



# GREAT BASIN National Heritage Area

The Newsletter  
of the Great Basin  
National Heritage  
Partners

There is a reason they call it Great! —Its loneliness and wide open spaces appeal to the special few.

## February board meeting to be held in Delta

The Great Basin National Heritage Partnership will be holding its regular winter Board meeting on Saturday February 26, 2011 in Delta, Utah. The meeting will begin at 10:00 am MST.

The meeting is held in conjunction with the Piece in the Valley's 9th Annual Quilt Show and with the annual Snow Goose Festival in Delta, Utah.

During the business meeting, the Board

will entertain a discussion about partnering with various local organizations for the preservation and interpretation of archaeological, historical, cultural, natural, scenic and recreational heritage resources of the Great Basin National Heritage Area. The Great Basin National Heritage Area includes White Pine County in Nevada, Millard County in Utah and adjacent tribal lands.

As always, the public is invited and will be offered an opportunity to comment.

## Heritage Area partners with railroad museum

In September the Great Basin National Heritage Partnership and the White Pine Railroad Foundation signed a joint agreement that will help the partnership in its goal to interpret and promote significant area historical, cultural, scenic and recreational resources while helping the Foundation in its role to restore, and operate and interpret the Nevada Northern Railway.

For some time the Partnership has been searching for a substantial program in White Pine County, Nevada (as well as one in Millard County, Utah, and one on adjacent tribal lands) that will give it a foothold in the region with respect to educational and interpretive heritage programming. At the same time, the Railroad Foundation had an

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**The Northern Nevada Railway operates demonstration steam trains currently using the two vintage rail coaches shown below. The Partnership will fund restoration of the couplings on the cars allowing the White Pine Railroad Foundation to increase interpretation.**



Volume 2 Issue 4

December 2010

### Meet Some of Our Stakeholders:

- ♦ *Great Basin National Park— Baker, NV*
- ♦ *White Pine Chamber of Commerce*
- ♦ *Duckwater Shoshone Tribe*
- ♦ *McGill Drugstore Museum*
- ♦ *Great Basin Museum*
- ♦ *Millard County Commission*
- ♦ *Great Basin Institute*
- ♦ *Daughters of Utah Pioneers, Millard West Company*

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**GREAT BASIN HERITAGE NEWS**

GBH News is the official newsletter of the Great Basin National Heritage Partnership and is produced by its Executive Director, R. Dan Gooch.

GBH NEWS is published periodically. All issues are posted on the GBNHP website. Some copies are also mailed or e-mailed to GBNHA partners and associates.

GBH NEWS will accept articles from partners or interested parties on heritage issues or events occurring within the Great Basin National Heritage Area. Articles may include photos (preferably in JPG format) accompanied by a cover letter with the author's name, address and telephone number. They may be mailed to:

GBH News  
PO Box 78  
Baker, NV 89311

or e-mailed to [greatbasinheritage@wirelessbeehive.com](mailto:greatbasinheritage@wirelessbeehive.com)

Great Basin National Heritage Partnership Board:

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- Directors.....Jane Beckwith
- .....Gordon Chatland
- .....Kyla Overson
- .....Virginia Sanchez
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- .....Robin Bell

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Utah Associate .... Gordon Chatland

**Become involved...**

GBNHP seeks partners to join us as supporters, funders, operators of heritage features, volunteers, or even as critics.

Contact us at:  
PO Box 78  
Baker, NV 89311  
or e-mailed to [greatbasinheritage@wirelessbeehive.com](mailto:greatbasinheritage@wirelessbeehive.com)

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# A Report from the President



GBHAP held its quarterly board meeting in Ely on November. 6, 2010. It was a productive meeting especially since we are getting closer to a completed management plan. The board members received copies of the first draft of three chapters of the management plan plus the completed interpretative plan . This is a rough draft to be reviewed for accuracy, completeness and organization. There may be much to be added and edited before a draft is available for public review. Then revisions will be made based on public comments before the final draft is submitted to the Secretary of the Interior. Board members are reading and working on this first draft and are to be submitting their recommendations.

Since then the Board meeting members have received another two chapters on the scenic and natural features of the area. The fine photos help depict the scenic beauty of the region.

From a business point of view, traffic on Highway 50 is better than last year. The tourist season was good which ties into the Heritage Area. We have so much to show the traveler.

