



The Great Basin Heritage Area Partnership is an independent non-profit organization whose member partners share and support its mission 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.

Learn more about us at:

<http://www.greatbasinheritage.org/>

National Heritage Areas are designated by congress in recognition of the contributions they make in forming the unique fabric of our country. There are more than forty-nine such Areas in the United States, including the Great Basin National Heritage Area.

Designation confers no authority to manage or regulate land use in any way.



## **GBHAP annual meeting planned for Baker**

The public is invited to join the board of the Great Basin Heritage Area Partnership when it meets at the Great Basin National Park Visitor Center on Saturday, June 9 at 9:00 a.m. PDT.

During the regular organizational business meeting the Board will discuss current and proposed projects and handle organizational business. One such item will be the election of officers of the Partnership President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. Long time president Denys Koyle has asked to step down from the position. (See related article that follows.)

The Board is also expected to act on the hiring of an Assistant Director, and to consider possible projects in which to partner with member organizations.

The board meeting also serves as an informational meeting for member individuals and member organizations.

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:**

As I begin this, my last newsletter as president of GBHAP, I can't help but be more than a little proud of what the Partnership has accomplished since that first public meeting in December, 1999 when the idea of creating a heritage area was presented to the public by then Superintendent of Great Basin National Park Becky Mills.

After creating the non-profit organization known as Great Basin Heritage Area Partnership, we began the long process of attaining national designation which was achieved in October,

## **GREAT BASIN HERITAGE NEWS**

GBH News is the newsletter of the Great Basin Heritage Area Partnership.

GBH NEWS is published quarterly. All issues are posted on the GBNHP website. Copies are e-mailed to GBHAP partners and associates.

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

GBH News  
PO Box 78  
Baker, NV 89311

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

### **Great Basin Heritage Area Partnership Board:**

President.....Denys Koyle  
Treasurer.....Julie Gianoli  
Directors.....Jane Beckwith  
.....Josephine Huntsman  
.....Cheryl Noriega  
.....Kyla Overson  
.....Virginia Sanchez  
.....Greg Seymour  
.....Delaine Spilsbury  
.....Dave Tilford  
Bookkeeper .....Susan Wetmore

### **Become involved...**

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

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

2006. During the process, I had the experience of testifying before the Senate sub-committee on National Parks and working with Senator Reid's office in writing the legislation. Also, as president of the Heritage Area, I attended one annual meeting of the Association of National Heritage Areas (ANHA) and I was invited to two meetings in Washington, D.C. to participate in Heritage Area funding discussions between NPS and ANHA. While funding issues still are the major concern of all Heritage Areas and not always to our satisfaction, it is gratifying that we were and will continue to be included in the discussions.



*GBHAP President  
Denys Koyle*

During these years leading up to designation, we produced brochures and pamphlets, conducted public scoping meetings, created a website, and participated in community workshops and projects.

In 2008, we hired our first executive director Greg Seymour who assisted in setting up the financial structure required by the Park Service and began work on the management plan. After Greg's resignation, we hired Dan Gooch in 2009 who has spent most of the last two years working on the management plan which is now completed and waiting approval by the National Park Service and the Secretary of Interior. Producing the plan in-house, instead of hiring a firm to produce it, saved us tens of thousands of dollars and we have a product of which we can be justifiably proud.

We have created a viable organization that is on sound footing. And we are now in the position of hiring an assistant director who will work with the executive director and our bookkeeper, Susan Wetmore.

The friendships made along the way have been the most satisfying aspect of this journey. I thoroughly enjoyed working with both Greg and Dan. Past Board members Tonia Harvey, Glen Swalberg, Gordon Chatland and Bob Sanderson were important in the initial stages of the Partnerships especially Tonia who served as President for over five years. And current Board members, thank you for all your support and friendship. Superintendents, Becky Mills, Kathy Billings, Cindy Nielson and Andy Ferguson believed in us and have all offered invaluable support as have NPS staff, especially Anita Hansen, Gretchen Luxenberg and Linda Stonier.

