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MAGAZINE



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Cover Photo: Brian Walker

Photographer Brian Walker captured this drone's-eye view of Lake Tahoe's east shore after a long day of skiing.

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M A G A Z I N E

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2017
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NEVADA
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A STATE APART.

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WEB EXTRAS



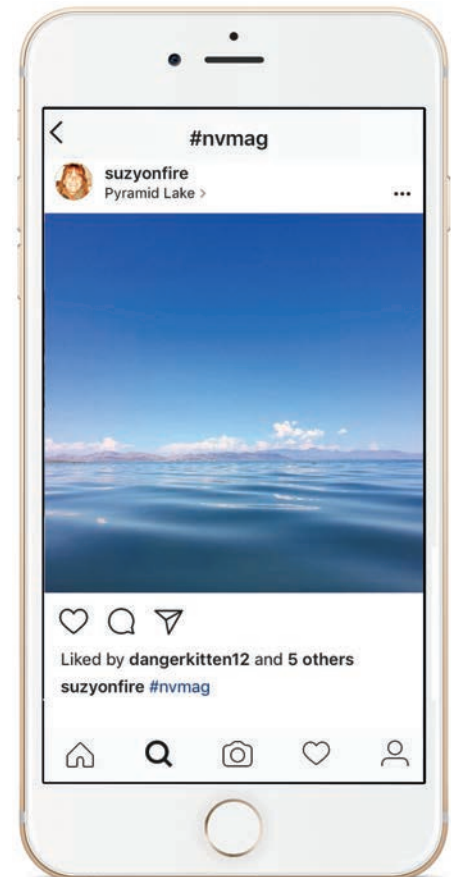
► **Literary Las Vegas:** The word “literary” does not often turn up as a modifier for Las Vegas. The only books to be found in Sin City are sports books, and literacy is not a requirement for excelling at blackjack, playing the slots, or even holding down a job. Because everybody is a dealer, a showgirl, or a monosyllabic gangster, right?

We know these stereotypes are outdated, but what remains less recognized is that Las Vegas does merit recognition as a vibrant literary community. Take a glimpse of the world of letters thriving in southern Nevada and the players—writers, philanthropists, activists, archivists, and entrepreneurs—behind its growth. **By Megan Edwards**

► **Yesterday: Exotics:** In 1959, The Nevada Fish and Game Commission sent Glen Christensen to Jodhpur, India, to trap four exotic species of birds and send them to Nevada. The experiment was hoping to introduce new upland game birds to southern Nevada, following on the successful introduction of pheasant and chukar in the 1930s. More than 5,000 birds were brought back, and we checked in with the Nevada Department of Wildlife to find out how it all went. The original story first appeared in the January issue of 1962.



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That's a wrap!



When I started at the magazine a few years ago, Eric—our associate editor—and I were talking about the magazine's publishing cycle. Working months in advance was foreign to me coming from newspapers and daily websites, and I was stunned when I realized I was planning my first November/December issue. It felt like it was still summer, and it was. Eric told me our previous editor, Matt Brown, said something to the effect of "before you know it, we'll be working on the November/December issue." I laughed when he told me that, and today, I'm still laughing because it was so true. The planning never ends.

So it's the end of the year, for the purposes of this note, and looking back at 2017 I'm incredibly proud of the magazines we've created. Eric and I tackled yearlong series about ancient Nevada (page 42) and our state parks (page 56), and I can tell you we learned more than we'd ever expected. Our freelance content was exceptional this year, and our photographers have outdone themselves at every turn. But enough about this year (yikes), what about next year?

In 2018, we're going 'round the bend. We've got trains on the brain, so in each issue there will be at least one (likely more) story dealing with Nevada's railroads, steam trains, box cars, and everything else. We're excited to connect with the experts at Nevada's three railroad museums (Carson City, Boulder City, and Ely) on some great stories this year. If that weren't enough, our annual historical calendar will feature trains, and our scavenger hunt will have a little locomotion of its own. See you all aboard!

HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS ISSUE

We're ending the year on a high note and in a big way. Our feature this issue is about rural airports across the state, and what it takes to travel at altitude. You'll find that story on page 70. If that's not big enough for you, check out our story on the Desert National Wildlife Refuge, which is the second largest refuge in the country and sits just outside the neon of Las Vegas; read about it on page 62.

We've also got a tasty and nostalgic look at Basque restaurants that bisect the state. Three friends recreate a trip they did 20 years ago, and you can follow along on page 36. If nostalgia is your thing, you're going to love our look at the Pinball Hall of Fame in Las Vegas, where the bells and whistles are still alive. That story is on page 28. Our art director went to Winnemucca's Shooting the West Symposium this year, and her look at this annual photography event will have you reaching for your camera. Read her story on page 22.

I'm pretty sure I can speak for everyone here at *Nevada Magazine* as I wish everyone the happiest of holiday seasons. We are grateful for the gift of all you, each and every day.



Megg Mueller, Managing Editor

mmueller@nevadamagazine.com



LETTERS

IT'S THE JOURNEY, NOT THE DESTINATION

I send a heartfelt thank you for choosing my photos in the Great Nevada Picture Hunt and Nevada poster contests. This has given me much joy, but it's much more than that. To be published by your magazine is an awesome thing and when I doubt myself, I think of you, grab my camera and get out there and shoot! Thanks for being part of my photographic journey.

— **Liz Huntington**, Virginia City

PARKING THE INFO FOR LATER

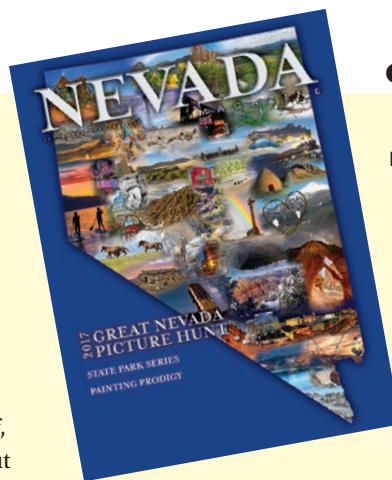
I just finished my latest issue of the magazine, and I have to say I've really enjoyed the state park series this year. I have only been to a few of the parks, but I'm saving the issues so I can plan our next trip! Thanks for all the fun information.

— **Robyn Beck Mitchell**, Santa Rosa, California



WE VALUE YOUR INPUT

Write to editor@nevadamagazine.com or via mail at 401 N. Carson St., Carson City, NV 89701. You can also comment on stories and read more letters at nevadamagazine.com. Letters and comments are subject to editing.



CONTRIBUTORS / LETTERS

LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION

Was admiring the cover of the magazine and started looking closer at the photos. My wife and I have been to most of these places and I realized they are geographically located on the Nevada map. Love it!

— **Jeff Gorton** via Facebook

IMPORTANT INCLUSIONS

I'm writing to thank and congratulate author Megg Mueller for the great article, "Nevada State Parks:

Something for Everyone" in the Sept.-Oct. 2017 issue. Excellent descriptions of interesting Nevada sites. I wish to particularly point to the section on Fort Churchill State Historic Park. Ms. Mueller's description included a notation that the site has accessibility for those with limited mobility. As a person with a power-driven mobility device, it is very informative to include accessibility information. I encourage all authors to include a comment regarding accessibility for those with limited mobility. Thank

you for a wonderful magazine. I'm happy and glad I moved to Nevada. It's a great state! — **Lee Birch**, Las Vegas



CONTRIBUTORS

J. TYGE O'DONNELL



J. Tyge O'Donnell is a freelance writer and photographer. He collaborates regularly with Las Vegas' Zip Code Magazine where he writes the bi-monthly "Livin' Local" column. He recently completed a weeklong, 1,800-mile tour of Nevada that allowed him to get more familiar with this great state that he's called home for the past 24 years. ■ PG. 28

MARK MESKE, STEVE BASS, LARRY ERREA



A trio of hungry roadtrippers hit the highway to taste the best Basque food across the state. Mark Meske, Steve Bass, and Larry Errea are no strangers to the tasty trail that traverses Nevada; they first wrote about their adventures 20 years ago in the August 1998 issue of *Nevada Magazine*. ■ PG. 36

MICHELLE NAPOLI



Michelle Napoli has made her home in Las Vegas for more than seven years. Her career has ranged from local zoning, police, and restaurant beats for a weekly newspaper to interviewing C-suite public company executives for an online investment publication. She has been a board member of Friends of Nevada Wilderness since 2015. ■ PG. 62

MEGAN EDWARDS



Megan Edwards is the author of the travel memoir "Roads from the Ashes," "Caution: Funny Signs Ahead," "Getting off on Frank Sinatra," and "Strings." She has lived and traveled in Europe and spent nearly seven years on the road all over North America. She lives in Las Vegas, and is working on her next novel. ■ [at nevadamagazine.com](http://nevadamagazine.com)

To find out how to contribute, visit nevadamagazine.com/writer

#VegasStrong

Nevada Department of Tourism & Cultural Affairs staff participated in Broadcasters Unite Day, wearing blue and silver in support of #VegasStrong.

KIPPY S. SPILKER

I love Las Vegas—it's my hometown. Las Vegas is where I was born, raised, and graduated from public schools. My wife, Cary, and I have raised six children in Las Vegas and we have five grandchildren who live here, as well. Although Oct. 1 will be remembered as a horrific and tragic day in Las Vegas history, it will also be remembered as a day of inspiration, courage, and love.

Since Oct. 1, the response to this tragedy revealed the boundless heart, generosity, and soul of a great community and the caring people who live here. We have also witnessed the inspiring light of the good people of a great state and a great country.

In the hours and days following the shooting, I met and spoke with the victims and their families who experienced unspeakable grief, suffering, and loss. The individuals I met are some of the finest and most courageous people on the planet. I was inspired by the character and grace of the residents and visitors lined up for hours to give their blood for the cause and the people from across the country—indeed the world—who donated food, water, money, supplies, clothing, cell phones, and flowers.

In hospital after hospital, the victims shared stories of family. Spouses, friends, and total strangers (who were often described as guardian angels and good Samaritans) sacrificed themselves to save those who were injured, terrified, or helpless. These self-

less acts of service, compassion, and love are in keeping with the best and highest traditions of Las Vegas, Nevadans, and Americans. They are what will forever be embedded in our collective memories of Oct. 1.

I echo the words of my friend Rossi Ralenkotter, the President/CEO of the Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority, who said: "We are a resilient, strong community. The women and men who work in this destination—many of whom are suffering through their own losses—have not missed a beat in taking care of our guests who are here in [and those who will come to] our city." This is what makes all of us #VegasStrong.



Mark Hutchison
Lieutenant Governor
Chairman—Nevada
Commission on Tourism
ltgov.nv.gov



Up Front



SPORTS

Professional soccer comes to Las Vegas

Las Vegas—following quickly on the heels of getting both a professional hockey and a professional football team—has now become home to the third and final expansion team of the 2018 season for the United Soccer League. The new team has been named the Las Vegas Lights, following a contest where more than 10,000 people cast votes for the name.

At a city council meeting in July, seven council members voted unanimously to approve the 15-year lease agreement between Cashman Field and Las Vegas Pro Soccer, LLC., to bring the expansion team to Las Vegas.

"We believe that Downtown Las Vegas is the ideal location for professional soccer. Our mission is to create an authentic international soccer experience for local fans that is different than any other local team—one that fully embraces the diversity of our community. We are confident local soccer fans will help us turn Cashman Field into a stadium that replicates the amazing match day atmosphere of soccer stadiums around the globe—with non-stop singing, dancing, chanting, drumming, etc.," says Brett Lashbrook, founder and owner of Las Vegas Pro Soccer, LLC.

Throughout the 2018 season, the team will compete in 16 regular season games at Cashman Field. Fans are now able to place a \$20 deposit (per seat) for season tickets on the team's website to ensure they enjoy every game during the upcoming season. Seat selection is available on a first-come, first-served basis.

lasvegaslightsfc.com, 702-728-4625



Notable Nevadans

Suni Chabrow has taken a cruel twist of fate and turned it into something sweet for others. Her son, Specialist Douglas J. Green was killed in Afghanistan in 2011. Our Carrie Roussel recently talked with Suni about how she turned personal tragedy into a successful business and nonprofit foundation that touches the lives of Nevadans serving their country overseas. The full interview can be read at nevadamagazine.com/chabrow.



SUNI CHABROW

Question: Where were you born? Where do you live now?

Suni Chabrow: I was raised in California, and then lived on the East Coast before returning west. I've lived in Summerlin for about 15 years.

Question: Tell us a little about yourself.

Suni Chabrow: I'm a gold-star mom, which means a mom that has lost her son or daughter by being killed in action in the line of duty serving their country. I go around the valley to educate people on the many gold-star families in Las Vegas and throughout Nevada.



I run a nonprofit organization called The Douglas J. Green Memorial Foundation to support troops overseas. I support the men and women from Creech and Nellis Air Force bases by sending them things like wipes, toiletries, floss, and their favorite munchies while they are overseas. The government doesn't pay for any of that stuff. When my son was deployed he was always hungry and needing things. I was shipping stuff to him five times a week sometimes. He always shared what he received, so when he was killed the most normal thing for me to do was to continue to ship the same stuff that he was sharing.

We do donation events throughout the year and the sense of community is amazing here. People call from around the whole valley asking what they can bring. And the soldiers love getting the magical packages filled with munchies. It reminds them of home, and that we are thinking about them,

and looking forward to when they get home. We've been doing this since 2011 when Doug was killed. We send thousands of packages a year with thousands of dollars that are all donated.

I also own Whoa! Toffee, which I've been making forever. I finally decided to sell the toffee after Doug was gone. We started out in my kitchen but got so busy now we have a commercial kitchen in Summerlin. It's available at many of the hotel mini-bars in Las Vegas and Doug's story is on the back of every label. I also play tennis and have a child that is heading to college.

Question: What is your favorite thing about living in Nevada?

Suni Chabrow: The weather is phenomenal. If you can get through July and August the other 10 months are just perfect. There is always something to do here. We've got theater, The Smith Center, sporting events with even more sports to come, music, and hiking.

Question: If you could tell people just one thing about Nevada, what would it be?

Suni Chabrow: There is much more to life here than just the Las Vegas Strip. The people and the sense of community here are amazing. People really care about each other.

Question: Do you have a favorite quote or motto?

Suni Chabrow: Having gone through what I did, I always say "Challenges are what make life interesting, and overcoming them is what makes life meaningful."

Question: Are there any Notable Nevadans who have influenced you?

Suni Chabrow: Mayor Goodman—both of them—have done a lot here. They listen to the people and make changes. Governor Sandoval has also made really great changes. They do what they think is right, and not just what the consensus says.