Also, the invitations to the Old Shepherders' Party went out recently. This "party" which started out to be a one night thing has been so successful that it is now a two day event with at least 150 participants each day. The mailing list has expanded to 240 names. It is gratifying that so many people who lived this extraordinary lonely sheep raisers life style have responded to our efforts as a heritage area to do oral histories and record a little known aspect of Great Basin life.

Denys Koyle, GBNHP President

## Tourism Commission grants help GBNHA

RENO, Nev. — The Nevada Commission on Tourism (NCOT) approved grants in early December to help rural communities attract visitors to a diverse group of attractions including a bathtub boat show in Ely.

The commission, meeting in Reno, voted for grants totaling more than \$362,000 that will enable 73 recipient organizations to advertise and market an array of tourism venues, events and activities that draw travelers and deliver dollars to sustain local economies.

“Awarding these grants extends a helping hand to rural communities so they can reach out and entice more consumers to experience their local events, attractions and activities,” Lt. Gov. Brian K. Krolicki, NCOT chair, said. “Grants truly make a difference in whether rural Nevada venues can afford the marketing they need to sustain their tourism-dependent economies.

Spreading the word can transform a small event with 200 local people into an economic booster with 2,000 visitors who check into hotels and stay awhile.”

NCOT approves rural grants twice a year, in June and December, and is awarding just over \$1 million for FY2011. Grants awarded in June totaled more than \$662,000.

“Rural communities know how to really stretch grant dollars and get the biggest possible return on the investment,” NCOT Interim Director Larry Friedman said. “Each project is evaluated before the grant is awarded and after the project is accomplished, so we know that the work was completed successfully. It is one of our most worthy programs.”

Two of the of the winning projects important to the GBNHA include:

► \$5,500 for the White Pine County Tourism and Recreation Board to advertise the Cocktails and

Cannons event near Ely the weekend of June 25, 2011, featuring bathtub boat racing, a barbecue and cannon fire and fireworks finale. Last year’s event drew 2,600 visitors and this year is expected to attract more than 3,000 and 1,500 room nights in local hotels.  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NUf3ertVWCA>

► \$6,700 for Indian Territory to conduct the Nevada Tribal Tourism Training program April 20-21, 2011, at the Las Vegas Paiute Tribe to educate members on how to advertise attractions and products, seek grant funding and develop successful infrastructure to draw visitors. Funding will provide a training program, advertising materials and speaker and travel costs for 80 attendees.  
[www.NevadaIndianTerritory.com](http://www.NevadaIndianTerritory.com)

A complete listing of Rural Grants approved Dec. 7 is available online at  
<http://travelnevada.biz/news/pres.s.aspx>

## Great Basin Heritage Area News Shorts

### Museum gets fossils & minerals

In November the Great Basin Museum in Delta, UT received a notable collection of fossils and minerals.

The collection donated by the estate of Howard Shanks of Ames, Iowa was significant residual from materials provided originally to Mesalands Dinosaur Museum in Tucumcari, New Mexico. Staff at the Great Basin Museum is studying the collection to determine how it may be interpreted in relation to the Utah west desert. The materials including crinoids, corals, fish, leaves, insects and a number of minerals will be made available to the public and to enhance the academic performance of students.

### Nevada folk and heritage grants available

A new round has been announced for Folklife Apprenticeship Grants and Nevada Heritage Awards for the 2012 fiscal year (from July, 2011 through June, 2012).

The [Folklife Grants](#) provide a one-year grant of \$2000: a \$1500 stipend for the master artist plus up to \$500 for supplies and travel. Eight grants will be awarded.

[Nevada Heritage Awards](#) were created to recognize and celebrate the state’s living cultural treasures. The recipients embody the highest level of artistic achievement in their work and the highest level of service in the teaching and other work they do in their communities to en-

sure that their traditions stay strong. These awards are given to individuals for their lifelong record of artistic excellence, authenticity, and significance.

The Nevada Heritage Award is recognition of lifetime achievement and may only be received once.

Grant awards are \$3,500. One or two awards are presented each year, depending on the application pool and availability of funds.

Nominations must be submitted online by March 15, 2010. Contact the Nevada Arts Council’s Folklife Program staff before beginning to prepare a nomination.