And I would like to give a special thanks to Bill Farrand who kept us focused and pretty much on a timeline that worked. Bill began working with us when he was with the NPS Rivers and Trails program. And in the two years between designation and the hiring of paid staff, he volunteered his own time to keep us moving forward. His help was invaluable.

There are many other people we have worked with as consultants and volunteers who have assisted in our development. Thanks to all of you.

I will remain as a Board member and intend to spend a good part of this year working to get some education projects into the local schools and involving the youth in our communities more. We have so many worthwhile projects to tackle. It will be fun to see what we can accomplish.

Denys Koyle, President

### **Planned tour provides spirit for this newsletter edition**

The Board of the Great Basin Heritage Area Partnership believes it is important and valuable for all of the partners in the heritage area to have the opportunity to learn about heritage features in other parts of the Heritage area and to know what other partners are doing. That is why at the Board's last meeting in February they proposed to fund and promote a tour of the heritage features of Millard County for partners and stakeholders of White Pine County. The original intention was to have the tour in May but transportation plans (bus availability) became difficult. The tour is still in planning and a date will be announced when settled. At a later date a similar tour will be planned of the heritage features in White Pine County for Millard County partners and stakeholders.

Many of the articles in this edition of the newsletter have been prepared in the same spirit of sharing intended by the board. Consider reading the newsletter sort of a virtual tour. This edition features short and longer stories about features and events in both counties.

### **Photo contest may provide promotional opportunity**

Our Nevada Heritage Area partners may want to keep in mind the potential promotional value of having a picture of their heritage facility, activity or event win a published spot in the *Nevada Magazine's* 2012 Great Nevada Picture Hunt. This is the magazine's 35<sup>th</sup> annual photo contest.

To enter submit your photos via e-mail to Tony deRonnebeck, art director of *Nevada Magazine*, at:

[tony@nevadamagazine.com](mailto:tony@nevadamagazine.com). Enter up to a total of eight photos. Maximum file size is 2MB per image at 72 dpi in JPG format (at least 6 inches wide). Upon notification, finalists will be asked to provide a high-resolution (10-by-12-inches at 300 dpi or greater) version of their photo(s) for reproduction. Maximum of 8MB per e-mail due to mailbox restrictions. Entries must be received by 5 p.m. (PDT), Friday, June 29, 2012.



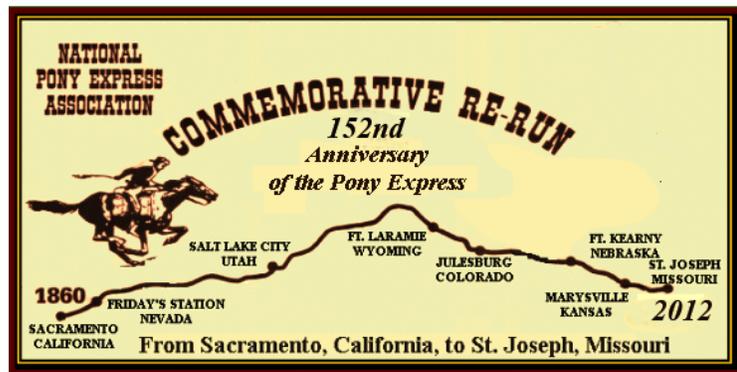
There are eight categories for submission:  
GRAND PRIZE  
CITY LIMITS Winner and runner-up for best urban image.  
WIDE OPEN Winner and runner-up for best rural scenic image.  
NATURE Winner and runner-up for best wildlife image.  
PEOPLE Winner and runner-up for best human-interest image.  
PHOTO ILLUSTRATION Winner and runner-up for best photo illustration (includes HDR images).  
EVENTS Winner and runner-up for best event or show image.  
THEN & NOW Re-create vintage images from Nevada's past.

To view past photo contest winners or for more contest details visit [nevadamagazine.com](http://nevadamagazine.com)

## Pony Express re-ride passes through Heritage Area

Once again this year the National Pony Express Association will conduct its annual re-ride over the entire 1,966 mile route of the Pony Express National Historic Trail from California to Missouri, June 13-23, 2012.

Riders will pass through the Great Basin National Heritage Area on Saturday, June 16.



