

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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HistoriCorps Group Works on Railroad Office

By Brad Sturdivant
BF Executive Director

Another year is blowing past us as if we were standing still or, maybe some of us are just moving slower and life is doing what it does.

Last spring, State Parks and Bodie Foundation began discussing project work with a 501 (c) (3) nonprofit organization, called HistoriCorps, dedicated to preserving our country's past by providing a work force of volunteers. Our main topic of discussion in Bodie was the Railroad Office Project. You may recall the Bodie Foundation began raising funds for this project back in 2012. Our goal was to raise \$150,000.00 to have a State Park crew work on the foundation. We reached that

goal, and exceeded it, in a very short period of time. Since then, a new roof was completed, and a soil survey had to be done in order to work on the foundation. New window frames were in a shipping crate awaiting installation. All we needed was a crew to do the work on the foundation.



A crew from HistoriCorps, a nonprofit organization that provides skilled volunteers to preserve historic structures on public lands, works at the Bodie Railroad Office in September. **Photo by Shayla Geissinger**

Please see HISTORICORPS page 6

Repairs from Earthquake Damage Underway at Bodie



Park Maintenance Assistant Eric Draper lines up a metal bar with threaded bolts to re-align the brick and mortar on this earthquake-damaged wall. **Photo by Katie Ogle**

Following the December 2016 earthquakes near Bodie, brick structures, buildings and chimneys suffered the most damage. There was also considerable damage to artifacts. The extent of the damage has not been completely surveyed at this point, but state workers spent most of 2017 starting the challenging work of repairing chimneys, walls and re-establishing water to the park after the quakes affected nearby springs.

The Bodie Foundation started an earthquake fund to help with repairs. To date, the Foundation has raised over \$8,000 and has sent a check to State Parks in the amount of \$6,000. Work has been completed on the J. S. Cain house chimney and the brick section of the Wheaton-Luhrs store, near the 1910 electrical substation section. The DeChambeau Hotel still has a big hole on the west side. We understand there will be a bid walk through this October with repairs to begin perhaps in Spring 2018. We are still asking for funds to help State Parks with the

Please see EARTHQUAKE page 6

Bodie Foundation Welcomes Four to Board of Trustees



Patti Hughes

Patti has lived in Southern California her entire life, but spent vacations for over 40 years in the Eastern Sierra. After leaving her job as a Flight Attendant for Alaska Air, she decided to follow her dream of living in this beautiful place. She has lived in Bridgeport for four years and works part-time at Hunewill Ranch. One of her favorite things to do is explore the Sierra Nevada on horseback. And she also enjoys visits to Bridgeport by her children and grandchildren. She looks forward to serving on the Board of Trustees.



Dan "Mac" McIntyre

Mac was born and raised in Southern California and was an Army Viet Nam Veteran (Combat Medic). He is a retired school teacher, having taught shop and photography classes for 30 years. He has been visiting Bodie since the late 1950s, and with his wife Carol, spent part of their honeymoon in Bodie back in 1972. Exploring mining ghost towns, especially Bodie, has been a part of their family life for many years and he is excited to be a part of the Foundation and its efforts.



Paul Friesen

A California native, Paul is an avid volunteer focused on preserving the Old West in his home state. He has spent the past decade exploring the Eastern Sierra on horseback and loves riding in Bodie and the surrounding region. He owns a construction management company and has spent the past 25+ years building commercial and non-profit structures around the globe.



Douglas Urbani

Doug retired in 2009 after 34 years as a State Trooper for the Nevada Highway Patrol and Investigator with the Nevada Department of Motor Vehicles. He and his wife enjoy spending time with their grandchildren. Doug is thankful for the opportunity and looks forward to serving on the Board of Trustees.

THE BODIE TIMES

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(760) 647-6564

Comments, stories and photographs are
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Chris@BodieFoundation.org

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News Briefs

2019 Calendar Contest Now Open for Entries

Calling all photographers! The 2019 Bodie Calendar Contest is now open for entries. The Bodie Foundation sponsors this competition which invites photographers to submit their favorite photos of Bodie.

Complete information and requirements are available at www.bodiecalendarcontest.com.

One change to contest requirements is all images must be submitted in JPG format. As in prior years, each photographer is limited to one winning entry and entries must be photographs of, and pertain to Bodie State Historic Park. There is a limit of five entries per photographer. Deadline for entries is January 21, 2018.

