

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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Budget Cuts Cloud State Parks' Future

By Jeanne Sisson

Hello to Bodie, Mono Lake, and Grover Hot Springs enthusiasts! I am Jeanne Sisson, the Acting Superintendent of the Alpine Mono Sector, which is comprised of the parks that the Bodie Foundation supports.

I have worked for State Parks since 1986. I was a park aide, communications operator, State Park Ranger, canine handler, and now Supervising Ranger. My heart and my career are committed to the California State Park system in good times and in bad. The three parks currently under my direction are all parks that are special to me,



Cuts in California's general fund threaten the continued operation of some state parks.

each in their own unique way.

Times are certainly bad right now for our State Parks. Never before has the State

Park System been faced with planned closures of parks. Cuts to the state's general fund have impacted the parks budget to the

degree that it is not possible to fully operate the 278 park units in California. Seventy parks were selected for closure by July 2012, including Mono Lake.

I think it is important to recognize that all of the parks that were selected are valued parks, and each and every one of them has recreational or educational benefits to the people who use them. These parks all have ties with their communities, and they each have a population of people who love to visit them and mourn their closure. As news of closures circulated throughout the state,

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New Grover Visitor Center Opens

By Dave James

One of the Bodie Foundation's goals for 2011 was to create a larger presence in Grover Hot Springs State Park, one of three parks the Foundation supports.

Last winter, a section of space in an existing administrative office building at

Grover Hot Springs was made available to the Foundation by State Parks. Although the total space is approximately 300 square feet, there was much preparation that had to go into it to get it ready.

Terri Geissinger, the Bodie Foundation Business Manager, shouldered most of the coordination. There were counters and shelves to build or buy and install. Merchandise needed to be selected and purchased. An employee to run the center had to be hired and trained. Financial and bookkeeping procedures needed to be established. No wonder Terri was exhausted by the time the Visitor Center opened!

Virginia York was

hired to be the Visitor Center manager. Virginia turned out to be a solid fit as she is a long-time Markleeville resident and frequent visitor to Grover Hot Springs. Virginia possesses a wealth of local knowledge and gladly shares it with anyone who asks. This level of engagement goes a long way in making this enterprise successful.

Custom redwood signs introducing the new addition were fabricated and installed. These signs were designed with the "look and feel" of signs typically found in the state and federal parks in the region.

During the summer, I asked Terri how the Grover VC was doing. She was very

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Mono Lake off State Closure List

California State Parks announced that Mono Lake Tufa State Natural Reserve has been removed from the list of parks slated to close by July 2012.

The Bodie Foundation has signed a concession contract to collect fees at the Old Marina parking lot located on the west side of the lake. The agreement will help generate revenue that will be used directly towards operating expenses associated with keeping Mono Lake open.

"We commend our park partners for their caring and support for this and other parks in the Eastern Sierra,"

Please see MONO, page 6



Cold Spring Difficult for Ospreys

By Lisa Fields,
Environmental Scientist, Sierra
District

This year was the eighth year of California State Parks monitoring of osprey nesting success and the third year of osprey nestling banding at Mono Lake Tufa State Natural Reserve. This past spring felt like winter was never going to end, with near record snowfall totals compounded by typical summer temperatures not occurring until early July. This may have been felt by the osprey as well; the nesting success and timeline were very different from past years.

The nesting success this year was the lowest documented during this study, at 0.75 young fledged per active nest. There were four nests that fledged a single young, one nest fledged 2



A young osprey gets banded in its nest. Near record snowfalls and the late arrival of summer temperatures resulted in a slightly lower than normal Osprey survival rate at Mono Lake.

young, and 3 nests failed. If a chick survives to at least 6 weeks of age it is assumed to have fledged. A nest is determined to have failed if there were signs of eggs present during the early surveys but no young are observed to survive to at least 6 weeks of age. The survival rate in 2004 and 2009 was not much higher (1.0 young fledged per active nest). In comparison, the highest survival rate was documented in 2005, with 2.2 young fledging per active nest. Over the course of this study the average success rate is 1.4 young fledging per active nest which is an indication of a growing population. A single low year is not cause for alarm, especially coupled with the weather anomaly.

