



In-Situ

Newsletter of the Nevada Archaeological Association

Fall 2000

Fall Board Meeting in Gerlach

The next NAA Board Meeting is scheduled for September 23rd, 2000 in Gerlach, Nevada. Gerlach is in the center of the scenic and surreal Black Rock Desert--a must see area of Nevada. The Black Rock Desert has recently become famous for being the site of the Burning Man festival, usually held over the Labor Day weekend.

The board meeting field trip is scheduled to begin 10:00 a.m., Saturday, September 23. Meet at Bruno's for a trip to the Peter Ting Site (one of two pebble mound sites recorded in Nevada) and Trego Hot Springs. We'll return to Gerlach by driving over the Black Rock Playa (where the world land speed record was set), and visiting Guru Lane, a construction art complex. Bring your camera, a lunch, and the normal desert survival gear such as water, sunscreen, hat, etc. Normal automobiles are okay, but the return drive over the playa will be very dusty, and high clearance vehicles are preferable.

Bruno's is the only Gerlach motel. There are model rocket and motorcycle groups having activities in the Black Rock area after Burning Man, but there should be six to eight rooms available on the weekend of the board meeting. Call 1-775-557-2220, between 8:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m., to make reservations. Rates are:

1 Person, 1 Double Bed	\$39.20
2 Persons, 1 Double Bed	\$44.80
1 Person, 1 Queen Bed	\$56.00
2 Persons, 1 Queen Bed	\$61.00
2 Persons, 2 Single Beds	\$50.41

Remember that board meetings and field trips are open to all interested NAA members.

Chaos and the Summer Board Meeting

The summer board meeting was held in Yerington on June 3rd. It probably wasn't the most successful board meeting. Anne DuBarton was scheduled to give a presentation on Gypsum Cave in the Lyon County library on Friday evening. Unfortunately, she had car problems, and was unable to make it, resulting in the cancellation of the event. Yerington's Spring Fling was the same weekend, making it difficult to find parking, and diverting one's attention with the presence of some nifty old cars. The field trip to the Hilton Ranch petroglyph site went without a hitch, thanks to Oyvind's leadership. A decision to start the meeting early, however, resulted in a wasted trip for Christi Shaw, the membership chair, who arrived on time, but after the meeting ended! The moral of the story—don't skip the field trip.

Southern Nevada Archaeology and History Festival A Success!

Anne DuBarton

Co-sponsored by the Nevada Archaeological Association (NAA), Archaeo-Nevada Society, and the Tule Springs Preservation Committee, the first Southern Nevada Archaeology Festival brought together for the first time many local, state, and federal entities and organizations. All had a common goal, to help the public understand the importance of archaeology and historic preservation to our local community.

Archaeological organizations like the NAA, Archaeo-Nevada, and the Archaeological Institute of America brought displays, posters and other information for people who might be interested in how they can participate in local archaeology. Archaeologists and interpreters from the Bureau of Reclamation, Desert Research Institute, the Las Vegas Valley Water District (Las Vegas Springs Preserve), the Bureau of Land Management (Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area), and the U.S. Forest Service (Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest) helped make the event successful. They provided information and hands-on activities to educate the public about the management of our state and federal lands. Your President and Newsletter Editor conducted obsidian toolmaking demonstrations.

Other groups focused on the preservation of particular local resources, often threatened by development. Citizens for Active Management focuses on preservation of the Sunrise Mountain area, and Friends of the Fort helps to preserve the Old Mormon Fort. Friends of Sloan

Petroglyphs is working to protect an important rock art site in the McCullough Range south of Las Vegas. The Nevada State Parks Cooperative Association was formed to aid the State Parks, and the Tule Springs Preservation Committee helps the staff of Floyd R. Lamb State Park in fundraising and historical research. Groups focusing on the preservation of local history included the Old Spanish Trail Association, and the Preservation Association of Clark County.