## Soaring heats up with summer in Ely



As summer temperatures begin to build in June, gliding enthusiasts will again troop to Ely's Yelland Airfield to be towed into the updrafts for lengthy (and often record breaking) soaring flights.

Ely Soaring Center is the launch point for some of the most spectacular soaring flight in the world. Thanks to the unique geographic characteristics of the outlying area, glider pilots from all over the globe travel to Ely to experience a flying experience not available anywhere else.

Being in one of the more remote places in the lower 48 states, the soaring center is positioned to provide direct access to almost unlimited open, uncongested air space for spectacular flights.

Professional, experienced pilots are invited to bring their gliders and enjoy favorable and challenging soaring conditions that are not suitable for beginning pilots. The soaring facility in Ely does provide tie downs or the aircraft, oxygen refills and of course powered tows into the air.

Unfortunately glider rides are not available for passersby. Gliding enthusiasts may get more information at:

<http://elysoaringcenter.com/> .

## **State Historic Preservation Office looks to revise these symbols of Nevada's past**

By RONALD M. JAMES

Originally Published in Nevada Magazine May/June 2012



*Photo: Matthew B. Brown  
(Unionville, Marker 145)*

Anticipating the 1964 centennial celebration of Nevada's birth, the state erected a historical marker in 1963, the first in a series that has amounted to more than 270.

This original monument might have memorialized Nevada's 1864 admission to the Union in the midst of the Civil War, the 1905 founding of Las Vegas, or the important role downtown Reno played in early Nevada history. Instead, the first marker celebrates the Empire and Carson River Mills, once located near Carson City. The mills processed Comstock gold and silver ore in the 19th century. It was perhaps an inauspicious beginning for the marker program, but it typified what the commemorative plaques do best.

In the intervening five decades, wide-ranging groups of history enthusiasts have commissioned each marker to tell visitors something special about a wide variety of places. Much of the series focuses on small, intimate portraits of the past.

Marker 240 in Reno describes how the Coney Island amusement park entertained young people for several years beginning in 1909. The history of a mercantile store in Panaca is recounted on marker 93. Marker 86 reminds passersby that Tule Springs in Clark County has remarkable remnants from the ice age.

There are, of course, some weightier topics. Marker 190 describes the important life and career of Las Vegas founder Charles "Pop" Squires, while on the other end of the state, a marker deals with the fight of the century on July 4, 1910, when Jack Johnson defeated the "Great White Hope," Jim Jefferies, for the heavyweight championship. Reno remembers the event with marker 220.

# nevāda

The Nevada Division of State Parks originally created the Nevada Historical Marker series. The agency scattered nearly 200 plaques across the state, installing the monuments at a rate of about one a month. The program shifted to the State Historic Preservation Office in 1977, where staff added new markers, answering demand that all aspects of Nevada history receive acknowledgement.

Unfortunately, budget cutbacks slowed the program, and for years at a time, there were no new markers, and those in the field were subject to a harsh climate, little maintenance, and an occasional bullet.

The [Nevada Commission on Tourism](#) intermittently came to the rescue with funds to address what was too often becoming an embarrassment, as markers presented shabby faces to those who dropped by to have a look. More recently, the Nevada Department of Transportation has provided funding so that the markers could greet tourists with more dignity. But a greater problem lingered.

Anticipating Nevada's 150th birthday in 2014, the SHPO took stock of a program that has served the state so well for five decades. After reviewing the early marker texts with an eye on creating an [online database](#), it became clear that several of the plaques needed to be reconsidered. Misspellings, grammatical errors, and an inclination to use quaint "old timey" words presented a less-than-professional message to visitors.

Reviewing more than 270 marker texts and revising many in fundamental ways took months of effort and volunteerism—the SHPO is supported by a grant from the National Park Service, which prohibits activity dealing with historical markers. This meant that employees had to read and edit the language in their own time. The final product offers a broad spectrum of ways to learn from Nevada's past. Because the office has placed the new marker texts online at [nvshpo.org](#), there is an opportunity for an even wider audience to enjoy these tidbits from the past.

