WP County Fair is a genuine heritage event

The White Pine County Fair was held the fourth weekend in August in Ely, NV. This fair is the real deal—a heritage event. As a relatively small community event, it avoids undue commerciality. It focuses on showing of livestock, exhibits of locally grown vegetables and crops and home arts including baking, canning, textile and leather crafts. There was no carnival this year, but there was a horse race—a heritage event in itself. (See story page 7.)

Commercial vendors and exhibits are at a minimum. Food concessions are operated by community groups—the school band, FFA, cheerleaders etc.

Of the few commercial exhibits, most had a heritage tie in. The Quadra Ltd. Robinson Copper Mine had roots to 1902 and Mt. Wheeler Power brought rural electrification to White Pine County in 1971.

The White Pine County Fair represents the kind of heritage activity that the Great Basin Heritage Area Partnership supports and wants to partner with in order to maintain its cultural tradition, the true rural feel and community focus.

Topaz Museum designs to be shown

It has been 67 years since the U.S. government unjustly incarcerated 110,000 men, women and children of Japanese ancestry in ten World War II era Relocation Authority camps, implementing a policy of exclusion and detention mandated by Executive Order 9066.

For 3 years, over 8000 “internees” were held at the Topaz camp outside of Delta, UT in what is now the eastern portion of the Great Basin National Heritage Area.

On September 26, 2009, the Topaz Museum Board will unveil drawings for a museum being planned in Delta that will exhibit life and conditions of the Topaz camp.

Interested professionals and members of the public are invited to see drawings by Alan Kawasaki and sketches done by West Office Exhibition Design and to discuss exhibit design and funding ideas. An all day program is planned. For more information and registration form, log onto:

A Status Report from the President

The Importance of Partnerships:
Even though the Heritage Area Partnership was created in 2000 and the Heritage Area achieved national designation in 2006, GBHAP is now beginning to formalize the partnerships necessary for the Heritage Area to function as intended.

Our mission is to develop and enable partnerships that identify, preserve and interpret the significant heritage features of the Great Basin. The projects we undertake can originate with us or be projects that our partners have. The relationship works both ways. In some cases our responsibility will end at catalyzing a relationship between two or more of our partners. One of our responsibilities is to bring groups together to create stronger focus on any one project which in turn can more strongly attract necessary funding.

The Marketing Plan:
Charter Advertising has completed the Great Basin Heritage Area marketing plan and developed a new website for us. Chuck Nozicka will be at the September 12th meeting in Fillmore with a presentation on their work. This is one of the steps we needed to complete as part of the management planning process. This marketing plan can be used by our partners as they focus on their goals and fundraising. We hope that all our partners will want to link to our website as we want to link to theirs.

The Management Plan:
Our Staff has been working closely with Gretchen Luxenberg and Linda Stonier from the National Park Service Regional Office. Part of developing a management plan is creating an interpretive plan presenting the first opportunity for many of our partners to join in. We want (and are required) to assure that the plan involves and represents all segments of our community. We have invited several of our partners to join us in the process. We assume that once our partners understand the objectives they will want to be involved in carrying out the plan. If partner projects become part of our management plan, as they spend money, more federal dollars will become available.

In-Kind Match:
Time or other resources that our partners put into planning or execution of the plan can be valued and used to generate matching federal dollars for our operation. Wise management of donated time and creation of partnerships can help expand the local funding “pie” even in these tough economic times.

Looking Forward:
The last two years have been challenging and our public profile has been pretty low as we struggled to set up an office and learn how to deal with the paperwork and requirements of the Park Service. But the good news is that we have established a functioning entity that meets National Park Service criteria with the policies in place to accept federal funding.

With the leadership of Dan Gooch and with Gordon Chatland and Susan Wetmore as paid staff, we are now in great position to complete the management plan. Our goal is to have a draft plan ready to present to our partners in early 2010. Once the management plan is accepted by the Secretary of Interior we will begin implementing the plan. And that folks is what we all wanted to do when we set out to create a heritage area in 2000—interpret, preserve, and market the attractions, history and culture of which we are so proud.