Bird Chautauqua A Success

The 16th Annual Mono Basin Bird Chautauqua was a smashing success, with 306 participants, 56 presenters, and 152 species of birds sighted, including a few rarities. Next year's Chautauqua dates are June 15-17, 2018 in Lee Vining, CA. and registration and information is available at www.birdchautauqua.org.

The Mono Basin Bird Chautauqua brings birders together to enhance appreciation and understanding of the Mono Basin's diverse and abundant bird life and to educate the public about this area's value to birds and people.

Give the Gift of Bodie

Christmas is coming and the Bodie Foundation has gifts to make the holidays merry and bright for lovers of Bodie.

Order your Bodie ornament now to have it on your tree in time for Christmas. This handsome wood ornament, featuring the church, is only \$10.95. The 2018 Bodie Calendar, with its beautiful photos of our ghost town, is only \$11.95, but supplies are limited.

There is also a special holiday

season sale on Bodie shot glasses. Only \$14.95 for a set of two, a savings of 25 percent!

Also consider ordering a Bodie Foundation membership for a friend or family member. The many membership benefits include early bird ticket sales and special pricing for events such as Ghost Walks and Photo Days.

To order, call 760-616-0559, or go to the website, BodieFoundation.org/store



Looking at the Numbers:

Members' Generous Contributions at Work

- Funds expended toward Department of Parks and Recreation either spent, or being spent: \$83,160.13 at Bodie which includes \$6,700 for Railroad Office soil survey and \$1,000 for bee removal.
- BF contributions to DPR since 2016: \$51,000 for stabilization, earthquake repairs, water treatment plant construction at Bodie. \$27,000 at Bodie for Visitor Services employees. \$5,000 for purchase of new equipment for the theater room at Bodie.
- \$12,000 spent at Mono Lake, via The Friends of Mono Lake TSNR for employees, exotic species removal, purchase of sales items, and the Mono Lake volunteer program.
- \$17,600 spent at Grover, via The Friends of Grover Hot Springs, for an interpreter.

Fishing at Mono Lake: A Fishy Story

By Duncan King
State Senior Park Aide

One of the frequent questions at Mono Lake is, "Are there any fish in the lake?" The standard answer is "No, the lake is too salty, and the water has a pH of around 10, way too alkaline even for a sea fish, and yes, someone did once try!"

Were there any fish in the lake 20,000 years ago during the time when the glaciers were carving the canyons in the Sierra and the lake was 800 feet deeper than today? Maybe. Then the lake was much less salty, very cold, and on a hot summer's day at South Tufa, I love to think of icebergs breaking off the glaciers in Lee Vining and Lundy Canyons and bobbing around hundreds of feet over our heads. If there were any fish in the lake then we have found no sign of them, although Mono was linked to Owens, Panamint, and Death Valley lakes, and isolated pockets of pupfish still exist in Owens and Death Valleys, so who knows.

But what about today? The lake is a lot lower and now averages only 50 feet in depth. During the recent five-year drought, it dropped a total of seven feet. The winter of 2016/17 produced a snowpack of 204% of average, a phenomenal amount which raised the creeks this summer to levels not seen in decades. The torrential runoff caused the creeks to overflow their banks and re-water channels which had been dry for ages. As of early September, the lake level has risen 4.4 feet and we have had to



Senior Park Aide Duncan King leads a South Tufa tour. **Photo By Chris Spiller**

move interpretive signs back up the beaches at South Tufa to keep them out of the rising waters, and relocate the visitor trail to keep it dry – work which was a pleasure to do after the drought.

In the third week of June, the Mono Basin Bird Chautauqua brings about 300 keen bird watchers to the fringes of the lake. On Saturday June 17, I was on the main beach at South Tufa when something at the edge of the water caught my eye. It was silvery and it twitched.

NO WAY! There are NO fish in Mono Lake!

But it was. A live trout weighing about one pound. I picked it up. It flapped once more in my hand, and then went still. My first thought was that a local was playing a joke and I must admit I looked

around to see if this was a candid camera moment. Then I wondered whether the fish had been caught in the torrent of water flowing down Rush Creek, been swept into the lake and got lost, ending up at South Tufa. But that didn't quite seem right because the creek delta was about two miles away. Finally, I turned the trout over in my hands and saw streaky marks on the side of the fish...yes...that must be it. One of our osprey, fish-eating birds that nest on the tufa towers in the lake and commute up to the freshwater lakes to fish, must have dropped it while carrying it in its talons. Maybe it was spooked by another bird. Bald eagles are known to attack osprey to steal their catch.