The program still lacks the funding to address markers that need to be changed. The online versions represent the way the texts will eventually appear, using language that is not always reflected in the field. To begin the process of changing the actual markers, the SHPO is asking for donations. Refurbishing the markers will open a new chapter in a program that has done such great work in promoting the state's heritage while welcoming its visitors.

And what of that first marker, placed near Carson City in 1963 at the start of a statewide effort to interpret the past? A few word changes aside, the text stands the test of time and the marker survives as a symbol of how Nevadans celebrate the legacy of their past.

## Water war gets 'clock people' ticking

On March 12 the Los Angeles Times published an article by Ashley Powers telling the story of how Partnership board member Dave Tilford helped the Long Now Foundation to purchase land in the Great Basin National Heritage Area for potential construction of a clock intended to run for a millennium. The story continues to tell how a book called , "[The Clock of the Long Now](#)," written by Stewart Brand influenced Tilford's thinking and how the philosophy of the "Long Now" is being used to wage war on the attempt by the Las Vegas water district to pump water from the Spring Valley.

View the whole story at:

[http://longnow.org/media/djlongnow\\_media/press/pdf/020120311-Powers-WaterWarGetsClockPeopleTicking.pdf](http://longnow.org/media/djlongnow_media/press/pdf/020120311-Powers-WaterWarGetsClockPeopleTicking.pdf)

## Website lets the curious peek at NNRy yards

Did you know that the Nevada Northern Railway has a 24 hour webcam that surveys the rail yards so that visitors to the site can check out what is **going** on there at any time? Visit the site at: <http://www.nnry.com/Webcam/Webcam.htm>

## 41st Nevada Railway Symposium planned

On September 20-23, 2012 the Nevada Northern Railway National Historic Landmark will present its 41st Nevada Railway Symposium in Ely, Nevada. When attendees are not in symposium meetings, the NNRy locomotives are likely to be all steamed-up for viewing photos and rides. As a special treat, the NNRy plans to steam-up Nevada Northern Railway Wrecking Crane A and give a demonstration.

Here is what one of last year's attendees, Dan Markoff, had to say about the event:



This last September Ely, or more accurately East Ely, was the site of the 2011 Nevada Railroad Symposium. Some thought it too far to go, but a good bunch of us decided to make the trek to wonderful Ely and take a deep breath of history, natural beauty, freedom and railroads. It was one of the most enjoyable events I have ever attended. In Ely, the history of our great state is alive and well and thriving.

Ely, Nevada. It is out in the middle of nowhere. It is hundreds of miles from Las Vegas, Salt Lake City, Reno and just about every place else. But, in the case of Ely, this is the reason it is wonderful. It is not packed with crowds, smog, protestors, politicians, political correctness, and everything else that stifles freedom. Most of all it is not crammed with developers who

have done their best to erase the natural beautiful charm of this old historic town with thousands of acres of stucco homes, glass buildings and parking lots. Ely is just Ely as it has always been, in a beautiful high setting, overlooking the Steptoe Valley and backed up by mountains reaching into the blue Nevada sky. The air is fresh and crisp with the gentle smells of sagebrush, pine, and . . . STEAM LOCOMOTIVES. Yup, Ely is one of those great places in our beautiful United States that is far away and pristine.

There were a number of speakers discussing various topics, from the history of the Nevada Northern locomotives, to historic locomotive coloration. Everyone had a power point presentation to augment their lectures.



Jim Wilke gave a presentation on the different paint and art schemes that locomotive builders used during the 19th century. Kyle Wyatt from the California State Railroad Museum gave a very informative talk on the regional roads and equipment that had the full attention of everyone. Mark Bassett, our host for the symposium and head honcho of the Nevada Northern, talked to us about various aspects of the Nevada Northern, which was repeatedly, punctuated by the sights and sounds of the NN #40 steaming through the rail yards just outside the freight house. Everyone was thoroughly enchanted with the ambiance of talking about railroad history, not in a dry academic environment, but with the actual equipment still running in our view just outside. I do not think anyone could have dreamed up a more fitting and magical setting for discussing railroad history.



