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MAGAZINE

August 2000

INSIDE:

NEVADA NV2000 Making Millennium Magic

MILLENNIUM Countdown Calendar



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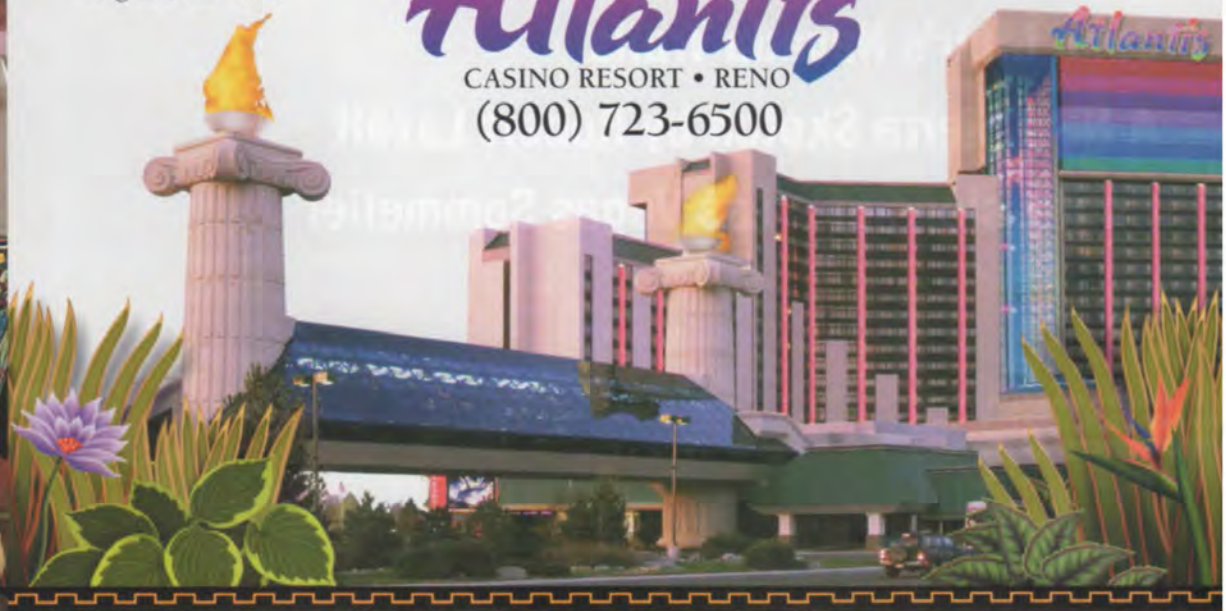
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NEVADA

MAGAZINE • VOL. 60 • NO. 4 • JULY/AUGUST 2000

"In fruitful seasons like this one, the pine-nut crop of Nevada is, perhaps, greater than the entire wheat crop of California." —John Muir, 1878



On the Cover:
A parasailer rides above Lake Tahoe near the Hyatt beach at Incline Village.

Photo by Lonnie Peck, Reno News Bureau

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Nevada (ISSN 0199-1248) is published bimonthly by the State of Nevada at 401 N. Carson St., Suite 100, Carson City, NV 89701-4291.

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Subscriptions are $16.95 per year ($22.95 foreign). Second-class postage paid at Carson City, NV, and additional mailing office. **Postmaster:** Send address changes to Nevada Magazine Subscriptions, P.O. Box 726, Mount Morris, IL 61054-7652.

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NEVADA MAGAZINE Is Bimonthly

NEVADA MAGAZINE is published six times per year. Issues are Jan/Feb, March/April, May/June, July/August, Sept/Oct, and Nov/Dec. The second month is indicated on the cover. Subscribers should receive their issue by the first week of the first issue month (e.g.: the Sept/Oct issue by the first week in September).



Where to Buy NEVADA MAGAZINE

The magazine is available on newsstands and in gift shops throughout Nevada. To order issues by mail call the magazine, 775-687-5890, and ask for single copy sales.

Mailing Lists

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NEVADA MAGAZINE

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(775) 687-5416 • Fax (775) 687-6159
e-mail: editor@nevadamagazine.com
Web site: www.nevadamagazine.com

Subscriptions and Customer Service:
Call toll-free 1-800-495-3281

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Nevada Magazine is a division of the Nevada Commission on Tourism

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Submissions: Nevada Magazine assumes no responsibility for damage or loss of material submitted for publication. A stamped self-addressed envelope must be included.

Subscriptions/Customer Service: Write to Nevada Magazine Subscriptions, P.O. Box 726, Mount Morris, IL 61054-7652, or call **1-800-495-3281**. Please allow at least six weeks for subscription fulfillment or change of address. Nevada Magazine is published bimonthly. Subscriptions are $16.95 per year. Add $6.00 per year for foreign and Canadian.

Requests to be removed from mailing list sales can be sent to Nevada Magazine Mailing List, 401 N. Carson St., Suite 100, Carson City, NV 89701-4291.

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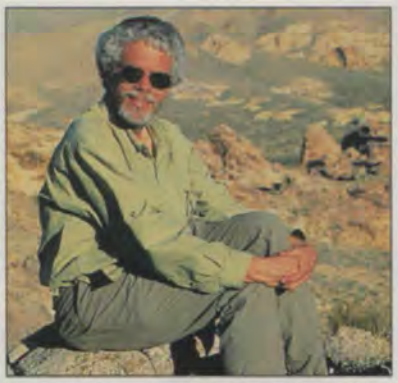
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Printed in U.S.A.

Editor's Note

A Well Traveled Writer

It was a snowstorm that caused writer-photographer **Richard A. Lovett** to fall in love with Nevada. While moving from Minnesota to Sacramento in 1986, Richard was stopped by an unusual thunder snowstorm as he reached the Nevada-Utah border on U.S. 50. The next morning he limped into the Silver State and saw that the snow had melted in the valleys, leaving the white stuff clinging to the tops of the mountains and dominating his view of the landscape.



Richard A. Lovett meditates in the Muddy Mountains near Valley of Fire.

"It was incredible," says Richard, who now resides in Portland, Oregon. "It reminded me of Alaska. It was this vast spread of land like Alaska, where you're able to see forever. And the skies, the loneliness. Nevada is vast stretches of just me and snowcapped mountains. It's just a joyous place to be."

Nevada's lonely roads and unpredictable nature continue to draw Richard to the Silver State, as you'll notice in this issue's "In Search of Duffer Peak." Richard, who considers himself a "Nevada junkie," has cycled across U.S. 50 (see "Range Riders, July/August '94) and hiked many of the state's mountain ranges (see "The Trail to Liberty," Sept/Oct '98). He constantly scours maps and guidebooks for new adventures—and sometimes misadventures, such as his Duffer Peak trek. "I have a friend who asks, 'How do you find these places?'" says the well-traveled travel writer. "The truth is, I've always been fascinated by maps." His fascination began as a youngster, when he researched and memorized the 50 states' highest elevations. "I was always into the geography of the world."

A full-time writer, Richard, 46, has a degree in astrophysics as well as a law degree and a Ph. D in economics. "I think that makes me a good generalist," says the Illinois native. An avid bicyclist, backpacker, and marathoner, Richard spends 10 to 12 weeks on the road each year. His diverse list of freelance clients includes *Travel & Leisure*, *Backpacker*, *Science*, *Sierra*, *The Economist*, and *Runner's World*. He's the author of several books, including a second edition of *The Essential Touring Cyclist*, which is due out this fall from McGraw-Hill. But whatever he's writing, he often can be found daydreaming about Nevada.

"One of my favorite ways to spend the night," Richard says wistfully, "is in the Great Basin Desert, on a tarp on the ground, in a sleeping bag under the stars."—*Carolyn Graham*

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Photo: Lori Nagel

Letters

The Mapes, Liberace, and other legends.

Liberace Late Show

"High Notes," Kim Pryor's story in March/April about Nevada entertainment highlights, stated that Liberace first performed in Las Vegas in the early 1950s. This is incorrect. We lived in Las Vegas in 1944, and my parents treated me to a night out on the Strip—dinner at the El Rancho Vegas, late show at the Last Frontier (the only hotels on the Strip then)—on my 17th birthday. During the show the waiter alerted Mr. Liberace that it was my birthday. Being the great showman he was, Liberace had the spotlight turned on our table and wished me a happy birthday. So you see, Liberace appeared in Las Vegas long before the 1950s.

Jean Carle
Pahrump



Liberace and Elvis: Early Las Vegas crooners.