Five minutes later, I was carrying

Please see MONO page 7

Grover's New Interpreter Enjoys Busy Summer

By Carly Isaacson
State Park Interpretive Specialist

I am wrapping up my first season as a Park Interpretive Specialist for Grover Hot Springs State Park, and I must say that this park is truly a hidden gem! It is situated in a predominately Jeffrey Pine forest, with an understory of sagebrush and bitterbrush to remind you of the Great Basin ecosystem that lies just east of the park. We have a beautiful creek that runs through, providing visitors with waterfalls that are an easy hike.

Moving to the Sierra Nevada mountains after five years of living amongst the giant Coast Redwoods was a drastic change, but an awesome opportunity for me. I grew up in northern California and spent summers up in Lassen Volcanic National Park, and in the high desert of eastern Albuquerque and New Mexico. I also took various road trips throughout the west to visit National and State Parks. My career with California State Parks consists of two seasons as a Park Aide at North Coast Redwoods District. I attended Humboldt State University where I received my undergraduate degree in Recreation Administration. I've been an enthusiast of the outdoors for as long as I can remember, so this job is a great opportunity to share my enthusiasm and curiosity with visitors.

During my three-month season at Grover, I presented campfire programs with topics such as Stories of Women in the Sierras, Hot Springs of the Sierra Nevada, The Forest Within, and Story of the Donner Party. I designed three different nature walks. One focused on medicinal and edible plants of the Eastern Sierra and Great Basin area (my favorite program), another dealt with wildlife habitats and the last one focused on forest health. My two favorite Junior Ranger programs were Rattlesnakes and Butterflies. These were particularly fun because Linda Frost, the Office Technician at Grover, was extremely helpful in searching for Monarch butterfly caterpillars with me, so we ended up having two real life examples for the kids, which was a hit.

Aside from programs at the park, I traveled to South Lake Tahoe area twice to attend events. I participated at the Native Species Festival at the Taylor Creek Visitor Center, where Visitor Center Manager Mark Pupich

Please see GROVER page 7



Interpreter Carly Isaacson leads a program at Grover Hot Springs State Park. **Photo By Susan Isaacson**

Grover By the Numbers

Many visitors enjoyed interpretive programs at Grover Hot Springs State Park this past summer. Here's a breakdown of the attendance:

Campfire = 570

Nature walks = 209

Junior Ranger = 490

Miscellaneous programs = 264 (Smokey Bear, Linda Frost's Watercolor in Meadow, Night Sky guest presentations)

HISTORICORPS from page 1

State Park crews were either working on other projects or non-existent. However, Denise Jaffke, State Park Archeologist, presented a program on HistoriCorps to the Bodie Foundation Board of Trustees and Sierra District staff at our annual Foundation Retreat. We all agreed to contact HistoriCorps and invite them to Bodie to look at the Railroad Office Project.

Well, guess what we discovered on our trek up the hill? Earthquake damage to a brick chimney and a fireplace inside from the December 2016 earthquakes. That quickly became the primary focus, in addition to looking at the foundation to see what we were up against. By the end of July, HistoriCorps had put together a budget for a crew foreman, a crew leader, a volunteer work crew, along with materials, tools, and equipment. This came to \$30,160.13. This would be a State Parks project with Bodie Foundation funding. To make a long story short,

work began Sept. 12, 2017 starting with a work walk through and setting up a spike camp. This phase of the project finished Sept. 29, 2017.

What's next, you ask? The next phase, from my perspective, is beginning work on the office foundation in 2018. We hope this will happen during the summer as the crew endured some typical Bodie weather of bone-chilling winds with temperatures dropping into single digits. This will involve a sit-down with State Parks, Friends of the Bodie Railway, a 501 (c) (3) nonprofit, which is also helping with funding, HistoriCorps, and the Bodie Foundation.

As the west and east foundations were exposed, it was discovered that the sill was rotted, not unexpected, and will need to be replaced. There were other areas of the foundation exposed that required resetting of brick, rock, and grout work. Generally, in pretty good condition.

This is a major undertaking. We are grateful to see people

Please see HISTORICORPS page 10

EARTHQUAKE from page 1

damage caused by the earthquake. Send your checks to the Bodie Foundation Earthquake Fund by mail or online through PayPal.

