 PM. Elko.

March 11, 1999. Archaeo-Nevada. Discussion on the Old Spanish Trail. Presented by Bruce Lund. Las Vegas.

March 19-20, 1999. NAA 28th Annual Conference and Board Meeting. Reno.

March 24-28, 1999. Society for American Archaeology Annual Meeting. Chicago, Illinois.

May 9-15, 1999. Archaeological Awareness and Historic Preservation Week.

May 15, 1999. Ward Townsite and Cemetery Tour. Ely, NV. Meet at 10 AM at Ward Charcoal Ovens State Park.

May 29, 1999. Flintknapping Demonstration. Cave Lake State Park. Ely, NV. 1 PM at the Ranger Station.

May 30, 1999. Charcoaling Demonstration. Ward Charcoal Ovens State Park. Ely, NV. 1 PM at the Ovens.

June 5, 1999. The history of Ward Charcoal Ovens and a walking tour of the Ward townsite. Ward Charcoal Ovens State Park. Ely, NV. 1 PM at the Ovens.

June 11-13, 1999. Long Steel Rails Festival. Ely.

1998 NAA Officers and Chapter Representatives

Bill Johnson, President (566-4390)
Pat Hicks, Secretary (565-1709)
Susan Murphy, Executive Secretary (658-3396)
Anne DuBarton, Membership (895-0534)
Oyvind Frock, Treasurer (826-8779)
Gretchen Burris, Newsletter Editor (289-2450)
Christi Shaw, Board Member (964-2671)
Peggy McGuckian, Board Member (623-3396)
David Valentine, Board Member (645-9579)

Chapter Representatives:

Maie Nygren, Churchill County Chapter Rep. (423-2212)
Barbara Rhode, Lincoln County Chapter Rep. (728-4467)
Stephanie Halliman, Elko Chapter Rep. (777-8266)
Helen Mortenson, Archaeo-Nevada Rep. (876-6944)
Barbara Arnold, Am-Arcs Rep. (329-9899)
Lisa Gilbert, White Pine Historical & Archaeological Society Rep. (289-6728)

Ex Officio Board Members:

Alice Baldrice, SHPO Representative (687-6361)
Bill White, Nevada Archaeologist Editor 2000 (566-1929)
Mark Henderson (289-8250)



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Editor's Corner:

The deadline for the spring newsletter is May 10, 1999. Summer is coming and I know stuff will be going on in the Great Basin. Let other folks know about it. This is a plea to submit any info. that might be of interest to the membership to:

Gretchen Burris
35 Elysium Drive
Ely, Nevada 89301
or email me at : gjburris@netxxpress.net