Living history demonstrations were an enjoyable and educational part of the day at Tule Springs. Mountain men from the Boulder City Atlatl Hunting and Expedition Club put together their rendezvous camp, circa 1820-1840, to show the gear, tools and weapons fur trappers would have used. Traditional craftsmen from Woolly Wonders demonstrated spinning and weaving techniques used for centuries. Heidi Roberts, of HRA Inc., conducted an activity specially designed for kids. They got to help Heidi conduct archaeological survey within the park.

Speakers included your president, Anne DuBarton and John Hohmann from Louis Berger and Associates. Anne gave her Gypsum Cave slide presentation, while John spoke about his work on historic sites in the Las Vegas valley.

A *Review Journal View* reporter, Damon Hodge, visited and gave us a nice write-up for the Sunday paper. He seemed genuinely interested in our activities. Thanks for your support, Damon.

We only had a few problems. One was the wind late in the day (everything blew over) and the other was a lack of food. We had scheduled a food vendor but they were unable to come. We hope

to have the food problem taken care of for next year's event. I don't think we can do much about Mother Nature, though. I hope that all of the Southern Nevada members will participate next year. We need you to make this event truly successful.

Desert Demonstration Gardens/Las Vegas Springs Preserve

Greg Seymour

"Our Native Heritage," part of the ongoing series of Evenings in the Gardens at the Desert Demonstration Gardens (DDG), brought out a record crowd on the evening of August 23. Michelle Mills, a Native American storyteller and dancer, told two Paiute stories, a creation story and another about how Coyote found a bride. Along with the "Order of the Arrow," an honorary society that is part of the Boy Scouts of America, Ms. Mills demonstrated Native American drumming, singing, and dancing. Las Vegas Springs Preserve Archaeologist Greg Seymour showed some of the finer points of the art of prehistoric pottery making using the paddle-and-anvil technique. Archaeologists David Valentine, of the Bureau of Reclamation, and Hal Rager, of the Las Vegas Springs Preserve, knapped and discussed projectile points and lithic technology in Southern Nevada. Denise McConnell, Education Coordinator for the DDG spoke about a variety of desert plants, their habitats and use by Native Americans through time.

Call For Papers

Steve Daron

(Inquiring minds--What to know)

Now that fall is in the air and everyone is wrapping up summer field projects, it is time to organize all that data and present it at the Nevada Archeology Association annual meeting. The 2001 meetings will be March 9 through 11 in Overton, Nevada. Abstracts for papers, symposia, and posters are now being accepted for the meeting. There is no theme for this meeting so presentations in all fields including archeology, history, ethnography, and geology are encouraged. Please send abstracts of 150 words (or less) for 20-minute presentations to Steve Daron, P.O. Box 60643, Boulder City, NV 89006, or e-mail to Steve_Daron@nps.gov. Abstracts need to be received by January 15, 2001.

**Call for Abstracts
2001 Nevada Archeologist**

The 2001 *Nevada Archaeologist* will be a thematic issue focusing on archaeology education and outreach in the state of Nevada. Some of you have already promised articles for this issue (you know who you are). The editors are requesting abstracts of approximately 100 words be sent to them by January 15, 2001. You may submit your abstracts on paper (to 2001 Nevada Archaeologist, at the NAA address), or directly to one of our email addresses. We can be reached at: annedu@dri.edu (Anne DuBarton) or at susane@dri.edu (Susan Edwards). We hope to make this an informative issue with your help.

Ting-Perkins Award
Oyvind Frock

It is time once again to submit nominations for this recognition award.

The basic qualifications for a successful nominee are that the person is a non-professional in the broad field of archaeology who has participated in activities related to discovery, conservation, education, assisting professionals, or reporting on Nevada archaeology.

To nominate a person, prepare a description of the pertinent background and mail it to:

Oyvind Frock
3785 Falcon Way
Reno, NV 89509

The N.A.A. board of directors will consider all nominations. We hope to have a deserving person to honor at our annual conference next March.