A Big Bang Theory

I thoroughly enjoyed "The Big Bang Theory" in May/June about the Nevada hotels that once were and are now no more. What hit home is that I worked at two of the hotels. I worked at the Landmark while in high school and at the Mapes while attending the University of Nevada, Reno in 1974. I recall when Robert Altman filmed *California Split* starring George Segal and Elliott Gould at the Mapes, and the Sky Room was converted to look like a casino. In Las Vegas I worked at the Bonanza, which was torn down to make way for the MGM (now Bally's) on the Strip. I also worked at the Tropicana, which still stands. I'm three for four so far.

I enjoy reading *Nevada Magazine*. My friends and family have yet to figure out how I keep abreast of all the changes going on back home. I often know more than they do.

Gregory Hall
Little Rock, AR

Memorable Run at the Mapes

My memories of Reno's Mapes Hotel were stirred when I read "The Long Goodbye" by Richard Moreno in May/June. I remember walking into the Mapes shortly after midnight one Sunday in 1957 to find several onlookers standing around a 21 table. The late Bill Fong, who owned the New China Club, was playing the maximum ($500) on every hand. Fong was on a hot streak, and the dealers rotated continuously in an effort to break it. Some dealers seemed a bit intimidated as they let the cards slip out of their hands while shuffling. As he nonchalantly stacked his chips in a neat row, Fong would quip, "Don't get shook now—it's only chips!"

When I was introduced to Fong a few months later, I reminded him of that night at the Mapes. He told me he won just over $37,000 on that occasion. Fong added that one must keep in mind that luck runs both ways, and that he was well acquainted with each of them.

Jim Hulgan
Banning, CA

Man of Magic

Regarding the letter from Peter Thomsen in March/April 2000 about the singing magician at the Flamingo in Las Vegas: The young man's name is Darren Robert Romeo. His mother named him for Bobby Darin. He has a good afternoon show, "Voice of Magic." He has a pleasant voice and does good, if standard, illusions. The Flamingo offers lots of coupons to the show. I suggest readers check Romeo out. He is on the way up.

Larry P. Schiller
Fresno, CA



Photo: Las Vegas News Bureau

NEVADA MAGAZINE

Announces

The Great Nevada Picture Hunt

23rd annual photo contest

Show the judges your personal photographic view of the people and places of Nevada and you will have the chance to win:

Cash prizes • A role in the Great Nevada Picture Hunt's traveling exhibit • The chance to be published in *Nevada Magazine* and the *Nevada Visitors' Guide*

All sorts of subjects are welcome: people, ghost towns, special events, scenic landscapes, hotel-casinos, city life, rural life, water sports, and wildlife. The judges will be looking for the whole range of the Nevada experience.

Each photographer can enter up to seven photos in the Great Nevada Picture Hunt. There is no charge to enter, and the contest is open to all photographers, amateur and professional. Just be sure to send your photo-entries postmarked by August 7, 2000. Good luck!



R.A. Griffiths of Las Vegas took first place last year with his transparency "Black Rock Desert, End of the Line."

The prizes: Great Nevada Picture Hunt cash prizes will be awarded to the top five winners: $200 for first place, $100 for second, $75 for third, $50 for fourth, and $25 for fifth. Additional winners will receive the 2001 Nevada Historical Calendar.

CONTEST RULES

Photos: All photos must be unpublished and taken in Nevada. (Photos previously printed in local newspapers are eligible.)
Deadline: Postmarked by August 7, 2000.
Entry Form: The entry form in *Nevada Magazine's* July/Aug issue must be filled out, signed, and included with photos. All entries must be mailed in. Drop-offs will not be accepted at the office.
How Many Photos: You can enter any combination of black-and-white prints, color prints, and color slides, for a maximum total of seven.
Labeling: Your name and address must be on the back of each print and on each slide, along with title, location, and description.
Color Photos: Color prints must be 8"x10" to 11"x14" unmounted. Transparencies must be 35mm slides or larger. If possible, please present slides in plastic sleeves (no metal or glass holders).
Black-and-White Photos: Prints must be 8"x10" to 11"x14" unmounted.
Packaging: The smaller and simpler, the better. Maximum envelope size should be 12"x16". Only one photographer with up to seven photos per package.
For Return: You must enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope with your entry to ensure your photos' safe return. (No pickups at the office.)
Judging: Entries will be judged by a panel of experienced photographers and magazine staff.
Permission: Contestants grant *Nevada Magazine* permission to print winning entries in the Nov/Dec 2000 issue, and, if applicable, the Nevada Commission on Tourism permission to print the Tourism Award winner in the next year's state visitors' guide. Contestants also give *Nevada Magazine* permission to make reproductions of winning entries for a traveling art show, Web site display, and Great Nevada Picture Hunt slide-show presentations.

Entry Form: 23nd Annual GNPH – Deadline: August 7, 2000

Number of Photos Entered

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Total Number (Up to 7) _____

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Address _____ **Daytime Phone** _____

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Social Security # _____

Signature _____

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Send this form with entries to: Great Nevada Picture Hunt, ***Nevada Magazine***, 401 N. Carson St., Suite 100, Carson City, NV 89701. *Please be advised, although we take great care to return your photos in the condition in which we received them, Nevada Magazine assumes no responsibility for damaged or lost material submitted.*



Roadside Attractions

Golf at the Reno Hilton, Speed at the Sahara, and biking Mount Charleston.

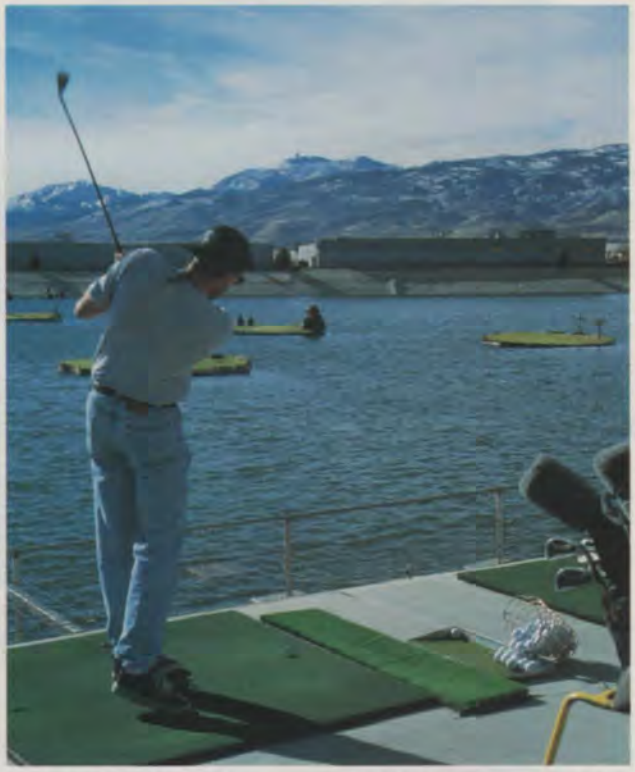
Summer Swings

RENO—Visitors to the **Reno Hilton** will find two new attractions this summer: the Ultimate Rush Miniature Golf Course and the Ultimate Rush Go-Cart Center.

The 18-hole miniature golf course is located under the popular Ultimate Rush ride, which means miniature golfers get a good view of thrill seekers plunging toward the ground at 65 mph. In contrast to the high-adrenaline ride, the miniature golf course offers a serene setting with waterfalls, ponds, and trees. The cost is $5 per person. The course is open daily in summer and weekends in winter.

Opening in July, the Ultimate Rush Go-Cart Center offers vehicles that resemble miniature Porsche and Mercedes-Benz race cars. The go-carts can go 25 mph, so a driver must be a high school student or older to ride the regular track ($5) and have a valid driver's license for the fast track ($6). Bring your I.D. Credit cards are accepted. Call 775-786-7005 or visit www.theultimaterush.com.

Another attraction for golfers, the Hilton Bay Aqua Range, looks over the hotel's reservoir. Golfers hit to four large, floating islands 100 to 200 yards away; a hole-in-one at 200 yards wins a trip for two to Hawaii. Thirteen lucky golfers have won the trip since the golf range opened in 1989. Professional golf instructors are on site. The Hilton Bay Aqua Range is open daily from 10 a.m. to midnight. Cost is $7 for 90 balls and $4 for 45 balls; club rental is $2 or $3 for three clubs. Credit cards are accepted. Call 775-786-6699 for information.—*Shannon Montana*



Golfers can practice their approach shots at the Reno Hilton, which has aqua golf (above) and a new miniature golf course and go-cart track.

