



*"We enjoy the experience of being a part of something that will preserve our history for many years to come."*

—Stewarding Team

# Nevada Pastwatch\*

Nevada Site Stewardship Program (NSSP)

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## Message from NSSP Coordinator, Samantha Rubinson Ph.D.

Dear Nevada Site Stewards,

This year is the **10th anniversary** of the state-run Nevada Site Stewardship Program (NSSP) and our success is entirely thanks to the time and energy each of you has dedicated to the program. I am proud to say that NSSP has trained more than 1800 site stewards over they years.

I would like to thank my predecessors, Sali Underwood and George Phillips, who did an amazing job establishing and building the two site stewardship programs that ultimately became the NSSP. There is no way that we would have accomplished so much without the foundations they and those that came before them built.

I would also like to thank all of the regional coordinators, past and present, for their hard work, time, and support. Their knowledge of Nevada's cultural resources far outweighs any database. There is no way this program could exist without them.

Finally, I would like to thank the agency representatives, for whom the stewardship program works for, for their participation and support.



Samantha Rubinson  
St. Thomas Historic Site

*Happy Anniversary*

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### Rayette Martin, Program Assistant



Rayette Martin with Stewarding Cat

It is spring time again and I have been very busy trying to get outdoors before it gets too hot. However, many stewards have been filling my inbox with monitoring reports. I guess if I have to stay in the office, that is a good reason.

We have had a great start to our spring season at NSSP and I am looking forward to hearing about your adventures stewarding our amazing resources. This weather is great to get out and see your sites.

We have had many new stewards join the program in the last few months and I enjoy their enthusiasm in helping to preserve our sites. I hope veteran stewards and new steward will get a chance to meet each other at an upcoming event or picnic.

## National Register of Historic Places Workshop

On January 23<sup>rd</sup>, Site Stewards and members of the Sparks Heritage Museum got an introduction to one of the nation's most popular cultural resource programs: The National Register of Historic Places. Jim Bertolini, the National Register Coordinator for the Nevada State Historic Preservation Office, provided the small group with an overview of this important program, how it works, and how it helps preserve important places throughout the state.



*Jim Bertolini's Presentation Inside the Sparks Heritage Museum*

Attendees learned how historic preservation methods can enhance Nevada's communities. Preserving important places helps maintain a sense of community identity and encourage future development with which community members can relate. Reusing existing historic buildings greatly reduces the environmental impact of development through the understanding that sometimes the greenest building is the one that's already built. Investment in historic building maintenance promotes local job growth and diversified, stable local economies. The National Register serves as one of the leading means by which to identify those places that matter most to Nevadans and that should be preserved for future generations.



*Sparks Heritage Museum*

From Belmont to downtown Reno, and from petroglyph sites to C Street in Virginia City, the presentation informed attendees about the broad array of resources that are currently represented in the National Register in Nevada. They also learned the importance of informed, engaged citizens in ensuring the success of the National Register and the preservation of historic places. Places are usually nominated to the National Register by private citizens who invest countless hours in research, writing, and site photography

to bring the stories of these fascinating places to light. It is often up to those same citizens (including Site Stewards!) to work with local, state, and federal officials, and private property owners to encourage the preservation of Nevada's irreplaceable cultural legacy.

Interested in learning more? Contact Jim Bertolini at (775) 684-3436 or [jbortolini@shpo.nv.gov](mailto:jbortolini@shpo.nv.gov) for information about how to nominate a place to the National Register.

## Bridgeport R.D. Site Introduction



*Chemung Mine*

*Jim, Debbie, Jim, Ron, Terry, Robert, Gordon, Nancy, Dan, Fran*

**Everyone agreed it was a great day!**

The Bridgeport Ranger District is comprised of over a million acres and includes sites located on the east slope of the Sierra Nevada, south of Carson City and throughout the desert regions east to Hawthorne, NV. Pre-historic sites range from rock art to game traps and living sites, and historic sites include portions of some branches of emigrant roads (still visible), and many mine sites and cemeteries. It is possible to monitor a range of sites in a single day.