Oaxaca Beckons
Oyvind Frock

Spring in Mexico. Not too hot, not too cold—the perfect time to roam old ruins and shop for unusual items. Good coffee, good food, good beer, good scenery, good archaeology, good friends.

There are still open spots on the Crow Canyon trip to Oaxaca next March. The October reservation deadline will be before you know it. Take another look at the trip brochure and call Kari Chalker at 800-422-8975, ext. 152, and get your name of the list.

Upcoming Conferences

The 27th Great Basin Anthropological Conference will be held Oct. 5-7, 2000 in the David Eccles Conference Center, Ogden, Utah. For more information visit

the web site:
www.hass.usu.edu/~gbac2000.

The joint conference of the Midwest Archaeological Association and the Plains Anthropological Society will be held Nov. 9-12, 2000 in St. Paul, Minnesota in the Radisson Hotel. For more information visit the web site:
www.admin.state.mn.us/osa/mw_arc_h_cons00.html.

Pleas For Help

I need help from NAA members to staff the NAA booth during the Great Basin Conference this fall in Ogden, Utah (Oct. 5-7). I must be present at two poster presentations and would like to catch some papers myself. So--if you can help please call and let me know what times you could be available.

Thanks.

Anne DuBarton

Renee Kolvet is working on compiling abstracts from the papers presented at N.A.A. meetings over the years. She has abstracts from 1992, 1995, 1996, 1999, and 2000. If you have any abstracts from the missing years, please contact Renee at 775-358-9003.

Am-Arcs of Nevada

Am-Arcs had a summer hiatus with no meetings during July and August. The next scheduled meeting is September 13, 2000.

Although no meetings were held, members continued to conduct field trips. Eighteen members visited the Lagomarsino petroglyph site in June and three members visited the UNR Sundance Field School in July. A trip to a rock art and habitation site near Virginia City was scheduled for August.

Members also took advantage of opportunities to participate in excavations and other projects throughout Nevada and the adjoining regions.

Archeo-Nevada Society (A-NS) News

A-NS has also been dormant during the hot summer months. Regular meetings and other activities are scheduled to start soon, with a meeting scheduled for September 14, 2000, at the Community College of Southern Nevada, Charleston Campus. There will be a guest speaker, John Fountain, who will lecture on Archaeoastronomy.

Elko County Chapter News

The Elko County Chapter is continued meeting over the summer, with monthly meetings on the first Friday of the month at the Spring Creek Round Table Pizza Parlor.

Members were involved in a wide variety of activities including the Mountain Island PIT project run by Fred Frampton and UNR, Excavations at the Huntington Valley rock shelter, and a field trip to record rock circle features on a high mesa top near Midas.

Tim and Donna Murphy assisted in fund raising activities by selling attractive and comfortable T-shirts showing a Chinese merchant at his store at the Island Mountain PIT project.

Southern Nevada Rock Art Enthusiasts (SNRAE)

SNRAE has an informal gathering the first Thursday of the month and a more formal meeting, with a guest speaker, the

third Thursday. Gatherings and meetings are at the Las Vegas Library at 7:00 p.m. Recent guest speakers were N.A.A. member Eva Jensen in July, Eileen Green in August speaker. Bob Lawson, from Utah, is the scheduled speaker for September. Field trips have been curtailed during the hot summer months, but they will resume September 22 with a trip to White River Narrows. For information on meetings and field trips call the SNRAE voice mail, 702-897-7878.

Student Stipends

The Nevada Archaeological Association is proud to announce a new program in support of student papers. We will offer two separate stipends annually to encourage University and Community College students from throughout the state to present papers at the N.A.A.'s annual meetings. We will choose one student each from the northern and southern portions of the state to receive a stipend of \$200.00 to support a presentation of their research. To apply for the N.A.A. Student Stipend send evidence of your student status (i.e., a copy of your student I.D.), a 1-page summary of your paper, and a letter of recommendation from a professor to: Student Papers, N.A.A., P.O. Box 73145, Las Vegas, NV 89170-3145. Our meetings are held in March at various locations throughout the state. To receive the funds to attend our 2001 annual meeting in Overton, please send the materials in by November 15, 2000.