Following one of the heaviest snowfall years on record in the Eastern Sierra, State Parks began major work on the Bodie Road and worked tirelessly to get water flowing into residences and restrooms. This meant a later than usual opening of Bodie to the public. By Memorial Day weekend, the park was open, but a boil order was issued for residents of Bodie. Later in the summer, a temporary water treatment plant was constructed to provide water for public and residential use.

In September, Sierra District sent a stabilization crew to Bodie to begin work on a new permanent water treatment plant and building stabilization. The Bodie Foundation provided an additional \$15,000 to these efforts.

Meanwhile, the small Bodie Maintenance crew worked on earthquake damage and related projects all summer long. Eric Draper, Park Maintenance Assistant at Bodie, said there were several projects completed. The first was repair of the J.S. Cain house's chimney. The earthquakes rotated the chimney seven degrees and it came loose from its base. "A couple more big shakes and the chimney could have come down," said Eric.

The crew, which included Eric, Maintenance Mechanic James Anthony and Skilled Laborer Paul Serna-Garcia, built a platform and clamped the chimney down with compression straps. They then put on an A-frame, lifted the chimney a couple of inches and put it back square. The



To repair the J.S. Cain house chimney, workers built a platform and clamped the chimney down with compression straps. They then put on an A-frame, lifted the chimney a couple of inches and put it back square. **Photo by Paul Serna-Garcia**

final touch was new mortar.

Another major project was the brick section of Wheaton-Luhrs store. The crew clamped the wall with metal bars which had threaded metal bolts screwed into plywood on the inside of the building. Workers wrenched the bolts down to re-align the brick and mortar. The crew then took the roof off on the south side and rebuilt the top end of the wall.

Other work this summer by the crew included chimney repair at the D.V. Cain and the Tom Miller houses.

J. Brad Sturdivant and Chris Spiller contributed to this article.

Newcomers at Grover



Joanne Oelherking and Richard Chambers started working for Friends of Grover Hot Springs at the Visitor Center in May. They have been residents of Markleeville since 2007. They feel very fortunate to work at the Visitor Center. "How could you ever have a bad day when you're surrounded by the beauty of Grover Hot Springs State Park?" said Joanne. They enjoy greeting guests and talking to them about their interests, and showing them the unique gifts for sale at the center.

MONO from page 4

the trout back up the boardwalk from the beach (getting quite a few strange looks from visitors) and met Lisa Fields, one of our State Parks Ornithologists. As luck would have it, she was leading a group of birders on a Chautauqua Osprey field trip, and we gathered around for the perfect teaching moment as Lisa demonstrated how the osprey clutch the fish in their talons when they are flying.

So now I don't tell people there are NEVER any fish in Mono Lake, but sometimes I tease visitors with the story and ask them how my trout might have arrived there.



GROVER from page 5

and I represented the park and Friends of Grover Hot Springs. We brought props such as our stuffed Rattlesnake and Coopers Hawk. In late July, I was invited by the Park Interpretive Specialist at Lake Sector, Sarinah Simons, to set up a booth to share information about Grover and Friends of Grover Hot Springs at the Tales and Trails Festival at Sugar Pine Point State Park.

I coordinated three Night Sky Presentations during the season. Two presentations were given by Paolo Nicosia and another was

given by Michelle Witte from Tahoe Institute for Natural Science. Forming these partnerships with neighboring parks, individuals, and nonprofits is incredibly important for creating diversity in the interpretive program calendar.

I faced a few challenges this season; most of them related to technology. We haven't had electricity at the campfire center all summer, so we had to use a generator. We also had to send our slide projector back and forth to Vermont to get it fixed. Despite these minor setbacks, I feel this season was very successful. The opportunity to expand our

interpretive programs would not have been possible without the help of the Bodie Foundation in funding this position, and I wouldn't have accomplished nearly as much without the help I received from park employees and local community members: Hillary Colyer, Adam Washam, Sherry and Dave Williamson, Linda Frost, Mark Pupich, and Josh Heitzmann. I'd also like to thank the staff at the Markleeville Library, Alpine County Museum, Alpine Historical Society, Chamber of Commerce, and State Parks volunteer Shawn Heneghan.

Bringing in W.S. Bodey's Bones at FOB Day

The 30th Anniversary of Friends of Bodie Day was celebrated August 12 with a re-enactment of W.S. Bodey's bones being brought into town after his grave was re-discovered in 1879. Musicians played "Amazing Grace" and banged the drum slowly as a hearse brought the bones to a stage where some of Bodie's "oldtimers" talked about the man and his gold discovery. State Park employees at the kiosk welcomed everyone to the park for this very busy and special day.