On Oct 24, 2015, ten site stewards led by Tim Stalder, Bridgeport RD NSSP Region Coordinator, visited four sites in the district. This was an initial “base-line” orientation for some new stewards, and a chance for some experienced stewards to share their knowledge of the sites. The group visited historic Chemung and Masonic Mining sites, and Pillars Hill and Desert Creek, pre-historic sites.

## Nevadans for Cultural Preservation

NVFCP has been busy training site stewards in how to conduct site condition assessments and planning outings to use that training to assist NSSP and federal archaeologists. Our most recent adventure was locating and assessing sites for stewardship in Desert National Wildlife Refuge.

The road was bumpy, the sites were great, the struggle to find them a challenge, and the team of stewards were a pleasure to spend time with.

If you would like to learn more, please contact the NSSP office.



*Roger Kolar, Pat Olds, Dennis Robinson, Sue Kolar, Rayette Martin, Kathy Bax, Danielle Romero, and Samantha Rubinson after a great day hiking to sites at Desert National Wildlife Refuge*



We are also happy to announce that we have been awarded another Historic Preservation Fund grant to continue this education in Southern Nevada. Once our training has been tested and adjustments made, we hope to expand into Northern Nevada.

Our Vice President, Danielle Romero, just moved to Carson City and is ready to help with this expansion. If you are interested in being a board member or volunteer, please contact Rayette Martin at [info@nvfcp.org](mailto:info@nvfcp.org) or visit the website [www.nvfcp.org](http://www.nvfcp.org)



### Four Legged Site Stewards in Lincoln County



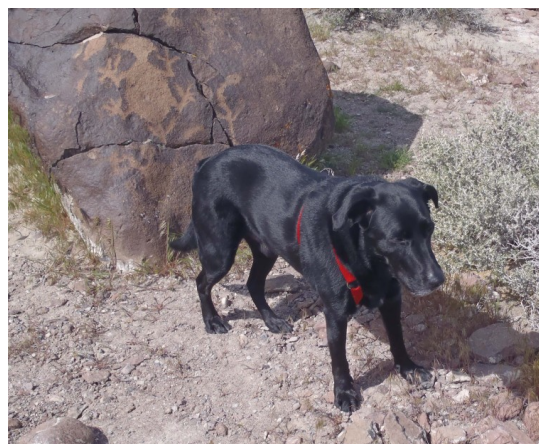
by Kathy Bax

On our December site visit in Lincoln County, we stopped at the Shell station in Ash Springs to get fuel and beverages. As soon as Jennifer and Debbie stepped out of the vehicle, a very small kitten raced across the parking lot to them. They picked her up and realized how skinny she was. She was purring though. They raced inside the store to get cat food and we watched as she voraciously ate the entire can of food...even chewing on the can edges. Of course we had to take her. She didn't belong to anyone. We proceeded to our site and, after some debate on whether it was a good idea, we took her on the hike with us. She hiked with us until she was obviously tired. Then we picked her up and carried her the rest of the way. Now Cali (short for Caliente) became the newest Rockstar (our unofficial team name). She was to go with us on all our future site visits.

*Cali  
Giving a tour of the best monitoring sites in Lincoln County with her adopted mom (Kathy Bax) and fellow Rockstar monitoring partners.*

Unfortunately, Cali faced many health challenges including seizures and she passed away this April. Many site stewards were able to meet this 4-legged volunteer at the Lincoln County Appreciation Picnic earlier that month.

Ozzie and his partner, Frank Adams, monitor sites in Lincoln County. Frank took his NSSP training in February of 2015. In a little over a year, this dynamic duo has donated 275 hours and driven over 5,000 miles to and from their home in Mesquite to monitor over a dozen prehistoric sites.