**Stone Tool Fanatic Demonstrates
Ignorance of the Computer Age**
David Valentine

I am displeased to announce that I gave an incorrect e-mail address for the N.A.A.'s web page in the last issue. The address is: <http://www.webpanda.com/NAA>.

If you didn't throw your monitor out the window out of frustration from the bad address, you should visit the web site. There is lots of useful information, such as how to order your very own

N.A.A. mug, and links to related web sites.

Thanks!
David Valentine

As newsletter editor, I'm extremely pleased with the membership participation that has resulted in such an exciting edition of *In-Situ*. Please keep up the good work and keep sending me reports on interesting finds and activities and any other tidbits that you can.

THE LAST BOAT ON WINNEMUCCA LAKE
Oyvind Frock

At the far end of Winnemucca Lake are the remains of a boat—transom, deck, hull, rails, etc. This article will summarize how it got there.

There have been a lot of boats on Winnemucca Lake, or Mud Lake, as it also has been known. The lake hasn't always been dry. The water level has fluctuated greatly. Clearly visible above the shoreline are the beach terraces of Lake Lahontan, which covered much of northwestern Nevada during the Pleistocene, some 25,000 to 10,000 years ago. At that time, the maximum depth of the lake was around 900 feet.

The Paiutes report that Winnemucca Lake was dry for some time prior to the coming of Euro-Americans.¹ The Overland Road Guide, published about 1850, says that Winnemucca Lake appears to be a small pond.² Hardman and Venstrom say the lake started to fill with the flood of 1862, and gained about 80 feet in depth. Subsequently, the lake level fluctuated, and between 1905 and 1917, lost about 20 feet in depth. A steady drying trend resulted in complete desiccation in 1939.³

One important cause of the drying was the completion of Derby Dam in 1907. This reduced the flow of the Truckee River into Pyramid Lake and, ultimately, into Winnemucca Lake.⁴

Early newspaper accounts related that, “. . . there are several species of trout . . . and a brisk business is done on . . . Winnemucca Lake by a small steamer.”⁵ The advent of the steamer was noted in the Silver State Journal: “Some months ago, a little steamer boat, built in the east, was taken through here on the cars to Wadsworth. At that place, it was fitted for sea and launched on Mud Lake, where it is used for fishing purposes. The steamer makes ten miles an hour and brings fish from the lower end of the lake where they are quite plenty to the upper end from which place they are sent to market . . .”⁶ Another report said the steamer was named the *Wm. Jamison*, and was the property of James Kinkead of the Reno Savings Bank.⁷ A conflicting report from *The Daily Silver State* said: “There was a handsome little steamboat on last evening's freight train for Wadsworth. It is about eighteen feet long and is intended for use on the Truckee River from Wadsworth to Pyramid Lake.”⁸

Fishing continued in various forms for a number of years. In the early 1880s, a fish cannery operated at Wadsworth on the south end of the lake.⁹ In 1888, the principal of the Wadsworth school wrote that the proprietor off a fishing camp on the lake “. . . has a fast team, plenty of fishing tackle and a dozen good boats.”¹⁰

Current residents of Gerlach, Empire, Fernley, Wadsworth and Reno¹¹ recall a fishing camp and store about 25 miles south of Gerlach. When the daylong drive to Reno from Gerlach was undertaken, this store was a convenient stop. It was located at what was known as 25-mile Rock.