An indication that this low

nesting success rate may have been in response to the weather is that the stages of nesting between nests varied greatly. In most years all the active nests follow a similar chronology, meaning that the eggs are all laid about the same time, the eggs hatch about the same time, etc. In 2011, however, this was not the case. There was a four week discrepancy between the first hatched egg and the last. As a result, to band the young, two different visits were required. The osprey nestlings are banded when they are between two and four weeks of age. With the four week span of hatch dates it was not possible to band all young at the same time. However, through the dedication and generosity of Pete Bloom (our bander), Kristi

Please see OSPREY, page 7

Bodie Foundation News Briefs

Visitation Stats

Overall attendance was down from last year by a little less than 10%, but Bodie is still a major destination. Over 90,000 visitors made the hearty jaunt out to the park from Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day weekend. Given the times in which we live, both the Bodie Foundation and California State Parks were very pleased with the continued support the public shows for Bodie. With the relatively mild fall weather, the park was still enjoying good attendance in September and October.

Wedding anyone?

Did you know that the Methodist church is available for special occasions to the general public? On average, there is at least one wedding (or vow renewal ceremony) performed there during the year. For more information on costs and reservations, please contact Bodie State Historic Park office at (760) 647-6445. Tom Gunther, Bodie's Supervising Ranger, is the "answer" man.

Cemetery project

Donna Jones, a retired State Park Ranger, continues to oversee restoration work at the Bodie cemetery. Donna reports that 22 more stones were conserved or straightened this past summer. This included conserving the Martha Lecher Gottschalk stone, which had been partially encased in cement. Another stone belonging to Solomon Stebbins had a replacement marble fragment carved and installed.

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Comments, stories and photographs are welcome. Please email to: Davej@BodieFoundation.org.

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2013 Calendar Contest



Look for information about the 2013 calendar contest in January, 2012 on the Bodie Foundation website (www.BodieFoundation.org). Enter your best shots of Bodie.

A Marriage Made in Bodie

By Cecile Page Vargo

It was a historic day in the ghost town of Bodie when modern Bodieites, Terra Peters and Matthew “Woody” Woodall, walked down the dusty aisle of the Bodie Methodist Church on September 17, 2011.

Rod Duff, iconic retired senior park aide and ordained minister, manned to pulpit to officiate.

After a brief history of the historic church, Rod commenced with the simple service, which included an unforgettable version of the Lord’s Prayer, and the usual ceremonious wedding vows.

Despite a request to omit the word “obey”, Reverend Rod included it with a twinkle in his eye, causing the bride to double over laughing and coughing. Lots of chortles were heard throughout the church. The rest of the brief ceremony went without a hitch. The new couple proceeded out of the historic church arm in arm to the music of Bodieite Charlie Spiller.

The downstairs of the old red barn was outfitted with a variety of foods, catered by a long time friend of the bride and groom. Following the meal, the wedding party headed to Main Street and the International Order of Odd Fellows (IOOF) hall.

A four tiered wedding cake awaited them outside under an open wooden canopy of flowers and ribbons.

As the sun set over the Bodie Hills, guests found their way into the twinkling white light decorated IOOF hall for music and refreshments in old time Bodie style. Glasses were clinked in the name of the newly married couple in both the IOOF and in Bodie’s three remaining bars.

By the wee hours of the next morning, the bride and



Tom Gunther, Bodie’s supervising ranger, keeps an eye out for uninvited park visitors who would unknowingly walk in on the ceremony.