The GBNHP encourages its partners to participate by contacting:  
<http://nac.nevadaculture.org/>

## ..... Continued from Page 1

# Heritage Area Partners with Railroad Museum

ongoing program of interpretation in need of expansion associated with a need to do some restoration on one of its living museum pieces. The Foundation, however, was a bit short on funding for the restoration while at the same time, had excess capacity of volunteer opportunity.

Because of its conservative handling of its federal funding support, the Partnership had a bit of available revenue that could be applied to help it and the Foundation leverage the funds to solve all the dilemmas at once and to grow an important program--just what National Heritage Areas are designated to do!



**Mark Bassett, Director of the Northern Nevada Railway Museum helped craft a partnership agreement that will benefit both his organization and the GBNHA.**

The White Pine Railroad Foundation is a non-profit organization that operates Northern Nevada Railway and its related

museum on behalf of the City of Ely, NV the owner of the railroad and railroad complex. The Foundation is organized to receive, administer, and develop an operating railroad museum for the purpose to authentically preserve, restore, and operate the Nevada Northern Railway for the benefit of future generations through education.

Saved from demolition by a determined community effort, the Nevada Northern Railway (NNRY) preserves an intact, early- to mid-20th century railroad operation.



**Use of restored railcars enhance opportunities for interpretation.**

Headquartered in Ely, Nevada, the railroad's original purpose was to haul copper ore from open pit mines in Ruth, to the west, and to a smelter in McGill, north of Ely. For many decades, the Nevada Northern Railroad also served the region by running school trains, shift trains, party trains, church trains, and "ping pong" trains between smaller communities and Ely. In the fall, hunting trains were organized.

The railroad also carried passengers and freight in and out of Ely, and transported cattle and sheep to market.

With two steam locomotives and three diesel locomotives in operation, several functioning passenger cars (and more awaiting restoration), dozens of historic structures, working shops, and 20 miles of serviceable track, NNRY offers visitors and volunteers an exceptional opportunity to experience living railroad history. The Nevada Northern Railway Museum may well be the most complete working historic railroad operation in this hemisphere; it was designated a National Historic Landmark in 2006.

It's an expensive proposition to restore and maintain and operate historic locomotives and rail cars, keep buildings and infrastructure in good repair, and meet federal standards for professional, safe operations.

Two of the historic passenger railcars in demonstration use were originally built and maintained by the Illinois Central Railroad which had modified the railcars with non standard coupling devices so that they cannot be uncoupled and train cars cannot be assembled in alternate order. This has caused problems particularly in cold

**Heavy steel coupling devices like the one pictured below connect one rail car to another to create a train of cars. The non-standard coupling units on some of the historic cars used by the Northern Nevada Railway prevent trains from being assembled in alternate configurations.**



weather when the brakes on one of the cars may contain frozen water vapor and its brakes cannot be properly "set". And, because regulations of the Federal Railroad Administration prevent demonstration operation of an entire train in the event that brakes of one car are not functional, existing coupler configuration can and has prevented scheduled demonstration use of the railroad.

The Partnership, in the interest of expanded interpretation and promotion of this historical, cultural, scenic and recreational use of demonstration trains, will provide \$25,000 for historically accurate and functional modification and restoration of the couplings on the two railcars. This project is anticipated to be done before this winter's cold weather slows operation.

Ely is a small, remote community, half a day's drive from Reno, Las Vegas, and Salt Lake City. Elko is the closest city, about three hours away. In spite of these distances, an estimated 30,000 visitors make their way to the Nevada Northern Railway Museum each year. Most of them visit between spring break and Halloween; December attendance has grown in recent years thanks to Polar Express excursion trains. The Museum has significant room for growth; day-to-day, NNRy could handle considerably more visitors

without additional manpower.

With the couplings restored, the Railroad will be able to expand operations and promotion of the historic railroad. It will be better able to implement its recently developed interpretive plan that projects: "Increased attendance would significantly stabilize the Museum's budget.

Many people who ride the excursion trains go on to join as members, sign up for rentals, become volunteers, and/or contribute financially. That's why attracting more visitors is an important strategic goal for NNRy and for the GBNHP. It's equally important to ensure that every visitor has a rewarding and memorable experience." The interpretive plan addresses both goals.

Among other benefits, the project is anticipated to enhance economic opportunity in Ely and within the Great Basin National Heritage Area by attracting more tourist dollars—another reason the Heritage area was created. Thus the project will help the Heritage Area, Ely and the Railroad, not to mention improve the experience of all who visit.