I would venture to say, that everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves over the three day event. A more perfect setting cannot be imagined. What is best is the breadth of information and interesting people that were in attendance. The group of about 60 or so was for me, just about the right size. Everyone had a chance to visit and exchange information with each other, walk through the yards and marvel at the incredible good fortune we have in this state to have the Nevada Northern.

I understand the Symposium will be held again next year in East Ely at the Nevada Northern. For those of you that missed this year's event you really missed a very special time. For those that believe Ely was too far to go, then you missed a truly wonderful and interesting event.

## **Topaz Museum groundbreaking planned**

The Topaz Museum Board (TMB) has received a \$714,314 grant from the National Park Service (NPS) for a capital outlay project to build the Topaz Museum and Education Center. The ground breaking ceremony will be Aug. 4, 2012 in Delta, Utah. The Board has been conducting a capital campaign in order to complete the \$2.3 million project.

The Museum will be located on Main Street in Delta, sixteen miles from the Topaz site. It will be 8,254 sq. ft. with an art gallery, exhibit space, curatorial facilities, office, and library.

The design of the building was completed by Alan Kawasaki, principle of Shah Kawasaki Architects located in Oakland. Alan's family, the Hayashidas, lived on Block 7 at Topaz. Rick Okabe, from the Topaz Museum Board, expressed the feelings of the entire Board when he said, "We are very pleased with this grant. Having the NPS endorsement will help us with our long-range funding."



With the addition of the NPS grant, the Board has now raised \$1.2 million of the \$2.3 million needed for the Museum and is continuing to work with Utah foundations and other interested individuals. Naming opportunities for various Topaz Museum exhibits will be available for donors who would like to honor friends or relatives who were incarcerated there.

*The new museum design (above, right) echoes elements of the original buildings that stood on the Topaz camp site (below).*



The Topaz Museum and Education Center is part of a comprehensive preservation program begun in 1993 when the Board started buying the Topaz site to protect it from development. The TMB now owns 626 acres of the 640 acres where over 11,000 Japanese Americans were confined during World War II.

"Without financial help from former internees and their families, we would never have been able to save the Topaz site," said Jane Beckwith, president of the Topaz Museum Board. "While there are no original buildings left at Topaz, the walkways still reveal the exact place of most of the doorways of the barracks. The gardens scattered throughout the camp and foundations for the latrines and mess halls give haunting evidence of the remaining artifacts at Topaz."

In 2007 the NPS named the Topaz site a National Historic Landmark. A large crowd celebrated the ceremony, and Utah's Governor Jon Huntsman gave the keynote speech.

The Topaz Museum will house an extensive art collection of paintings done at Topaz. Artists represented in the collection include Miné Okubo, Chiura Obata, Charles Erabu Suiko Mikami, Thomas Ryosaku Matsuoka, Yajiro Okamoto, Kinji Utsumi, and others.

The capital campaign will continue in order to provide a suitable facility for the art and artifacts owned by the Topaz Museum. Those interested in making a donation may send checks the Topaz Museum, P.O. Box 241, Delta, Utah 84624, visit the website at [www.topazmuseum.org](http://www.topazmuseum.org) or call 435-864-2098.

## **BLM receives bids for Competitive Potash Leasing of Sevier Dry Lake**

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has offered approximately 125,762 acres of the surface of the Sevier Dry Lake, about 30 miles southwest of Delta, Utah for competitive leasing of potassium-rich brines to produce potash last year. The Sevier Dry Lake is one of the most prominent geographic features within the Great Basin National Heritage Area.

The maximum lease size for a potash lease parcel under Federal rules for leasing solid minerals other than coal and oil shale is 2,560 acres. Consequently, BLM has divided Sevier Dry Lake into 64 lease parcels. The maximum acreage of potash lease holdings for one entity in one state totals 96,000 acres.

The leases would provide the lease holders with exclusive rights to the potash, but not to the land itself. The BLM expects that to develop the lease the lease holders will need to build dikes, ponds, associated access roads and other facilities in the lease area, and on surrounding rights of way. Extraction techniques could include a number of surface ditches to extract the shallow brines and a number of wells to extract deeper brines. These brines would be concentrated using solar evaporation. The minerals would then be harvested, compacted, and dried for transportation to market.