Denys Koyle, GBNHP President
Funding available for heritage sites

One of the services that the Partnership will attempt to regularly provide its partners in the Area is notification of where funding and grant opportunities may be available for heritage sites and activities. (Partnership staff scans many documents monthly for such opportunities not only for Area partners, but for itself.) What follows is the list of opportunities spotted recently.

- The National Park Service FY 2009 Cost Share Program funds projects with matching funds up to $30,000 for preservation and improvement of (in this case) Great Basin National Heritage Area natural, cultural and recreational resources. The exact deadline for application has not yet been announced but is likely in December. Contact the Partnership if you think you may have a project that qualifies. We will attempt to help.

- Heritage Preservation, a non-profit organization in Washington DC helps fund a professional collections assessment for small to medium sized museums. The process helps museums understand and improve policies and procedures, learn conservation and preservation best practices and forge relationships with conservators and preservation architects. Applications will be available beginning September 4, 2009 online at: www.heritagepreservation.org.

- In November 2002, Nevada’s voters passed a ballot question allowing the State to issue bonds in the amount of $200 million for Nevada conservation and resource protection projects (including historic and cultural resources.) Some of this so called Q1 money is still available and another round for accepting applications is expected to begin soon. Contact the Nevada Division of State Lands for details.

- The Utah Humanities Council has been promoting what it calls Quick Grants. These grants can provide qualifying Utah organizations up to $1500 for small projects using proven formats and scholars, for films, video exhibits or book programs with discussions led by humanities scholar or, perhaps most importantly, as planning grants for hiring a consultant to help prepare a competitive grant application. To learn about this and other opportunities log onto: http://www.utahhumanities.org/Grants.htm.

- September 1, 2009, is the deadline for Museum Interpretation Grants. The Utah Humanities Council and the Utah Office of Museum Services, with input and advice from the Utah Museums Association, offer a second year of grant funding for Utah museum interpretation programs. The maximum request for Museum Interpretation Grants is $3,000. For more information log onto: http://www.utahhumanities.org/Grants.htm.

The Partnership needs funding too—Can you Help?

A great deal of volunteer time and effort has gone into the beginnings of the Heritage Partnership that in turn led to Congressional designation of the Great Basin National Heritage Area.

Volunteer time has also been generously extended to seek grants for brochures, website development and other “capital” improvements.

Acquisition of actual money required for development of the required management plan has been more difficult. Congressional designation enabled access to annual start up support funding but only when federal dollars are matched by non-federal money.

Continued volunteer effort led to a 2008 grant from the State of Nevada for $94,000 that could be used for start up. That money has been spent wisely for office equipment, research, consultants and planners, accountants and lawyers necessary to actually create an operating organization positioned to complete the required management plan and begin to carry out the mission of the Partnership.

However, the Nevada State money and matching federal dollars it attracted are nearly gone.

You can help the partnership reach its goal of developing and carrying out a plan for protecting and interpreting the archaeological, historic, cultural, natural, scenic and recreational resources of the Great Basin and enhancing economic opportunity for the region.

Cash donations and assistance with seeking operational grants is currently vital and will be much appreciated. Find our contact and mailing information at the bottom left corner of page 2 of this newsletter.
Heritage Area features being inventoried

A major project has been launched to assure that all the significant heritage features within the Great Basin National Heritage Area will be identified. “The first challenge is to find them” said the Partnership’s Executive Director Dan Gooch. “It is imperative that we identify all of the significant heritage features during development of the Management Plan and for the associated interpretive plan so that we will know which to emphasize, which provide the best current support for visitation and which need further development to help visitors appreciate them.”

So far the Partnership has “officially” identified only 37 features (in its printed materials and on its website.)

Gooch said “The second challenge, after identifying the features, is to gather detailed data about each one—not only its history, but also its exact location, how to get there, what visitor amenities and interpretation exist, who owns or operates it, its condition and more.”