The Douglas J. Green Memorial Foundation
douglasjgreenmemorialfoundation.org

Whoa! Foods
whoatoffee.com

UP FRONT



■ **Virginia City's Cemetery Gin** recently took home a silver award at the San Francisco 2017 Wold Spirits Competition. The gin is made and produced entirely in Nevada, and has hints of lavender and Nevada pine nuts for a distinct flavor.

cemeterygin.com, 775-847-7500

■ **MGM Grand Hotel & Casino and Zero Latency** have created Las Vegas' first multi-player free-roam Virtual Reality experience inside LEVEL UP gaming lounge. The arena will immerse up to eight players in a completely interactive digital universe, allowing them to physically navigate considerable distances through the 2,000-square-foot arena while collaborating with other players.

mgmgrand.com

■ Wolfgang Puck's legendary restaurant **Spago**, recognized for igniting Las Vegas's dining scene, is moving to the Bellagio Resort & Casino in spring 2018. Marking 25 years since the fine-dining phenomenon debuted in Las Vegas, Puck's restaurant heralded the era of celebrity chefs and haute cuisine that continues to define the city's restaurant scene.

bellagio.com, 888-987-6667

■ "Casino Player Magazine" named **Grand Sierra Resort and Casino** (GSR) winner of 20 Best of Gaming awards. The GSR won first for Best Overall Gaming Resort, Best Hotel, and Best Casino, Best Suite, Best Pool, Best Slot Tournaments, Best Reel Slots, Best Video Poker, and Best Live Poker.

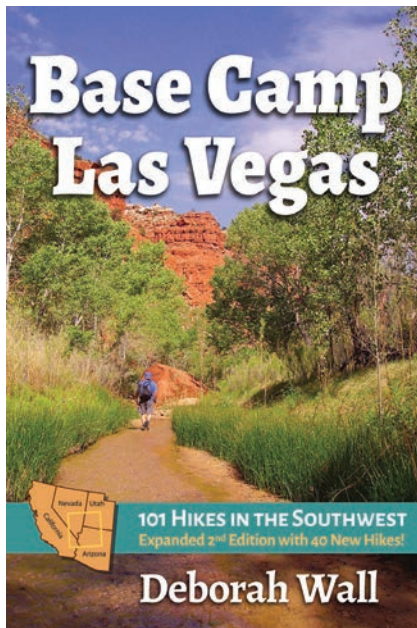
grandsierraresort.com, 775-789-2000

■ **Night in the Country Music Festival's** 2017 fundraising effort—Give & Get volunteer program—donated more than \$74,000 to 40 area nonprofits, beating previous year's donations.

nightinthecountry.org, 800-747-4697

■ Downtown Las Vegas' 100-percent plant-based eatery **VegeNation** is bringing its environmentally conscious menu to Henderson. The new location will have a community garden, pop-up shops, events, yoga and more.

vegenationlv.com, 702-366-8515



PHOTOS: DEBORAH WALL

BOOKS

The perfect place to start a hike is Las Vegas

A new book, "Base Camp Las Vegas: 101 Hikes in the Southwest," explores many hiking destinations that are within a day's drive of Las Vegas. The book includes hikes for every fitness level—including family hikes—detailed directions, and information about parking and cellphone reception.

Hikes from Nevada, California, Arizona, and Utah are included, and many can be reached in one-to-two hours from the city, making day hikes accessible for visitors and locals. Author Deborah Wall is a lifelong hiker, and she gives all the right



details in her trail descriptions, and even breaks out the top 5 best hikes for teens, petroglyph searching, wildflowers, and solitude, among other categories. Her photos are stunning, and make choosing a hike easy. basecampguides.com

TRADE SHOWS

Interbike cycles into Reno

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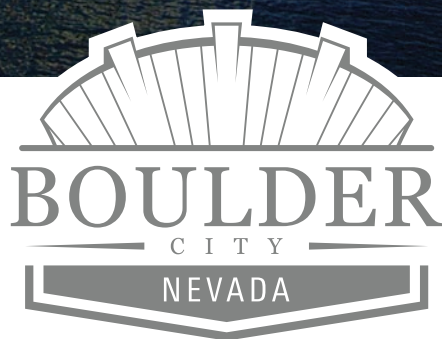
America's leading cycling trade show, Interbike, has selected Reno-Tahoe as the new home for the Interbike trade show and the site of the newly-created Interbike Marketweek. Interbike Marketweek will begin with a weekend consumer festival at Northstar California Resort, will segue into the trade-focused OutDoor Demo, also at Northstar, and transition to the Interbike trade show at the Reno-Sparks Convention Center beginning in 2018 and continuing through 2022.

Interbike Marketweek is expected to generate approximately 21,000 room nights for Reno-Tahoe lodging properties each year, carrying an annual estimated economic impact of \$21 million. visitrenotahoe.com



A DAM GOOD TIME

Head over to Boulder City for a change of pace. Enjoy a quaint Main Street full of antique shops, unique boutiques and places to grab a bite. Sure, it looks peaceful. But Boulder City also has a wild side, with people zip-lining down canyons, waterskiing



on Lake Mead, and mountain biking along miles and miles of rugged trails. Come see for yourself everything there is to do, whether you're looking to simply hang out or to hang on tight. **VisitBoulderCity.com**





After a four-week campaign against 19 high-profile casinos across the nation, **Peppermill Resort Spa Casino** has been named the sixth best U.S. casino in USA Today's 10Best Readers' Choice Awards. The AAA Four Diamond resort was the only property nominated from northern Nevada and northern California.

peppermillreno.com, 775-826-2121

Mt. Rose Ski Tahoe has invested more than \$2 million in capital improvements. One of the resort's major projects includes a first-of-its-kind enclosed dual conveyor lift that will offer beginners and children unprecedented access to Mt. Rose's learning terrain and protection from the elements. Additional projects include expanded snow-making and snow-grooming capabilities, and facility upgrades at the Winters Creek Lodge base area. **skirose.com, 775-849-0704**

Caesars Entertainment Corporation launched **WeChat Pay** at 16 locations inside Caesars Palace, Paris Las Vegas, and The LINQ Promenade, becoming the first in the hospitality industry to offer this prominent Chinese digital payment method in Las Vegas. Chinese guests can make purchases with WeChat Pay easily at Caesars Entertainment Las Vegas resorts. **caesars.com**

McCarran International Airport in Las Vegas has opened three airport nursing suites offering a private space for traveling nursing mothers. **mccarran.com, 702-261-5211**

Baldini's Casino in Sparks has a new race and sports book that will offer improved odds on straight bets (-108 vs. -110); improved odds on total bets; improved sports book odds in Reno-Sparks; and many other options. Baldini's has hired USBookmaking to manage its race and sports book. USBookmaking is by USFantasy Sports which has the only legal daily fantasy sports platform in Nevada. **baldinissports.com, 775-358-0116**

HISTORY

Nevada's State Capitol now open on Saturdays

The 146-year-old silver-domed Capitol—the centerpiece of state government located in the heart of Carson City—will be open to the public on Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

"The opening of the Capitol on Saturdays is another sign of Nevada's strong economic recovery," Gov. Brian Sandoval says. "Now, families and visitors from across the globe will be able to learn about Nevada's unique and impressive history by walking the halls of our Capitol building and experiencing its beauty firsthand. From the newly-restored Old Assembly Chambers, where gaming was originally passed into law, to the Old Supreme Court, where precedent-setting cases were settled, the Capitol building is an important symbol of our state's history."

Free one-hour guided tours by docents from the Nevada State Museum take place at 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. each Saturday and include both the exterior of the building and nearby memorials as well as the interior of the building. **visitcarsoncity.com, 775-687-7410**



MUSEUMS



GLENN PINKERTON/LAS VEGAS NEWS BUREAU



Liberace at the 1964 Beatles concert at the Las Vegas Convention Center

LAS VEGAS NEWS BUREAU

'Las Vegas Lineup' exhibition moves

After a successful showing at the Clark County Library, "Las Vegas Lineup" is now on display at the Nevada State Museum, Las Vegas through Dec. 3. "Las Vegas Lineup" is a collaboration between the Las Vegas News Bureau and the Nevada State Museum, Las Vegas. The photo collections at both institutions contain thousands of unidentified photographs of people living in Las Vegas, visiting the city, and guest appearances by unidentified celebrities.

The goal of the exhibition is to have current Las Vegas visitors and residents attempt to identify some of these unknown photographs by leaving their guesses and suggestions in a locked ballot-type box. So

far, about 12 positive identifications have been made. At the Nevada State Museum, Las Vegas, the exhibition contains new photographs not yet seen by public visitors.

The exhibition will conclude its run at the Sahara West Library starting Dec. 12 until Feb. 18, 2018. **nvculture.org/nevadastatemuseumlasvegas, 702-486-5205**

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UP FRONT



■ **Las Vegas** has been named the most fun city in the U.S. according to wallethub.com. Las Vegas ranked no. 1 for nightlife and parties in the list of 100 American cities. wallethub.com

■ **Frontier Airlines** is back at Reno-Tahoe International Airport, offering non-stop service between Denver and Reno. The flight operates three times a week on an Airbus 320. flyfrontier.com

■ Wedding chapels and venues across Las Vegas honor military members with the debut of **"Las Vegas Marries the Military."** On Veterans Day, Nov. 10, chapels and wedding professionals across the Las Vegas Valley open their doors to active duty military and veterans by donating wedding services to selected military members. marrythemilitary.vegas

■ **Primm Valley Resort & Casino** continues to expand on its remodeling and food & beverage offerings by opening Primm & Proper, serving tasty American favorites for breakfast, lunch, dinner, and late night 24/7. primmvalleyresorts.com, 702-386-7867

■ **Springs Preserve Butterfly Habitat** fall season is in full flight through Nov. 19. Hundreds of butterflies and an array of plants have returned to the seasonal exhibit. Wander through the unique Butterfly Habitat and gain a better understanding of the environment needed for the survival of these spectacular insects. springspreserve.org, 702-822-7700

■ The **Reno Aces Baseball Club** and **Reno 1868 FC**, in conjunction with Greater Nevada Field, have announced that Arroyo Mexican Grill has closed. Local restaurateurs Al Ehringer, Jack Sterling, and Mark Schloss, who are the owners and operators of Reds Old 395 Grill in Carson City, will partner to open a new eatery in Arroyo's space. greaternevadafield.com, 775-334-4700

ENTERTAINMENT

Cirque du Soleil acquires the Blue Man Group



Cirque du Soleil announced the acquisition of New-York-based Blue Man Productions, a global live entertainment company best known for the award-winning Blue Man Group show, performed in more than 20 countries and seen by more than 35 million people worldwide since 1991. The Blue Man Group performs nightly at the Luxor Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas.

The transaction is in line with Cirque du Soleil's vision for the future, as the Montreal-based creative powerhouse looks to further expand and diversify its entertainment offering beyond circus arts. With its original aesthetics, award-winning musical talent and immersive experience know-how, the acquisition of Blue Man Group also represents an additional asset for Cirque du Soleil's creative team and show offerings. Blending technology, music, and comedy, they create boldly colored, playful, and steadfastly interactive shows.

Resident shows are also found in New York, Boston, Chicago, Orlando, and Berlin, and there are two touring productions. blueman.com, 212-226-6366



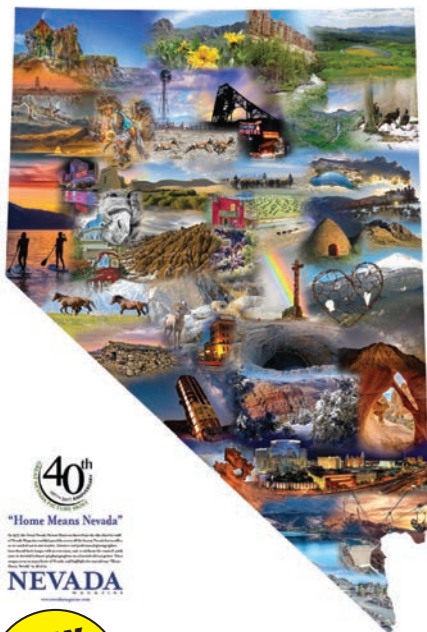
CASINOS

Golden Gate opens up a whole new look

Las Vegas' original hotel, Golden Gate Hotel & Casino, has completed a major expansion project, marking a new chapter in the 111-year-old Downtown Las Vegas property's elaborate history. Featuring a modern yet timeless design, the renovation includes a casino floor nearly doubled in size, a majestic grand entrance, an extension of its outdoor bar, OneBar at One Fremont Street, and more. goldengatecasino.com, 702-385-1906



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SANDI WHITTEKER

Pages 18-19: "This was a morning in January when Virginia City got slammed with heavy snow," says photographer Liz Huntington. "When my husband was plowing our driveway he noticed some horses only a block or so down from our house. It was a group of seven and they were all in the roadway where it had been plowed, except this mare who was in the deep snow of a vacant lot."

Left: "All of a sudden, I hear a roar from the crowd below, and see that they are all looking up at us," says photographer Sandi Whitteker, who captured this shot at the annual Reno Santa Crawl. "I figured they must have been reacting to the photographers on the floor above us. Then it happens again! That's when I realize that it's actually my friend orchestrating the entire hubbub. She'd raise her hands, and they'd all respond with a roar. She'd lower them, and they'd go quiet. She was momentarily a rock star, with power over thousands of people."

Below: Photographer Anders Sorensen captured this shot of Mt. Charleston near Las Vegas. "I took my pictures right after a fresh snowfall to show as much snow depth as possible and the least amount of human activity to disturb the snow," he says. "I normally try for maximum depth of field in my nature shots and try to include an interesting foreground."



ANDERS SORENSEN



JOHN SHELTON

Above: "The sky was thick with inversion and would provide both a muting of the sun and a monochromatic backdrop for foreground subjects," says photographer John Shelton, who captured this shot at Reno's Rancho San Rafael Regional Park in January. "In this particular shot, I was especially pleased with the linear format of the fence, white on white, and the symmetry of the trees (some bare, and some still with leaves) in alternating succession."



FACEBOOK GROUP CHOICE

"A photo that was posted a few days before on the Nevada Photographers Facebook page by our favorite art director, Kippy Spilker, was actually the inspiration for this shot," says photographer Jackie Gorton of her Nevada State Capitol photograph. "All I had to do was wait for the next snowfall and I was going go out, no matter how cold, to photograph some of the historical buildings around Carson City while they were all looking so festive."

Each issue, our Nevada Photographers Facebook group votes for their favorite photo out of three selected by *Nevada Magazine* staff.



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JACKIE GORTON

SHOOTING HOLES IN A

Annual photography event leaves our art director with a different view.



A 1940 Waco UPF-7, owned by Randy McCoy.

STORY & PHOTOS BY KIPPY S. SPILKER

Famed gallery owner Tibor de Nagy once wrote, “As a rule, artists are difficult—to say the least. Their emotions are more intense. Their egos are either enormous, or just the opposite, but they are never well balanced. Artists love and hate, and hardly ever feel neutral.” In my experience, photographers are no exception to this sentiment, and it’s part of why I’ve always been hesitant to join photography clubs or group outings.

This is why I was so remarkably and pleasantly surprised by my experience attending the Shooting The West photography expo in Winnemucca this past March. It’s not a new event—this was their 29th year—and I’d heard of it, but I hesitated to attend what I thought would likely be an egomaniacal group of people photographing dusty fence posts and sagebrush, which is really not all that appealing to me.

I’ve heard it said that nobody likes to be wrong, but I am extremely happy to say it. I was wrong!



Dwayne Leonard photographs a Winnemucca sunrise.

HOW WRONG I WAS

Shooting the West is for anyone who loves taking photographs. Participants run the gamut from those who make their living behind a camera to those wishing to learn advanced techniques for personal use.

