GBHAP board meeting planned for Delta

The public is invited to join the board of the Great Basin Heritage Area Partnership when it meets at the Delta School District Offices at 450 N, 285 E. in Delta, Utah on Saturday, February 23 at 10:00 a.m. MST.

During the regular organizational business meeting the Board will discuss current and proposed projects and handle organizational business. One such item will again be the election of officers of the Partnership—President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. The Board will also be inviting suggestions from board members and individuals for persons to serve on the Partnership Board. The Board recently received resignations from a few of those currently serving.

The board will also entertain proposals for collaborative partner projects. Specifically, it is expected that the Ely, Nevada Renaissance Society will be proposing a partner project to install an exhibit of Great Basin art in its recently acquired bank building in downtown Ely.

As always, member partner representatives and the public will be offered an opportunity to comment during the meeting.
A message from the president of the Great Basin Heritage Area Partnership:

Seriously, I am resigning as Board President at the Feb. 23 meeting in Delta. There are agenda items for Officer elections and recruiting new Board members to fill vacancies on the Board. I would urge the current Board members to do some introspective thinking on what they see the Great Basin Heritage Area achieving and how to get there.

After the changing of Board officers, I suggest that we have a mini-strategic planning meeting to address our mission, goals and activities. We have an excellent management plan in place to use as a guideline. We just need to clarify our goals for this next year.

The Tenth Annual Old Sheepherders' Gathering was successful. Because of the frigid temperatures turnout was down a little--not much. We hosted 145 people on Friday night. The program with Sourdough Slim at Baker School was fun and did further our goal of doing more interpretation on the heritage of the Great Basin. The kids were impressed. Thanks to Pat Atkinson and the Nevada Arts Council for the grants to bring Sourdough Slim to the sheepherders' gathering and to the school.

Because the Partnership is no longer focused on the production of a management plan, we are reaching out and others are approaching us for projects. The Great Basin National Park trails project proposal is a good example of where we can help partners for almost no money on our part but with our paid staff can contribute labor and know-how to a project.

I have been invited to present at a Utah Library Association meeting at BYU on May 2. The topic will be the partnership with the Western Digital Library and the U. of Utah on the Sheepherders’ project and how that all came about, where it is going and why it is so important to the participants in the project. It’s always gratifying to be recognized as having something to contribute to groups like this.

See you in Delta.

Denys Koyle, President
Changes made at last Board meeting
At the December 2012 GBHAP Board Meeting, the Board accepted resignations from two board members Julie Gianoli and Cheryl Noriega and voted to add one new member from White Pine County, Mark Bassett, Director of the Nevada Northern Railway. The Board also proposed an advisory committee made of former board members who would like to be active with special projects. The Partnership appreciated Julie’s and Cheryl’s years of service and looks forward to their participation in a future advisory group.

Contractor hired for new Topaz Museum
The Topaz Museum Board has hired Westland Construction to begin building the Topaz Museum in April 2013.

Partnership to help restore wig-wag signal
(From material provided by Mark Bassett, Director of the Northern Nevada Railway and new Partnership board member)

The Nevada Northern Railway has submitted a pair of rare original Nevada Northern Railway Wig-Wag Railroad Crossing Signals and signal box to the producers of the History Channel’s American Restoration reality TV program. (Wigwag is the nickname given to a type of railroad grade crossing signal once common in North America, named for the pendulum-like motion it used to signal the approach of a train.) The signals have been accepted for restoration by Rick Dale, an expert restorer of classic objects and artifacts with nearly 30 years in the business and his own shop in Las Vegas, Nevada—Rick’s Restorations. The project will become an episode of the TV program. Once restored by Rick and his crew, the signals will be returned to the Nevada Northern Railway and reinstalled to do what they were designed to do—protect a railroad crossing.