Canoe Views of Washoe

WASHOE VALLEY—Nature enthusiasts can migrate to **Washoe Lake State Park** for a series of wetland canoe-kayak tours this summer. Tours will visit the Scripps Wetland Area near Washoe Lake, five miles north of Carson City on U.S. 395. The lake is used by many birds and animals for migration, breeding, and raising their young.

Rangers Jay Howard, Hank Eilers, and Jim Black worked with Jim Eidel, local-chapter president of the National Audubon Society, to create canoe-kayak tours. "We design the trips to bring people into the fragile wetland areas in a very low-impact manner," Howard says.

Kayakers should bring field glasses for the best views of migratory birds. Shore birds like the white-faced ibis, snowy and great egrets, great blue heron, and black crown night heron are often spotted. The area also hosts bald eagles, golden eagles, marsh hawks, osprey, and other birds of prey.

Washoe Lake's other inhabitants include mule deer, muskrat, coyote, beaver, cottontails, and jackrabbits. Anglers will find channel and yellow bullhead catfish and Sacramento perch and bass.

Canoe tours are scheduled for Saturdays July 8 and 22, August 12 and 26, and September 9; departure time is 10 a.m. The relaxing three-hour trips are on flat water but the first 10 minutes of paddling can be strenuous in high winds. Bring your own canoe or kayak and life jackets. Children should be accompanied by an adult. Bring a lunch, field glasses, sunscreen, and water. Call 775-687-4319 or e-mail Hank Eilers at wlsp @prodigy.net.—*Shannon Montana*

New Heights At Tahoe

LAKE TAHOE—Lake-goers can reach new heights at Tahoe this summer on a parasailing tour. Several companies around the lake offer parasailing rides in which passengers can take off and land from the deck of a boat without getting wet. Even tuxedoed passengers have gone up for a ride. Crew members hook you up to a parachute and reel you out on a hydraulic cable. Once you are up and flying, you can enjoy bird's-eye lake views from as high as 1,200 feet.

Tammy Hassett of Action Watersports says, "A lot of our passengers say that it's as close to flying like a bird as they've found with any sport." She adds that the



Nature lovers prepare to explore Washoe Lake on one of the state park's guided canoe-kayak excursions.

Photos: Shannon Montana

rides are popular with all ages in the summer.

Captain Kirk's at Zephyr Cove will take you to 1,200 feet with an early-bird special for $40 at 9 a.m. or 10 a.m., $45 at 11 a.m. or 12 p.m., and $50 from 1 p.m. until 5 p.m.; major credit cards accepted. Call 775-588-3530. **Action Watersports** is located in South Lake Tahoe behind the Timber Cove Lodge. Cost is $48 for the 600-foot flight and $80 to reach 1,200 feet. Open 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Visa and MC accepted. Web site is www.action-watersports.com. Call 530-544-2942. Action Watersports also has a summer operation at the Hyatt beach in Incline Village; call 775-831-4386. Parasailers will find **Ski Run Boat Company** on Ski Run Boulevard in South Lake Tahoe. Cost is $48.50 for the 400-foot flight, $58.50 for 800 feet, and $73.50 for the 1,200-foot flight. Open 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.; major credit cards are accepted. Web site is www.tahoe-sports.com. Call 530-544-0200.



Bob Hassett (left) of Action Watersports offers parasailing rides at Incline's Hyatt.

Rides last 10 minutes, so plan on being out on the lake for an hour with a full boat of six passengers. Parasailing is a handicap-accessible sport, and no special skills or gear are needed. Companies operate daily spring through Labor Day, with limited hours thereafter.—*Shannon Montana*

Pioneer Museum

DAYTON—The **Dayton Historic Society Museum** helps visitors imagine the often harsh times that early residents endured in their search for gold and silver. It also tells the story of the Dayton Valley's first ranchers, who used water from the Carson River to irrigate their lands.

The museum itself recalls the old days. It's housed in Dayton's original stone schoolhouse, built in 1865.

Many of Nevada's premier events occurred in Dayton, including the discovery of gold in 1849. Among the museum's rare mining artifacts are original wooden ore buckets hefted by a double windlass, miners' lanterns, assayers' tools, and a double-jack hand drill. A display of Native American arrowheads and tools fills an entire wall. Washoe and

Traveler's Advisories

Surf's Up While surfing Southern Nevada sites, you can check out **www.hooverdam.com**, which has visitor tips as well as intriguing facts and a comprehensive history about the dam. On the home page you'll find bulletins regarding traffic over the dam and other notices. You can scope out fees, maps, and the current temperature in Boulder City. The Story of Hoover Dam section has several stories, including "The Grand Dam" by Julian Rhinehart (see *Nevada*, Sept/Oct '95), which explores the architecture of the dam. This section features essays by dam guides as well as a list of movies, TV shows, and commercials filmed at the dam.



Reno's Atlantis allows "real time" reservations.

The Atlantis Resort in Reno, **www.AtlantisCasino.com**, allows guests to make reservations in "real time." You simply select your dates based on the site's calendar, which shows rates and sold-out dates. Real-time reservations offer tower room rates. If you choose to make an e-mail reservation, you can select other room options and take advantage of special Internet discounts.

Motorhead Alert Whether it's on two wheels or four wheels, paved track or salt flat, a variety of racing action awaits visitors to the Silver State. One of the best ways to track down the speedsters is through the new brochure, ***Nevada: America's Motorsports Mecca***, published by the Nevada Commission on Tourism and the Bureau of Land Management. The color brochure lists Nevada's 14 raceways, from the Las Vegas Motor Speedway to the Rattlesnake Raceway in Fallon, as well as motorsports associations, such as SNORE (Southern Nevada Off Road Enthusiasts). If you want to hone your skills, there's a list of Nevada's driving schools, such as the Richard Petty Driving Experience at the Las Vegas Motor Speedway. There's also a rundown on the year's racing events and motorsports museums. For a free copy, call NCOT at 800-237-0774 or visit www.travelnevada.com/activities/motorsports.



Open Sesame Sultans of slots, dust off the magic carpets—Las Vegas' newest megaresort, the **Aladdin**, is opening mid-August. The 2,600-room Aladdin has been resurrected from the ashes of the old Aladdin, the venerable Strip casino that was imploded in April 1998. Genies will feel right at home in the new Aladdin, which takes the Arabian Nights theme to the extreme with such touches as a garden wall and a 36-foot magic lamp on the casino floor. Visitors will find such amenities as 21 restaurants, the 130-shop Desert Passage mall, and the 7,000-seat Theater of the Performing Arts.

Moving Van Gogh Thou art on the move: The **Bellagio Gallery of Fine Art**, the first art gallery of its kind in a hotel-casino, has closed, following the sale of Mirage Resorts, the Bellagio's parent company, to the MGM Grand. Former Mirage Resorts CEO Steve Wynn had amassed a $400-million collection that included works by Jackson Pollock, Van Gogh, and Renoir among others. Some pieces are likely to reappear inside the Desert Inn, which Wynn is acquiring. At the Bellagio, the collection may be replaced with traveling art exhibitions.

Photo: Lonnie Peck/Reno News Bureau



Under the watchful eye of Grace Ricci and other volunteers, the Dayton Historic Society Museum is dressed up with displays of pioneer life. Dayton was founded by Gold Canyon miners in 1851.

Paiute basketry complete the display.

Dayton, 12 miles east of Carson City, was once called Chinatown and boasted a thriving Chinese population. Intriguing items left by Chinese immigrants include a white work shirt, its brass closures still intact, that local excavators found under a building in town. "This could be the oldest garment of its kind ever found in Nevada. It dates from the early 1860s," says Jan Loverin, an expert on textiles and clothing at the Nevada State Museum. "The wearer of the shirt was maintaining his cultural identity. It is made of American fabric but styled in the traditional Chinese style."

The Pony Express and Emigrant trails passed through Dayton in the mid-1800s. Residents were served by the Carson and Colorado Railroad and its successors from 1881 to 1934. The museum displays historic photos and maps that remind us of those superhighways of the past.