*Ozzie  
Monitoring on of the many rock art sites in Lincoln County with his two legged partner, Frank Adams.*



## Meet the State Historic Preservation Office-Services Team



*Left to Right*

**Samantha Rubinson**

Archaeologist- NSSP Coordinator and Manager of Southern SHPO Office

**Rayette Martin**

Archaeologist/Anthropologist- NSSP Program Assistant

**Jim Bertolini**

Historian- National and State Historic Registers, Historic Tax Incentives

**Elyse Jolly**

Archaeologist- Certified Local Governments, HPF Grants, NVCRIS

**Karyn de Dufour** Archaeologist- Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

**Annie Hershey** Archaeologist- NVCRIS Coordinator

The Services Team at SHPO provides many resources for federal and state agencies as well as the public. If you have any questions regarding the services we provide, please contact us at (702) 486-5011.

A brief description of some program areas outside of NSSP:

*National and State Historic Registers*- include landmarks, districts, sites, buildings, structures, objects significant in Nevada and American History, architecture, archaeology, engineering, and culture at the local state and national level.

*Historic Tax Incentives*- tax credits are available for owners of commercial properties listed in the National Register of Historic Places or a National Register of Historic Places Historic District or a National Historic Landmark Historic District

*Certified Local Governments (CLG)*- are based upon a partnership between local, state and national governments focused on promoting historic preservation at the grass roots level.

*Historic Preservation Fund Grants*- can support public education, surveys, planning, archaeological investigations, and building rehabilitation. Applicants must be either a governmental agency or a 501(c)3 non-profit organization.

*Nevada Cultural Resource Information System (NVCRIS)*- is a system where archaeological site records are managed. This is only available to qualified professionals.



NEVADA  
**STATE HISTORIC  
PRESERVATION OFFICE**



Ward Charcoal Ovens  
Nevada State Register of Historic Places  
Photo by Anne Carter



## Rick Brisard-Southern Nevada Regional Coordinator

Rick was born in rural Connecticut, and raised in an old farmhouse surrounded by forests that eventually reclaimed land which once had been cleared for farming by early colonists. The forests were full of old stone foundations of homes, storage buildings and barns just waiting for him and his brothers to explore. Within these foundations they often retrieved old bottles, tools, locks, coins, and kitchen utensils. Once they even found an old family gravesite from the early 1700's, completely overgrown and long forgotten. It was here where Rick's interest in archaeology began.

At age 18 Rick joined the Air Force and while stationed in Mallorca (yes, Mallorca!) he met an archaeologist who showed him stone walls constructed by the Moors, and small irrigation aqueducts built by Romans. After the Air Force, realizing that archaeologists are severely underpaid, Rick went into the health care industry and retired to Las Vegas after 33 years. Rick has been a steward for 3 years and is also a resource steward for the National Park Service. Hiking and learning about archaeology are his passions that he will be nurturing for many years to come.



Rick

## Robert (Bob) Easley-USFS Bridgeport Regional Coordinator



Bob at what's left of  
Dennis Remeset's bakery

Robert Easley's love of the desert began as a fourteen year old in a Bakersfield, California library reading *Desert Magazine*. His parents supported his enjoyment of the beauty, history, and lore of the desert with a subscription to the magazine. His interest in mining history had been fueled by trips with his father doing assessment work at his father's tungsten claim in the southern Sierras. His father also stimulated Bob's interest with stories of his time in the 30's prospecting in Nevada.

A lifetime later, Bob still has those *Desert Magazines* and he has been volunteering as a Nevada Site Stewart for a couple of years looking forward to following his passion in retirement. Now retired from a 40 year career as a buyer and purchasing agent in the San Joaquin Valley's agriculture industry, Bob looks forward to having more time monitoring sites in the Bridgeport district.

One of his current projects is working with the forest service to protect and stabilize a stone cabin at a mine near the top of Mount Patterson. At over 11,000 feet, the Montague mine has a stark beauty and history that is truly compelling. Traveling the 4x4 trail to the mine, and other historic sites on the mountain, has become an annual event.