About 93 percent of the 2009 world potash production was consumed by the fertilizer industry. The United States imports 80 percent of the potash fertilizer used on its farms.

Once a lease is issued, the BLM must approve a mining plan before any mining can commence. The proposed mining plan must also be analyzed through the public process set out by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). In addition, the State of Utah must issue a permit under the Utah Mined Land Reclamation Act of 1975.

*Much of the dust blown from the surface of the Sevier Dry Lake may be potash salts*



The Sevier Dry Lake potash reserves were estimated by Hazen Research at 5.2 million tons. At a projected 50 percent recovery, production would continue for approximately 6.5 years at the rate of 400,000 tons per year. In addition, the mine would be in operation for an additional 2 to 3 years for the initial development. Final reclamation would likely proceed for several years after final potash production.

The potash deposits on Sevier Dry Lake were initially leased for development in the late 1970s. The lakebed of the Sevier Dry Lake was leased again in 1997. Although development began, neither of these previous leasing efforts resulted in commercial production.

In early 2009, the BLM received an Expression of Interest in leasing Potash on Sevier Lake. On January 22, 2010 the Fillmore Field Office initiated the NEPA process for the consideration of this activity. The Environmental Assessment (EA) was written and posted on the Utah Environmental Notification Bulletin Board on September 20, 2010 for a 30 day comment period. In its comments on the EA, the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance recommended that the area be reviewed for wilderness character. The BLM determined that this constituted new information and would need to be considered in the EA. The BLM also determined that a wilderness inventory for the area should be completed in compliance with Secretarial Order 3310 issued on December 23, 2010. Following completion of this inventory, the BLM has determined that the Sevier Lake does not have wilderness characteristics. The determination was based on the lack of outstanding opportunities for "solitude," as well as the lack of outstanding opportunities for a "primitive and unconfined recreation experience." A large portion of the dry lake bed also failed to meet the requirements for "naturalness."

This decision is documented in the EA and associated Decision Record for the Sevier Lake Competitive Potash Leasing Proposal.

Out of four bidding entities, Peak Minerals Inc was the highest bidder on all 64 parcels offered at the April 5 Bureau of Land Management competitive potash lease sale. Peak Minerals bid \$203.57 per acre on all 64 parcels totaling approximately 125,762 acres of potassium-rich brines to produce potash. The acres offered in the sale are geographically known as the Dry Sevier Lake bed.

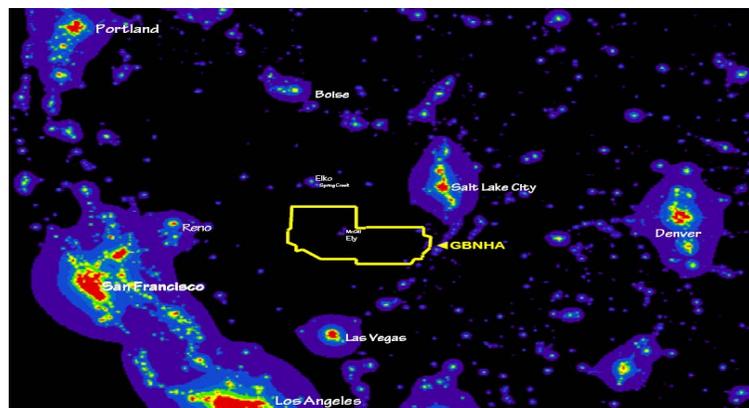


Due to federal rules on the leasing of solid minerals, an entity in one state may lease no more than 96,000 acres. Therefore, Peak Minerals Inc will be required to relinquish parcels until they meet the 96,000-acre limit. The relinquished parcels will be offered to the second highest bidder on each individual parcel. The second highest bidder has the option to accept or reject the offer. The other bidders were Great Salt Lake Minerals Corp, Luke Kline and Mathews Eggers, and Bro Energy LLC.