Bill Ceresola, of Wadsworth, said Adobe Charlie owned the camp. His last name is unknown. Charlie was about 60 years old in 1935. He was short, with a black moustache. Ceresola saw him build the boat as he passed his camp several times. Occasionally, there was a helper with Charlie. Charlie’s house was about 20’ X 30’, with a fireplace on one side. The house never had a finished floor. The bricks for the house were made on-site with macaroni boxes used as molds. Charlie sold beer, which he kept in a hole in the ground. Sardines and other stuff were available also. Before the present highway was completed in 1950, the dirt road wound up and down and around. It took about two hours to drive from Wadsworth to Charlie’s.

Ceresola and others recall the boat had a Model-T engine, a differential and two side wheels. The lake still had about seven to eight feet of water at the time. Adobe Charlie’s plane was to use the boat for fishing parties, lake tours, and “girls.” Charlie reckoned it would take about 18 minutes to cross the lake, and an equal time to return. He finished the boat and crossed the lake on its maiden voyage. On the return trip, the boat hit a mud bank and became mired. It never floated again.

Today, little remains of either the boat or Adobe Charlie’s camp. The campsite is on the west side of the old Wadsworth-Gerlach road near the entrance to the Hanneman and Royels ranches. It is marked by two dead tamarisk trees, the firebox of the fireplace, parts of an auto, and several rusty cans scattered.

The boat remains are on the playa about a half-mile east of the present Wadsworth-Gerlach highway at mile 45.8. Visible are hull ribs, hull planking, side planks, 8” X 8” notched keel timbers, wood spoke helm, transoms, and a propeller/axle (?) shaft. Adobe Charlie evidently tried to pull his boat off the mud bank, as old rubber auto tires and timbers used in an attempt to jack the boat off the mud are visible. The remains of the boat give the impression it had a shallow draft, and a curved hull with side rails.

Since Adobe Charlie’s family name is unknown, it has not been possible to search public records for more information about him. No one knows what became of Adobe Charlie.

Both the boat and fishing camp remains have been recorded as historical sites with the Nevada State Museum.

Acknowledgements

My thanks go to all the people who took the time to talk with me about Adobe Charlie and his boat. Special thanks to Guido Pincolini, who first showed me the boat and subsequently helped me locate the fishing camp.

I also thank “the three ladies” (Joanne Botsford, Joan Ferrick, and Athalie Gantert), in whose company I spent considerable happy time researching this article.

REFERENCES

1. Hardman, George and Cruz Venstrom. A 100-year record of the Truckee River runoff estimated from changes in levels and volumes of Pyramid and Winnemucca Lakes. 1941. Transactions of the American Geophysical Union, pg. 74.
2. Hardman and Venstrom, pg. 74.
3. Hardman and Venstrom, pg. 79.
4. Basso, Dave. Nevada State Journal 22 March 1979.
5. Nevada State Journal 21 August 1878, 2:3
6. Silver State Journal, 3 October 1877, 3:1.
7. Reno Evening Gazette 29 September 1877, 3:1.
8. The Daily Silver State 7 August 1877, 3:2.
9. Reno Evening Gazette 1 March 1881, 3:3.
10. Reno Evening Gazette 5 May 1888, 3:2-3.
11. Personal communication, Spring 1997.

Basso, Dave--	Sparks
Besso, Steve--	Reno
Ceresola, Bill--	Wadsworth
Hanneman, Kris--	Fernley
Hattori, Eugene--	Reno
Lambert, Nevada--	Fernley
McCurdy, Ken--	Empire
Olds, Vivian--	Wadsworth
Phillips, Ralph--	Gerlach
Royels, Mo--	Fernley
Thresher, Helen--	Portola



Overview of boat site on Winnemucca Lake.



Boat Debris.



