

THE BODIE TIMES

PROTECTING BODIE'S FUTURE BY PRESERVING ITS PAST

THE NEWS OF BODIE, MONO LAKE & GROVER HOT SPRINGS
www.BodieFoundation.org

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Executive Director's Report

New Project Underway at Stamp Mill

By Jessica Schneider
Bodie Foundation
Executive Director

Spring in Bridgeport has been a welcome season. It feels as though everything is waking up from a year-long hibernation. Perhaps because that's exactly what we are all doing. After a long year of chaos, we're excited for some fresh, new projects and updates as well.

What's New at the Stamp Mill

We have a new fundraising project in Bodie. Bodie's Stamp Mill once extracted gold and silver by crushing mined quartz rock with heavy iron rods. Now it stands prominently on the bluff as one of the West's best intact stamp mills from the late 1800s, available for public tours on a "normal" year. There is work that needs to be done to not only keep the stamp mill standing, but to also make it more accessible for tours. First and foremost, the hillside behind the mill is slowly eroding into the building and causing structural issues. The dirt and rock should be able to be moved by a California Conservation Corps (CCC) crew over one week,



Bodie Foundation has launched a new fundraising project for the Stamp Mill. Work has started on erosion at the back of the building.

Photo by Chris Spiller

using wheelbarrows - no need to involve heavy equipment. At this point, the Park maintenance crew can assess the damage to the outside of the back wall. The inside of the wall, made of galvanized steel, looks pushed in but should be structurally solid.

After stabilizing the mill wall facing the hillside, Maintenance Chief John Campbell will build a 4-foot wooden retaining wall to keep the problem from reoccurring.

The next step gets a bit juicier - inside the mill, a large motor has fallen through the wooden floor. There is a chance a crane coming through the roof of the mill will be necessary to raise the motor off the floor to enable crews to fix the floor without the danger of being beneath the very large motor.

After these two larger stabilization phases, other smaller projects to

make the building more accessible for tours, and to possibly expand tours into areas previously closed, can be completed.

We are still in the planning phase of the project and have yet to come up with one solid dollar amount for what this will all cost. We will, of course, keep everyone apprised of the progress and assessments as we know more. Please follow along with the project on our website at www.bodiefoundation.org/stamp-mill.

HistoriCorps Returns to Bodie

Plans are in place with HistoriCorps and State Parks for this summer's work on the Bodie-Benton Railroad Office, the D.V. Cain barn and the Fouke house. HistoriCorps is a non-profit organization that utilizes volunteers skilled in historic preservation, restoration

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New sight at the Mono Lake Tufa State Natural Reserve, See Page 3

Park Staff Arrivals and Promotions

New Bodie Interpreter

If Hillary Colyer looks familiar, you may have seen her on the Bodie SHP Facebook page during the 2020 pandemic when she was a Senior Park Aide. Viewers were able to go along virtually with her inside certain buildings, hear tales of past residents, and look at the artifacts inside. The live sessions were so popular they continued after the park reopened in June.

In 2021, she was promoted to the position of State Park Interpreter at Bodie. While Hillary was born and raised around the golden hills, oak trees, and vineyards of Paso Robles, CA, she explained, "I spent most of my adult life farther afield." After graduating with a degree in Anthropology from CSU Long Beach, Hillary decided to teach English in Japan. Most of her 14 years there were spent teaching at elementary schools.

"While I loved working with and educating kids, I found myself equally loving my occasional weekends helping out at my friends' backpacker's hut in the mountains, making coffee for and sharing trail advice with hikers. I found myself thinking, I should get myself a career that combines my love of teaching with my love of the outdoors. And so, less than two months after returning to California, I started working a



Hillary Colyer

seasonal position at Grover Hot Springs State Park."

For three years, she worked at Grover during the summer months and Bodie State Historic Park in the fall. Last year's unique circumstances had her working the entire season at Bodie.

"While I missed Grover Hot Springs, I found the ghost town becoming home. That is why I am thrilled that my first permanent position in a career I love is here at Bodie. I am truly looking forward to learning and sharing more and more of Bodie and its history with others that love it. I'll see you all soon on Bodie's social media or in the park!"

New Grover Ranger

State Park Ranger Jennifer McCallan joined the staff at Grover Hot Springs in April 2020. She grew up in Simi Valley, CA and moved to San Diego for college. In 2001,

she and her husband moved to Sacramento.