Bob and his wife Terry live in the old mining town of Quartz in Tuolumne County so most of their steward work involves camping and overnight trips. They have two daughters, a five year old granddaughter and a one month old grandson.

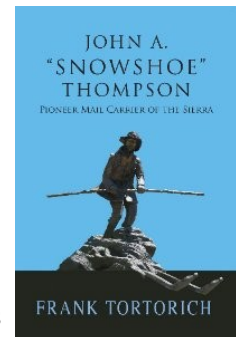
## Book Reviews-Author: Frank Tortorich Jr.

by Tim Stalder

**Gold Rush Trail – A Guide to the Carson River Route of the Emigrant Trail**

**Hiking the Gold Rush Trail – A Hiking Guide over West Pass....**

**John A. “Snowshoe” Thompson- Pioneer Mail Carrier of the Sierra**



**Introduction:** In my experience the more time I spend monitoring historic and pre-historic archeological features, the more I want to learn about them. The three books I'm going to briefly review provide many facts and stories that relate to monitoring sites in north central Nevada along the east slope of the Sierra. These books are filled with folklore and facts about the people and characters around the time of the Great Western Migration and the gold and silver rushes. These three books make a great set to have in your resource library. All three books are available on Amazon.

### About the Author: Frank Tortorich Jr.

In the space I have for this review there is no way to do justice to the knowledge the author brings to us as learners and explorers. Many of the Site Stewards who monitor on the Carson and Bridgeport Ranger Districts know Frank, and all will tell you “you must meet Frank or attend one of his lectures or field trips and read his books”. Since 1978 with his wife Mary Ann, Frank has been a volunteer with the Amador Ranger District of the Eldorado National Forest. While somewhat retired, he is currently working seasonally at the Eldorado National Forest Carson Pass Information Station and, if you are lucky, you can join him on his interpretive hikes in the Sierra. He has been the recipient of many awards including the Oregon California Trail Association’s “Outstanding Educator of the Year at the Post Secondary Level. He has also authored numerous articles featured in publications including the *Tahoe Daily Tribune*, the *LA Times*, and *Sunset Magazine*. He has appeared on Public Television in the series “American Historic Trails.” I don’t believe anyone knows more about the western trails than Frank.

*Continued on pages 8 and 9.*

## Lincoln County Archaeological Initiative (LCAI)



NSSP has received a LCAI grant to improve stewardship and community involvement with preservation in Lincoln County.

This three year grant provides funds to:

1. Work with the community to increase awareness of cultural resources
2. Recruit and train new site stewards to monitor sites in Lincoln County
3. Create an activity/coloring book about archaeology and preservation
4. Create a brochure and method for concerned citizens to report impacts



We will be hosting outreach booths at community events including the county fair in Panaca. If you are interested in volunteer opportunities, please contact the NSSP office for more information.

## Book Reviews Continued...

### *The first two books:*

***Gold Rush Trail: A Guided to the Carson River Route of the Emigrant Road: Frank Tortorich, 1998***  
***Hiking the Gold Rush Trail: A Hiking Guide over West Pass – Caples Lake to Tragedy Spring: Frank Tortorich, 2004***

The first two books are really trail guides and are a size you can easily carry in your backpack or hold in your hand as you walk. They are so well written that just sitting at home reading them will draw you into the life of the emigrants who traveled this road including the hardships and the feelings they had as they confronted the last great challenge after leaving St. Louis: crossing the High Sierra range. The books include great maps, pictures of features, and estimated distances between features and descriptions of the topography you will encounter. The books provide not just the history but also the folklore of the area. An example of historic fact is that the path the road takes (now highway 88) was “discovered” by Native Americans and was used by the Mormons from California to travel east when called to return home to Salt Lake City. Soon the word got out that this was a good route to travel west to California and it became perhaps the heaviest used trail/road for crossing the Sierra during the Gold Rush and the great western migration. Today some of our Site Stewards monitor portions of the old road where you can still see evidence of the wagon wheel “ruts” and iron oxide on boulders left by wagon wheel iron hoops. Reading these two books will make you restless to discover the road for yourself and hike on its many trails.