More Boat Debris



More Boat Debris

GREAT BASIN COLLEGE INITIATES WORK IN CLOVER VALLEY

Greg Haynes, Desert Research Institute

From May 23 through June 10, Great Basin College (GBC), in cooperation with Elko District Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the Desert Research Institute (DRI), began the first year of a proposed multi-year archaeological field school in and around Clover Valley, Nevada. Under the instruction of Greg Haynes (DRI) and Tim Murphy (BLM), six students participated in the class. Dr. Eric Henderson, from the Department of Social Sciences at GBC, organized the class and served as Project Manager. Additionally, eight other people participated at various times as volunteers.

Clover Valley is located about 50 miles east of Elko, just south of Wells. The most prominent mountains are the East Humboldt Range, which bounds the basin on its western side. Snow Water Lake, an ephemeral Holocene remnant of Pleistocene Lake Clover, resides in the north-central portion of the valley, and fieldwork was conducted north of this lake where many washes drain into the lakebed. Ruby Valley is located immediately to the southwest.

The class consisted of seven days of survey/site documentation, four days of excavation, a one-day field trip, and one day of lecture/lab each week (15 total class days). A total of 550 person hours were spent in the field, including the volunteers. During the course of survey, 320 acres (two $\frac{1}{4}$ sections) of public lands were inventoried, yielding nine newly recorded sites and five isolated artifacts, all of which were prehistoric in nature. Excavations took place at site CrNV-11-9432, a prehistoric site dominated by abundant fire-cracked rock (FCR) features and associated chipped and ground stone tools. The excavations were focused on one FCR-hearth feature, which yielded over 1,600 pieces of FCR.

Three $\frac{1}{4}$ sections of public land were initially slated to be surveyed, each of which were located in different environmental zones in the valley bottom: (1) a $\frac{1}{4}$ section away from Snow Water Lake and without major drainages; (2) a $\frac{1}{4}$ section away from Snow Water Lake with a major drainage; (3) a $\frac{1}{4}$ section adjacent to Snow Water Lake. Only the first two were inventoried. Distinct differences in sites and assemblages at these two locations were identified. The first $\frac{1}{4}$ section (see #1 above) had a total of four archaeological sites totaling five formed tools (1 Humboldt, 1 Elko Corner-notched, 1 Desert Side-notched, and 2 millingstones), seven pieces of debitage, and one FCR feature. The second $\frac{1}{4}$ section (see #2 above) had a total of five sites and five isolated artifacts; however, all the archaeological materials in this survey parcel could substantively be viewed as one large scatter with varying degrees of artifact density. A total of 38 chipped stone tools were identified, 27 of which were projectile points (mainly middle-to-late Archaic types). Nine pieces of ground stone were found, all of which were broken portions or fragments and deemed portable. Twenty-two ceramic sherds (representing at least four vessels) were found concentrated in one 40-m diameter area. Finally, two tabular schist artifacts were found (5 total pieces); the function these artifacts is, at this time, unknown. Based upon the abundance of projectile points, other chipped stone tools suggesting a certain degree of food processing, and debitage that primarily reflects tool repair, most activities are inferred to be focused on hunting with some, probably minor, game processing. The small quantity of portable groundstone suggests minor plant collecting and processing, as well.

Site CrNV-11-9432 resides along the eastside of what is called “The Slough”, a braided stream channel. Previous survey along this drainage reveals abundant middle-to-late Archaic sites dominated by FCR-hearth features. Excavations at 11-9432 were focused on one such feature that, superficially, was a concentration of 15-20 pieces of FCR well embedded into a loose, tan, silty-sandy matrix. Potential for subsurface deposits appeared to be high. A 4-x-4 m grid (16 m²) was set up with the feature in the center. In all, not more than 1.5 m³ of sediment was excavated in 10 1-x-1 m units. Each unit was troweled through a loose surface matrix down to a more compact expression of the same sediment. These two strata contained abundant cultural material. Below the compact surface was a relatively loose, reddish-tan, matrix devoid of cultural materials. In all, over 1600 pieces of FCR, 153 pieces of debitage, 7 groundstone fragments and 5 biface fragments were recovered. Abundant charcoal debris, including 15-20 pieces of burned bone, was also found. One piece of burned bone was identified as rabbit (Dr. Bryan Hockett, BLM). Both the groundstone and biface fragments appeared to have been burned or thermally altered due to fire-related activities. Additionally, almost 25% of the debitage may have been thermally altered. The excavations revealed almost no evidence of a formal hearth feature. Nearly all of the FCR was of a single material type, a gray-to-pink quartzite, and 98% of this material was so small as to be considered fragments. That is, the original package size of the rock could not be estimated. The inference is that the FCR for this feature was re-used extensively until it was broken up into very small pieces (< 2.5 cm length) and that the “feature” we excavated was either the remains of one or more informal hearths or merely clean-out debris.