All instructors were encouraging, supportive, and incredibly knowledgeable, and every attendee I met was friendly and eager to share their own experiences and yours. Photographers went out on unscheduled shoots together, they shared “secret” locations and techniques, and they laughed and learned. The organizers managed the event like a well-oiled machine.



Left to right, top to bottom:

M.D. Welch teaches a studio and on-location portrait lighting workshop.

Moose Peterson finishes up instruction for a group who met at 4:45 a.m. to photograph airplanes at sunrise at the Winnemucca Municipal Airport.

Students learn about light painting in Tom Bol's workshop.

Tom Bol (left) discusses results with one of the workshop attendees.

An on-location workshop in portrait lighting.

Grant Kaye discusses advanced astrophotography during many hours of classroom lessons.

Later that night, Grant Kaye leads a very cold on-location astrophotography workshop on Winnemucca Mountain.

As the grand prize winner of *Nevada Magazine's* 2016 Great Nevada Picture Hunt, Tony Fuentes won a trip to Shooting the West, where he was asked to talk about his winning photo.



In 2018, Shooting The West is celebrating its 30th year and it promises to be a remarkable event. While I can't tell you who will be presenting or what subjects will be covered, here are some things you might expect based on this year's event:

- Portrait lighting techniques, including the latest equipment and how to use it. Learn all about the studio side of things, and then take the show on the road and practice outdoor lighting and portraiture.
- Light painting techniques. What kind of lights should you paint with? How long should your shutter be open? What kind of results are you trying to achieve?
- Photographing airplanes on location at the Winnemucca Municipal Airport. You might get the rare opportunity not only to photograph these pieces of history, but also to climb up inside of them and imagine yourself a World War II pilot, heading into battle.
- Spend some time in nature, practicing the best means by which to photograph the stars. You can spend a day learning techniques in a classroom environment and then spend your night out in the fresh air, putting everything you learned into play, in an astrophotography workshop.
- Rise before the roosters and head to the dunes with an instructor helping you learn to frame the best sunrise shots,



Matthew Jock, in authentic period pilot gear, sits in Chet Stringham's fully restored NA-64 Yale.

and then head back to the classroom for detailed instructions and suggestions regarding the processing of those photos.

As if the many workshops and classes aren't enough, you get to spend two days at the convention center, engaging in presentations from wonderfully talented photographers. They visually take you with them on assignments and excursions from Nevada and around the globe, share processing ideas and techniques, teach you about the legalities and rights of being a photographer, and just generally offer you new perspective and inspiration.

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Opportunities at Shooting The West are not limited to the official schedule.



Lee Molof takes a selfie with Linda Isbell, Kippy Spilker, and Martha Neel while trying his hand at piloting a drone for the first time.

During the expo, I was talking with some people about my new DJI Mavic drone. With as much interest as there was in it, I held sunrise sessions for two of the days, out at the dunes and many people came out to try it. Some were afraid to fly it and only wanted to watch, but others tried and took to it very naturally, recognizing the opportunity to expand the equipment in their camera bag and the photos they could capture with a drone. I know at least one attendee who ordered a DJI Phantom 4 when he got home, after flying the Mavic around the Winnemucca sand dunes.

Also, you will have opportunities to enter your work into contests with prizes awarded to the best of the best, and even more opportunities to network and converse with extremely talented and friendly photographers.



ALL GOOD THINGS MUST COME TO AN END

When the event came to a close, I felt like a child who'd gone to the best summer camp of their life, only to have to leave behind all those friends and return to "real life" back home. Fast friendships and encouraging learning have a way of wrapping you in a warm glow.

If you're a photographer this event is, in my opinion, definitely something you should consider attending. If you have a photographer (or aspiring photographer) in your life, attendance to this event would make a wonderful gift. I've been shooting seriously for about 15 years now, and can say with no hesitation that every single workshop I sat in on, even if just for a few minutes, sent me away with some new nugget of information.

My best advice for attending this event? Stalk the website often, so you know when registration opens (usually sometime in January), because within a week most of the workshops will be already sold out! If that happens take heart—get yourself on a waiting list because people do sometimes drop out.

LEARN TO REALLY LIVE!

Tibor's opening quote could be taken as a criticism of artists, but it continues on to say, "Their enthusiasm is exaggerated. They recognize beauty faster... Their intellect keeps them from ever being boring to other people... They give more than they consume. In short, if you want a smooth existence, keep away from the art world. But if you want to really live—meaning suffer and burst out of joy—become involved with artists."

Just like that summer camp, Shooting The West offers photographers an opportunity to be involved, form lifelong friendships, and really live! ▀

TAKE A SHOT

Shooting the West
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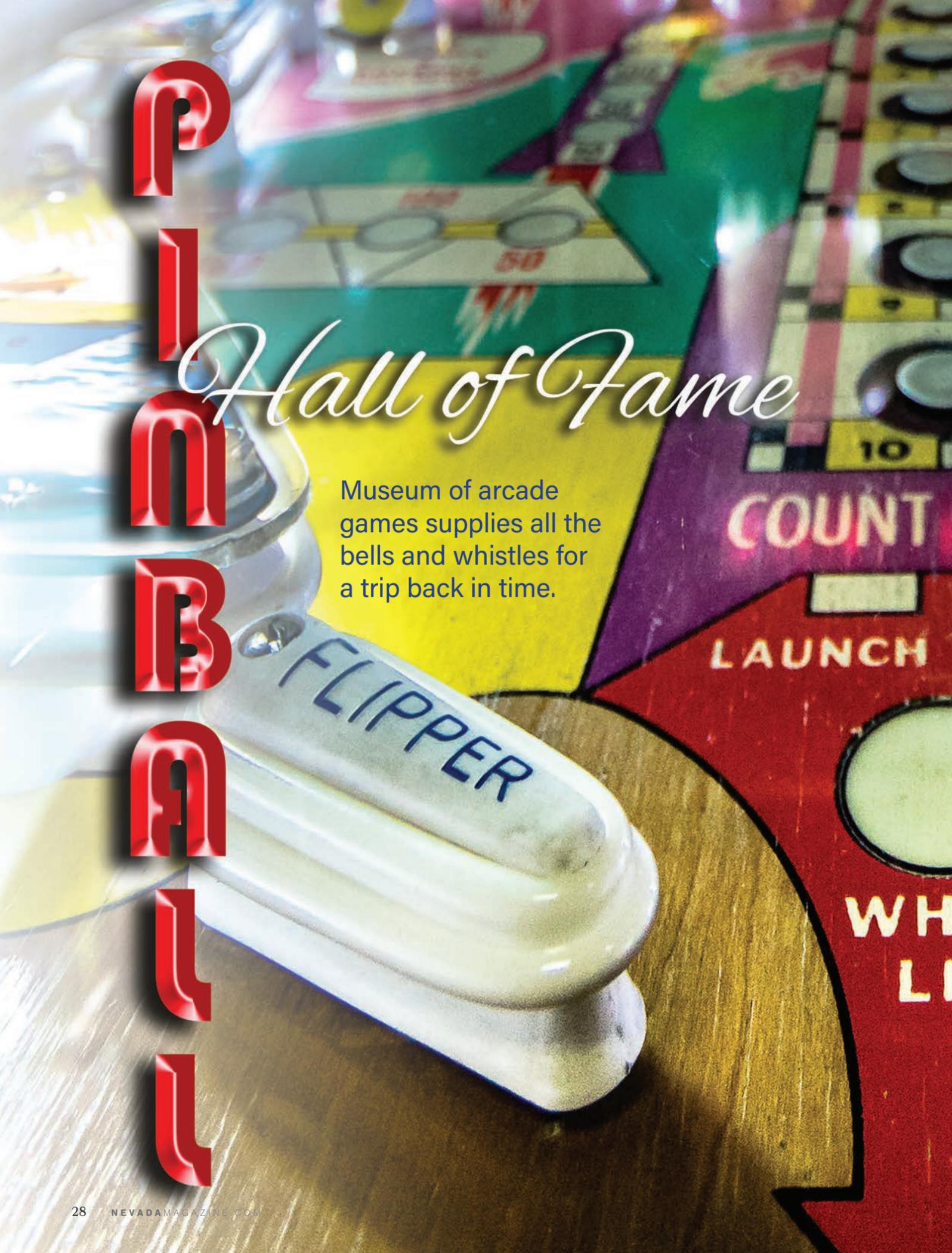
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Hall of Fame

Museum of arcade games supplies all the bells and whistles for a trip back in time.

STORY & PHOTOS BY J. TYGE O'DONNELL

Two miles east of the Las Vegas Strip, there's a place one can hear the clink of coins along with the bells and whistles of machines eager for play. These sweet sounding chimes and buzzers aren't from slot machines however—no, in this place the patrons are dropping their change for just amusement purposes and, perhaps, for a chance to relive a bit of adolescent nostalgia. The game of choice is pinball and even though it's been on the endangered species list of arcade games for the past 20 years, one would never know it at the Pinball Hall of Fame.

FLIPPER

GO WEST, PINHEAD

First opened in 2006—it relocated in 2009 to its current location—the Pinball Hall of Fame is an unadorned building stuffed with some 250 pinball machines that owner and self-proclaimed “Director of Things and Stuff” Tim Arnold has acquired since the 1970s when living as a teenager in Michigan.

Among the machines on the floor of the nearly 10,000-square-foot building is a rare (one of two in existence) Bally’s Pinball Circus along with the vintage machine that started the whole craze, a 1930’s Bagatelle Jig-Saw—a game without flippers that looks more like a horizontal pachinko machine than the traditional “wedge heads” that were rampant in bowling alleys and arcades during pinball’s heyday. It was the Bagatelle Jig-Saw, along with its evolved counterparts, that gave pinball a bad rap as a gambling device and led to the machines being outlawed in most major U.S. cities. In the 1970s, it was finally proven that pinball was a game based on skill and not chance, and that’s when Tim started getting busy.

For the next 35 years, he acquired machine after machine. After owning two successful pinball emporiums in Michigan, Tim and his wife, Charlotte, packed up nearly 1,000 machines and moved to Las Vegas where the dry climate and low humidity would be more kind to his beloved machines. The cross-country move took 20 truckloads but the endeavor proved worthy as Las Vegas’ weather and tourism have been key to the Pinball Hall of Fame’s thriving success.

Tim is still collecting; the building is at capacity and a nearby warehouse holds another 800 pinball machines. Tim is hoping to take advantage of Las Vegas’ current buyer’s market to find a new home that he won’t soon outgrow.



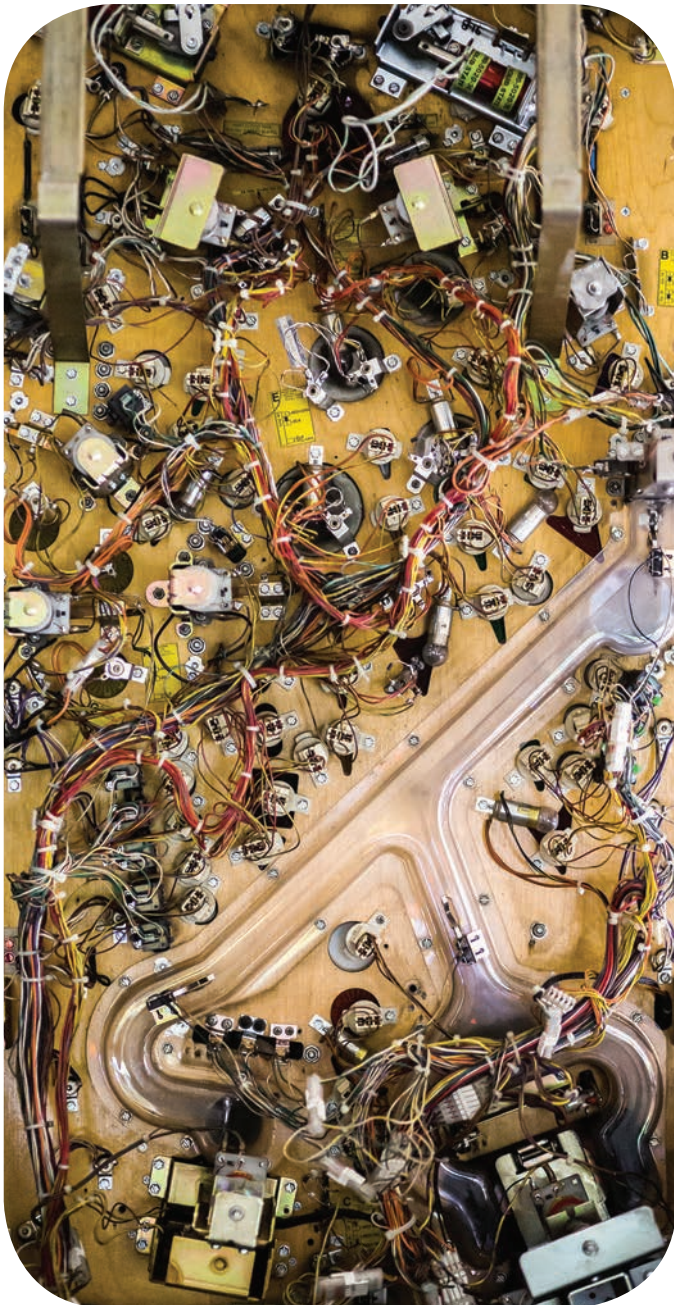
Bally's Pinball Circus



Bagatelle Jig-Saw

CONSTANT UPKEEP

The logistics of keeping more than 200 pinball machines functioning and active on the floor is definitely a full-time job. A typical table has 3,500 parts including a half mile of wiring and an average of 120 lights. Depending on the era when made, parts can vary from solid state technology with incandescent light bulbs to more modern machines with computer chips and LED lighting. According to Tim the newer machines aren't one bit more reliable or better made than the older ones. In fact, they're worse.

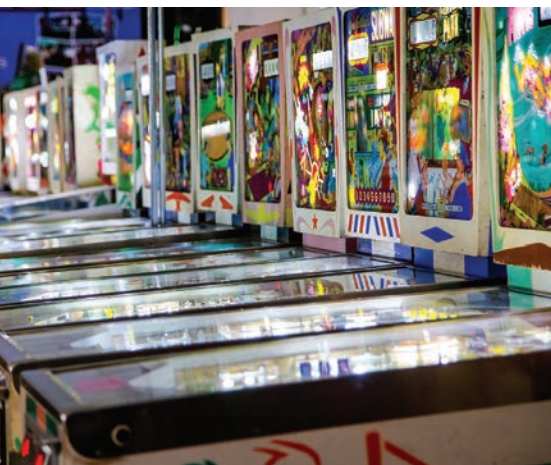


Tim Arnold

"Like all things electronic, these machines were built to completely and utterly fail after about five years of average play," Tim says, while helping an assistant fix a bent door on a machine.

"And these newer machines are made with inferior parts that don't even last that long. Improperly tempered steel balls, cheap rubber rings instead of polyurethane rings...we've had to find our own sources of better quality, after-market parts to keep our repair times down."

The fact that pinball machines are still being made at all is a bit of a wonder in itself. Of the half dozen or so manufacturers that flourished during the '70s and '80s—most were located in the Chicago area—all but one closed in the early '90s. This makes the parts a valuable commodity. Luckily, Tim has bins and drawers full of spare parts located on the back wall of his building.