The BLM manages more than 245 million acres of public land, the most of any Federal agency. This land, known as the National System of Public Lands, is primarily located in 12 Western states, including Alaska. The BLM also administers 700 million acres of sub-surface mineral estate throughout the nation. In Fiscal Year (FY) 2011, recreational and other activities on BLM-managed land contributed more than \$130 billion to the U.S. economy and supported more than 600,000 American jobs. The Bureau is also one of a handful of agencies that collects more revenue than it spends. In FY 2012, nearly \$5.7 billion will be generated on lands managed by the BLM, which operates on a \$1.1 billion budget. The BLM's multiple-use mission is to sustain the health and productivity of the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations. The Bureau accomplishes this by managing such activities as outdoor recreation, livestock grazing, mineral development, and energy production, and by conserving natural, historical, cultural, and other resources on public lands.

### **When will the GBNHA's dark skies be darkest for best celestial viewing?**

Much of the Great Basin National Heritage Area is a great place to view the heavens. There are hundreds of cloudless nights each year, the pollution levels are low and there is little man made ambient light to damper the viewer's appreciation of tiny dim points of light from the sky. The graphic below gives some idea of how dark the night skies really are in comparison with far off metropolitan areas.



***This computer generated model from satellite data indicates locations of light and surrounding skyglow. The GBNHA (outlined) is an area that contains some of the least of these.***

One of the most celebrated locations for night sky viewing is the Great Basin National Park (almost smack dab in the middle of the GBNHA). Frequently rangers and astronomer/volunteers are on hand there with telescopes and interpretation of the eve-

ning's celestial events. But with visitors often traveling some distance in hopes of experiencing a great clear sky, what can be done to assure that indeed the sky will be generally unobstructed when a visit is contemplated?

Fortunately there is a web site for just that purpose—to forecast clear skies. It looks like this:



Centered on the [Lower Lehman Campground](#) in [Great Basin National Park](#).

It's an astronomer's forecast. It shows what viewing is likely to be like for up to the next two days. It's a prediction of when Great Basin National Park, NV, will have good weather for astronomical observing.

The data comes from a forecast model developed by Allan Rahill of the Canadian Meteorological Center. CMC's numerical weather forecasts are unique because they are specifically designed for astronomers. But they have 763 forecast maps. So, Attila Danko wrote a script to generate the images like the one above which summarizes CMC's forecast images just for Great Basin National Park and the surroundings out to about 10 miles.

The chart is read by looking at the rows labeled sky conditions. Blue blocks indicate good opportunities to observe. The darker the blue the better. The more rows (except the bottom one) that have dark blue better yet.

The chart takes into consideration cloud cover, **transparency** (based on the amount of water vapor in the air), **seeing** (based on air turbulence combined with temperature differences in the atmosphere), **darkness** (based on daylight, dusk, twilight, and interference from moonlight), **wind** (that might shake a telescope), **humidity** (that could create dew on telescope optics) and **temperature** (that also might affect optics not to mention the comfort of the viewer).

To view an up to date chart visit:

<http://cleardarksky.com/c/GrtBsnNPkNVkey.html> or  
[http://cleardarksky.com/csk/prov/Nevada\\_charts.html](http://cleardarksky.com/csk/prov/Nevada_charts.html)

## **Rodeo presents some of the most enduring of the GBNHA heritage activities**

The annual Days of the Old West Rodeo returns to the fairgrounds in Delta, Utah on June 7<sup>th</sup>. This is a Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association event which means top contestants compete in steer wrestling, team roping, saddle bronc riding, WPRA Barrel Racing, tie-down roping, and bull riding.

The rodeo is kicked off with a parade down the main street of Delta at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday June 7. Folks who ride their own horse in the parade receive a free ticket to the rodeo. Rodeo performances take place at 8 p.m. June 7-9.

Associated events include June 8th Annual Poker Ride, June 9th Tough Enough to Wear Pink night, and the specialty act will be Punkintown.



*Last year's Days of the Old West Rodeo provided lots of riding excitement*

## **Youth summer campers will have fun with pioneer activities**

The Great Basin Heritage Area Partnership will co-sponsor a series of youth summer camps at Fillmore, Utah's Territorial Statehouse. The three day, two night program offered June through August will bring hundreds of youth from the Wasatch Front to the rural area of Utah. It will expose them to local, state and national heritage. Campers will gain insight into the challenges early settlers faced as they pioneered the desert. Pioneer activities include wood working, cabin building, rock working, candle making, rope making, spinning, weaving, quilting and (all important for pioneer desert farmers) water channeling.