Members Enjoy Haunting Walk Through Cemetery



After a delicious dinner prepared by Ray Robles and his crew, Bodie Foundation members enjoyed their own private tour of the cemetery. Over 300 members participated in the tours presented by Bodie Foundation staff, State Park employees and volunteers. They learned about life in boom-town Bodie from a number of "ghosts" haunting the cemetery. Eerie music came from the hill where W.S. Bodey was buried as the tour groups walked amid the graves.



Bees in Our Bonnet!



During a walk-through of the Railroad Office Project with HistoriCorps crew members, a beehive was discovered in the east wall. The entry point was just below the chimney that was slated to be repaired. How did we discover the hive? The crew foreman, Doug, was stung on the head. We called the Mono County Department of Agriculture and they put us in touch with Chris Costello of Bishop. The following Monday, Sept. 18, Costello arrived and removed two combs from the Railroad Office and three combs from the Moyle House, where another hive was located. The bees were successfully removed unharmed. **Photo by Shayla Geissinger**

HISTORICORPS from page 6

from State Parks involved from Sierra District and Sacramento ready to help with additional window frames, grout work and lending their archeological and historical expertise and muscle as well.

If you wish to contribute your time, talent, and treasure to the Railroad Office Project, please contact the Bodie Foundation. Your help is greatly appreciated.

Cooperating Associations Meet

This 3rd annual meeting of cooperating associations in Sierra District was held in Bodie Sept. 29-30. Participants included: California State Parks, Bodie Foundation, Friends of North Bloomfield & Malakoff Diggins, Empire Mine Park Association, South Yuba River Park Association, Sierra State Parks Foundation, Plumas Eureka State Park Association, Friends of Grover Hot Springs, and Friends of Mono Lake Tufa State Natural Reserve.

The event started on September 29 with a two-hour Bodie Foundation Board of Trustees meeting with State Parks. After that, there was a two-hour

tour of Bodie led by Norm Stump and Brad Sturdivant. The tour included board members from the other associations, as well as Leslie Hartzell and Dan Osanna from State Parks Cultural Resources and Sierra District Superintendent Marilyn Linkem. We showed some recently-completed earthquake repairs and Norm also led a tour of the Standard Mill for the group.

September 30 began at 9 a.m. in the Red Barn theater room. Matt Green, Chief Ranger, Sierra District, discussed

the goal of these meetings was to provide an open forum with State Parks and to further develop our partnerships.

The afternoon began with a trek to the Railroad Office to discuss HistoriCorps and the work completed. Christine Jaromay, of the Chief Partnerships Office and Paige Rogowski, of the Cooperating Associations Program, along with Hartnell and Osanna, all provided a rundown of what their positions with State Parks involved. Afterwards, there was a wrap-up session, led by Randy Widera with Blue Oak Consulting.

Coming up next for the Bodie Foundation:

November 2017 – Annual Finance Committee meeting and preparation for Annual Retreat.

January 2018 – Annual Board Retreat with first look at budgets for 2018. We will also be looking at bringing on new board members.

Our thanks to all of you who have supported the Bodie Foundation and State Parks over these many years. We look forward to seeing you in 2018 and beyond. Remember;

We are “Protecting Bodie’s Future By Preserving Its Past.”



Sierra District Cooperating Association members and State Park personnel pose for a photo at the Railroad Office in Bodie during their 3rd Annual Meeting with State Park partners Sept. 29-30. **Photo by Randy Widera**

Dave Stamey Headlines Bodie Benefit Concert



Despite unseasonably cold weather, a large crowd showed up in force for the Bodie Benefit Concert June 10 at the Bridgeport Ranch Barn and Terrace in Bridgeport. Concert-goers enjoyed delicious food prepared by Ray Robles and crew, and beautiful views of the Sierra Nevada and nearby ranches. Cowboy Entertainer Dave

Stamey (holding guitar), and Jon and Betsy Elliott, local favorites, performed for the appreciative crowd. Master of Ceremonies, Larry Maurice (in blue vest) kept everything moving along. Thanks to all the performers and those attending for their support of the Bodie Foundation.

Photos by Chris Spiller



Bodie Foundation
PO Box 278
Bridgeport, CA 93517
(760) 647-6564

BodieFoundation.org
info@bodiefoundation.org



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