The Pinball Hall of Fame is a nonprofit organization that has consistently donated all monies (after overhead is paid) to community charities. Over the past few years the amount has increased from 80 cents of every dollar to the current 91 cents of every dollar going to a charitable cause.

ONE QUARTER AT A TIME

Other than a red Salvation Army donation kettle near the bathrooms, most visitors probably don't know the Pinball Hall of Fame is a nonprofit organization that has consistently donated all monies (after overhead is paid) to community charities. Over the past few years the amount has increased from 80 cents of every dollar to the current 91 cents of every dollar going to a charitable cause. This generosity is possible thanks to a loyal staff of 8 volunteers and because the building is paid for. Although Tim often donates to the Salvation Army, he also donates to other deserving groups but not before first scrutinizing the organizations.

"We're not going to donate to a charity whose CEO or president is making a six-figure salary. We prefer to help-out those who are kind of like us—lean, efficient, spartan, and local."

It all adds up, one quarter at a time. Recently a donation of \$100,000 was given to a culinary program for people recovering from substance abuse. The recipients will receive free housing and 500 hours of culinary training to aid them on their path to wellness.



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When visiting the Pinball Hall of Fame the first thing you notice is how dark it is. As any devoted pinhead will tell you, the lights must be kept low to keep the reflections off the top glass.

AMUSEMENT ANARCHY

When visiting the Pinball Hall of Fame the first thing you notice is how dark it is. As any devoted pinhead will tell you, the lights must be kept low to keep the reflections off the top glass. The second thing you'll notice is the sound of bells, buzzers, and chimes. It's a euphonic discord that immediately throws me back to the mid-1970s when I rolled my ball in a youth bowling league and would play the "Happy Days" pinball machine in the snack bar. And herein lies what Tim likes to refer to as the theory of "amusement anarchy"—how entertainment and fond memories tend to start organically at the street level rather than corporations force-feeding an idea of entertainment.

"Very seldom have entertainment trends started at the top of conglomerate corporations that rely on research and analytics," Tim notes. "You can't over analyze things like entertainment and amusement because really, people don't know what they like until they see and experience it."

Although the future of pinball is uncertain, it's ardent fans like Tim

and his staff that are keeping the amusement alive for future generations to experience. The game (many pinheads will argue that it's a sport) garnered some much-needed attention thanks to the 2009 documentary "Special When Lit," but despite the film highlighting the devotion and passion of its fans, pinball continues to be somewhat elusive. Luckily, in Las Vegas it's easier to find.



I'm looking forward to returning to the Pinball Hall of Fame with a pocketful of quarters and a few hours to kill. I hope Tim will find the perfect new location and be able to put even more machines on the floor, like the "Happy Days" machine from my youth he tells me he has in storage. As a kid I never did win the multi-ball bonus on that game but I'm ready to give it another try. I mean really, what's the worst that can happen? A "GAME OVER" message flashing at me? In the world of pinball that phrase simply translates to "insert another coin." ▀

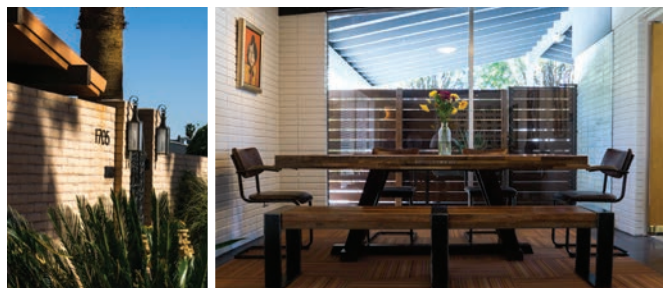
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BASQUE ROADTRIP, REVISITED



"The Basque Peoples' House," artwork inspired by a sign seen in the Santa Fe Hotel.

Annual Basque pilgrimage brings food, fun, and friends together for tasty trek.

BY STEVE BASS, LARRY ERREA, AND MARK MESKE

Twenty years ago our intrepid group began what has become an annual pilgrimage to the National Basque Festival in Elko. Along the way the intent was, and still is, to sample as many Basque meals and to taste the unique nuances of picon punch poured at as many Nevada dining establishments as possible. That first journey was chronicled in the August 1998 issue of *Nevada Magazine*.

The 2017 trip started in Bakersfield in late June. The drive up Highway 395 is especially spectacular, thanks to all the streams and lakes in the Sierras and Owens Valley that are full from the runoff of last winter's exceptional snows. In addition, road conditions have improved in 20 years, growing from a dangerous two lanes to a comfortable, four-lane highway for most of the drive.

DAY ONE: TRIED AND TRUE

Our first stop is always Gardnerville and in years past we have had a Basque-style lunch at the Carson Valley Country Club and many meals at the historic Overland Hotel. The Overland is no longer Basque as owner Elvira Cenoz retired several years ago after operating the establishment for more than 50 years.

This year our destination is the J.T. Basque Bar and Restaurant. Located on Highway 395, the building was brought to its present location from Virginia City in 1896 and Jean and Shirley Lekumberry along with Jean's uncle, Pete, purchased the structure and business in 1960. The Lekumberry's children now run it and daughter Marie greets us while we have our first picons. The bar at the J.T., as well as those at most Basque dining establishments, is well lit and family-friendly. The J.T. has lost none of its Basqueness or charm in the 20 years since our first visit.

At the J.T. the lunch can be a sandwich or a full meal. We order "small" and have the lamb shoulder steaks. They come with a crispy house salad, bread and butter, and French fries. The salad is fresh with a tangy dressing and precedes six large, delicious steaks smothered with garlic. Portions are plentiful, prices are reasonable, and the service is friendly. This is an excellent beginning.

We head to Reno via Minden and Carson City. Carson City is home to the Villa Basque Deli and Café, which wasn't in existence on our first trip. Owned by Pete and Martha Coscarart, it is famous for its awesome homemade chorizo. We have eaten here before, but today we make our way straight to Reno. Driving conditions from Carson City have also changed



J.T. Basque Bar and Restaurant. Clockwise from top left: Picon Punch with wine and bread, vegetable soup, oxtail stew and baked beans, Basque chicken, lamb shoulder steak with garlic and french fries.

PHOTOS: KIPPY S. SPILKER

with a newer freeway into Reno. The route cuts time off the trip and is safer than the old two-lane sections.

MORE PICON, PLEASE

In Reno, we stay at the Eldorado Hotel because of its close proximity to the two Basque restaurants in town. This evening we

visit the Santa Fe Hotel for dinner. The Santa Fe is one of Reno's original Basque hotels and is located on Lake Street surrounded on three sides by Harrah's. Across the street is the Reno Aces' ballpark. The Santa Fe was owned by the Zubillaga family for decades until it was recently sold. The new owner plans to keep it Basque, and won't change anything other than some of the décor.



Santa Fe Hotel



Santa Fe Hotel

PHOTOS: MIKE MILLER



KAZUE KUREBAYASHI



PATRICK KENNEDY

Entering the bright and open Santa Fe bar, we recognize the very competent and friendly bartender and she pours our first picons of the evening. Picon punch is a uniquely Western American drink not found in the Basque Country. Originally, the drink was made from a French liquor called Picon. Today, picons are poured with Torani Amer, a less expensive and more readily available aperitif. The recipe includes a small dash of grenadine, two ounces of Torani Amer and a splash of soda water. Stir and add a brandy float and lemon twist. Sip it slowly as picons pack a serious punch.

At the Santa Fe, the nightly menu is posted outside the dining room and always has plenty to choose from. Because seating is family style, you may be seated with other folks. Perfect. Make new friends and enjoy the copious amounts of food. The three of us order oxtails and pork chops as our main dishes. Also available are steaks, lamb chops, and lomo (pork loin) with roasted red peppers. Included with the meal is bread and butter, salad, bean soup, fries, spaghetti, and broccoli with cheese sauce. All is delicious and far more food than the three of us can finish. We decline the cheese or ice cream for dessert and call it a night.

THE MAIN EVENT

The next morning we head east for Elko. Arriving in Winnemucca, we know the Winnemucca Hotel, where we had eaten many times, closed its doors a few years ago upon Mike Olano Jr.'s passing. However, we visit for old time's sake to try and confirm or deny rumors that it had been demolished. Mike and his father owned the hotel for decades. It was built in 1866 and had been home to hundreds of miners and Basque sheepherders. We find the basic structure still standing but it is vacant and forlorn.

Just around the corner from the hotel is the Ormachea Dinner House, but it's closed for lunch so we head to The Martin Hotel. We've eaten at The Martin several times and always enjoy the people, atmosphere, food, and the hotel's history. We order from the extensive lunch menu and have a beef French dip sandwich, a grilled patty melt, and a 1/3 pound Nancy Burger. All come with fries and are delicious. It was just what we need to hold us until dinner.

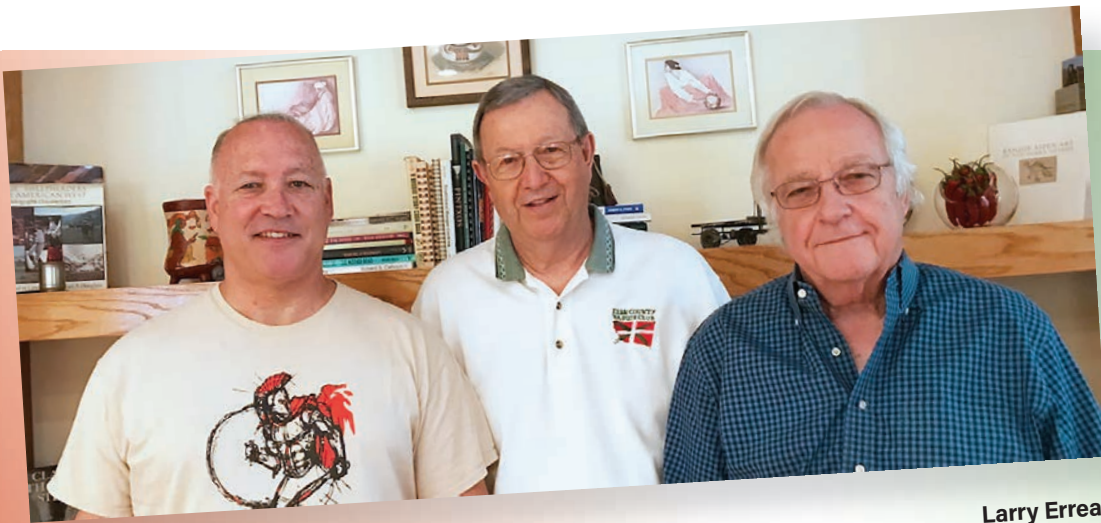
After lunch we continue east. We consider Elko a gem in the Silver State and its people and Basque Festival were, and still are, the major lure for the trip. Our usual first stop for picons and dinner is the Star Hotel. The Star is famous for its picons and huge steaks. Built in 1910 by Pete Jauregui, it has been owned exclusively by Basques throughout its years. Scott Ygoa and his wife, Tricia, purchased it in 2004 and the tradition continues. Basque is certainly still spoken here. The family-friendly bar is small and can be a busy, noisy place. No problem. We are seated alongside a mother and her three young sons. One of us orders a T-bone that is at least an inch thick and takes up the entire plate, while two of us have the rib eye, one with an added lobster tail. Each rib eye takes up the whole plate and the large lobster tail comes on its own platter. These main courses come after bread and butter, a delicious soup, one of the best salads we've had, plus green beans, pinto beans with a small portion of garbanzos, spaghetti, and French fries. Whoa! We are able to finish the soup and salad and all the protein but leave a lot of the sides barely touched. The lady next to us has to have her boys help her out with all their leftovers. There aren't too many places like this still around.

Two of our other favorite restaurants, the Nevada Dinner House and Biltoki (Gathering place), were located nearby. The buildings are still restaurants but, as with numerous other Basque restaurants in the West, the Basque owners have retired. Toki Ona (Good Place) has been in business for years, and we had excellent lamb chops there last year. Its original Basque owner has retired but the new proprietors are working to keep the Basque spirit alive.

CODY CASTLE



Toki Ona



Meet the Basque roadtrippers

Mark Meske

I am Basque on my mother's side of the family. My Mom is 100 percent Basque but did not teach me the unique language. I am a U.S. Army veteran and was a police officer. I also worked in agriculture and retired from the gaming industry as a regulatory compliance and surveillance director. I now spend most of my time with family and friends.

Steve Bass

Fortunately for me, I married into a Basque family. My wife is a first cousin to Mark and Larry. I retired after teaching science for 39 years. I've always been interested in history and among other projects, I now research, write, and lecture about Basques in the Americas. I co-authored, with George Ansolabehere, "The Basques of Kern County," which looks at the history of Basques in the California county.

Larry Errea

My grandfather and grandmother came to America from the Basque Country in 1910 and 1917, respectfully. I am a Vietnam veteran having served in the U.S. Navy. In 2015, I retired as a Superior Court Judge. I am a past president of the Kern County Basque Club and enjoy preparing Basque cuisine, at home and at our Basque club. I visit relatives in the Basque Country as often as I can.

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CODY CASTLE

The weekend's main event is the National Basque Festival and Saturday is when most activities take place. First, at 7 a.m., is a 5K run. We passed. Next, a parade winds through downtown and ends at the Basque Clubhouse. Later, traditional Basque sports are featured at the clubhouse. These include weight lifting, wood chopping, weight carrying, and more. We passed.

Saturday night the wait for a table at The Star was lengthy so we decided to walk a few blocks to try a newly opened Basque place called Ogi Basque Deli. Owned by Anamarie Lopategui, Ogi (bread) was serving an assortment of pintxos (Basque tapas) as well as picons. It was tasty,

light eating and nice to see younger Basques attempting such a venture. Spending time with local acquaintances made for enjoyable conversation, and a pleasant, leisurely evening.

BACK ON THE ROAD

On Sunday morning we head to the activities at the Basque Clubhouse. A Basque priest holds mass in Basque and English, which is followed by a sheepherders' bread auction. Headed by Jess Lopategui and Bob Etcheverria, loaves of bread baked in Dutch ovens by local Basques are auctioned off to raise money for the club's dance group. Some years the loaves might fetch as much as \$600 for the top loaf. The bread contest is an extension of a tradition of bread making by the Basque herders while they were on the high-desert range. We always purchase a loaf and this year is no exception. Unfortunately, we have to return to Reno before the barbecue and other events begin.

Traveling Interstate 80 is not necessarily a monotonous drive. Just west of Elko is the California Trail Interpretive Center and it's well worth a visit. The freeway follows the old emigrant trail across Nevada. It's difficult to imagine walking this route 150 years ago. Battle Mountain, Winnemucca, and Lovelock are also excellent places to take a break.

Arriving in Reno, we check in to the Eldorado, clean up, and walk to the Santa Fe for picons. We then take the short stroll to Louis' Basque Corner for dinner. Louis and Lorraine Erreguibile started the restaurant in 1967 and built it into one of the best-known Basque eating establishments in Nevada. Now owned by Chris Shanks and Basque Brian Elcano, the place hasn't missed a beat. The new owners have done some tasteful remodeling and when there's a baseball game at nearby Aces' Park, the bar is packed. The menu remains much the same and family-style seating is still observed.