Though technically museum pieces, the signals will be operational and accessible to the public around the-clock, yet placed closely enough to the museum building they can be monitored constantly. Visitors can have their pictures taken while standing next to the signals as a reminder of not only of their trip to the Nevada Northern, but also as a touchstone to something that was featured on television.
And these photos are likely to be shown to family and friends. This is expected to be great publicity for the railroad.

Being selected for History's American Restoration television show gives the Nevada Northern Railway (and important part of the Great Basin National Heritage Area) excellent national exposure, in addition to preserving a working set of rare Nevada Northern Railway Wig-Wag Railroad Crossing Signals and providing one more reason for the public to visit the region.

To fund the restoration and installation of the signals, $20,000 must be raised. The Great Basin Heritage Area Partnership has agreed to provide $10,000 for use toward this project.

The restoration of the wig-wag signals will mark the sixth time that an artifact from the Nevada Northern Railway has been featured on the American Restoration television show.

**A toast to 23 years of tourism education**

Mark your calendar for April 17-19, 2013, and plan to be at the Pahrump Nugget Hotel and Casino in Pahrump, Nevada, for the 2013 Rural Roundup. Now is the time to foster networking relationships and engage in educational opportunities that will guide you in strengthening Nevada's rural tourism. Online registration will open in February.

**Blue Mass video promotes tourism in NE Nevada**

We recently stumbled across a 26 minute video on line featuring Ely, McGill, the Lincoln Highway, Schellbourne and scenic Blue Mass. It was produced by KNPB as part of its Wild Nevada Series. We do not know when it originally aired but we plan to link it to our Heritage Area website to provide an excellent example of the joys of exploring our area. Readers may access the video by logging on to: 
Blue Mass is a federal scenic area operated by the Bureau of Land Management. Blue Mass Scenic Area is located in the Kern Mountains in White Pine County, Nevada, close to the Utah/Nevada border. At an elevation of 7,000 feet, Blue Mass Scenic Area is loaded with streams and springs, old cabins, granite cliffs, pinnacles, and lush vegetation. The granite spires provide an excellent challenge for rock climbers.
Superintendent retires from Great Basin National Park

Andrew “Andy” J. Ferguson has retired from his post as Superintendent at Great Basin National Park, a central heritage feature and primary partner of the Great Basin National Heritage Area. His last official day at the Park coincided with the last day of 2012.

Andy arrived at the Great Basin National Park in April 2008 from Put-in-Bay, Ohio where he had been Superintendent of Perry’s Victory and International Peace Memorial. Soon after his arrival in the region, Andy quickly became a great friend and supporter of the Great Basin National Heritage Area and helped the Partnership to complete a memorandum of understanding with the park service that had been required by its enabling Act. He also worked to help the partnership determine what requirements it had in developing its Management Plan under terms of the Environmental Protection Act and the National Historic Preservation Act.

Andy’s willingness to promote community relations and his broad background in park operations served him and his communities well. “He has made great strides in partnering—with local governments and organizations—in each park he has served in,” said National Park Service Director Jonathon B. Jarvis.

Ferguson started his federal career with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) as an outdoor recreation planner for the Henry Mountain Resource Area in Utah. He later became a ranger with the NPS at Capitol Reef National Park, Utah; Glen Canyon National Recreation Area, Arizona; and at Big Bend National Park in Texas.

He worked on business and concession management activities with the BLM at Havasu Resource Area in Arizona and with the NPS at Lake Mead National Recreation Area in Nevada.

Ferguson moved east to Cumberland Island National Seashore to serve as its management assistant, handling policy and planning issues.

Beginning in 2004, he helped tell the story of the Battle of Lake Erie, a decisive victory that changed the course of the War of 1812.

Ferguson and his wife, Carol continue to remain as residents in Baker, Nevada near the Great Basin National Park.

Partnership and potential new partners plan for year’s activities

The Partnership looks forward to an especially productive year in 2013. There will be several 100th year anniversary projects to be celebrated within our area.
Anniversary planned for Lincoln Highway

One such observance is the Lincoln Highway Association 100th anniversary of the first crossing on the Lincoln Highway. The route passes through White Pine County, Nevada and just to the north of Millard County through Juab County, Utah.