Based upon the work conducted by GBC’s field school and others, abundant middle-to-late Archaic occupations took place in Clover Valley north of Snow Water Lake. Additionally, archaeological materials would suggest that different portions of the landscape were utilized in different ways over the course of prehistoric occupancy. Perhaps valley bottomlands containing only minor, ephemeral drainages were used as resource exploitation zones where minimal processing occurred, leaving archaeological expression like that found during the course of inventory. The resources obtained in these areas might then have been processed collectively at sites dominated by FCR-hearth concentrations, like that at CrNV-11-9432, located along “The Slough” drainage. Finally, these sites likely were associated with “single-family” residences documented by Julian Steward (1997 [1938]: 141), located along permanent streams and springs at the base of the East Humboldt Range.

If anyone is interested in learning more about Great Basin College’s work in Clover Valley, please feel free to contact me via email (gnhayneshouse@juno.com) or Tim Murphy at the Elko District BLM Office. If anyone is interested in GBC’s archaeological field school, please contact Dr. Eric Henderson at Great Basin College.

REFERENCE CITED

- Julian H. Steward (1997 [1938]: 141),
1997 *Basin-Plateau Aboriginal Sociopolitical Groups*. Reprinted. University of Utah Press, Salt Lake City. Originally published 1938, Bulletin No. 120, Bureau of American Ethnology, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C.

A BEAVER AND A WESTERN CLOVIS POINT

Alvin McLane

On October 15, 1999, Oyvind Frock, Joanne “Joanie” Botsford and I were on our way in Lyon County to continue mapping a huge geoglyph that my friend Steve Glotfelty had found earlier in the year. In an offhand comment, Joanie asked if I had ever found a Clovis point. In all my years wandering the Great Basin, I had to admit that, “no—I had never found one.” A few minutes later, I stopped the Jeep to check out what I thought were obsidian flakes (or perhaps shiny black bird droppings) lying in the road. I let out a yelp when I saw that the things in the road were two pieces of obsidian that fit together to form a nearly complete Western Clovis point. There was a mad scramble out of the Jeep to see the find. Is Joanie psychic? Did she have a premonition that I was going to find that Clovis?

How did the point get on the road? Recent road maintenance may have exposed the point. Near where the point was found is a small barrow area and the artifact may have come from there. The elevation, at 7,840 ft., is rather high for where the point was found—they are normally found at lower altitudes.

It appears that a vehicle ran over the point. It was broken transversely across the midsection. It is essentially complete, except for a small chip along the break (See the drawing below). The Western Clovis point is circa 66 mm (2-5/8”) long, 33 mm (1-5/16”) wide, and 9 mm (7/8”) thick. A series of flutes are removed from one side. The other side, however, exhibits a single, beautiful longitudinal flake scar. The artifact compares well with Clovis-Llano forms from the Southwest/Plains in size, edge and basal grinding, and channel scratching. Radiocarbon dates in the Far West (Arizona, California, Idaho, Nevada, Oregon, and Utah) associated with Clovis points range in age from about 10,270 to 11,950 years B.P. (see Judith A. Willig and C. Melvin Aikens’ article, “The Clovis-Archaic Interface in Far Western North America,” in *Nevada State Museum Anthropological Papers* No. 21, 1988). The obsidian is smoky black and translucent with internal parallel, gray longitudinal streaks. It is hoped that studies such as obsidian sourcing and hydration dating may be performed on the point. The point location has been assigned site number 26Ly930.