Louis' Basque Corner

On this night, we settle in with some of our favorites entrées. We order rabbit, a special that night, ox tails, and the lamb roast. The rabbit is just like Amatxi (grandma) used to make and the ox tails are braised and then baked and come with a delicious, thick brown sauce. The sauce was so tasty that none of it was left as we used our bread to gather each savory drop—outstanding. The portion of roast lamb is huge and its taste exceptional. Other favorites such as sweetbreads, steaks, and lamb chops are also available, and included in dinner is a very tasty vegetable-style soup, salad, pinto beans, fries, a glass of wine, and dessert. After dinner we head back to the hotel so we can get an early start home the next morning.

The trip leaves us satiated and a bit tired but pleased in the fact that we'd made another outstanding journey through Basque Nevada. Basque immigration to the U.S. has all but ceased and changes, such as the loss of the language, are inevitable. However, it is our hope that the American-born Basques will continue to maintain their social clubs, festivals, and restaurants so that their culture and cuisine will not disappear. Oh, and yes, if all goes as planned we'll be repeating the trip again next year. Unlike our group, the Nevada trek never grows old. ▀

BRING YOUR APPETITE

Santa Fe Hotel
235 Lake St.
Reno, NV 89501
775-323-1891

Louis' Basque Corner
301 E 4th St.
Reno, NV 89512
775-323-7203

The Martin Hotel
94 Railroad St.
Winnemucca, NV 89445
themartinhotel.com, 775-623-3197

Ormachea Dinner House
180 Melarkey St.
Winnemucca, NV 89445
775-623-3455

The Star Hotel
246 Silver St.
Elko, NV 89801
775-753-8696

J.T. Basque Bar and Restaurant
1426 US-395
Gardnerville, NV 89410
jtbasquenv.com, 775-782-2074



SANDI WHITTEKER

Villa Basque Deli and Café
730 Basque Way
Carson City, NV 89706
775-884-4451

Toki Ona
1550 Idaho St.
Elko, NV 89801
eattokiona.com, 775-778-3606

Ogi Basque Deli
460 Commercial St.
Elko, NV 89801
ogideli.com, 775-753-9290

National Basque Festival
elkobasqueclub.com



Canned Food Drive

Please bring canned goods or non-perishable items to the fire house before the nativity.

Everyone welcome!

NEVADA A WORLD WITHIN.
A STATE APART.
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ANCIENT NEVADA



geology

Sixth of six-part series explores
the geology of the Great Basin.

GEOLOGY

PHOTOS: KIPPY S. SPILKER

Many rock formations in Nevada are the result of volcanic activity, and the igneous rock formations display clues to their molten materialization.

BY ERIC CACHINERO

A fire raged some 15 million years ago that still glows to this day. Though the embers are now cool enough to hold in your hands, the colors are as bright as ever. During the time when it was lit, northwestern Nevada was a bubbling cauldron of volcanic viciousness. The eruption of these ancient atom bombs often destroyed the forests that surrounded them, and the resulting slurry of timber and ash settled in the clay bed of Nevada's prehistoric lakes. As the lakes dried up, the woody debris decayed, leaving cavities indicative of their presence. After pressure, heat, and well-placed silica had their run at the cavities for millions of years, an opal was formed.

The Virgin Valley black fire opal's burning colors are a reminder of the ancient forces that created it. Psychedelic fireworks of red, green, orange, and blue stand out against an inky black background. The process of creating them is nothing short of spectacular, though their formation is a grain of sand in the cosmos of construction that is Nevada's geologic process—a process as old and precious as the Earth itself.

The state is renowned for its geologic diversity. Sandstone to siltstone, dolomite to diatomite, garnet to granite, countless lifetimes have been dedicated to cataloguing these remnants of ancient processes. So if anyone tells you that Nevada's geological history is boring, tell them to go kick rocks.

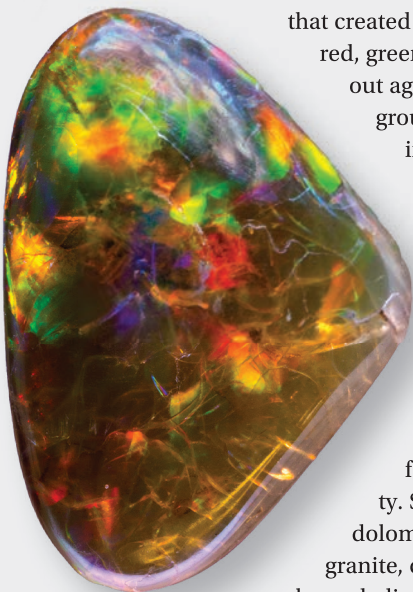
NEVADA ROCKS

Geologic diversity may be putting it lightly. In the book "Roadside Geology of Nevada," authors Frank DeCourten and Norma Biggar describe Nevada as a "geological paradise" in which, "Nearly every kind of rock known to geologists can be found somewhere... and some minerals occur nowhere else." It is a story of igneous, sedimentary, and metamorphic magnificence (see sidebar on page 44) that covers the span of several billion years.

Many rock formations in Nevada are the result of volcanic activity, and the igneous rock formations display clues to their molten materialization. Extrusive igneous rocks—those that were formed by quickly cooling magma above the Earth's surface—include everything from basalt and rhyolite to obsidian and pumice. Intrusive igneous rocks—those formed below the surface—sometimes display large crystals. Examples include granite and quartz.

Sedimentary rocks—those consisting of accumulated layers of particles or chemicals—often have much different characteristics. The vibrant sandstone formations of Valley of Fire, for example, are sedimentary rocks, resulting from great shifting sand dunes that existed 150 million years ago during the Mesozoic Era. The dunes mixed with minerals and underwent millions of years of pressure, complex uplifting, faulting, and erosion resulting in the spectacular formations we enjoy today.

Metamorphic rocks—igneous or sedimentary rocks that have undergone heat, pressure, or chemical pressure that has altered their original state—are abundant. Quartzite—a hard, grainy, and often sandpapery metamorphic rock—is formed when quartz sandstone (a sedimentary rock) is heated, often by tectonic pressure. Other metamorphic rocks include marble, schist, and banded gneiss.



THE THREE ROCKS



Columnar Basalt

JACK HURSH

Igneous

Rocks – These rocks form from molten magma that cools and crystalizes into a solid mass of minerals.

Sedimentary

Rocks – These rocks consist of particles such as sand, or chemicals such as salt, that accumulate in layers and become hardened, or lithified, over time.



Sandstone

LARRY NEEL

Metamorphic

Rocks – These rocks are igneous or sedimentary rocks that have been altered from their original state by heat, pressure, or chemical activity in the geological environment.



Marble

LUIS MIGUEL BUGALLO SANCHEZ

Information provided by "Roadside Geology of Nevada"



Ore cart outside the Turquoise Ridge (Getchell) Mine

KLAUS ALTEMUELLER

NEVADA METALS

Beyond its ocean of different rocks, Nevada contains a wealth of precious metals and mineral resources. Generally, ore bodies of gold, silver, copper, and others are associated with igneous rocks. As often is the case, precious metals and magma mixed deep beneath the Earth's crust before rising and being deposited on or near the surface. In other cases, magma-heated water fractured sedimentary rocks, depositing metals in veins.

But not all precious metals are necessarily bound to igneous rocks. The Carlin Trend—one of the world's richest gold mining districts, located just east of Elko—resulted from the collision of tectonic plates around 350 million years ago. The collision caused



hot springs to form at the surface, which dispersed microscopic gold and silver mainly in clay and silt-suffused limestone. The metals in these areas tend to be in linear concentrations. There are several other productive trends in the area, including the Battle Mountain-Eureka Trend, Independence Trend, and Getchell Trend.

Nevada is the nation's leading producer of lithium, an alkali metal that is found deep beneath the state's dry lakebeds. It's believed that the lithium was deposited there during the Tertiary period, several tens of millions of years go. Lithium-rich brine is pumped to the surface and allowed to dry, resulting in lithium carbonate. Once the material has been processed, it is used primarily in batteries and industrial applications, including heat-resistant glass and grease lubricants.

NEVADA GEMSTONES

$\text{CuAl}_6(\text{PO}_4)_4(\text{OH})_8 \cdot 4\text{H}_2\text{O}$ sure is beautiful, don't you agree? Though the chemical formula makes perfect sense to geologists and chemists, most of us know the state's official semi-precious gemstone better as

turquoise. The autological mineral is abundant in many different shades, hues, and shapes in Nevada, with the state ranking as one of the top producers in the U.S. Turquoise is not a primary mineral, meaning it did not form deep in the earth. Instead, turquoise relies on nature's chemistry cookbook. It can be created by several means, but typically is the result of materials (copper, aluminum, and phosphorus) leaching from other sources (chalcopyrite, feldspar, and



SYDNEY MARTINEZ/TRAVELNEVADA

GARNET HILL



ERIC CACHINERO



SYDNEY MARTINEZ/TRAVELNEVADA

Located roughly 4 miles west of Ely via Highway 50 is the Gar-

net Hill Recreation Area. The area is renowned for its plentiful supply of dark garnets. Rock hounds can spend the day searching surface rocks and using rock hammers to unearth a wealth of the beautiful mineral.



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KIDS'
PROGRAMS



CLEAR? CRYSTAL

What's the difference between a rock and a mineral? According to Smithsonian Education, a mineral is a "naturally occurring, inorganic (nonliving) solid having a specific chemical composition." Rocks are considered "naturally occurring aggregates of minerals."

apatite, respectively) and combining. The outcome is the beautiful deep robin-egg blue (sometimes light blue or even white) that has been treasured by humans since at least the times of ancient Egyptians.

The Virgin Valley black fire opal (Nevada's state precious gemstone) is truly world-renowned, and the state has produced some incredible specimens. Both the largest polished and unpolished black opals in the Smithsonian Institution—named Black Peacock and the Roebling opal, respectively—came from Virgin Valley. Opalized teeth and bones of ancient land animals have also been uncovered in Virgin Valley, as have opalized fish and even an opalized snake head.

Turquoise and opals aren't the only gemstones to be found in the Silver State. Amateur rock hounds can unearth agate, garnet, jasper, and a variety of others.

ANCIENT EVERYTHING

Oh to be a proverbial fly on the wall of ancient Nevada. A rock on the ground would probably tell a better story than a fly, though. For it's Nevada's rocks that know the true story of the state's ancient waterways, civilizations, landscapes, and creatures.

Obsidian arrowheads epitomize this. Forged deep within the earth, the igneous rock was knapped by ancient civilizations, and used to hunt ancient animals on the shores of Nevada's ancient lakes. A conversation with a personified piece of this volcanic glass could tell quite a story, for they've been here since the beginning, and will remain here till the end—likely to a time where everything that we know today will be considered another chapter in the saga of ancient Nevada. ▀



Thank you for following us on our yearlong journey through Nevada's ancient history. We hope you learned as much as we did.



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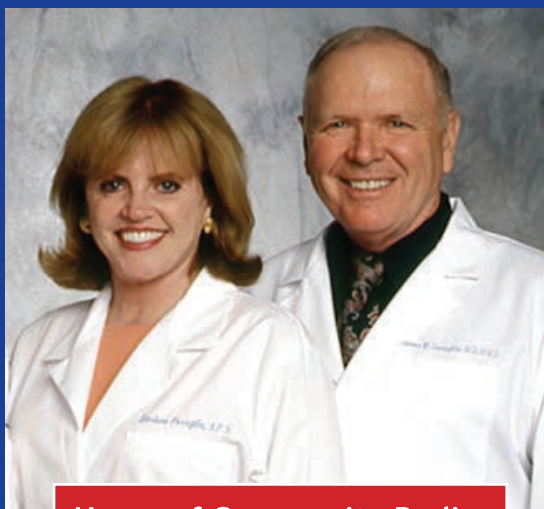
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- 106 Carson Valley Visitors Authority
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- 108 Eureka Opera House
- 110 Elko Convention
& Visitors Authority
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- 117 Winnemucca Convention
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- 121 Town of Pahrump
- 122 Las Vegas Convention
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- 630 Town of Tonopah
- 631 National Auto Museum
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- 638 Nevada Historical Society
- 641 Nevada Preservation Society
- 704 Nevada's Cowboy Country
- 747 Jan Rollenhagen
- 748 Reno Bighorns

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- 1703 Winning Seat

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Good Time Oldies
- 2402 KCEP Power 88FM

TELEVISION PBS

- 2701 KNPB Channel 5



HOLIDAY TRADITION RETURNS TO THE PIONEER CENTER IN RENO.

The stage at the Pioneer Center for the Performing Arts in Reno comes alive with a sugar plum fairy and dancing mice as A.V.A. Ballet Theatre presents the annual “Nutcracker” ballet Dec. 8-10. A.V.A. Ballet Theatre’s artistic director Alexander Van Alstyne has choreographed an exciting rendition of the popular holiday ballet and the Reno Philharmonic Orchestra performs Tchaikovsky’s moving score. Laura Jackson conducts the orchestra.

Principal dancers who have performed with professional ballet companies such as Ballet West, Houston Ballet, and the Diablo Ballet perform the leading roles alongside a large cast of local talent.

A special Sugar Plum party takes place after the Saturday and Sunday afternoon performances where children can meet “The Nutcracker” characters.

A.V.A. Ballet Theatre is the resident ballet company of the Pioneer Center for the Performing Arts. It is northern Nevada’s largest company under the instruction of a professional faculty with years of performing experience in renowned metropolitan ballet and production companies across the U.S. and Europe.

Mark your calendars now for this spectacular holiday tradition. For tickets call the Pioneer Center box office at 1-866-553-6605 or online at pioneercenter.com. Box-office hours are Monday-Friday 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Ticket prices start at \$27 with discounts for seniors and children.

TIS THE SEASON

“The Nutcracker”

Pioneer Center for the Performing Arts, Reno
Dec. 8-10
pioneercenter.com, 866-553-6605



PHOTOS: DENISE TRUSCELLO



POP GROUP ADDS MORE DATES TO LAS VEGAS RESIDENCY.

Due to overwhelming ticket demand, Backstreet Boys has announced 15 additional performances for its record-breaking Las Vegas residency. Tickets to performances from November through February 2018 for “Backstreet Boys: Larger Than Life” at The AXIS at Planet Hollywood Resort & Casino are on sale now.

Since the residency’s premiere on March 1, the pop juggernaut’s sold-out shows have attracted fans from all over the world, hosting the biggest audience in the history of Las Vegas headlining residencies. The show has received rave reviews from fans and critics alike, with “Billboard” magazine stating, “Larger Than Life” really is a show that no Backstreet fan should miss.”

For 24 years the Backstreet Boys, one of the most successful groups in music history, has continually delivered the finest pop music, making it one of pop’s most influential groups. Backstreet Boys has been recognized as the best-selling boy band in history.

“There are so many great things happening right now,” said AJ McLean. “We have a sold out Las Vegas residency, a new record coming, and our single with Florida Georgia Line is a Top 5 single on country radio.”

Nick Carter, Howie Dorough, Brian Littrell, AJ McLean, and Kevin Richardson take the stage with a one-of-a-kind production made exclusively for Las Vegas. Created and directed by one of the industry’s most well-respected creative directors, Raj Kapoor, the show features state-of-the-art lighting, visually stunning automation, and jaw-dropping choreography.