In observance, a group of Lincoln Highway enthusiasts will travel east in June from the San Francisco area toward the Lincoln Highway National meeting in Kearney, Nebraska. The group will stop in Ely for a night and celebrate with a dinner or BBQ. They will primarily travel along US Highway 50, the Loneliest Road in Nevada since the original Lincoln Highway is along or near this highway.

There will be another group of enthusiasts shipping their antique vehicles across the Atlantic Ocean from Norway to participate in national Lincoln Highway activities. That group travelling from the east will stay and visit in Ely, NV after the Nebraska Convention.

The Lincoln Highway was conceived early in the 20th century, spurred by growth in numbers of automobiles throughout the country. The coast to coast highway, from New York through the entire country to San Francisco, California, started with portions of existing roads, then extended across the country with new connecting road work. The official length of the Lincoln Highway was listed in 1913 as 3,142 miles. The mileage varied over the decades with changes and realignments for a total of 5,869 miles (9,455 km) from New York through California.

Early automobile entrepreneur, Carl G. Fisher campaigned and raised funds for a cross country road. Contributors to the project included former U.S. President Theodore Roosevelt, then President Woodrow Wilson, and Thomas Edison. Henry Ford would not contribute since he believed roads should be built only with government funds. Visionaries saw the automobile as a relaxing way to travel, for families to visit and vacation, and for economic advantages.

The highway was the first one formally dedicated as a national memorial to former President Abraham Lincoln. Nicknamed the “main street across America” in 1912, it brought travelers and commerce to hundreds of towns and cities across the United States.

Long before his presidency, Dwight D. Eisenhower early in his Army career accompanied an Army Convoy in 1919 which took 3 months to cross the country on the Lincoln Highway. From his 1919 convoy trip and his experience with transportation logistics while fighting in Europe, he was instrumental, as president, in pushing forward the transportation network of interstate highways in the USA.

Ely’s first flight remembered

Another anniversary is the first airplane flight in Ely that took place in July of 1913 by Frank Burnside from New York. He shipped his plane via railroad and reassembled it in Ely. He wanted to set a new record for high altitude flying. As he launched his first flight he was also the first to discover the thermals which today makes the Ely Air-
port an important resource for soaring pilots. In July there will be a First Plane Presentation by the pilot’s relatives along with lots of photos followed by a Centennial Dance.

**Observatory construction becomes new Partnership project**
The Great Basin National Foundation is partnering with GBHAP to create a small observatory building to house a new telescope at Great Basin National Park. The Great Basin’s marvelous clear night skies provide the opportunity for educational and scientific studies. The project eventually will allow online views of the night sky, data, and information to be accessed at kiosks on or near the park and from remote locations. The Foundation submitted a proposal for help with the project which will also be supported by private donations and other grants.

**Sheepherder’s gathering was another success**
January 18 and 19th the successful Sheepherder’s Gathering was held at the Border Inn in Baker Nevada. Presentations, documentaries, movies, music by Sourdough Slim and Dave Kuiper were fun and informative. Basque food, a real sourdough pancake breakfast, and a nice dinner contributed to a spirited event and a gathering of friends old and new. January 18 Sourdough Slim also gave a presentation of music and talked about our cowboy music heritage at the Baker School for students, teachers, parents, neighbors and visitors from nearby Garrison, Eskdale and Baker.

**Placemats well received**
The GBHA placemat project is a big success. The placemats have a map on one side that identifies major attractions with additional information on the reverse. The Partnership has helped to distribute more than 55,000 placemats to large and small restaurants in White Pine County and Millard County so far. Staff at the restaurants answer many questions and talk about places and activities in our area. Many patrons are requesting two or more additional placemats to take home to friends and family who plan to visit our area.