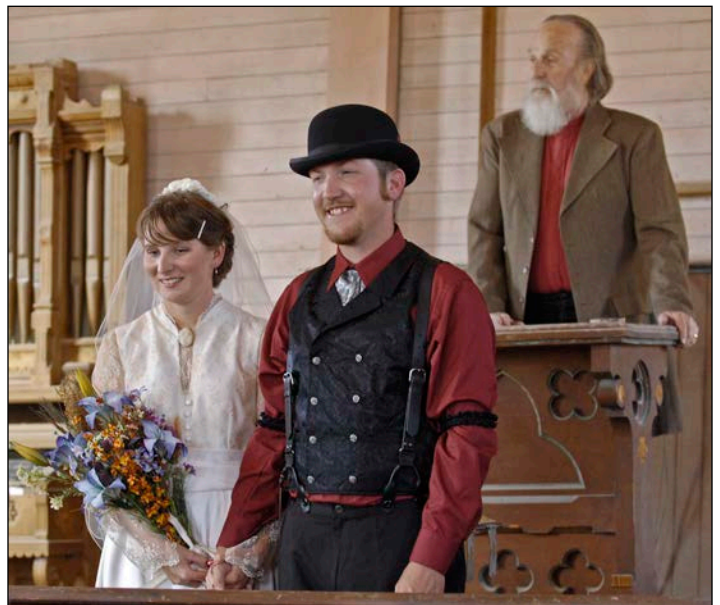


Brenda Hemond, Bodie’s maintenance supervisor, delivers part of the wedding cake.

groom, along with a handful of modern Bodieites, staggered back to their historical housing too tired for the traditional wedding shivaree.



The bride and members of her wedding party cross Bodie’s Green Street on the way to the Methodist Church.



Rev. Rod Duff presents the new Mr. and Mrs. Woodall.



Woody and Terra toast their marriage inside Sam Leon’s Bar.



Volunteer Norm Allen is ready to accommodate faro players in the IOOF Hall while visitors inspect antique automobiles outside.



ANNUAL FOB DAY ENTERS THE *PAST LANE*

By Cecile Page Vargo

As the sun rose over Bodie Bluff August 13, the ghosts of the old mining town's past prepared for their annual daylight haunt in anticipation of nearly 2,000 visitors for the 2011 Friends of Bodie Day.

Modern Bodieites in the form of the California State Park employees, Bodie Foundation staff and volunteers rose to the dawning sun to prepare for the day's festivities.

Antique automobiles, horses and wagons, and people in period costume arrived to add to the colorful scene.

Visitors poured in from far and wide in every manner of modern conveyance, quick to overflow the parking lot and spill on to the bypass road.

The jail came alive with the likes of soiled doves Rosa May and Rosa Olague who shared their stories and made sure that there was no longer any confusion between the good and the bad red light ladies with similar names.

The International Order of Odd Fellows building was open for business with toe tapping music provided throughout the day by Big Meadow, the Bodie Travelers, Chris Bayer, and Mr.

Spoons. Norm Allen provided lessons in old time faro for those who dared to gamble.

Original Bodieites Elwood Brown and Alice Dolan held court and talked with visitors.

A watermelon eating contest stained the shirts and filled the stomachs of those who participated, and provided laughs and entertainment for those who cheered on the contestants.

Albert's Meat Market staff cooked the traditional barbeque meal which was followed by a few words of wisdom on the boardwalk of Main Street from Brad Sturdivant, President of the Bodie Foundation.

At twilight the Odd Fellows Hall greeted formally attired guests for the first Firemen's Masquerade Ball to be held in nearly a century.

In the midst of the gaiety, shouts were heard and the ghosts of Johnny Treloar and Joseph DeRoche had an altercation in the middle of the dance floor over Treloar's wife. A gunshot was heard and the whole affair quickly moved outside. Bodie Ranger Tom Gunther arrived to take the offender into custody. Another successful Friends of Bodie Day went down into the annals of modern of history.



Original Bodieite, Miss Alice Dolan (left) talks with Terri Geissinger and her daughter Bree Nicole.



Festive lights illuminate the IOOF Hall as revelers dance away the evening at the Firemen's Masquerade Ball. A shot from the gun of Joseph DeRoche brought the evening's entertainment to a close with visitors and resident ghosts vanishing into the darkness.

Summer Concert Raises Roof- Saves Structures

The Bodie Benefit concert, held in Bridgeport July 16, was a wonderful night of music. The Bodie Foundation would again like to thank our two performers, Dave Stamey and Professor Dave Bourne, for a



Stamey

Bourne

very enjoyable night under the stars. All proceeds from the concert went into the Bodie Preservation Fund.

The Preservation Fund paid for restoration and stabilization of Bodie's iconic water tower on the ridgeline east of town. The tower was toppled during a windstorm several years ago and is now restored in its original position.