## UNLV and CSN Student Interns



### UNLV Graduate Student—Spring Intern

**Shannon Horton**, is completing her master’s degree in Archaeology with a focus on ceramic analysis. During her internship she was able to assist with fieldwork, data management, mapping sites, and training. For her final project, she created a preservation display for the Boulder City Spring Jamboree. She has been a pleasure to work with and we are happy that she has agreed to continue to help us with the program into the summer as a volunteer.

### CSN Undergraduate Student—Spring Intern

**Garrett Carroll**, is on his way to an associates degree in Anthropology. He began his internship with NSSP after only one class in Archaeology and just a bit of experience sorting artifacts as a volunteer with the State Museum in Las Vegas. His passion to learn and receive hands on experience has been consistent throughout his internship. We were happy to provide him with an introduction to the archaeology of Nevada and a peek into volunteer management.





## Book Reviews Continued...



Stewards at Snowshoe Thompson Cave



Snowshoe Thompson Cave

### **The Third book: John A. “Snowshoe Thompson – Pioneer Mail Carrier of the Sierra. Frank Torrich, 2015**

Many of us have heard stories about the iconic Norwegian-born mail carrier John A. “Snowshoe” Thompson who continues to be held in high esteem by Norwegians today. Much of his life was spent near and along the Emigrant Road(s) described in the first two books. His final home was located near the towns of Genoa NV and Markleeville CA. He made his trips carrying US mail on his famous skis between Genoa and Placerville CA. The path he traveled is roughly the same as the old Emigrant Road (Carson River Route of the Emigrant Trail). The book contains eleven chapters with many wonderful illustrations.

The book, just over 300 pages, covers John Thompson’s early years in Norway where he was born in 1827. From there we learn about his family’s travel to America, and later his search for gold in California which eventually brought him to the Genoa NV area. Since the center of the story lies in his exploits as a mail carrier, there is some brief review of early US mail delivery on the California Trail, and much more on how John became a mail carrier and famous for delivering mail across the Sierra using his unique skis in the winter. Throughout the book there are many stories about the challenges he faced, the people he encountered, and one perplexing question: to this day we don’t know if he ever received the pay he was promised. The book ends with covering his final years and other remembrances. He died in 1876.

Specific to this book, Site Stewards monitor Snowshoe Thompson’s cave which is shown on page 80 of the book. See picture above.

As you read this book you will be impressed with this man, his strength and fortitude, and lack of any fear while crossing the Sierra Nevada range in the winter. As you read, you will feel the cold, hear the swish of his skis and experience the quiet of his isolated travel.

## Southern Nevada Picnic

Our annual NSSP Southern Steward appreciation picnic was held November 19th at Boulder Beach at Lake Mead. Attendees were treated to taco fillings prepared by agency archaeologists. There were a variety of meats and styles of filling available. Site stewards provided toppings and sides as well as a desert bars for a friendly competition.



Raffle

NVFCP was able to provide the taco shells, some fillings, and RAFFLE ITEMS!!! Stewards were able to purchase tickets and take their chances.

Instead of awards, NSSP was able to provide, with funds from NVFCP, a raffle ticket to possibly win one of 15 pint glasses with the stewardship logo engraved on it.

Why no awards? We decided that awards are difficult to assign because we know that each and every site stewards provides all that they can within their existing abilities. We wanted to acknowledge all of our stewards for their efforts.



Taco Bar

## Lincoln County Picnic

Our annual NSSP Lincoln County appreciation picnic was held April 2nd at the new Pahrnagat National Wildlife Refuge Visitor's Center. NSSP and the BLM provided grilled meats and Dutch oven potatoes and sausage while stewards brought amazing side dishes and deserts.

The new visitor's center was a great venue. We were able to see all of the displays and have a private screening of the beautiful video about the refuge.