The Dayton Historic Society Museum is located two blocks north of old downtown Dayton via Pike Street or Shady Lane. The historic walking tour of Dayton begins at the museum, and brochures are available. The museum is open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday and 1 to 4 p.m. Sunday. There is no phone but you can contact Laura Tenant at 775-246-3256 for more information.—*Shannon Montana*

History in the Schoolhouse

CALIENTE—Visitors looking for history lessons can visit the one-room schoolhouse in **Elgin**, 21 miles south of Caliente in Rainbow Canyon. The building was used as a grade school from 1922 to 1968, when the area's last grade-school age child started high school in Panaca. In May the renovated schoolhouse was opened for the first time in 32 years as a living-history museum.

Elgin dates back to the early 1900s when the Salt Lake, San Pedro, and Los Angeles Railroad (now the Union Pacific) helped create the town of Caliente at the north end of Rainbow Canyon. Elgin was one of the railroad's larger sidings and had a small depot in addition to company homes.

The Elgin schoolhouse was built in 1922 to serve the small community of ranchers and railroad workers and their families. James W. Bradshaw, who homesteaded in the area, donated seven acres of land for the school, and his son Reuben built the wood-frame structure for $3,300 in lumber and labor. Two years later, an addition was built on the back to provide quarters for the teacher.

The Bradshaw family has been involved in the renovation of the schoolhouse, which will be furnished and will feature its original playground equipment, chalkboards, and bookcases. Unfortunately, the outhouse was too far gone to salvage, but a new one was built using boards from the school.

Volunteers open the Elgin living-history schoolhouse museum on weekends and for special tours year-round. A caretaker lives on the premises. For more information on the Elgin schoolhouse call Lynn Wood, 775-726-3787, or write Box 266, Caliente, NV 89008.—*Barbara Rohde*

Biking Charleston

LAS VEGAS—A quick, cool excursion to **Mount Charleston**, 40 miles northwest of Las Vegas, offers a breath of mountain air during Las Vegas' hot summer days. One of the best ways to enjoy the scenery is atop a mountain bike.

Mountain Bike Adventures, based at Red Rock Canyon, offers visitors the chance to explore Southern Nevada's mountain terrain—with relatively little pedaling. Mountain bikers are shuttled up the mountain, where they hop on and coast down to the base. The scenery changes from tall, majestic pine forests to hilly, high desert to the flora and fauna of the low desert.



Good trails and roads lure mountain bikers from Las Vegas to the cool, alpine air of Mount Charleston in the summertime.

The mountain bikes are high-end models, such as Fisher and Santa Cruz, and include shocks on both rear and front tires for a smooth ride. Cost is $75 and includes transportation to and from your hotel, bicycle rental, helmet, gloves, water, hip-sack, and a tour guide. Call Mountain Bike



Students of history can study Elgin's 1920s one-room schoolhouse, which was renovated and recently opened as a living-history museum. The railroad stop of Elgin is located 21 miles south of Caliente.

Photos: Shannon Montana (top), Chris Leedham (center), Lynn Wood (bottom)

Adventures at 702-596-2953 or visit www.adventurewest.com for details.

Another option is to either rent or bring your own bike and ride along the Bristlecone Loop Trail, which offers scenic views of Lee Canyon and Mummy Mountain. Call the Las Vegas Ranger District, 702-873-8800, for trail maps and information.—*Elizabeth Nielsen*

On the Fast Track

LAS VEGAS—Speed, the new roller coaster at the **Sahara**, is aptly named. You buy your ticket, walk up the stairs, take a seat in one of the cars, pull down the restraint—and the next thing you know, you've been fired from a cannon. Speed employs newfangled electromagnetic "slingshot" technology to affect the fiercest acceleration you've ever felt (unless you've been launched into outer space). By the time you count to two, you're already breaking the speed limit on the Strip by 15 mph.



Speed, the new roller coaster at the Sahara in Las Vegas, employs a slingshot effect.

You also scream through a tunnel, do a 360-degree loop, climb straight up a 225-foot tower, and then repeat the whole itinerary backward (still facing front). The round trip takes 48 seconds flat. It's so fast that the song you were listening to in the loading area is on the next verse.

But it's definitely worth the $6. The roller coaster operates from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Sunday through Thursday and till midnight Friday and Saturday. Call 702-737-2735 for information.—*Deke Castleman*





Best of Nevada And The

By Richard Moreno

It's time again for *Nevada Magazine's* "Best of Nevada" readers' poll. Inquiring minds want to know: Will Wayne Newton be knocked from his pedestal as *Nevada* readers' favorite Southern Nevada entertainer? Will Lake Tahoe remain the top choice as best natural wonder? Is New York-New York's Manhattan Express Roller Coaster still the best thrill ride in the state?

This year's poll, our third annual, includes several new categories suggested by readers, such as best coffee shop, best new entertainer, and best slot club. So—drum roll, please—the following are the winners of *Nevada Magazine's* 2000 "Best of Nevada" readers' poll.



Lake Tahoe received buckets of votes as the best place to take the kids in Northern Nevada.

Best Entertainer

We might just as well call this category "Wayne's World." Perennial winner **Wayne Newton** not only gathered the most votes as Southern Nevada's best entertainer but also was voted the top performer in Northern Nevada. Newton, who appears at the Stardust in Las Vegas and occasionally at the Silver Legacy in Reno, was challenged in the south by impressionist Danny Gans, who performs at the Mirage in Las Vegas, and in the north by comedian Danny Marona, who frequently plays at the Atlantis in Reno. Neither, however, could topple the "Midnight Idol." Two-time Northern Nevada winner Bill Cosby dropped to third place this year.

Best New Entertainer

This brand-new category produced an extremely tight contest in Southern Nevada. The winner was former *Partridge Family* and "EFX" star **David Cassidy**, appearing in "David Cassidy at the Copa" at the Rio. Cassidy narrowly defeated singer-impressionist André-Philippe Gagnon, who performs in the C2K Showroom at the Venetian, and singer Clint Holmes, who can be seen at Harrah's Las Vegas. Best new entertainer in Northern Nevada was the crimson-domed comedian **Carrot Top**, who entertains audiences at Caesars Tahoe.



David Cassidy was named the south's best new entertainer for his Rio show.

Best Revue or Long Running Show

There was no contest in the voting for best revue or long-running show in Northern Nevada as the Irish dancers of the Eldorado's popular **"Spirit of the Dance"** easily stomped the competition. In the south, the voting was much closer with **"Folies Bergere,"** the French import that has entertained audiences at the Tropicana for more than 40 years, edging the Imperial Palace's "Legends in Concert" and last year's winners, Siegfried and Roy, who perform virtual miracles at the Mirage.

Best Hotel/Resort

For the second year in a row the **Rio Suite Hotel** was voted best hotel/resort in Las Vegas, narrowly edging Mandalay Bay and Bellagio. The count was even closer in Reno-Sparks, where three-time winner **Silver Legacy** tied with **John Ascuaga's Nugget**. At the lake, **Harrah's Lake Tahoe** was the clear favorite while its sister property, **Harrah's Laughlin**, was voted best hotel/resort in Laughlin. In Mesquite, **CasaBlanca** took top honors for the third straight year. In Carson City, the **Carson Nugget** outpointed the Piñon Plaza. For best hotel/resort in rural Nevada, the **Carson Valley Inn** in Minden squeaked by two-time winner **Cactus Petes** of Jackpot.



Readers voted Harrah's Lake Tahoe (above) the best hotel/resort at the lake.

Photo: Carolyn Fox (top)

Winners Are...

Readers name their favorite people, casinos, and attractions in *Nevada Magazine's* annual poll.



"Folies Bergere" earned nods as the top Las Vegas production.

Best Place to Gamble

In an extremely close vote, **Sam's Town** edged Binion's Horseshoe, a past winner, and Caesars Palace as best place to gamble in Las Vegas. The **Ramada Express** was the winner in Laughlin, and **CasaBlanca** won in Mesquite. In Reno-Sparks, **John Ascuaga's Nugget** overtook the Silver Legacy as the best place to gamble while at Lake Tahoe, **Harveys** won for the third year in a row. In Carson City, the **Carson Nugget** was an easy winner. The **Carson Valley Inn** in Minden was voted best rural place to gamble.

Friendliest Casino

In most cases, readers had a difficult time choosing their favorites in this category, resulting in a number of close votes. For instance, **Cactus Petes** in Jackpot and Minden's **Carson Valley Inn** tied for the title of friendliest casino in rural Nevada. At Tahoe, **Harveys** managed to outpoll Harrah's Lake Tahoe by a narrow margin, and in Laughlin the **Ramada Express** edged Harrah's Laughlin. In Reno-Sparks, **John Ascuaga's Nugget** won a close vote over the Silver Legacy. In Mesquite, the **CasaBlanca** drew a handful more votes than the Oasis. In Las Vegas, however, the **Rio** was the clear choice of readers, and the **Carson Nugget** was an easy winner in Carson City.