WHERE

The AXIS at Planet Hollywood Resort & Casino

WHEN

Nov. 8, 10-11, 15, 17-18;
Jan. 31, 2018;
Feb. 2-3, 7, 9-10, 14, 16-17, 2018

TICKETS

caesars.com/planet-hollywood,
702-785-5882

WORTH A CLICK

backstreetboys.com

ALSO AT THE AXIS

“Britney: Piece of Me,”
Nov. 1, 3-4;
Dec. 19, 28-31



MUST SEE STREET CAR SUPER NATIONALS

Las Vegas Motor Speedway
Nov. 16-19
lvms.com, 800-644-4444

Street Car Super Nationals Las Vegas presented by Speed Society returns for the 13th year to the Las Vegas Motor Speedway. Held at America's Racing Showplace/Las Vegas Motor Speedway, the Street Car Super Nationals is a one-of-a-kind event that brings racers from all across the world to incredible Las Vegas.

More than 40 pro mods, 32 outlaw 10.5s, 100 small tire radial cars and trucks, and 250 of the baddest hot rods on the planet compete for some of the largest cash payouts in the sport.

Prizes ranging from \$750-20,000 are awarded in more than 15 categories, plus a huge vendors row and muscle car swap meet make this a can't-miss event.

HOTTEST SHOWS

FRANKIE MORENO

Suncoast Showroom
Nov. 11
suncoastcasino.com
702-636-7111

GUNS N' ROSES

T-Mobile Arena
Nov. 17
t-mobilearena.com
702-692-1600

HOWIE MANDEL

The Mirage
Nov. 24-25
mirage.com
702-792-7777

ANA GABRIEL

Palms
Nov. 25
palms.com
702-942-7777

'PJ MASKS LIVE! TIME TO BE A HERO'

Orleans Arena
Nov. 25
orleansarena.com
702-365-7469

GARY ALLAN

Hard Rock
Dec. 8-9
hardrockhotel.com
702-693-5000

LADY GAGA

T-Mobile Arena
Dec. 16
t-mobilearena.com
702-692-1600

BRUNO MARS

Monte Carlo
Dec. 30-31
parktheaterlv.com
844-600-7275

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Due to popular demand, Cindy Williams is extending her run as a guest star in **"Menopause The Musical"** at Harrah's Las Vegas. Originally scheduled to perform through Labor Day weekend, Williams has received such a positive audience response that show producers have asked her to continue performing through Dec. 16. **menopausethemusical, 702-777-2782**

Las Vegas' original hotel, **Golden Gate Hotel & Casino**, has completed a major expansion project, marking a new chapter in the 111-year-old Downtown Las Vegas property's elaborate history. **goldengatecasino.com, 702-385-1906**



Nov. 7-9

NEVADA OPEN

Palms and CasaBlanca golf courses, Mesquite
visitmesquite.com, 877-637-7848

Mesquite is proud to present the 2017 Nevada Open Golf Championship at the Palms and CasaBlanca golf courses. With more than 40 years of championship history, the Nevada Open is one of the most respected and anticipated golf tournaments in the state. It's a 54-hole event with a cut after 36 holes.



EMILY CLARK

Nov. 8-Dec. 30

POLAR EXPRESS

Eastgate Depot, Carson City
vtrailway.com, 775-291-0208

This holiday tradition magically transports pajama-clad families to the North Pole from Carson City. Hot chocolate and treats are served and families can relive the story's magic in a one-hour journey all the way to the North Pole filled with music from the original motion picture soundtrack, with songs and a cast of familiar characters.

NOVEMBER

2

DIA DE LOS MUERTOS CELEBRATION

Lorenzi Park, Las Vegas
artslasvegas.com, 702-229-6011

3-5

BATTLE MOUNTAIN CHUKAR TOURNAMENT

Battle Mountain
battlemountainchamber.com, 775-635-8245

4

RENO AERIALFEST

Reno
renoaerialfest.com

7-11

INDIAN NATIONAL FINALS RODEO

South Point Arena, Las Vegas
infr.org, 406-338-7684

10

MADDIE & TAE

Silver Legacy, Reno
silverlegacyreno.com, 775-329-4777

11

THE WAGS & WHISKERS GALA

Peppermill, Reno
nevadahumanesociety.org, 775-856-2000

VETERANS DAY PARADE

Virginia City
visitvirginiacitynv.com, 775-847-7500

19

SORORITY CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

Austin
austinnevada.com, 775-964-2200

24

DWIGHT YOAKAM

Silver Legacy, Reno
silverlegacyreno.com, 775-329-4777

24-26

"RENT"

Pioneer Center for the Performing Arts, Reno
pioneercenter.com, 775-686-6610

24-Dec. 30

POLAR EXPRESS

Nevada Northern Railway, Ely
nnry.com, 775-289-2085

27-29

FESTIVAL OF TREES

Elko
exploreelko.com, 775-738-4091

30-Dec. 2

HOLIDAY BAZAAR

Eureka Opera House, Eureka
eurekacounty.com, 775-237-6006



National Finals Rodeo

CALENDAR



GLITTERING LIGHTS

Las Vegas Motor Speedway,
Las Vegas
glitteringlightslasvegas.com,
702-222-9777

Jingle that sleigh to Las Vegas Motor Speedway—only 10 minutes from Downtown Las Vegas—for the holiday drive-through spectacular, Glittering Lights. The dazzling array features more than 3 million LED lights that intertwine a 2.5-mile course through the speedway.

SHANNON BENTHAM/
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Nov. 10-Jan. 7, 2018



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Reno Events Center, Reno
visitrenotahoe.com, 775-335-8800

Record-breaking, global comedy superstar, Jeff Dunham, is bringing his cast of characters to Reno Saturday, Dec. 2 as America's favorite ventriloquist embarks on his 60-city "Passively Aggressive" tour.

Dec. 2

DECEMBER

1

SEBASTIAN MANISCALCO

Grand Sierra Resort, Reno
grandsierraresort.com, 775-789-2000

1-2

SPARKS HOMETOWNE CHRISTMAS

Victorian Square, Sparks
cityofsparks.us, 775-353-5555

2

JONNY LANG

MontBleu, Stateline
montbleuresort.com, 775-588-3515

LAS VEGAS GREAT SANTA RUN

Downtown Las Vegas
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7-16

NATIONAL FINALS RODEO

Las Vegas
nfrexperience.com, 702-260-8605

8

TYLER FARR

Silver Legacy, Reno
silverlegacyreno.com, 775-329-4777

9

RENO SANTA CRAWL

Downtown Reno
renosantacrawl.com

9-24

"THE NUTCRACKER"

The Smith Center for the Performing Arts, Las Vegas
thesmithcenter.com, 702-749-2000

14

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15

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29

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Las Vegas Great Santa Run



CHILDREN LEARN ABOUT JAPANESE CULTURE THROUGH NEW TOURING EXHIBIT.



DISCOVERY Children's Museum unveiled its newest touring exhibit, "Hello from Japan!," in September. The exhibit, which educates and entertains museum guests on how modern attitudes and traditional Japanese cultural values coexist, runs through Jan. 31, 2018.

Children and families visiting "Hello from Japan!" have fun learning about modern life in Japan in a playfully immersive environment that includes everything from a kawaii streetscape to a peaceful Shinto shrine park.

Based on the colorful and bustling streets in the modern Harajuku district, Kawaii Central explores contemporary Japanese culture by evoking the friendly feel of Japanese kawaii, an aesthetic and sensibility which emerged in the 1970s among Japanese school children and has now permeated cultures worldwide. Kids can sing karaoke, smile for a photo booth camera, serve up traditional Japanese meals, and design mascots for their families.

"Kawaii" translates roughly to "lovable," "cute" or "adorable," and has become a prominent aesthetic in modern Japanese culture. Originally from the word "kao hayushi" that translates to "one's face is aglow," kawaii visuals can be seen everywhere from children's cartoons to traffic signs and luggage. Examples may include Pokémon, Hello Kitty, or any number of cuddly characterizations. A bridge at the end of the streetscape leads from the contemporary urban setting into a more tranquil Shinto shrine park environment. The park explores the traditional, nature-based practices and beliefs of Shinto, an indigenous Japanese religion. The Shinto area invites guests to build bridges, crawl through a forest, encounter kami spirits and make a wish at a wishing tree—the centerpiece of the exhibit—all while learning about and embracing ancient Japanese culture. The exhibit encourages children to appreciate their own local parks and natural surroundings.

EXPLORE THE EAST

"Hello from Japan!"

DISCOVERY Children's Museum, Las Vegas

Through Jan. 31, 2018

discoverykidslv.org, 702-382-3445



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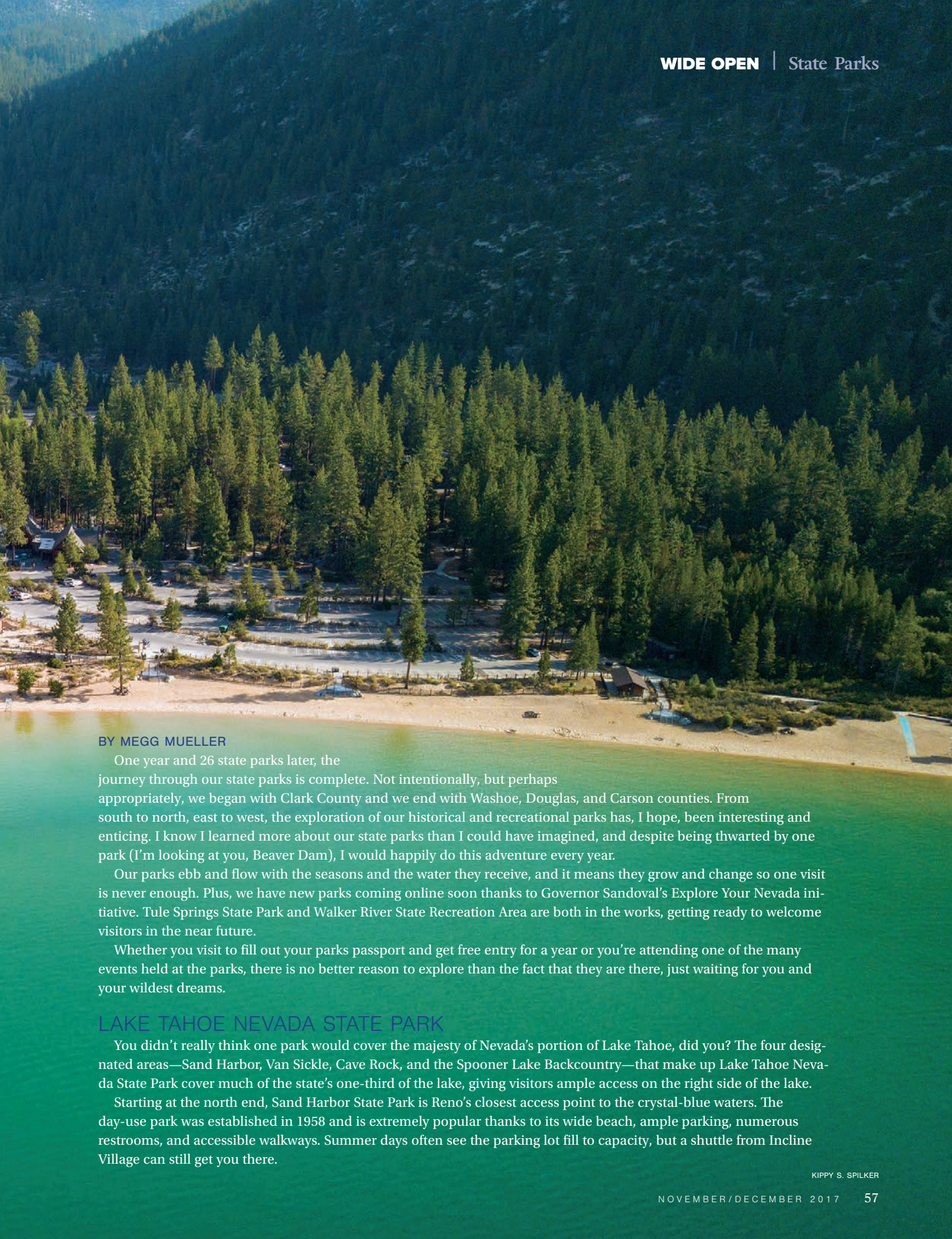
AND SEARCHING POWER 88.1 LAS VEGAS



Nevada State Parks:

Something for Everyone

PART 6: SAVING THE WEST FOR LAST WITH WASHOE,
DOUGLAS, AND CARSON COUNTIES.



BY MEGG MUELLER

One year and 26 state parks later, the journey through our state parks is complete. Not intentionally, but perhaps appropriately, we began with Clark County and we end with Washoe, Douglas, and Carson counties. From south to north, east to west, the exploration of our historical and recreational parks has, I hope, been interesting and enticing. I know I learned more about our state parks than I could have imagined, and despite being thwarted by one park (I'm looking at you, Beaver Dam), I would happily do this adventure every year.

Our parks ebb and flow with the seasons and the water they receive, and it means they grow and change so one visit is never enough. Plus, we have new parks coming online soon thanks to Governor Sandoval's Explore Your Nevada initiative. Tule Springs State Park and Walker River State Recreation Area are both in the works, getting ready to welcome visitors in the near future.

Whether you visit to fill out your parks passport and get free entry for a year or you're attending one of the many events held at the parks, there is no better reason to explore than the fact that they are there, just waiting for you and your wildest dreams.

LAKE TAHOE NEVADA STATE PARK

You didn't really think one park would cover the majesty of Nevada's portion of Lake Tahoe, did you? The four designated areas—Sand Harbor, Van Sickle, Cave Rock, and the Spooner Lake Backcountry—that make up Lake Tahoe Nevada State Park cover much of the state's one-third of the lake, giving visitors ample access on the right side of the lake.

Starting at the north end, Sand Harbor State Park is Reno's closest access point to the crystal-blue waters. The day-use park was established in 1958 and is extremely popular thanks to its wide beach, ample parking, numerous restrooms, and accessible walkways. Summer days often see the parking lot fill to capacity, but a shuttle from Incline Village can still get you there.

KIPPY S. SPILKER

Spooner Lake

Stand-up paddleboards and kayaks can be rented during the summer, and in the winter the park is still a great choice for visiting the lake. Short hikes and plenty of space to roam the beach without the crowds are draws, as are the horse-drawn sleigh rides that happen when the snow is plentiful. The visitor center is open all year.

Heading south around the lake, the next park is Spooner Lake and its massive backcountry. More than 12,000 acres of open forest once provided The Comstock with the lumber needed to build the mines, and the flume and pipeline system delivered about 10 million gallons of water a day at its peak.

Established as a park in 1969, Spooner is a hiking, mountain biking, and equestrian paradise with more than 50 miles of trails, some of which connect to the Tahoe Rim Trail. Three walk-in campgrounds are available, and there are two backcountry cabins that can be reserved. Fish can be found in Spooner Lake, Marlette Lake, and Hobart Reservoir; each area has its own restrictions on limits or catch-and-release policies so be sure to check before you throw your line.

When the snow flies, the park becomes a popular cross country skiing and snowshoeing destination and offers many groomed ski trails.