Nick Pay Grilling

BLM Archaeologists, USFWS Law Enforcement Officer, USFWS Visitor Services Staff and Volunteers were also there to show support and appreciation for NSSP Site Stewards.

Keeping with the spirit that all stewards deserve rewards, kind words were shared with all. Our Regional Coordinator for the area, Anne Carter, and all of the agency representatives were also thanked for their dedication and assistance with the program.



Lincoln Co. Stewards Enjoying Lunch



## Logandale Trails Regional Coordinator-Elise McAllister

Elise McAllister has accepted the position as regional coordinator for the sites within Logandale Trails. She even organized a NSSP training in Logandale to increase monitoring activity in the highly used area. If you are interested in monitoring sites in that area, please contact our office.



*(Left) Elise McAllister, founder and driving force behind Partners in Conservation (PIC), with administrative assistant Bonnie Leavitt (Right) at the trail head for Logandale Trails.*

*Photo by Mike Donahue with The Spectrum*

## St. Thomas Tour and Future “Docent” Program

Erin Eichenberg, Archaeologist with NPS at Lake Mead NRA, led a tour for NVFCP of St. Thomas. Attendees were able to ask questions and gain knowledge about the site, which was flooded after the construction of the Hoover Dam. Now that the water has receded, the buildings and artifacts, like glass bottles, are exposed. Erin focused her tour on the preservation efforts of the park service to ensure the town-site will be around for folks to visit and enjoy. Many descendants of St. Thomas reside in Logandale and Overton.



*NPS Led Tour of St. Thomas*

This spring Elise McAllister with PIC, Erin Eichenberg, and Steve Daron (NPS Cultural Resource Manager), met with the NSSP staff to create and organize a training and program for stewardship and public education for St. Thomas. We hope to have more information on the progress of this partnership soon. If you’d like to find out more about St. Thomas and stewardship, please contact the NSSP office.

## Gold Butte Grave Restoration



*Spring 2014*

A rededication ceremony and service was held last month when Art Coleman’s (1876-1958) grave was restored. The Colman grave was looted in Spring of 2014. With law enforcement’s attention elsewhere, looters desecrated the Colman grave looking for what can be assumed to be grave goods (any valuables buried with Mr. Coleman) and took the majority of his remains. After the investigation was completed, the remains that were left behind were laid back to rest.



*Spring 2016*

To prevent future incidences, two large vault lids were placed over Coleman’s and his partner Garrett’s graves.



## NEVADA SITE STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

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## Stewardship Pointers-Baseline Photos

### What are baseline photos and why do you ask for them?

Baseline photos are photos of the entire site to use for future reference. Not only will you use them to remember your site's initial condition but NSSP staff uses them to compare reported impacts.

Baseline photographs should be updated approximately once a year and should include:

- Approach photos
- Overview/Context photos
- Feature photos
- Impact photos
- Artifact photos



### What if my site is large?

Some stewards have large rock art sites. In this case, it is ok to take overview photographs that capture multiple areas of rock art. Just take them in an orderly fashion so you don't miss anything.

Some stewards have historic town sites with many buildings. It may be easiest to take photos of the buildings from the corners so you get as much detail as possible without having to take so many photos. If it is safe to do so, don't forget to take interior photos as well.

### I have too many photos to email them to you. How do I send them?

Feel free to:

- Burn your photos to a disk and mail it in.
- Save it to a flash drive and mail it in. (We will return the flash drive to you.)
- Use a secure photo sharing program and send a link to our office. We will download the photos.
- Bring your camera into our office and we can download the photos directly

## GPS Assistance



NSSP uses coordinates to direct you to your site, to identify where your photos were located, and to report impacts to federal agencies. Many site stewards have GPS units but not all of them know how to use them. NSSP has held GPS classes in the past but have found sometimes it is easier to work one on one with a steward and their GPS unit in our office. If you'd like to learn more about using your GPS, please contact our office in Las Vegas to schedule a day and time. Northern stewards may be provided assistance in the Carson City area as well.