The Bodie Railway water tower, toppled after a high wind storm, was rebuilt and restored (top photos). The tower is again a dominant feature on the ridgeline above town (bottom photo).

Foundation Calendar Makes Great Holiday Gift



Get 'em while they last. The 2012 Bodie Foundation calendar makes a great holiday gift. Hundreds were sold for \$12.99, but you can now purchase this beautiful calendar for just \$10 each. Order five or more and the price drops to \$9 each. Order 10 or more and the price is just \$8 each.

Supplies are limited to stock on hand, so don't delay.

All photographs featured in this quality calendar are from last spring's contest winners.

Along with the beautiful photograph, each month also includes information on a brief snippet of Bodie history.

Calendars can be ordered through the Bodie Foundation website at www.BodieFoundation.org. All orders are subject to shipping cost and California sales tax.

Thank you for supporting this wonderful slice of Americana through the purchase of these calendars.

Bodie Fun Fact Quiz

How many people were ever convicted of murder in Bodie?

- 0
- 5
- 18

• NO ONE KEPT COUNT

SEE PAGE 7 FOR THE ANSWER

BY TELEGRAPH.

A Comstock Miner Murdered in Bodie-- The Murderer Escapes.

BODIE, Jan. 14.

About 2 o'clock this morning Thos. Treloar, a miner, was assassinated by a Frenchman named James DeRoche. Treloar's wife was attending a ball, and he had ordered her not to dance with DeRoche. She did so, however, to his great annoyance. At the hour

Grover's New Visitor Center Open



Grover Hot Springs State Park now has its own visitor center operated by the Bodie Foundation. The center carries Grover-branded merchandise and is staffed by a seasonal employee during summer hours and by park staff during the winter.

GROVER, from page 1

encouraged with the results and was pleased it didn't take long for visitors and campers using the hot springs and campground to discover the new visitor center.

She also explained to me the learning process she and Virginia went through to select the merchandise. Terri has extensive knowledge of what types of things sell well at Bodie and was somewhat surprised how different the merchandise

selection needed to be at Grover. Books, postcards and clothing sell well at Bodie. At Grover, smaller, less expensive souvenir type items – especially items for kids – were the things that sold well.

The busy summer season has come and gone, but the visitor center remains open. Virginia is a seasonal employee, so we have an arrangement with the State Park to have one of their office staff, Linda Frost, watch over things for us during

this slower time of year.

Please stop by to see the visitor center when you visit Grover Hot Springs. Grover is about an hour drive north of Bridgeport into the beautiful Sierra Nevada mountains and about 25 miles south of Lake Tahoe. The park is just outside the little town of Markleeville. Highway 89 goes right through Markleeville, then take Hot Springs Road out of town to Grover Hot Springs State Park.

Mono Lake Tufa Reserve to Remain Open

MONO, from page 1

said Matt Green, acting district superintendent for the California State Parks Sierra District. "Through their fund raising efforts and their excellent cadre of park volunteers, they have come forward to maintain public access and enjoyment for

a majestic body of water that is one of the oldest lakes in North America."

Mono Lake will remain open to the public under the management of California State Parks and will continue to strengthen existing relationships

with its many partners, including the Friends of Mono Lake chapter of The Bodie Foundation.

"Our Foundation membership felt strongly that we could not stand by and not help State Parks in their time

Foundation News

FOUNDATION, from page 2

This ongoing project will continue next summer. On your next trip to Bodie, visit the cemetery and see the nice work being done there by Donna and her team.

Volunteer training

Chris Spiller, Senior Park aide at Bodie, held the fall class of 2011 last September for three new volunteers. A follow-up class will be held in May, 2012. Anyone interested in volunteering at the park should contact Chris at cspiller@parks.ca.gov. Volunteering at Bodie is a wonderful way to share your enjoyment of the park with others.

Job Opening for Business Manager

Terri Geissinger, the Bodie Foundation Business Manager, has turned in her resignation effective April 30, 2012. She and her husband Mitch are relocating to Montana.