***The adjacent East Ely Railroad Depot Museum (below) operated by the State of Nevada should also benefit from increased visitation of the Northern Nevada Railroad.***

## **Delta festivals add excitement to late winter**

The Snow Goose Festival (February 25 & 26, 2011) celebrates the arrival of thousands of Lesser Snow Geese in the fields and waters between Delta and Clear Lake Management Area. This is an annual festival with activities including free waterfowl workshops, a 10K race, a photography contest, and a quilt show.

Geese are also seen returning to Gunnison Bend Reservoir, west of Delta, after feeding in nearby fields. Bird lovers bring their own binoculars or view the sight through spotting scopes set up by wildlife officials.



***The Lesser Snow Goose appears a rather handsome animal.***

In conjunction with the Snow Goose Festival the 9th Annual Piece in the Valley Quilt Show will display area quilting at the Millard County Fair building. Last year more than 100 quilts were shown. A "Viewer's Choice Award" will be given to the quilt that receives the most votes from the public. There will also be a vendors mall, trunk show, fashion show, lectures, and quilt classes for all levels of quilting.



# Fireworks and ice sculptures attract visitors from around the country

Heritage is being created all the time. It sometimes becomes a riff on historic events or cultural features of an area or sometimes it reflects contemporary issues. The Annual Fire and Ice Show in and near Ely, NV often does both.

The Fire and Ice Show was inspired in 2003, when an Ely resident made a snow sculpture of a large trout on a popular area ice-fishing lake. So many visitors came to inspect the snowy creation that park officials at Cave Lake State Park pounced on the opportunity and two years later,



the snow-sculpting competition began. The whole community of Ely has jumped on the idea. This year top prize sculptors will snag a \$1000 award! And the fire part includes 2 extravagant displays of pyrotechnics.

The Fire and Ice Show has become such a tremendous success that the American Bus Association ranks it regularly among its Top 100 Events in North America. Inclusion in the Top 100 list, pub-



lished as a supplement to the September/October issue of Destinations magazine, indicates that Fire & Ice offers excellent entertainment value to both tour groups and individual travelers from around the world, according to ABA.

Fantastic past creations include a magical fairy tale bear fast asleep in a sleigh bed, the enormous head and hands of a prospector closely

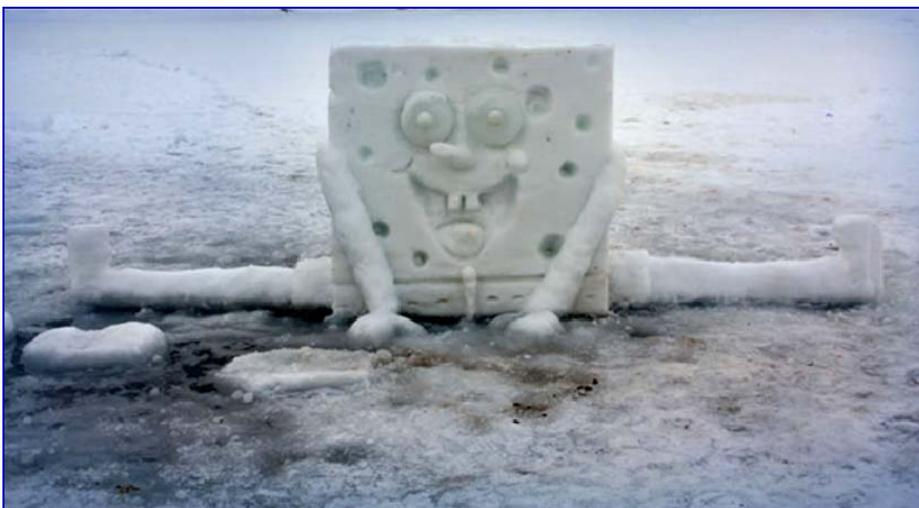


inspecting a nugget of gold and even daunting shark fins approaching a frantically swimming man. But the outdoor festival,

**ABA's Top 100 Events in North America is an annual compendium of the best events for group travel in the United States and Canada.**



**Each spring, a committee of ABA-member motorcoach and tour operators selects the Top 100 Events for the subsequent year; the list is unveiled in September. Winners are chosen from hundreds of celebrations, festivals, fairs, commemorative events, and more that have been nominated by ABA members. From among the winners, ABA names the Number One Event for both the United States and Canada.**



held annually in January, offers visitors much more than just inventive snow sculptures. Past activities at the Fire and Ice Show include snow bowling, one-hole snow golf – played with a bright green tennis ball for visibility, of course – live music and great food and hand crafted “heritage” beverages served by the White Pine Brewing Company, the area’s only micro-brewery. The finale of each Fire and Ice Show is a brilliant fireworks extravaganza, which is all the more vivid thanks to the frozen landscape.