Before becoming a Ranger, Jennifer worked at UC Davis Vet School as a lab researcher in the oncology department. "Basically, I grew cell cultures all day every day! Before that, while I still lived in San Diego, I worked for a biotech company that developed beneficial microbes for turf and agriculture," she said.

Her first job with State Parks was as a park aide in the Malibu parks in the summer of 1993. Years later, she decided to become a Ranger and went through the academy in 2007. She spent her first three years at South Yuba River State Park, and the past 10 years at the Lake Tahoe parks, living at D. L. Bliss during that time. "While I worked in Lake Tahoe, I was part of the Sierra District Scuba Dive Team, which was a unique experience."

She had visited Grover several times for work to teach refresher CPR classes. While considering transferring to Grover, she and her husband took their vintage trailer to camp in the winter campground.

She and husband, Ric, now live in the "Ranger house" at the entrance to Grover with their dog Benji and two cats. "I love sitting on the back

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Jennifer McCallan

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For information about submissions,
please email:

chris@bodiefoundation.org

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Benny Romero *Board President*
Jessica Schneider *Executive Director*
Christine Spiller *Editor/Guide*
Betty McCunniff *Bodie Lead/Guide*

— Arrivals

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porch overlooking the meadow. My favorite activity is downhill skiing. I also enjoy hiking, kayaking, camping, and cooking.”

New Bodie Maintenance Worker

Kevin Russell has joined the Bodie State Historic Park Maintenance Staff as a Worker 1. Before moving to Bodie, he worked for California State Parks in the Gold Fields District in Folsom, CA.

Kevin is looking forward to keeping Bodie in a state of arrested decay. “It’s so interesting to see how the buildings were constructed back in the 19th Century, and to keep them preserved by using the same techniques,” he said. “It’s also fascinating to see the artifacts that were left behind. The craftsmanship that was used back in the day is very impressive.”

Kevin will live at Bodie year-round. “I understand that the winters here are not for the faint of heart. And I’m sure it won’t be easy, but I simply couldn’t pass up a chance to work at one of the most interesting parks in California. When my grandkids come to visit me, they’ll see that grandpa works and lives in an actual ghost town. How cool is that!”



Kevin Russell

2022 Calendar on Sale, Winners Announced



The 2022 Bodie Calendar is now on sale for \$14.95 at the Bodie Foundation online store www.bodiefoundation.org/store and at the park. A team of judges viewed the over 400 entries and narrowed it down to our winning photos. Thank you to everyone who entered and congratulations to the winners.

Our beautiful cover photo of a colorful sunrise in Bodie was taken by Eric Draper. Other photographers with winning images include Dustin LeBrun, Scott Morgan, Greg Lugo, Morgan Wright, Jack Chamberlin, Susan Dunham, Rick Whitacre, Lori Hibbett, Gigi Dean, Philippe Newman, Rebecca Miller, Fletcher Buccowich, Jeff Dean, Roger Vargo and David Recht.



By July 2021, visitors to Mono Lake Tufa State Natural Reserve at Picnic Ground Road north of Lee Vining, will be able to pay parking fees with a credit card. In the meantime, the \$3 parking fee can be paid using the “iron ranger” tube.

Photo by Chris Spiller



Visitors enjoy a stroll at the Mono Lake South Tufa Area. In late April, several groups and agencies worked together to replace this lower section of the South Tufa boardwalk. The cracked and weather-beaten sections were replaced with a new redwood walkway. The installation was completed with the help of about 20 people representing California State Parks, Mono Basin Volunteers, Inyo National Forest, Mono County, DeChambeau Creek Foundation, Friends of the Inyo, and the Mono Lake Committee.

Photo by Chris Spiller

Private Tour Launched at Mono Lake

Spend a beautiful morning at the marina during a private tour which benefits Friends of Mono Lake Reserve. Which marina? You'll have to reserve a tour to find this out and more!

Join a tour guide with Friends of Mono Lake Reserve for a two-hour morning tour of state lands north of Lee Vining. You will discover how early residents made a home next to this unique lake, and about farms and ranches that sprang up to feed surrounding communities and mining camps. As we learn about those who made Mono Lake their home, we will enjoy views of the lake and see marsh and migratory birds.