A matrix sheet has been developed listing 84 elements of detail to be gathered at each site.

Partnership staff, Board members, partners and feature owners or operators will be called upon to help complete the inventory process.

Partnership gathers planning team

The Great Basin National Heritage Partnership is assembling a planning team. It has invited representatives of more than a dozen of its partner organizations to help determine, and be a part of the future for heritage interpretation in this area.

The Great Basin National Heritage Area (consisting of White Pine County, Nevada and Millard County Utah and adjacent tribal lands) was designated by Congress in 2002 as an area of the country containing heritage features significant to the nation. One of the responsibilities under this designation is the development of a 10 to 15 year management plan. Part of developing a management plan is creating an interpretive plan. The partnership wants (and is required) to assure that the plans involve and represent all segments of the Heritage Area community. Involvement of these partners will assist in meeting this goal.

The plan will identify the specific objectives of area interpretation, what heritage features will be highlighted, what media will be used, determine who the message is intended for, identify themes to tie the message together and explain how various players can work independently to strengthen the overall message and objective of interpreting the area’s features.

Partnership staff and associates will draft the plan with your input and directional approval of those on the planning team. Planning meetings are scheduled for November of this year and February of next. The results will be incorporated into the Management Plan intended for completion in August of 2010.
Kiosk a reality, early success achieved!

In the last newsletter we told you that in late 2008 the Heritage Partnership chose installation of an information kiosk as an early success project to demonstrate the organization’s ability to get projects done, and to provide information about the Heritage Area to the visiting public. As that story was being written, the kiosk parts were being shipped and installation being scheduled.

The project is now done.

The kiosk is a metal prefab unit that has been painted and roofed to look similar to the heritage building that it stands in front of—the Great Basin Partnership office. It displays three panels. One describes the Great Basin National Heritage Area as a whole. Another features specific heritage elements of the Snake Valley (in which the kiosk is located). The third panel provides updatable information about current events in the Heritage Area, seasonal cautionary information, and topical announcements.

The project was funded in part by the Nevada Commission on Tourism. Matching funds and design and installation assistance were provided by the National Park Service and the fine employees at Great Basin National Park.

The Partnership wishes to thank the staff of the Great Basin National Park for their assistance in completion of this project, especially Superintendent Andy Ferguson, Maintenance Supervisor Glen Dearden and Education Coordinator Brandi Roberts.

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The completed kiosk stands near the historic headquarters/office of the Great Basin Heritage Area Partnership.

The kiosk was adapted from a standard metal unit like the one above, manufactured by Rockart, Inc.

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Board Meeting Agenda...

The Great Basin Heritage Area Partnership Board will meet on September 12, 2009 at 10 AM Mountain Daylight Time in the Fillmore Library, 25 South 100 West, Fillmore, UT.

Agenda
1. Call to Order, Introductions
2. Approve Minutes
3. Charter Communications Presentation Regional Marketing Study /Plan
4. Treasurers Quarterly Report on Receipts and Expenditures
5. President’s Report
6. Executive Director’s Report
7. Business
   A. Travel Approval
   B. Membership Renewal – National Trust for Historic Preservation
   C. Financial Approvals
   D. Review of Grants Program
8. Directors or Committee Reports, Announcements
9. Other Business
10. Next Meeting
   November 21st—Ely, NV
11. Adjournment
Who Is this Outfit? And Why am I getting this newsletter?

The back of the newsletter tells you who we are and what our mission is. You are on our mailing list because you are associated with an organization that is a partner, potential partner, or someone we thought might like to know about what we are doing.

Heritage Area photos compete

They are pretty pictures and they depict heritage landscapes of the Great Basin National Heritage Area. But, are they pretty enough?

The pictures on this page were recently submitted to a contest sponsored by a local Nevada and Utah phone company wanting to present pretty landscapes of their service area in their local calendar.