## Car show highlights an unconventional heritage activity



*Shown above is Bruce Bourgain's classic 1955 Chevy Bel-Aire. It was named the 2011 Best of Show vehicle.*

Unconventionally thought of as a heritage activity is the restoration or modification of cars trucks and motorcycles. This is, however, a big activity within the Great Basin National Heritage Area. The White Pine Rodders Car Club was organized in rural Ely, Nevada in 1993. Each year over the club's life it has held a benefit car show. Its annual scholarship program awards two scholarships a year to seniors who plan to go into a trade school occupation. This year will marks the 19<sup>th</sup> annual White Pine Rodders' Car Show to be held August 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> in Ely.

Classes of vehicles displayed include stock cars and trucks, custom cars and trucks, Corvettes, convertibles, 4 wheel drives, motorcycles and European and Japanese cars and trucks. Hot rods and not-street-legal modified cars will also be shown. Trophies will be presented for best vehicles shown.

Additional activities planned are reportedly include Hot-wheel races, a poker walk, a fan belt toss, a nickel scramble (whatever that may be), slow drags and a loudest pipes contest. And, of course, there will be 50s and 60s music—obviously proving the heritage values of the show!

## Fillmore once again hosts the National ATV Jamboree



The National ATV Jamboree located in Fillmore, Utah is a major event among ATV enthusiasts. Fillmore is one of the major trail heads to access the famous Paiute ATV Trail—recognized as one of the nation's finest ATV Trails. The Jamboree is a week-long event held the last full week of June. The Jamboree offers approximately 30 rides with varying degrees of difficulty.



The 2012 National ATV Jamboree (the 25<sup>th</sup> annual) will head-quarter in Fillmore, Utah on the eastern edge of the Great Basin National Heritage Area June 25<sup>th</sup> thru 30<sup>th</sup>. Five hundred riders will experience six days of guided rides (some in the Fishlake National Forest). They will be provided a Jamboree tee-shirt, breakfast every day, an ATV information packet, trail maps, and a gift pack.

Participants will challenge their machine and riding abilities or simply enjoy an easy winding trail with breathtaking views. The Jamboree offers a number of trails that accommodate side-by-side machines as well.



ATV riders will experience scenery ranging from pines and aspen forests to spectacular desert views and sunsets. Local guides describe the geology, history and stories that enhance the riding experience. Participants will enjoy seeing a variety of wildlife including deer, elk and wild turkeys.

For early birds, there will be an overnight ride and camp-out on Monday.

Additionally an ATV rodeo (and a youth rodeo) will feature pole bending, an obstacle course competition and an event called the Blind Man's Race. Special events include a pot luck/pizza /pool party, an ATV parade and an awards program. There will also be raffle for a new 2012 ATV wagon.

For more information and registration materials, go to [www.atvutah.com/fillmore/](http://www.atvutah.com/fillmore/).

And, if ATV riding is not enough, the Old Capitol Car Show and Craft Fair will be held on Saturday the 28<sup>th</sup> in the park in Fillmore.

## **Great Basin Museum moves to new location**

On May 26, 2012 the Great Basin Museum began a new life in its new Main Street Delta, Utah location. A ribbon cutting and grand opening attracted nearly 500 visitors to the recently completed new building. Some new exhibits joined rehabilitated older exhibits that had been moved from the old museum a few blocks away at 328 West 100 North.

## **NNRy among Nevada's top treasures**

Recently Nevada Magazine asked its readers for their insight on Nevada's top treasures. After nearly 600 unique nominations and more than 500 hours of voting, readers determined the state's dozen top treasures.



Recognized as top treasure in Nevada's Pony Express Territory (the midsection of the state running along US Route 50 from Fallon to the Utah Border) was the Nevada Northern Railway in Ely, one of the partner members of the Great Basin Heritage Area Partnership.