Reservations must be made no later than two weeks in advance and these tours are given in the morning only. Contact Chris Spiller at chris@bodiefoundation.org to start the *See New Mono Tour, Page 7*

Out of This World Experience at Mono

By Catherine Jones
State Park Interpreter I
Mono Lake Tufa SNR

"I feel like I am on another planet," visitors often remark during visits to Mono Lake. Maybe these visitors are onto something.

It turns out that Mono Lake's unique environment on Earth is analogous to the environment on Mars and can help scientists in developing tools to discover signs of life outside of Earth. NASA scientists have been coming to Mono Lake over the past few decades, testing instruments for use in space exploration. In 1995 scientists brought an underwater remotely operated vehicle to the lake and in 2010, a Mars rover.

NASA is planning another research trip to Mono Lake for the fall of 2021 where they will test an Ocean Worlds Life Surveyor (OWLS) life-detecting

instrument. This research will help to refine an instrument to be used on future exploratory missions to Europa, a moon of Jupiter, Enceladus, a moon of Saturn, or another planet.

One of many things that makes Mono Lake so unique are the calcium carbonate tufa spires that have become exposed due to lake level fluctuations, caused by water diversions to the city of Los Angeles. As calcium carbonate precipitates out of water to form tufa, it often traps microbes, evidence of life present when the rock formed. This process may also have occurred on Mars and it is what NASA is seeking. Mono Lake's terrain, mineral make-up, and saline waters provide ideal testing grounds for these instruments and scenarios that may be encountered by NASA's technologies on Mars and other planets.

In 1995, Mono Lake Tufa State

Natural Reserve staff accompanied a team of scientists on Mono Lake, aboard a houseboat to test a Telepresence Controlled Remotely Operated Vehicle (TROV). The TROV was equipped with a 1,000 ft cable, a sample grabbing device, cameras, and sonar system. The houseboat was outfitted as an on the water lab where scientists were able to control the device as it was sent down deep beneath Mono Lake's surface. Tufa samples were collected from the base of submerged tufa towers for analysis and presence of microbes.

NASA returned to Mono Lake in 2010 with a Mars rover, named Pluto. Pluto was much heavier than the rovers that would later be sent to Mars, like Perseverance in 2021. The goal of this visit to Mono Lake was to test methods to collect

See NASA at Mono, Page 7

Pool Reservation System Continues at Grover

By Jennifer McCallan
State Park Ranger

The Hot Springs pools continue to operate on a reservation system for 1.5 hour sessions and a reduced capacity of 25 people per session. The number of people allowed per session may increase as COVID-19 restrictions relax. We expect that the reservation system for the pools will continue through summer.

Throughout the past year, we have noticed some benefits due to the reservation system and limited session times including: no waiting line and therefore no friction between visitors arguing in line; fewer cases of heat exhaustion and dehydration because visitors are only in the hot pool for 1.5 hours; and fewer instances of people sneaking in food and alcohol.

Reservations are available at ReserveCalifornia.com under the "Activities" tab.

The campground at Grover Hot Springs opened for the season on April 23, with camping reservations

beginning May 14. Many of the campers are return visitors, some with fond childhood memories of camping at Grover.

Pool operations shut down in



Spring 2020 due to the pandemic, but development of the new reservation system to limit numbers of swimmers allowed the pool to re-open in late June 2020.

The Hot Springs pool was sparsely populated in April. Come summertime, most pool reservations will sell out in advance.

Photo by Jennifer McCallan

— Executive Director's Report

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rehabilitation, and reconstruction of historic buildings. This year, 34 window sashes will be installed in 17 window openings in the Railroad Office. Following the RRO work, the D.V. Cain barn and Fouke house will be stabilized in accordance with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards and California State Park's management to arrest decay. This includes internal interventions (not visible from the exterior of the building). Both buildings were identified as in danger of collapse, and thus moved to the top of our emergency stabilization list.

Now that we are a year behind due to Covid-19 regulations, our list just got more urgent than ever before. To give to our General Stabilization Fund, visit www.bodiefoundation.org/donate.

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Jobs Available at Grover and Bodie Foundation

Know someone looking for a job in a beautiful setting? California State Parks and the Bodie Foundation are both looking to fill positions.

Grover Hot Springs is accepting applications for seasonal pool lifeguards. Starting pay is \$15/hour.