Best Slot Club

This was a new category in the "Best of Nevada" poll, and readers responded by voting for more than 50 different slot clubs. In the end, **Harrah's Total Gold Club** was named best slot club in Northern Nevada. **Harrah's Total Gold** also tied with the **Stardust's Slot Card Club** in Southern Nevada. Only one vote behind was the Orleans' Club Orleans. For best rural slot club, Laughlin's **Ramada Express Slot Club** was a slim winner over the Plateau Player's Club at Cactus Petes in Jackpot.

Best Thrill Ride

After two years at the top, New York-New York's Manhattan Express Roller Coaster was derailed by the **Stratosphere's Big Shot** and **High Roller** rides, which readers voted for in tandem, for bragging rights as Nevada's best thrill ride. Also making a strong showing was the Desperado Roller Coaster, which thrills riders at Buffalo Bill's in Primm.



The Emerald River Country Club scored well above par in Laughlin.

Best Wedding Chapel

This new category attracted considerable interest. In Northern Nevada, **Chapel of the Bells** in Reno eked by the Cal-Neva Resort at North Lake Tahoe. In the south, the **Viva Las Vegas Wedding Chapel**, which provides an Elvis impersonator for wedding ceremonies, narrowly outpointed Little Chapel of the Flowers.

Best Golf Course

There were a number of repeat winners in the best golf course category. For instance, for the third year in a row the **Desert Inn Golf Club** was voted best Las Vegas golf course. Also repeating was **Edgewood Tahoe** at Stateline. The **Emerald River Country Club**, which won last year, was the course of choice in Laughlin, while **Eagle Valley Golf Course** won top honors in Carson City. In Mesquite, the **CasaBlanca Golf Club** was the top vote getter. Readers voted the **Pahrump Executive Course** as the best links in rural Nevada. **ArrowCreek Golf Club**, with courses designed by Arnold Palmer

Photo: Sal Maimone (bottom)



As in past years, Lake Tahoe won multiple categories, including best natural wonder.

and Fuzzy Zoeller, was voted the best golf course in the Reno area.

Best Place to Take a Photo

It was all **Lake Tahoe** in the voting for best place to take a photo in Northern Nevada. In the southland, **Red Rock Canyon**, 18 miles west of Las Vegas, was a narrow winner over Valley of Fire for the second straight year. Shutterbugs wandering the rural areas of the state favored snapping photos of the historic sights of **Virginia City** by a narrow margin over the natural beauty of the Ruby Mountains and the Carson Valley.

Best Park

We may just have to retire this category. For the third year, **Lake Tahoe** washed away the competition in the voting for best park in Northern Nevada while **Great Basin National Park**, 70 miles east of Ely, three-peated as best park in rural Nevada. In Southern Nevada, readers chose **Valley of Fire State Park**, 60 miles northeast of Las Vegas, over last year's winner, Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area.

Best Place to Ski

Heavenly Ski Area at South Lake Tahoe was king of the hill as readers voted it Nevada's best place to ski for the third year in a row. With 27 lifts and a new mountain lodge, Heavenly easily outpolled its nearest competitors, Squaw Valley USA and Mount Rose.

Best Hiking Trail

The **Tahoe Rim Trail**, which follows the mountain ridges surrounding much of Lake Tahoe, received the most votes for best hiking trail. Other strong showings included Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area and Mount Charleston, both near Las Vegas.

Best Place to Fish

When it came to dropping a fishing line and kicking back to wait for the big ones to bite, **Lake Tahoe** was the number-one choice as best place to fish in Nevada. The second best fishing hole was Lake Mead, followed by Pyramid Lake and the Truckee River.

Best Natural Wonder

For the second year, **Lake Tahoe** was the overwhelming choice for best natural wonder in Nevada. Southern Nevada's Valley of Fire and Red Rock Canyon tied for second while the Grand Canyon, which is not in Nevada but has been adopted by many Las Vegas sightseeing companies, came in third. Bizarrely, man-made wonder Hoover Dam came in fourth.

Friendliest Town

In a repeat of last year's voting, **Las Vegas** edged Laughlin as Nevada's friendliest town. Readers felt that Reno, Carson City, and Virginia City were pretty darn friendly places as well.

Best Place to Camp

Readers suggested camping spots throughout the state, but when all the votes were counted, **Lake Tahoe** proved to be the top choice. Lake Mead, Mount Charleston, and the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest in Central Nevada also were strong vote getters. The most creative answer came from the reader who said his favorite place to camp was "in front of a slot machine."

Best Ghost Town

Readers love **Rhyolite**. The early-20th century mining town four miles west of Beatty was the prohibitive choice as best ghost town for the third year. In fact, if the number of folks who voted for Rhyolite lived there, it wouldn't be much of a ghost town.

Best Helicopter Tour Service

Sundance Helicopter, which offers tours of the Grand Canyon, the Las Vegas Strip, and the Pahrump Valley Winery, easily outdistanced its competitors in the vote for best helicopter tour company.

Best Reservation Service

Although one reader voted Pyramid Lake as best reservation, the actual winners were **Reservations Plus** and **Hotel Reservations Network**, which tied in the voting for best reservation service. Both companies offer discounted hotel rooms, sightseeing tours, wedding packages, and other travel-related services. Pyramid Lake, however, has better fishing.

Best Attraction

Readers gave a wide variety of responses in this category. Suggestions ranged from the Burning Man celebration in the Black Rock Desert to UFO enthusiast and former national radio talk-show host Art Bell of Pahrump. The winner was **Lake Tahoe**, which edged out Hoover Dam as the state's best attraction.

Best Place to Take Kids

Despite a strong showing by the carnival midway at Circus Circus in Reno, most readers voted **Lake Tahoe** as the best place to take kids in Northern Nevada. In Southern Nevada, the **Adventuredome** at Circus Circus in Las Vegas was the winner, slipping by the MGM Grand Adventure theme park and the Wet 'n Wild water park. In rural Nevada, the **Children's Museum of Northern Nevada** in



Readers viewed Rhyolite, with its picturesque ruins, the best ghost town.

Photos: William Carr (top), Carolyn Fox (bottom)



The Rio's Voodoo Lounge reached new heights as a night spot.

Best Night Spot

When it came to clubbing in the northern part of the state, **Nero's** at Caesars Tahoe was voted best night spot in Northern Nevada. The atmospheric **Voodoo Lounge**, perched atop the Rio Suite Hotel in Las Vegas, was the overwhelming favorite in Southern Nevada.

Best Place for a Romantic Evening

Soft music, fine dining, and a spectacular view of the Las Vegas Valley added up to a winning formula for the Stratosphere Tower's **Top of the World** restaurant, which was voted best place for a romantic evening in Southern Nevada for the third year. **Llewellyn's**, the gourmet room at Harveys Resort at Lake Tahoe, was the first choice of Northern Nevada romantics. In rural Nevada, the **Ramada Express Steakhouse** in Laughlin was tops. One clueless fellow actually voted for a Reno sports bar in this category. No wonder the guy can never get a date.

Best Buffet

For the third straight year, readers felt it was hard to beat the Rio's festive and filling **Carnival Buffet** as the best buffet in Southern Nevada. The Atlantis' tropical-themed **Toucan Charlie's** was voted the best all-you-can-eat buffet in Northern Nevada. In rural Nevada, readers felt the best buffet was found at **Cactus Petes** in Jackpot, which edged buffets at Pahrump's Saddle West Casino and Harrah's Laughlin.

Best Sky's-the-Limit Gourmet Restaurant

Showing that when the sky's the limit, it helps to be tall, the 1,149-foot-high Stratosphere Tower's **Top of the World** was the easy winner in the voting for best sky's-the-limit, gourmet restaurant in Southern Nevada. The race, however, was much closer in the north, where the Peppermill's **White Orchid** narrowly outpointed Harrah's Steakhouse as best gourmet room in Reno. At Lake Tahoe, **Llewellyn's** at Harveys was the winner, while in rural Nevada readers solidly lined up behind the **Ramada Express Steakhouse** in Laughlin.

Best Themed Restaurant

In an era when just about any brand name can be turned into a themed restaurant—we're waiting for Spam World, the processed meat-themed restaurant—it was a trio of relative old-timers that managed to sweep this category. In the Reno-Sparks area, the film-influenced **Planet Hollywood** at Harrah's Reno was the top vote getter. At Lake Tahoe, the rock 'n' roll-themed **Hard Rock Cafe** at Harveys was the winner. In Las Vegas, the **Rainforest Cafe** at the MGM Grand was king of the theme-restaurant jungle.