Further south is Cave Rock, which became part of the park system in 1967. A popular boat launch with 40 trailer parking spots, a rocky shoreline offers great fishing vantage points, a small beach area for swimming and launching kayaks and rafts, and three picnic areas in the park with tables and barbecue pits are available year-round. A short, 15-minute hike up to the peak of Cave Rock can be accessed by a trailhead on Cave Rock Drive.

The last Nevada state park in the Lake Tahoe quartet is Van Sickle. A bi-state park, Van Sickle is easily accessed from Stateline and its casinos. A short drive puts you in the middle of the forest, far removed from the lights and noise of the casino corridor. Equestrians, hikers, and mountain bikers can connect to the Tahoe Rim Trail, or just combine trails to fit their desired distance and even cross into that other state next door. Picnic areas and restrooms are available at the park.



Spooner Lake

SANDI WHITTEKER

LAKE TAHOE NEVADA STATE PARK

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Cave Rock

PHOTOS: KIPPY S. SPILKER

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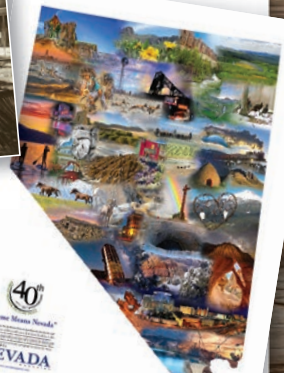
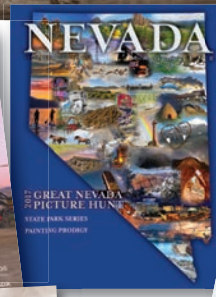


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Washoe Lake State Park

MIKE MILLER

WASHOE LAKE STATE PARK

Washoe Lake State Park wins my vote as 2017's most transformed park. Set in a wetland area that sees water at least part of the year, Washoe has been known to dry up almost entirely. This year, however, the lake's waters extended far west into the Washoe Valley and up to Interstate 580. Picnic tables and beaches were submerged well into summer.

The waters of the Washoe Valley drew inhabitants long before it became a state park in 1977. Where jet skis play today was once the winter home of the Washoe people, and later the loggers and traders who came to the area in support of the gold

and silver mining taking place in the surrounding hills. Miners became ranchers and farmers when the ore dried up, and starting in 1872, the Virginia & Truckee Railroad ran continuously through the valley as it took passengers between Carson City and Reno until 1950.

The area is a haven for waterfowl, even when the water isn't plentiful. From bald eagles to pelicans, the many hiking trails make for easy, wonderful bird watching all throughout the park. With that many birds, you better believe there's fish to be had. Anglers can catch catfish and Sacramento perch, among other species, and there are three boat launches for those ready to try their luck off the shoreline.

Campers can choose from 49 dry sites, some with shade structures and some large enough for 45-foot RVs. There are five day-use areas where beach goers can throw down a towel, and there are even two equestrian facilities—one day use, one for camping.

WASHOE LAKE STATE PARK

4855 Eastlake Blvd.
Carson City, NV 89704
parks.nv.gov, 775-687-4319



Washoe Lake State Park

LAUREN ARENDT



MORMON STATION STATE HISTORIC PARK

2307 Main St.
Genoa, NV 89411
parks.nv.gov, 775-782-2590

MORMON STATION STATE HISTORIC PARK

Nevada's first permanent non-native settlement—Mormon Station—was built in 1851 as a trading post in the area that would become Genoa to capitalize on the settlers heading across the Sierra Nevada Mountains on the long and treacherous Carson Route.

The original post burned in 1910, but a reconstructed version built in 1947 is a museum with pioneer-era artifacts. Today the museum is the centerpiece of the park, which was established in 1957. A monument to John A. "Snowshoe" Thompson was placed in the park in 2001 as a memorial to the intrepid pioneer who delivered mail from Genoa to Placerville, California, using homemade long skis and braving snow up to 50-feet deep with a massive mail bag on his back.

Nestled in the picturesque Carson Valley and town of Genoa, the park is a lush gathering place for weddings, parties, barbecues, and simple day picnics. A large group pavilion can be reserved for up to 300 people, and there are also eight day-use picnic tables and grills. Along with the museum, there is a stockade and wagon shed available for view, and paved walkways that make visiting the park easy for all.

We were lucky to spend the year visiting our state parks, and while that may not be something for everyone, there surely is a park that piqued your interest and made it to the list of must-visit locations. How are we so sure? Well after all, there's something for everyone at Nevada State Parks. We hope you enjoyed the series. ▀



GET IT STAMPED!

Park Passport provides a free annual pass to all Nevada's parks.

The Nevada State Parks Passport Program aims to encourage Nevada residents and visitors to experience the diverse natural, cultural and recreational resources that span Nevada's state parks. The booklet—which can be picked up at any state park—serves as a travel aid as well as a travelogue for park visitors and includes photos, a description of each park, lists of amenities, travel journal pages, and spaces for validation stamps that have been designed to reflect each park. Once passport holders have their booklets stamped at 15 different parks, they will earn one free annual pass to all Nevada State Parks. Call 775-684-2770 for more information or to have a passport mailed to you.

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NEVADA
A WORLD WITHIN
A STATE APART.

A RUGGED SENSE OF OPEN SPACE

BY MICHELLE NAPOLI

Picture a uniquely diverse landscape spread out across 1.6 million acres. There's little water, few defined trails, and even fewer roads, but so much to explore. It's as close as 25 miles from Downtown Las Vegas, yet seemingly far away from the city lights and crowds.

If you want to experience what David Choate, a Ph.D. visiting assistant professor at University of Nevada, Las Vegas, describes as "a rugged sense of open space," the Desert National Wildlife Refuge may be for you.

Originally called the Desert Game Range, President Franklin D. Roosevelt protected the area in 1936 to conserve wildlife resources, particularly Nevada's iconic desert bighorn sheep. Today, the refuge stands as the country's second largest wildlife refuge—the largest in the lower 48.

Desert National Wildlife Refuge is truly wide open.

THE DEFINITION OF TEEMING

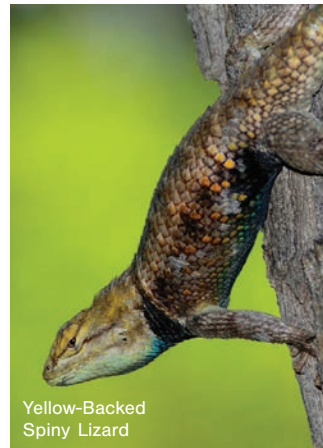
With such a large stretch of habitat, bighorn sheep still roam the refuge, though the population has fluctuated over the decades. Currently, about 500 sheep call The Desert National Wildlife Refuge home, according to David, who is also a collaborator with the U.S. Geological Survey. His research has focused on the sheep's predator, mountain lions, in the refuge.

Bighorn are just the tip of the proverbial iceberg when it comes to the life supported by the Desert Refuge. The refuge hosts seven different life zones—from the saltbrush community in valley floors at elevations below 2,400 feet all the way up to the bristlecone pines found near 10,000 feet in the Sheep Mountain Range—and a dizzying array of plant and animal species. As a result, the refuge “is representative of a natural system in a region where we are losing a lot of that,” says David.

All told more than 500 plant species, 320 bird species, 50-plus mammals, 35 kinds of reptiles, and four amphibian species (including some considered threatened, sensitive, or endangered) can be found within the refuge. Mule deer, coyote, kit fox, bobcats, rabbits, and bats are among the mammals found there and reptiles include desert tortoise, rattlesnakes, chuckwalla, and collared lizards. Roadrunner, pinyon jay, sparrows, and hummingbirds are just a few of the more commonly seen birds, while raptors include falcons, hawks, golden eagles, and the northern pygmy owl. At various points in between the saltbrush and the bristlecone, the refuge's flora includes desert wildflowers, Mojave yucca, Mormon tea, Joshua trees, cholla cactus, juniper and pinyon pine, ponderosa pine, and white fir.

Unsurprisingly, birdwatching and wildlife viewing are big draws. The Visitor Center at Corn Creek—with its namesake spring and a pond behind the building—is an excellent spot for early morning birding. In fact, it's the perfect place to begin refuge exploration, with interpretive displays on the flora, fauna, and history of the area as well as a small system of easy trails, including three that are ADA accessible.

Throughout the refuge, birds are among the easiest wildlife to spot, as well as lizards and other reptiles, particularly in the morning when they are likely to be sunning themselves. Mammals, by contrast, are among the hardest to see. Mountain lions are a mostly nocturnal



Yellow-Backed
Spiny Lizard



Desert Jackrabbit



Cooper's Hawk

PHOTOS: RANDALL BRUCE



Western Tanager

RUSS COLLETTA



Sheep Range Proposed Wilderness

KIRK PETERSON/FRIENDS OF NEVADA WILDERNESS

species, and there is only a handful in the refuge. David notes that even a few sheep need a space as large as the refuge to “make a living” in the dry desert environment. Bighorn sheep are active during the day, and will be a challenge to find; your best bet is near springs or other water sources. Always keep a respectful distance from wildlife anywhere, and even more so near water sources, which are critical to their survival.

The more time you spend in the refuge, and the more you get out of your vehicle and explore on foot, the greater your chances of spotting its elusive denizens. David, whose research led him to cover a large portion of the refuge on foot, often camping for months at a time, says don’t forget to look down to find tracks and other signs of animals.

“You’re going to find a lot more, and a lot more stories of what’s come and gone than you would just looking for the animals,” he says.

PROPERLY PROTECTED

The refuge is such valuable habitat because the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service recommended wilderness designations for

the majority of the area—more than 1.2 million acres—in the early 1970s; as such, they have been protected and managed as wilderness ever since.

The largest and arguably most stunning of these areas is the 463,000-acre Sheep Range Proposed Wilderness, which takes its name from one of the six mountain ranges in the refuge. Also the largest roadless area remaining in the state, the Sheep Range Proposed Wilderness encompasses all of the different life zones found within the greater refuge, as well as a variety of opportunities for those seeking primitive recreation.

One of two main unimproved roads found here, Alamo Road leads to a number of shorter cherrystem roads along the western side of the Sheep Range, which in turn lead to some of the more popular hiking areas. Joe May Road, for instance, leads to Joe May Canyon; hikers tend to follow the obvious main wash,



Joe May Canyon

KURT KUZNICK/FRIENDS OF NEVADA WILDERNESS

and then continue up a side canyon. This is a relatively easy hike and a good location to try to spot bighorn sheep (there is a manmade watering hole here).

Cow Camp, White Rock, and Dead Horse are some of the other spurs from Alamo Road that can be explored. Perhaps the best known is Hidden Forest Road, used to access the trailhead for Hidden Forest Cabin—a popular day hike and overnight backpack destination. A more challenging, approximately 6-mile (one way) hike to the cabin gains more than 2,000 feet in elevation as it makes its way up an old road and enters Deadman Canyon, leading ultimately to a hidden ponderosa pine forest.

The cooler temperatures and shade of the forest make this a nice place to rest, if not spend the night, and there is a picnic table, a fire ring, and basic latrine hidden behind a tree. There is also a spring where water is typically found year round a short distance past the cabin. The cabin's origins aren't entirely clear, though it is believed to date back to the early part of the 20th century.

GET OUT AND GET HIGH

For those up for an added challenge and possessing the right route-finding skills, hikers can continue from the cabin to the top of Hayford Peak (the high point of the Sheep Range, at nearly 10,000 feet) or Sheep Peak at 9,750 feet elevation.

Alamo Road

KURT KUZNICK/FRIENDS OF NEVADA WILDERNESS



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Poster art by Theodore Waddell,
Sheep #12, 42"x50", Oil on Canvas

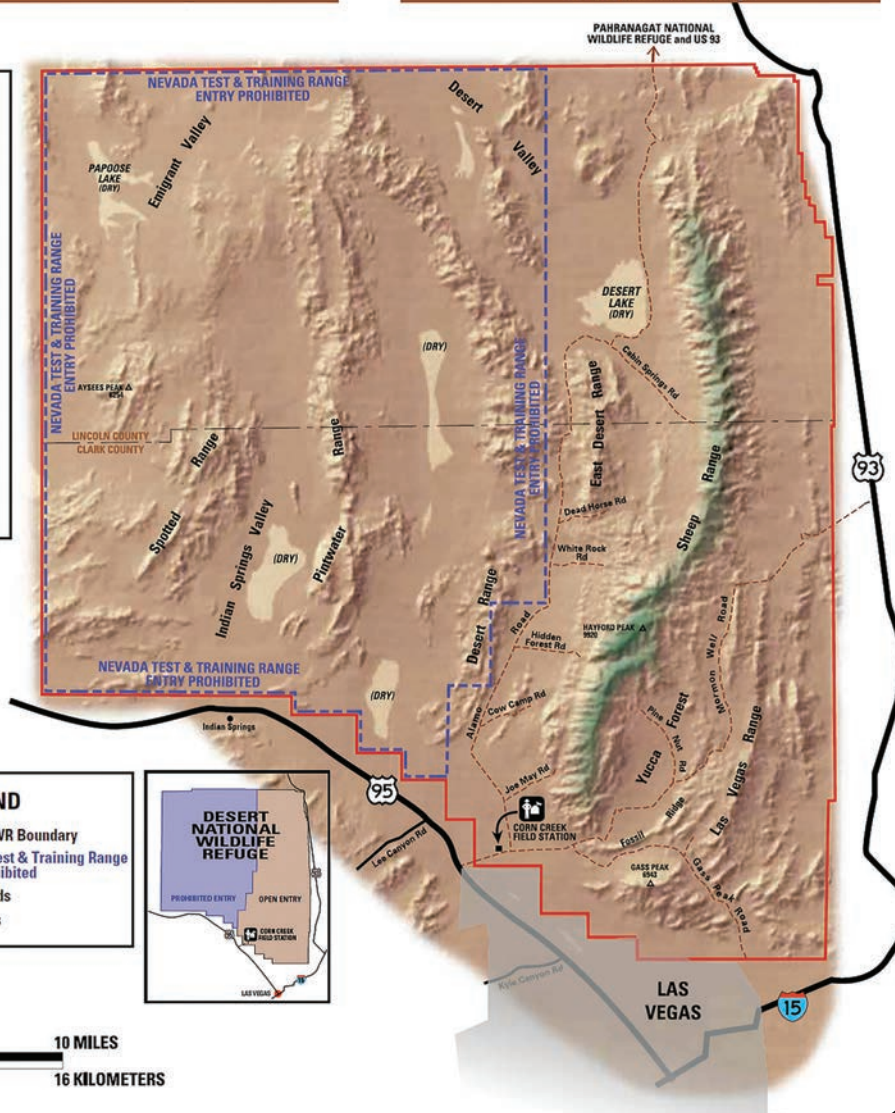


Desert Dry Lake

Desert NWR Map

Where Do I Start?

The major access point to the Desert NWR is through the Corn Creek Field Station, which can be reached by travelling north on U.S. Highway 95 approximately 25 miles from downtown Las Vegas. A brown sign on the east side of the highway marks the 4-mile gravel road into Corn Creek.