You can apply online at CalCareers.ca.gov (Search "Grover") or download the Standard State application form STD 678 and Email application to:

JMcCallan@parks.ca.gov or, drop off at Grover. For questions, call: Kyndra Serafine, Lifeguard: 530-694-2249, or Jennifer McCallan, Ranger, 530-694-2649

Bodie Foundation is looking for applicants for two positions:

- Bodie Mercantile Clerk, Bridgeport, CA, Part Time – Hours/Schedule TBD; Pay is \$14.00 per hour. This position will be a Sales Clerk for the Bodie Mercantile located in Bridgeport, CA.
- Bodie Membership Coordinator/Office Manager. Status: Part or Full Time, Non-exempt. Pay: \$16.00 per hour to start, room to grow into the position.

These positions require commuting

to the Bodie Foundation's Mercantile in Bridgeport, CA, which houses our offices. The position maintains the membership database as well as managing general office tasks, scheduling, etc. for the Foundation.

More information about both of the Bodie Foundation positions can be found on our website,

www.bodiefoundation.org/news-updates.

For questions or to apply for the Bodie Foundation positions, contact Jessica Schneider, Executive Director, jessica@bodiefoundation.org.

Helene Frakes Brought Bodie's History Alive

By Betty McCunniff
Bodie Foundation Staff

Editor's Note: Bodie Volunteer Helene Trescony Frakes, born June 2, 1948, passed away January 6, 2021 at her home in San Francisco after surviving cancer for nearly four years. She and her family spent many happy summers at their cabin at Twin Lakes above Bridgeport. She is survived by her husband Randall, two sons Anthony and Vincent, and granddaughters Emily, Allison, Emma and Clair. She is also survived by her brother Paul. While volunteering at Bodie from 2011 to 2015, Helene logged 1,183.5 hours over five years. In three of those years, her yearly total was over 200 hours, entitling her to a pass each year for free day use in all California State Parks.

Helene Frakes was an experienced guide when I first met her on Friends of Bodie Day 2011. She was passionately railing against the evils of sin while standing on the steps of the Bodie church, Bible in hand. She was very convincing as Mrs. Warrington, the Reverend's wife. We connected immediately and realized that not only did she and I share a love for Bodie, but that we lived less than a mile from each other 300 miles away in San Francisco.

Helene's example made it seem both fun and possible for me to volunteer in Bodie, and she encouraged me and others every step of the way. Her encyclopedic knowledge of Bodie's past, and her ability to link it to the larger history of the western Gold Rush was astonishing and fueled by personal connection as her ancestors had been a part of California's pre-Gold Rush history.

In addition to her volunteering in Bodie, she also was an able San Francisco City Guide.



Helene leads one of the many stamp mill tours she presented several years ago at Bodie while working as a State Park Volunteer. **Photo by Chris Spiller**

Even more impressive to me than her store of knowledge was her ability to connect with and talk to pretty much anyone she encountered in the park. I often saw her deep in conversation with a park visitor, frequently offering her assistance by holding a leash for a dog owner who wanted to go into the museum, or just shooting the breeze. She would strike up a conversation with anyone who wanted to chat, and the friendships made from those conversations stood the test of time and distance.

While in Bodie, she truly wanted to make the past come alive for Bodie's visitors. Her favorite spot for her history talks was the top of the hill near the parking lot known as "Rangers Roost," where she highlighted the contrasts between Bodie's boom years and current visitor experience.

Taking a slightly different tack in the stamp mill, Helene made sure that history became a first-hand experience for the tour participants, young and old, by linking the trials and tribulations of gold extraction to the sensory experiences at hand, i.e., the sights, feel, and smells of the stamp mill. Aware that Bodie was a popular destination of travelers from foreign countries, Helene also carried a laminated card that she'd made with Bodie's basic facts—elevation, average temperatures—listed in three languages. And she knew enough French to converse with French-speaking visitors in the park.

A true and remarkable friend, both to me personally and to the larger Bodie community, she will be greatly missed.

Artists Invited to Join in Lee Vining Event

Artists are being sought for the "Artists and Ice Cream" fundraiser coming up July 17, 2021 at the Solar Pavilion and Hess Park in Lee Vining. The event will feature Eastern Sierra-related handmade art works, such as paintings, pottery, bead work, and photography.