This year’s events will take place January 14 through 16<sup>th</sup> (2011). Prior years featured the two-day ice sculpting contest culminating in a fireworks show launched over Cave Lake and echoing throughout the canyon extending back into the state park. Last year in addition to the fireworks display over the frozen, high-desert lake, an additional fireworks show was added in Ely set off from a train as it puffed through town. In both locations the cold, dry air makes the colors more vibrant than summer displays. The reports

from the pyrotechnics bounce off canyon walls to add to the cacophony.

Other activities at the park throughout the weekend include skiing, snowmobiling, ice-skating, ice fishing and the firing of a his-

toric Nevada cannon.

The White Pine Fire and Ice Show is sponsored by White Pine County Tourism and Recreation Board, the Nevada Commission on Tourism and the Nevada Division of State Parks.

**WHITE PINE**  
*Fire*  
**and Ice**  
**SHOW**

**TOP 100 NEVADA** (repeated four times)

**Snow and Ice Sculpting Competition**  
**at Cave Lake State Park**  
January 14 through 16, 2011  
Fireworks 6 p.m. on Sunday, January 16

First Prize- \$1,000 • Second - \$500 • Third - \$250

**Fireworks Train**  
*(Fireworks from the train itself!)*  
Saturday, January 15 • 6:30 p.m.

**Morning Train**  
Sunday, January 16 • 9:30 a.m.

**Ely Rotary Ice Fishing Derby**  
Saturday, January 29, 2011  
Top Tagged Fish - \$5,000

**White Pine County**  
Tourism & Recreation Board  
775-289-3720 or  
800-496-9350  
elynevada.net  
ccmanager@mwpower.net



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PO Box 78  
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The Newsletter of the Great Basin National Heritage Partnership.

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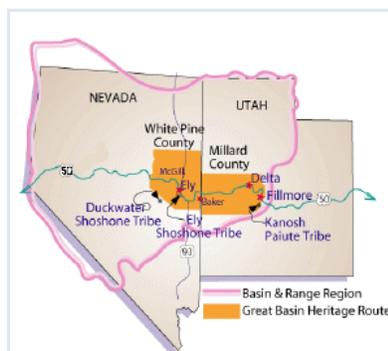
### ***The Great Basin National Heritage Partnership***

*Our mission is to: develop and enable partnerships to help identify, research and evaluate, conserve, protect, interpret and promote the archaeological, historical, cultural, natural, scenic and recreational resources of the Great Basin National Heritage Area in a way that enhances economic opportunity without managing or regulating land use.*

**You may want to know a little about our history and our objectives...**

**And join us as a partner**

The Great Basin National Heritage Area (GBNHA) was designated by Congress in 2006 to recognize its "classic western landscape that contains long natural vistas, isolated high desert valleys, mountain ranges, ranches, mines, historic railroads, archaeological sites and tribal communities." The recognized Area is made up of two neighboring counties, White Pine in Nevada, Millard in Utah, as representative of the larger geographic Great Basin.



The Great Basin National Heritage Partnership (GBNHP) was designated as the local coordinating entity for the Area.

The Partnership has been in operation formally since 2002 when it was incorporated. It had been active informally prior to that.

In addition to developing a management plan, the Partnership is currently reformulating its relationship with organizations and agencies that were,

are or could be partners. Partners are nothing more than individuals, non-profit organizations, governmental agencies, businesses, or even foundations that have an interest in the Great Basin National Heritage Area and want to participate in what the partnership is doing. Relationships can be formal; the partnership has a written agreement with the National Park Service and we are working on developing memorandums of understanding with local BLM Offices. Or, they can be informal; we have simple letters of support from a number of groups. No written documentation is necessary if individuals want to volunteer.