Best Saloon

Saloons that make their own seem to have an edge in this category. The **Brew Brothers**, maker of fine lagers and ales at the Eldorado Hotel in Reno, was voted best saloon in Northern Nevada, and the **777 BrewPub**, which also makes its own beers, at Main Street Station in Las Vegas was an easy winner in the south. In rural Nevada, Virginia City's historic **Bucket of Blood Saloon**, which sells beer under its own label, was tops with readers.



Hot August Nights meets another Reno winner, the Peppermill.

Best Coffee Shop

This was a new category, and based on the high number of responses, it's a keeper. Readers liked the **Peppermill Coffee Shop** in Reno as best coffee shop in Northern Nevada. They also favored the **Peppermill Coffee Shop** in Las Vegas as Southern Nevada's best. **Sturgeon's Ramada Inn Casino** in Lovelock was voted top coffee shop in rural Nevada.

Reader Recommendations

Some readers want comedy. There was a strong write-in vote urging us to add best comedy club to future "Best of Nevada" ballots. A handful specifically named the Tropicana's Comedy Shop as top place for laughs. Readers suggested more than 80 new categories, including loosest slot machines, most reasonable hotel, most mysterious place (one of our favorites), and best tattoo shop.

We'll get back to you on that last one.

Richard Moreno is Nevada Magazine's *publisher.*

Place to Shop

Et tu, Caesar? Based on the voting, even the former Roman emperor voted for the **Forum Shops at Caesars** as best place to shop in Southern Nevada. The Roman-themed Las Vegas shopping mall, which won the previous two years, survived a strong showing by the Belz Factory Outlet Mall of Las Vegas. In Northern Nevada, **Meadowood Mall** in Reno was a landslide winner. In rural Nevada, the vote was much closer with the **Laughlin Outlet Mall** slipping by the Primm Outlet Mall and last year's winner, Virginia City.

Best Museum

It must be those rhinestones. For the third year in a row the **Liberace Museum**, which displays the pianist's colorful costumes, jewelry, and cars—many covered with rhinestones—in Las Vegas, was top choice among readers as best museum in Southern Nevada. Top northern museum was the **Nevada State Museum** in Carson City, also a three-time winner. In the rurals, **Back to the '40s**, a series of historical exhibits and shows in Laughlin's Ramada Express describing America during the Second World War, edged the two previous winners, the Northeastern Nevada Museum in Elko and the Central Nevada Museum in Tonopah.

Best Special Event/Festival

It was no contest in the voting for best special event/festival in Northern Nevada with Reno's popular **Hot August Nights**, a celebration of the cars and music of the 1950s and '60s, taking honors. In Southern Nevada, the **National Finals Rodeo**, held in Las Vegas in December, won for the third year in a row. In rural Nevada, Elko's **Cowboy Poetry Gathering**, held each January, edged the Genoa Candy Dance, the Nevada Day Parade in Carson City, and Laughlin's River Run.

Carson City, where children can learn while having fun, edged Buffalo Bill's in Primm, home of the Desperado, one of the world's tallest roller coasters.

Photos: Carolyn Fox (middle)

Presenting a previously unpublished story by Robert Laxalt

Pat O'Kean's Nugget

How a Scottish miner found an unexpected trail of gold at his Sierra diggings.



ILLUSTRATED BY JOHN BARDWELL

While writing a major story for National Geographic *two decades ago, Nevada author Robert Laxalt took time out to write this sketch. "Pat O'Kean's Nugget" is based on an account told to him by O'Kean, a Scottish miner who left Glasgow to seek his fortune in the Sierra Nevada during the Great Depression. This previously unpublished sketch is one of a series the author is writing for a book on the Lost Sierra.*

Pat O'Kean was sitting on his front porch having a second cup of coffee when it occurred to him that he had been watching the ants for quite some time. Setting his tin cup down on the hand-hewn table beside his bench, he stretched and yawned and wondered what it was about the ants that had absorbed him so.

The ants were black and looked strong as far as ants went. They were marching in a column out from a hole under a granite boulder. As Pat inspected them more closely, he saw what it was that had caught his attention. Each of them was carrying a grain of sand that shone in the sunlight.

"*Mica.* Fool's gold," Pat muttered and made as if to stand and go inside his cabin. Fool's gold probably, but then again...

Pat stepped off his weathered wooden porch and leaned over to have a closer look at the ant column. He picked up a piece of bark and set it in front of the column. Undeterred, two of the ants accommodated him and climbed onto the piece of bark.

Holding the bark in front of him, Pat mounted carefully up onto the porch and set the piece down on the table. He tapped the bark on the table until the ants were separated from their burden. There was a luster about the shining flecks that was distinctive. Pat went inside the cabin for his wire-rimmed glasses and inspected the flakes again.

"I'll be damned," he swore softly. "It's gold!"

In his years as a miner, Pat O'Kean had had enough close shaves with gold not to lose his head. Methodically, he went inside and picked up one of the glass vials in which he kept his gold dust and, with the point of his knife, lifted the flakes and put them inside. Then he took up his small gold pick.

Without haste, he went down to the hole at the base of the granite boulder. There was a distinct quartz seam around the hole, and Pat expertly tapped at it with his pick. Piece by piece, the ledge dropped into his waiting hand. He set the debris aside without disturbing the ordered march of the ant column. The hole out of which the ants emerged was bigger now, and Pat made it even bigger as he chipped away at the granite rock.

Only when he was certain of the direction of the ants' egress did he begin wielding his heavy miner's pick. The ant column was emerging from somewhere inside the mound of granite boulders that backed the one at which he had been chipping. Tracing the seams that ran through the boulders, he carved out the beginning of a tunnel.

By the time midday had come and gone, he was dripping with perspiration, but he could squeeze his wiry frame inside the tunnel, leaving enough room to wield his pick and short-handled shovel. From time to time, he backed up to scrape the dirt out of the tunnel.

Pat found his pocket of gold in mid-afternoon. The nugget nestled in its granite crevice like a child in a mother's womb. Some time in the distant past, a flood had washed the nugget down the mountain and laid it to rest in the jumble of granite boulders. When Pat had loosed the nugget from its earthen embrace and set it down in front of him, he calculated it weighed at least twenty pounds, which equated out to months of patient panning in the creek that tumbled down into Poker Flat. With that, they could buy enough provisions to weather the six months of winter that would soon be upon them.

Just at dusk his partner Whitey—so named for his almost white blond hair—arrived with a pack mule of provisions. Whitey surveyed the mound of freshly excavated dirt next to the porch, but said nothing until he had stepped up onto the porch where Pat O'Kean was standing innocently in front of the nugget he had set behind him on the table.

"I can tell when those blue Scot eyes of yours blaze that you've found gold," said Whitey. "Now you can show me your nugget."



Robert Laxalt of Washoe Valley is the author of 16 books. His most recent is The Land of My Fathers: A Son's Return to the Basque Country, *with photographs by Joyce Laxalt, his wife, and published last year by the University of Nevada Press. His next book,* Time of the Rabies, *a novella set in the Nevada ranch country of the 1920s, will be published by the University of Nevada Press this fall.*

Confessions of a Las Vegas Sommelier

Who, what, where, and wine – how a wine steward can help you not only select a good cabernet but also enjoy the experience.

By Dennis B. Moyer



The author raises a glass of Villa Pillo Merlot (1997) from Tuscany at Charlie Palmer Steak, where he serves as a sommelier, in Las Vegas' Four Seasons Hotel. More than 100 wine stewards work in Nevada restaurants.

I have what some people would consider a dream job. As a sommelier, I taste wine and get paid for it. As a sommelier in Las Vegas, I get to work and dine in some of the most exciting restaurants in the world.

The question I'm asked most often is, "How do I get a job like yours?" The short answer is, "You have to drink a lot of wine and remember what you drink." Sommelier in French means "wine steward," or simply wine guy. As a wine guy I am ready to help you through one of the great mysteries of life—how to select a wine from a wine list.

The top experts in our field are called master sommeliers. To attain the title of master takes years of study, and you have to pass three days of exams. The first two cover restaurant service and wine theory. The final day involves blind tasting. The candidate must be able to identify grape varieties, countries of origin, districts of origin, and vintages of six different wines tasted, all within 25 minutes.