A winning photo could help further promote the Area.

Grant application to become more friendly

The previous issue of this newsletter reported that in order to support heritage sites, attractions, and events, the Great Basin National Heritage Partnership would be announcing a grants program for organizations within the Great Basin National Heritage Area (Millard Co., UT and White Pine Co., NV and adjacent tribal lands).

The governmental requirements of passing along Federal funding to non-profit organizations, local or regional governmental entities or Indian tribes or anyone associated with one of these are fairly stringent. Sometimes these requirements can seem unreasonable because they can be difficult to understand.

The Partnership Board has asked that the proposed granting program be delayed briefly while its staff works on an application program that makes the process as friendly and helpful as possible to small local entities that may not be familiar with or have the resources to deal with Byzantine processes.

The improved application is expected to be made available later this fall or winter.

Grants will range from $1000 to $25,000.
Horserace tradition from 1934 carries on

“THEY'RE OFF!” This familiar cry was heard, once again, this summer as live horse racing returned to Nevada’s White Pine County. Operated by the local Ely Elks lodge, this was the fourth season in their efforts to re-establish a long time tradition of the sport which began over 75 years ago in Ely.

Originally organized in 1934, the races were formed by local ranchers and business people in an effort to overcome the depression blues. This group ran the races until 1937 when the county helped by forming a Fair Board. A year later, they would build a new race track and grandstand which is still in use.

In 1950, the races were rained out, hurting the event financially. Subsequently, a group composed of various social clubs was formed under the “Pony Express Committee.” This group ran the event until 1954 when the local Elks Lodge took over. The lodge would run the races for the next 40 years until 1993 when they could no longer operate profitably. However, during that time, the lodge contributed nearly $250,000 from the race proceeds to make improvements at the fairgrounds. Some of the improvements included new restrooms, a pari-mutuel building, paddock and jockey room and several new horse barns.

Shortly, another group of volunteers in cooperation with the local Agriculture District 13 picked up the challenge and managed to run race meets until 2000 when it was decided it was no longer practical or profitable to operate the event and they were discontinued.

During its history, the races were run in conjunction with other events including the White Pine County Fair, the 4-H livestock show and auction and a barbecue/dance by the local Cattlewomen’s Association. On these weekends, the fairgrounds were a favorite social event packing the fairgrounds with people. The loss of the races had a significant impact on these events and the community at large.

In 2006, the Ely Elks Lodge again felt the need to try to revive the sport in Ely. At that time, there was only one live race operating in Nevada and there were mule races in Winnemucca. Recent legislation which made funds available for purses seemed to make the effort more practical and the White Pine Horse Races were officially organized. Support from the local community and surrounding areas was even greater than anticipated and the 2006 meet was a success, reportedly gathering the largest crowd ever at the fairgrounds.

The Ely race attracts as many as 150 to 250 thoroughbreds and quarter horses along with their owners, trainers, jockeys and other racing enthusiasts. The participants mainly come from Utah, Idaho, California, Arizona and as far away as Oklahoma. This not only provides a fun weekend, but maintains a heritage tradition and contributes significantly to the local economy.

Partnership gains more staff

Gordon Chatland of Fillmore has taken an early retirement from his job as Park Manager of the Territorial Statehouse for the Utah Division of Parks and Recreation. The State of Utah’s loss will be the Partnership’s gain, at least for a while.

Gordon has agreed to act as the Millard County associate of the Partnership, on a part time basis, as he begins to adjust to the pace of retirement.

Chatland will be forging firmer relations with the Partnership’s partners in Utah, assisting in seeking funds and conducting heritage feature inventories in Utah’s Great Basin Heritage Area.

As a new employee of the Partnership, Chatland is unusually familiar with Partnership issues, as he has been serving as a Millard County Representative on the Partnership’s Board. He is now also a welcome addition to its staff.
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 and individuals. No written documentation is necessary at all if individuals just want to volunteer or comment on our work or plans. We invite you to contact us.