Alamo Road runs about 70 miles, from the Corn Creek Visitor Center on the south end of the Desert Refuge all the way to another national wildlife refuge to the north, Pahranaagat. If back-country driving is in your comfort zone, it is a fun way to explore parts of the refuge, but like all unimproved roads, be adequately prepared before you attempt to travel it. At a minimum, much of the refuge outside of the visitor center requires a high-clearance vehicle, and there are areas where four-wheel-drive is recommended if not outright necessary. One prime example, at the northern end of Alamo Road, is Desert Dry Lake. As its name implies, this is a dry desert lake of about 15 square miles. On either end are two beautiful and unique sand dune areas that have formed over time and are worthy of a visit, but the road runs right through the dry lake; at times the extremely soft sand can easily trap a vehicle and conditions may make it impassable.

Two other proposed wilderness areas, the Las Vegas Range and Gass Peak, can be reached by the other main unimproved road, Mormon Well Road,

U.S. FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE

Las Vegas Range



KIRK PETERSON/FRIENDS OF NEVADA WILDERNESS

to the east of the Sheep Range. A detour on the Gass Peak Road gives access to Fossil Ridge, a notable area for spotting evidence that the area was once an inland sea; Gass Spring, a relatively easy hike of less than a mile each way; and a more challenging 6.5-mile roundtrip route to the summit of Gass Peak, a great vantage point from which you can see Las Vegas to the south and some of the vast range of the Desert Refuge to the north. On your way to Gass Peak, keep an eye out for rare Blue Diamond Cholla, an endemic species in southern Nevada.

Mormon Well Road will also lead you to some spectacular areas and notable destinations, including Desert Pass Campground—the only formal campground in the refuge, with a half dozen established sites with picnic tables, fire rings, and even vault toilets (but no water)—and Sawmill Road. The latter takes you to the trailhead into Sawmill Canyon, which rises from lower elevation desert scrub up to Sawmill Spring on the western side of the Sheep Range, a roughly 5-mile hike each way.

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KNOW

Before You Go

► Camping is allowed throughout the refuge. Car camping must be within 50 feet of roads, and backcountry camping must be at least a quarter-mile away from springs and water developments. Make use of existing road pullouts and campsites that are already disturbed to minimize your impact on the fragile environment. Practice Leave No Trace!

► Remember that you are in a remote area; you are not likely to have cellphone reception, and might not see other people/vehicles for a day or more. Be appropriately prepared with plenty of water, extra food, a good spare tire, and more. Check with the visitor center for current road conditions; some areas may be impassable at times.

► During World War II, the western portion of the refuge began serving a dual purpose for the military, what today is the Air Force's Nellis Test and Training Range. Co-managed by the Air Force and Fish & Wildlife Service, that portion of the refuge is off limits to the public.

► Keep a respectful distance from wildlife. Likewise, if you come across any historical or cultural sites or objects, enjoy contemplating their origins, but do not remove or disturb them; it's the law, and the right thing to do.

► Drone flying is illegal in this—and all—wildlife refuges.

THOSE WHO CAME BEFORE

Sawmill Canyon is one of a number of gems that should satisfy novice history buffs. While much of the Desert Refuge appears untouched by man, human interaction with these lands can be found in the form of cultural resources left behind by those who came before us.

Look in the right places and you can find “evidence of habitation in various forms for several thousand years,” notes Refuge Archaeologist Spencer Lodge. These include projectile points that indicate hunting took place thousands of years ago, as well as petroglyphs, pictographs, and several hundred agave roasting pits scattered throughout the refuge. According to Spencer, the refuge was a source of important resources for the Southern Paiute, such as sheep, pinyon nuts, agave, and mesquite, as well as an area of spiritual importance for them.

Other historical stops include the old corral and well at Mormon Well Road's namesake site, which makes for easy exploration. Again, several agave roasting pits indicate American Indian use of this location, while the corral and well are evidence of early 20th century Mormons logging in the area.

And back at Corn Creek, more history can be found. Near the visitor center was once a stop on the short-lived Las Vegas & Tonopah Railroad. A short stroll from the visitor center sits a cabin built in the 1920s from railroad ties, following the train line's abandonment. Corn Creek also served as a ranch for homesteaders at one time. Ranch remains include the orchard area, with pecan, peach, and pomegranate trees. Though not native to the area, the trees are attractive to the birds.



Hiking, backpacking, car camping, backcountry-road touring, wildlife viewing, and history seeking, photography, horseback riding, limited hunting, nighttime stargazing, and simply reveling in a whole lot of solitude and wide-open, wild space, the Desert National Wildlife Refuge has a lot more to offer than many realize. ▼



Desert National Wildlife Refuge
16001 Corn Creek Road
Las Vegas, NV 89124
fws.gov/refuge/desert/
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KURT KUZNICKI/FRIENDS OF NEVADA WILDERNESS

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Ash Springs	Death Valley	Goldfield		Rachel	Shoshone	Yerington

MAINTAINING ALTITUDE

General aviation in rural Nevada often faces a turbulent future.

Minden-Tahoe Airport

An aerial photograph of a vast, arid desert landscape in Nevada. The terrain is characterized by rolling hills, deep canyons, and scattered small towns. A small, light-colored aircraft is visible in the upper left corner, flying over the landscape. The sky is clear and blue.

BY MEGG MUELLER

Nevada is the land of wide-open space. Miles of highway, endless valleys, and vistas are the stuff roadtrippers dream about. Some travelers to the Silver State, however, don't need any roads. Certain intrepid sightseers prefer to do their traveling with a little altitude.

Sure, there's McCarran International Airport in Las Vegas, Reno-Tahoe International in Reno, and Elko Regional Airport in Elko, but because there are only three airports to offer commercial service in and out of the state, that leaves a lot of ground to cover. For small aircraft owners—those who fly in what is called the general aviation (GA) category—there are 47 public-use airports in Nevada, with many other private airports and landing strips spread across the state. That is a lot of access to Nevada's great wide open.



Austin Airport

LARRY BURTON

While there are no official numbers for the GA passengers in Nevada, the impact of this industry is undeniable; a study from the Bureau of Business and Economic Research at the University of Nevada, Reno done between 2003 and 2005 revealed the total economic output effect to be \$275,503,316. According to the Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT) State Aviation Manager, Kurt Haukohl, today that number is closer to \$1 billion.

The study was done to determine the economic effect of general aviation visitors, tenants, and businesses on the local economies, and does not include the impact of the three commercial airports. It's in the process of being updated, Kurt says, but there's no doubt of the importance of GA on the state's coffers. The value of general aviation goes way beyond dollars.

STAYING ALOFT

General aviation supports communities across Nevada, from Ely to Jean, but it isn't always an easy travel solution. A private plane is required, of course, but the infrastructure to support pilots and their passengers is just as crucial. To fly from Santa Rosa, California, to Austin, for instance, is a distance of 313 aeronautical miles. A Cirrus SR22T—which can seat up to five, and has a 315 horsepower engine—can fly a little more than

1,000 aeronautical miles on a tank of gas, but a Piper J-3 Cub—a two-seater built between 1937-1947 that carries between a 37-40 horsepower engine—has a maximum flight range of about 191 aeronautical miles, making fuel stops imperative.

Of Nevada's public airports, 23 of them have aviation fuel for sale. Austin, for example, just began selling fuel this summer, and there's already been an uptick in the amount of traffic to the small airport.

"In just two months since we've gotten fuel, we've sold more than 1,000 gallons," Frank Whitman, one of Austin's airport board members, says. "Considering most small planes take 20-50 gallons, that's pretty good."

Along with fuel, Austin now has a courtesy car and a pilot's lounge with bathrooms and drinking water. A shower is in the works, and rumor has it the area's best cellphone service is at the airport. According to Frank, it's just good business.

"We are definitely positioning ourselves so that people can come see Austin. Folks can fly in and pitch a tent at the airport, or they can take the courtesy car to town and stay at one of the B&Bs," he says.

In Hawthorne, Betty Easley knows firsthand the benefits of having such amenities for pilots. While traffic may not rival some larger airports, Hawthorne sees a lot of repeat customers



BY LAND OR BY SEA?

What's the difference between nautical mile and aeronautical mile? Nothing, actually. They mean the same thing. A nautical mile is based on the circumference of the Earth, and is equal to one minute of latitude. It is slightly more than a statute (land measured) mile (1 nautical mile = 1.1508 statute miles).

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M A G A Z I N E



Hawthorne Airport

thanks to such things as three courtesy cars, the ability to fuel jets and military planes with a single-point fueling system, and a pilots lounge that has Wi-Fi and can be accessed 24/7.

Betty is the volunteer greeter/pilot liaison for the airport, a job she's happily done since she first volunteered in 2007 during the search for famous aviator Steve Fossett who went missing in the Sierra Nevada mountains. Along with the airport's military

presence, Betty notes that pilots use Hawthorne as a fuel stop for flights to Arizona or California, and she's always there to offer a car into town for a meal or sightseeing.

"We have pilots who come specifically to visit the Ordnance Museum," she says. "I encourage them to visit the Mineral County Museum and have breakfast or lunch. They usually do."



Winnemucca Municipal Airport

MARK VOLLMER



Battle Mountain Airport

LARRY BURTON



Hawthorne Industrial Airport

BETTY EASLEY



Minden-Tahoe Airport

SANDI WHITTEKER



BETTY EASLEY

HOME IS WHERE THE HANGAR IS

Fuel, courtesy cars, and access to rental cars are three of the things that go a long way in supporting small rural airports, but there's another integral component: an owner/manager.

NDOT doesn't own any airport in the state of Nevada, Kurt says. While state departments of transportation own airports in Oregon and California, in Nevada the lion's share are owned by the respective county or city. The rest are either owned by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), airport authorities, or under private ownership. Ownership of an airport is required for it to be a public airport; without an owner the airport can not operate and eventually will likely be closed.

"We're probably losing two airports a year," Kurt says. "Mostly because they are on BLM land and the leases are expiring, and they don't have owners. Last year, we added just one airport (Calvada Meadows in Pahrump)."

There are about 75 abandoned airports in the state right now, but Kurt and NDOT are working to secure owners for current and future airports. The airport in Duckwater is currently a BLM property, but could end up in the hands of the local Duckwater-Shoshone tribe if Kurt can work it out.

FLY-A TO THE PLAYA

Every year, the Nevada Department of Transportation and Bureau of Land Management set up the world's largest temporary airport on the Black Rock Desert for Burning Man. The Black Rock City Municipal Airport saw 3,500 passengers this year, each paying a passenger fee that generates income for the department. At times, there are more than 150 arrivals and departure in one day. There are two runways, which are 6,500 feet long and 75 feet wide, and all dirt.



The airport is private, and pilots must get approval to land beforehand. The airport has a tower manned by professional controllers, and pilots and passengers must go through customs and immigration before entering Burning Man.

The largest planes that can fly in are Beechcraft 1900s and Dash 8 Series, which seat about 29 people, but most planes are small. Frequently private jets and executive helicopters are on the scene with one helicopter transporting medical emergencies, up to 30 in a typical year. There are three heliports with special provisions for night operations.

KURT HAUKOHL

MULTIPLE USES ON THE RADAR

Some rural airports benefit from their proximity to larger cities, and have carved out successful niches that keep the hangar doors open. Beyond GA traffic, Boulder City airport's helicopter-tour industry sees more than 200,000 visitors a year, 90 percent of which are from other countries. At Minden-Tahoe, along with corporate traffic, the area's superior soaring conditions make it a hub for sport aviation.

Reno-Stead Airport is home to the National Championship Air Races, and a Federal Aviation Administration-designated Unmanned Autonomous Systems (UAS) test range. UAS, or drones, are a burgeoning industry at GA airports, and the airport in Searchlight is about to become the first drone port in the state. The newly leased airport will become a training destination for drone pilots, thanks in part to the fact there is no federally controlled airspace there.

Tourism is definitely a factor for some rural airports. Visitors to the Wendover, Utah, airport who purchase fuel get a free car rental and buffet ticket to one of the casinos in West Wendover, Nevada. Four airports—Wells, Jackpot, Wendover, and Elko—

all see spikes in GA traffic when Mustang Monument Resort is open for business. In Austin, Frank notes the land-sailing competitions on nearby Smith Creek Playa always bumps traffic at the airport, and they are hoping to promote and encourage heli-skiing in the nearby Toiyabe Range someday.

"Now that we have jet fuel, it makes a big difference what can happen here," Frank says.

Betty would love to see Hawthorne Industrial Airport host a fly-in for pilots during the annual Armed Services Day celebration, but logistics are standing in her way. Space restrictions won't allow the airport to close for pilot traffic and there simply aren't enough parking places for the anticipated traffic. Not completely dissuaded, the airport hosts a static military display during the event, and last year there were 17 aircraft visitors could view.

Ely's Yellan Field lost commercial service in 2012 due to a lack of passengers, Kurt mentions, but that hasn't stopped the airport from doing extensive community outreach. From signing up 50 people to take flying lessons recently to bringing local youth out to fly, Ely is reinventing itself as a GA airport.



Winnemucca Municipal Airport

"NEVADA'S RURAL NATURE IS WHAT MAKES IT SO UNIQUE FOR GENERAL AVIATION."

SAFETY FIRST

The continued loss of GA airports affects everyone in Nevada, regardless if they are a private pilot or not. The single biggest issue facing Nevada's rural community would be the loss of emergency medical services that rely upon these airports to combat wildfires, perform search and rescue missions, and transport patients to urban hospitals. Firefighting operations are staged at many Nevada airports, such as Dayton Valley, Wells, and Battle Mountain, and the ability for EMS responders to reach someone stranded or injured in Nevada's vast wilderness is crucial to saving lives.

"Nevada's rural nature is what makes it so unique for general aviation," Kurt says. "Whenever I talk to pilot groups, I tell



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Austin Airport

LARRY BURTON

			
Airports	Fuel	Courtesy Car	Rental Cars
Austin	x	x	
Battle Mountain	x	x	
Boulder City	x	x	x
Calvada Meadows (Pahrump)	x	x	
Carson City	x	x	x
Ely / Yelland Field	x	x	
Eureka	x		x
Fallon	x	x	x
Hawthorne	x	x	
Henderson	x		
Jean	x		
Derby Field (Lovelock)	x		x
Mesquite	x		x
Minden-Tahoe	x	x	x
North Las Vegas	x		
Perkins Field (Overton)	x		
Reno-Stead	x		x
Silver Springs	x		
Tonopah	x		
Wells	x		
Winnemucca	x	x	x
Yerington	x		
Wendover (Utah)	x		

them I have one county with three airports, two planes, and one pilot. That always gets them.”

Infrastructure and community outreach play a huge role in guaranteeing the future success of Nevada’s small airports. Getting the word out to pilots about the services and features available is top of mind for people like Frank and Betty.

“We had the Highway 50 historical society come through town and I played tour guide for them,” Frank recounts. “Two of the guys were pilots, and they were surprised we had a courtesy car. They said they’d definitely be back.”

Betty adds, “We have every type of pilot come through here. From the guy who can barely scrape together enough to keep his plane in the air to the business jet pilot. And we respect them all.”

FOR MORE INFORMATION

The NDOT Aviation Planning Section is responsible for helping ensure that Nevada’s general aviation public-use and private-use airports and heliports meet applicable safety requirements and provide maximum utility to their communities and the flying public. They also provide matching grants for FAA projects on rural airports.

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