Artists can display and sell their work at the event from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The cost per artist is \$25, and each prospective artist is asked to submit a photo of their work to ArtMBHS@gmail.com

This event is a fundraiser for the Mono Basin Historical Society and Community Presbyterian Church. County COVID Guidelines will be observed. For questions, call Priscilla Hawkins, 248-904-6013.

— Executive Director's Report

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Thank You

The Foundation would like to highlight and thank Eric Draper, Park Maintenance Assistant/Skilled Laborer for his steadfast work in Bodie. As the only maintenance employee in Bodie last year, he single-handedly kept Bodie standing, while being an invaluable resource to all of us on the history of stabilization and the ins-and-outs of what needs done. If you see Eric working away on a roof this summer, thank him!

Ghost Walks More Popular Than Ever

This spring, the Bodie Ghost Walks, to be held on three weekends in June, July, and September, sold out online the first week they were open to members only. The lesson here is to become a member if you want to join a Ghost Walk and get up early to register! Thank you to everyone who is participating this year - 100% of the cost of your ticket goes back to saving Bodie. If you'd like to get on a waiting list, please email info@bodiefoundation.org.

Friends of Bodie Day Goes Ahead, Looks Different

Covid-19 put an end to our in-person FOB day in 2020, but this year, we are unveiling a new format for the event. We will be doing a free interpretive tour on Saturday, August 14 for Bodie Foundation members only, in the same format as the Ghost Walks. If you are a member of the Bodie Foundation, please pre-register online to allow us to plan this interpretive tour. However, we will do our best to accommodate any member arriving in Bodie August 14 before the start of the 6 p.m. tour. Members will be guided to different interpretive stops through town for an hour. Barbeque will be provided in Bodie during the day until 6 p.m. Additionally, we are bringing back the Members' Dinner at Bridgeport Ranch Barns and Terrace on Friday, August 13. Listen to live music and meet with Bodie Foundation board members and staff while enjoying the jaw-dropping Bridgeport scenery. Tickets must be purchased for the Members' Dinner online at least two weeks prior to the event. While it's not quite the same as FOB days in the past, we are excited to celebrate Bodie with those attending. For more information, visit www.bodiefoundation.org/friends-of-bodie-day.

Introducing the High Peak Patrons

In an effort to communicate more and create a better Bodie connection with our donors, we've created a new donor circle called the High Peak Patrons. Anyone donating \$1000 or more a year will be invited to join the Patrons, who will in exchange be provided with special events like in-person tours of Bodie stabilization projects, stabilization webinars, "fireside chats" online with State Park rangers, interpreters, and Bodie Foundation Board Members, and an annual report on the Foundation's work each year. If you have questions about the High Peak Patrons giving level, please contact me personally at jessica@bodiefoundation.org.

Staff Changes

This spring we said goodbye to Tamara Woollard, our Membership and Office Coordinator. Tamara handled our mountains of membership mail and helped keep the office running here in Bridgeport. You might have seen her helping with nighttime Photo Workshops, Ghost Walks, and at the Mercantile. I know she'll do great things as she finds her next adventure in Texas. Thanks for all of your hard work for Bodie, Tamara! You'll be hugely missed.



NASA visited Mono Lake in 2010 with a Mars rover, named Pluto. Pluto was much heavier than the rovers later sent to Mars.

Photo by Mono Lake Tufa SNR

— NASA at Mono

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and cache rock samples, as well as cleaning methods to avoid contaminating samples from Mars with contaminants from Earth. Perseverance, the Mars rover that touched down on the Red Planet successfully this year, is using this technology.

Using its drill and mechanical arms, the rover will gather samples of Martian rocks and soils that have the most promising biomarkers. The sample cores will then be left in well-marked locations on the surface of Mars, to be collected on future missions and brought back to Earth for analysis.

So, the next time I hear a visitor say, "I feel like I am on another planet," I can think of all the interesting research that has taken place at Mono Lake. We, who are fortunate enough to work at Mono Lake and call this place home are proud to know our lake is helping support research of all kinds, especially space exploration.

— New Mono Tour

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reservation process.

Prices are: 1 to 4 people - \$200 minimum; 5 to 6 people - \$50/ per person.

We continue our private tours at Bodie as well. Reservations need to be made two weeks in advance with chris@bodiefoundation.org.



Bodie Foundation

P.O. Box 278
Bridgeport, CA 93517
(760) 932-7574

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Photo by Beth Zuckerman