Still, as I've learned, even the masters are really just wine guys. Shortly after I became a sommelier at the Rio Suite Hotel, I was assigned to serve 18 masters at a private dinner. There I was, a brand-new sommelier serving people who had reached the top of my profession. I was opening a bottle of champagne for the toast when it slipped out of my hands. The cork went flying, and the bottle spun in the air, spraying champagne everywhere. I caught the bottle in midair, and the room went dead silent. You can imagine what I was thinking: I am in big trouble. Then all 18 masters started clapping, and one shouted, "A hundred bucks you can't do it again!" Needless to say, the evening went quite well after that.

I caught the bottle in midair, and the room went dead silent. I was thinking: I am in big trouble.

Sommeliers, who number about 90 in Southern Nevada, have become a big part of the restaurant scene in Las Vegas. Most fine dining rooms and some fine steakhouses have trained wine staff. Both the University of Nevada, Las Vegas and Community College of Southern Nevada have offered wine courses taught by any one of the 10 master sommeliers who work in Las Vegas. (There are only 92 masters worldwide.)

As celebrity chefs have flocked to Las Vegas in the last several years, the overall quality of restaurants has improved, and so have the wine selections. Chef Andre

Photos: Steve Spatafore

Rochat is Las Vegas' original wine guy. He has a wonderful wine selection in his two Andre's French Restaurants, one at the Monte Carlo and the other in historic downtown Las Vegas. Aureole in Mandalay Bay has a 44-foot-tall wine tower with a selection of more than 2,500 wines on its wine list. The Rio went into wine in a major way in 1997 when the hotel opened its Wine Cellar.

I got into the wine business at the Rio while working as a waiter in its Fiore restaurant. I began taking wine classes at the Rio when the hotel hired Barrie Larvin, president of the Court of Master Sommeliers, to oversee its wine operations. After I completed the 21-week course, Master Larvin asked me join his wine team. I subsequently worked in the Wine Cellar, at Fiore, and in the Napa restaurant with world-renowned Chef Jean-Louis Palladin. Today I have the pleasure of working at Charlie Palmer Steak in the Four Seasons; the restaurant is celebrity chef Charlie Palmer's first venture into a steakhouse.

Don't let a restaurant's wine list intimidate you. Remember the first rule of wine: It is only wine.

When serving guests, I often think back to the first time I puzzled over a wine list. My entire family gathered at a nice restaurant where I was attending college. Somehow I ended up with the wine list. I had never seen one before—talk about being intimidated. After I selected a wine, the waiter presented the bottle, opened it, and gave me the cork. I had no idea what to do and had to ask my older sister for advice. I have never forgotten that experience, and I want to make sure no one else has to go through what I did.

My advice is, let me help you. Wine lists can be intimidating, but I can explain the different wines, what they taste like, and offer suggestions. Don't be surprised if I suggest a wine that you normally would not associate with your entree. That is part of the fun—deciding what goes with what. For instance, most people would never pair a fish with a red wine, but some combinations, such as an Oregon pinot noir with a grilled salmon steak or Beaujolais with a sautéed swordfish, are delightful. Likewise, you can pair filet mignon with a white Bordeaux or an oaky California chardonnay. The old rules of white wine with white meat and red wine with red meat don't have to be followed.

As you look at the wine list—which can range from a few wines to more than 2,500—my task is to get you comfortable with it and help you make a selection that will accent your meal. That selection does not have to be expensive to be a great bottle of wine. California is producing more and more excellent wines. Some of the lesser-known regions of France produce terrific, inexpensive wines. Anyone can order a Silver Oak Cabernet Sauvignon, but what about a Pezzi King Zinfandel? It is one of the best red zins on the market today. So don't be afraid to try something new, and don't be afraid to ask. Wine is made to drink and enjoy, not to make you self-conscious or insecure.



Wine does bring out the extremes in people. On a recent Tuesday night at Charlie Palmer Steak we had two tables that were true opposites. Courteney Cox and David Arquette were dining with us. Mr. Arquette began by saying they would like a good, reasonably priced bottle of wine similar to Opus One. (Opus One can be rather expensive, so "reasonably priced" is in the eye of the beholder.) They asked for a recommendation, and I suggested Anderson's Conn Valley Cabernet Sauvignon, a wonderful, hard-to-find wine from the Napa Valley.

Dining at a table nearby was a party of four, whom I would affectionately term "wine snobs." They also mentioned Opus One, but one could see they were looking not for a great bottle of wine but for a great wine name. While Ms. Cox and Mr. Arquette quietly enjoyed their Napa Valley cabernet, the wine snobs each selected a wine from the list and proceeded to extol its virtues rather loudly. When their wine arrived, they identified all the flavors they smelled and tasted, using every wine term in the book. Little did they know that their neighbors were having an equally enjoyable bottle of wine without any fuss or pretentiousness.

In fact, as Ms. Cox and Mr. Arquette finished their dinner, network football analyst Howie Long sat down at the table next to them. Since there was wine left over, Mr. Arquette gave Mr. Long the remainder of the bottle, which we served to him. No muss, no fuss. In the meantime, the wine snobs had succeeded in annoying half the restaurant.

Wine Tips

Customers frequently wonder how to approach a wine list and order wine. Here are some recommendations.

- Don't let the wine list in a restaurant intimidate you. Remember the first rule of wine: It is only wine.
- Use the sommelier. He or she can be a great source of information.
- Don't be afraid to try something new. There are many little-known but great wines.
- The cork issue. When the sommelier or waiter presents the cork, what should you do with it? My mother uses the corks to make cork boards. Of course, she also puts ice in her red wine. My motto is, if that's the way she likes to drink red wine, let her go ahead.

When you are presented with a cork, don't smell it. Simply pick up the cork and squeeze it to see whether it is properly soft and supple. Also inspect the cork for signs of mold or leakage. Mold can mean the wine is "corked"—that air has leaked into the bottle—and therefore is not suitable to be served.

- There are other tests for corked wine. When you first sniff the wine, if you get an odor of wet paper, that's a sign that something is wrong. The surest test is the tasting. While everyone reacts differently, I get a tightening of my stomach when I taste a corked wine. Some wines will simply have no body or finesse. If you are served a corked bottle of wine, send it back.
- What happens if you try a new wine and do not like it? Each individual restaurant sets the policy. Don't be afraid to ask the sommelier, especially if it's a wine he

(Continued on page 78)

In Search of Duffer Peak

While attempting to reach a remote Northwestern Nevada peak, this hiker found aromatic cow paths and spectacular scenery.

By Richard A. Lovett



Old cowhands know that it is unwise to follow alarmed cattle into chest-high brush, but I learned it the hard way, midway through a jinxed attempt to climb Duffer Peak, high in the Pine Forest Range south of Denio.

It isn't that cattle—about 50 in this case—are apt to turn on you like wild beasts. Rather, like birds in flight, they raise their tails and lighten their loads as they run. It wasn't until I noticed dampness soaking through my shirtsleeves that I realized the aspen leaves and bushes flanking the path were liberally smeared with cow flop. My pants were stained. My shirt was stained. My backpack carried unpleasant smudges that hadn't been there when I'd put it on. I was ready to give vent to a choice expletive, but the obvious option was a little too literal, so I settled for something more Victorian. "Yuck," I yelled with as much feeling as the word could carry. "Yuck!"

The Pine Forest Range, named for its dense cloak of limber pine, is a little-visited upthrust that extends a granitic finger into the basalt tablelands northwest of Winnemucca. The highest summit, 9,397-foot Duffer Peak, rises a vertical mile above the desert floor, making it one of the tallest peaks in this fractured corner of the Great Basin near the intersection of Nevada, Oregon, and California—arguably the most remote corner of the continental U.S.

I realized the bushes on the path were liberally smeared with cow flop.

Despite its remoteness, I had expected Duffer to be a simple climb. Later I learned that the peak is named for the Dufurrena family, long-time ranchers in the area, but I couldn't help thinking that in golf a duffer is an amateur with no illusions of prowess. Thus, a mountain named "Duffer" should be an easy hike, a pleasant respite in the long drive my friend Kelly and I were making from Elko to Portland. DeLorme's *Nevada Atlas and Gazetteer* perpetuates this myth, highlighting Duffer Peak and the shorter trail to nearby Blue Lakes as two of only 27 recommended hikes statewide. According to the atlas, the hike is a "moderate" ascent, covering 2,200 vertical feet in three miles from a parking lot near Little Onion Reservoir—as close to a duffer hike as one is likely to find on a 9,400-foot summit.