Another interesting find was made four days earlier on a trip on October 11 with friends from California to a previously recorded (by Oyvind Frock) pictograph shelter site, 26Ch2083, in the Lahontan Basin of Churchill County. The upper body skeleton and skull of a beaver were found lying in the bottom of an approximately one cubic meter looter’s pit. The remains were collected for study four days later by Gary Bowyer, Bureau of Land Management archaeologist. At the time of discovery no observations were made to identify butchering marks. Some skin still adhered to the skeleton. No artifacts were seen in the spoil pile or sides of the illegally excavated pit. Beavers are rare, or unreported, in archaeological contexts in the Lahontan Basin. However, during the Nevada State Museum’s work at Rye Patch Reservoir on the Humboldt River, 100 beaver specimen were found in archaeological contexts (see Amy J. Dansie, “Archaeofaunas: 26PE450 and 26PE366” in *Nevada State Museum Anthropological Papers* No. 20, 1987). According to drawings in Hall’s *Mammal’s of Nevada*, the beaver species is apparently *Castor canadensis*, subspecies *baileyi*.

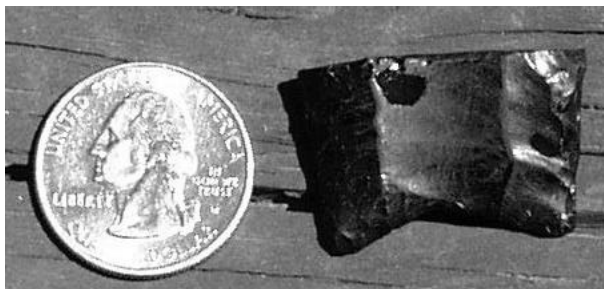
1:1 Drawing of Western Clovis Point found by Alvin. Drawing by Steve Wallman.

Clovis-Like Point in Northern Nevada

Peggy McGuckian

Thousands of acres of public land in the BLM Winnemucca District burned in 1999. As a result, a number of cultural resource inventories were undertaken in areas previously unexamined for cultural resources, prior to implementation of fire rehabilitation efforts. One of the more exciting finds was the base of a fluted point recorded by Robert Birnie of P-III Associates in the Trinity Range. The projectile point fragment is obsidian and most closely resembles a Clovis point. However, only one face of the base is a fluted while the other face has two small “fluting” scars. The artifact measures 3.10 cm wide by 2.05 cm long. It is lenticular in cross-section and is .63 cm thick. The base is concave and .04 cm deep. Both the base and the lateral edges are heavily ground.

The fluted point fragment was a component of a lithic scatter consisting primarily of obsidian late stage biface reduction flakes. Although there were no other diagnostic artifacts on the site, there is potential for shallowly buried cultural material. Numerous other prehistoric lithic scatters were found in the vicinity but projectile point types associated with these dated from Middle Archaic to Late Prehistoric.



Close-up of Clovis-like Point Base.



NEVADA ARCHAEOLOGIST BACK ISSUE ORDER FORM

VOLUME #	STATUS	DATE	PRICE	QUANTITY
VOLUME 1	IN STOCK	1972	\$5.00	
VOLUME 2, NO. 1	IN STOCK	1974	\$5.00	
VOLUME 2, NO. 2	OUT OF PRINT; XEROX ONLY	1974	\$5.00	
VOLUME 3, NO. 1	IN STOCK	1981	\$5.00	
VOLUME 3, NO. 2	IN STOCK	1982	\$5.00	
VOLUME 4, NO. 1	IN STOCK	1983	\$5.00	
VOLUME 4, NO. 2	IN STOCK	1984	\$5.00	
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