Shortly, we will begin a search for a new business manager to replace her. Interested parties should watch for this job posting to appear on our website at www.BodieFoundation.org, along with the job description/duties. Candidate needs to be available to live and work in the greater Bridgeport area. The Foundation office is located onsite at Bodie State Historic Park.

of need," said Brad Sturdivant, Bodie Foundation president. "This will be a challenge, and we are hoping for donations to ease the burden, but we are very pleased to be working to keep this historic and natural wonder open for public enjoyment."

Bodie Fun Fact Quiz

FROM PAGE 5

How many people were ever convicted of murder in Bodie?

Answer: 0

Bodie was certainly a wild and rowdy town during its boom years. Many people were killed in various violent acts, most of them fueled by liquor.

Most notable was the murder of Thomas Treloar by Joseph DeRoche. DeRoach was never formally convicted of murder since he was eventually hanged by the Bodie 601, a vigilante group, before he ever went to trial.

LYNCHING IN BODIE:

The Hanging of De la Roche by Vigilantes—The Victim Receives the Benefit of an Informal Trial.

Says the Carson Tribune of yesterday: "Word was received here to-day that the Bodie Vigilantes had captured and hung De la Roche, the murderer of Treloar. The particulars, so far as we can learn, are that a pursuing party of the vigilance committee followed a scent to a place called Smith's Dump, distant about ten miles from Bodie. The vigilantes interviewed two French Canadians re-

Even though a common phrase in the newspaper was "Have we a man for breakfast?" – meaning was anyone killed last night in a bar brawl or other violent means – the answer is zero.

Various scenarios created this unusual fact. The murderer skipped town and was never caught; the living participant of a fight would be found innocent due to self-defense; both participants ended up dying; or, as one newspaper so eloquently put it: "...a jury of twelve sober men just couldn't be found."

Non-profits Fill Parks Funding Gaps

PARKS, from page 1

it has become apparent to me that many people do not realize that our parks are a government subsidized benefit. The fees paid by visitors do not fully cover the operating costs. Fees cannot be increased to bridge the gap because they would become unreasonably high, nor is privatization a viable solution.

The path to return California State Parks to a fiscally stable condition is not entirely clear. Based on the current economic health of California, it appears that State Parks will not see the lost funding restored in the foreseeable future.

California State Parks Director Ruth Coleman and her senior management staff are researching and pursuing alternate sources of funding that would reduce State Parks dependence on the state's general fund.

Support from non-profits like the Bodie Foundation and more broadly, the California

State Parks Foundation, is making a difference. That role may be expanding in the near future. On October 4, legislative bill AB 42, sponsored by the State Parks Foundation, was signed by Governor Brown. Introduced by Assembly member Jared Huffman (D – San Rafael), the measure takes effect January 1, 2012.

It provides authority to California State Parks to enter into operating agreements with non profits to operate all or part of a State Park.

I am repeatedly impressed by so many of the State Park employees, both in the field and in management. They are working very hard under impossible conditions to keep our parks operating satisfactorily, serving their visitors and protecting their resources.

It may not be possible to emerge unscathed, but by working together, perhaps we can steer California State Parks through the bad times as well as learn some lessons along the way to help us in future endeavors.



Jeanne Sisson, pictured with her horse Talus, is the acting Sector Superintendent for the Alpine Mono Sector which includes Bodie, Grover Hot Springs and Mono Lake.

Bodie Open All Year



Bodie is open year round, but the road closes to vehicles because of snow in the winter. Winter hours are 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. or as posted.

Osprey, Canada Geese Share Nests

OSPREY, from page 2

Nelson, and creative scheduling we were able to band five of the six osprey nestlings.

Use of the osprey nests by Canada geese has continued, but we found evidence that it has not completely deterred osprey use. One of the nests in which we banded an osprey nestling also contained an unhatched goose egg.

To help this important long-term monitoring project continue, you can contribute directly to the project by clicking donate under "Support our

Osprey Conservation Efforts" on the Friends of Mono Lake Reserve website. This project is

funded entirely through private donations and grants.



Chart showing average osprey young fledged per active nest at Mono Lake Tufa SNR from 2004-2011 (year:young fledged).



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I believe Bodie has a future, and I want to be a part of it!
 Join online at www.BodieFoundation.org, or fill out and return this form:

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