But in desert hiking the adventure begins the moment you leave the pavement.

From Winnemucca, our shortest approach to Little Onion was by way of gravel roads that turned off State Route 140 southeast of Denio Junction. The turnoff was marked by a wildlife-viewing sign, but it didn't say whether we should look for antelope, bighorn sheep, falcons, or cows—the first of several bad omens. Another was that although mileages were posted to Onion Valley Reservoir (a larger companion to Little Onion) and the Blue Lakes trailhead, there was no mention of Duffer Peak.

A mile later, we encountered a third omen: a stream flowing across the road. When it comes to driving passenger cars into the backcountry, I'm bolder than most. This time I was the passenger in Kelly's relatively high-clearance Subaru. Nevertheless, I wondered what kind of adventure was ahead.

The road climbed 4,000 feet onto an airy, sage-covered ridge, where I felt I needed only to extend a hand to touch the puffs of cloud forming on the high-desert thermals. The road was steep but passable, and I was beginning to regain confidence when it

ILLUSTRATIONS BY JOHN BARDWELL

dropped off the ridge and narrowed to a single-lane track hacked into the mountainside. We were facing a 10-percent grade that was covered with potato-sized rocks when we met another party in a Jeep. "You'll never get a passenger car through there," the driver commented as he eyed Kelly and her car.

But one should never underestimate a Subaru or the tenacity of a woman treated condescendingly. We crept along three miles of narrow ledge, pausing at each pullout not only to look for oncoming vehicles but to listen for them as well, lest we had to back up on this exposed shelf masquerading as a road.

People often refer to such drives as "bone jarring," but that occurs only if you're going too fast. At saner speeds it's more like being in a slow-motion blender as the car pitches, yaws, rolls, and bobs while the shock absorbers combat an endless succession of rocks and chuckholes. So we lurched up to Onion Valley Reservoir, where granite boulders protruded through the road surface at inconvenient locations. Campers and fishermen—all with large four-wheel-drive rigs—turned to watch us sway through this boulder garden, and I wondered if they were exchanging bets on when we would break an axle. Although I trusted Kelly's driving, I had a death grip on my armrest. I ordered myself to relax, but my hand kept renewing its clutch, seemingly of its own volition.

The short spur to Little Onion Reservoir was easier going, and my excitement grew as the trailhead drew near. I had about four hours' daylight for a six-mile hike—ample for a well-graded "moderate" trail. But to my surprise, the road continued beyond Little Onion, passing a rude stable containing two horses before plunging into an aspen grove. There we were halted by a mud puddle deeper than anything we cared to cross. Unless it doubled as a stable yard, the trailhead parking lot was nowhere in sight.

"Maybe we should just walk up the road?" I suggested. Because we'd planned the trip on the spur of the moment, we had only the atlas and an expectation the parking lot would be marked. I added, "Heck, maybe the road is the trail." We were preparing to park when a truck stopped beside us. The driver stared at the puddle. "Just checking it out for deer season," he said. "The road's slow to dry this year."

I asked, "Where does it go?"

"Nowhere in particular. It just winds around for a ways. I've never been to the end."

"How far to the Duffer Peak trail?"

"Duffer Peak? You climb that from Blue Lakes, back there." He waved toward Onion Valley Reservoir, where we'd seen a sign for Blue Lakes. "But the trail quits at the lakes. The peak's back behind them. And you'll never get that car up the road. You'll have to walk the last mile." But he, too, underestimated Kelly and the Subaru. We bounced a second time around Onion Valley Reservoir, the fishermen eyeballing us even more skeptically than before, and then turned toward Blue Lakes. Unlike the Little Onion Reservoir road, this road ended in a clearly defined parking lot, although one 50-yard stretch presented the worst boulder garden yet.

It was now 5 p.m. It had taken us three hours to drive 20 miles, and I still wasn't sure which peak was Duffer. One summit rose directly out of the larger Blue Lake, topped by a 1,000-foot cliff, but I wasn't sure it fit the description of "back behind." In the distance, another peak rose to a narrow point, steep but not cliff-bound. I couldn't tell which was taller.

Kelly decided to relax near Blue Lakes, so I set out solo, intending to stay low on the mountainside until I could determine which peak was higher. But often it is easier to go up than traverse. Each time I dodged a tree or boulder, I veered uphill until, as I came around the peak's shoulder, I'd climbed at least 500 feet. There, to my horror, I concluded that the more distant peak was taller. I was midway up the wrong mountain.

Knowing sunset was drawing near, I descended into a meadowy valley, lush with wild iris. I later learned the name of this grassy place: Hidden Meadow. The cattle were there, gorging themselves on the flowers. They gazed at me for a frozen moment. Then one lowed, and all were in motion, trotting toward a gap between two widely spaced peaks that were shaped like pine-covered sombreros. My target peak—I figured Duffer was the taller of the two—was too steep to climb from this side, and my only hope seemed to be to circle it in the direction of the departing cattle. Soon I found myself in their wake, feeling like a walking manure pile.

But there was still no way to the summit. The moment I left the cattle trail for a less-polluted landscape, I encountered automobile-sized boulders festooned with aspens and limber pine—terrain in which hiking could result in a broken leg. So I had to backtrack to the iris meadow, adding to my coating of manure with each step.

I was in a mood to match my aroma. I was hungry and thirsty, but I didn't want to touch food or water bottles with my manure-stained hands. I began to wish I'd never heard of cows or Duffer Peak.

But breaking free of the aspen I spied another, slightly more distant peak I'd overlooked. This third peak could easily be the tallest, so with renewed determination I headed toward it. Immediately I stumbled onto a trail marked with yellow plastic ribbons. Here it was at last, I thought, the Duffer Peak trail. I hiked rapidly for a half mile until the trail passed though another meadow—and failed to emerge on the opposite side.

Time was running out. I had at most 45 minutes to reach the summit in time to get back before dusk. I hurried ahead, gaining several hundred feet in 10 grueling minutes. Then I glanced behind and saw that the trail was now slicing across the flank of the peak I'd first started climbing—the one I thought was too low.



The road narrowed to a single-lane track hacked into the mountainside.

Frustrated, I persuaded myself that I'd been wrong, that the original peak was the tallest. Again I descended hundreds of feet of hard-won elevation, intersected the trail, and practically ran up it. For a quarter mile, all was fine—until the trail crossed a ridge and descended toward another iris meadow on the far side of the mountain. I had found not the summit route but a well-tramped cow path connecting one pasture to another.

I was now desperate to reach the summit

of something—anything—so I continued to press upward. Although the trail had disappeared, I was in open terrain that offered steep but uncluttered walking. Twenty minutes later I reached a 10-foot granite outcrop with no more "up" in the immediate vicinity.

I still was unsure which of the three peaks was the highest; it didn't appear to be mine. But the view was stunning, and I forced myself to let go of my frustration and enjoy what I'd found. On north-facing slopes, the top 1,500 feet were clothed in some of the best stands of limber pine I'd ever seen. To the north, the big cliff dropped into Blue Lakes. Beyond, snow gleamed on distant summits deep into Oregon. I lingered in the late-afternoon sun as long as possible and then took a steep shortcut back to Blue Lakes, swinging from tree to tree to keep from plunging too quickly.

"How was your hike?" Kelly asked when I reached the car. "Do you know there are iris out here?"

"Yes," I said, thinking: And they do wonderful things to a cow's digestion.

We camped that night on a rocky promontory near the mud puddle that had stopped us. I toyed with making a second summit attempt in the morning, but I was tired, and we had a long drive ahead of us. Instead, before dawn I walked to a knob where 15-foot boulders supported a gnarly growth of mountain mahogany. To the west, thousands of feet below me, the tablelands, playas, and canyons of the Sheldon National Wildlife Refuge caught the first rays of dawn. I could see the swayback silhouette of California's 9,800-foot Warner Range—the northwestern edge of the Great Basin—blue on the horizon, nearly 100 miles away.



Looking back toward Little Onion Reservoir, I saw the mud-puddle road angling across sagebrush slopes without any sign of a parking lot. All three of yesterday's peaks were out of sight behind a ridge. I still had no idea which was Duffer.

Later I learned that Duffer was the taller of my two sombreros and best climbed from the vicinity of the mud puddle. From there, three miles of bushwhacking, including a steep ascent of the peak's east side, supposedly will catch the summit. Duffer's north side appeared too sheer and rocky for a moderate ascent. A better approach would be from the southeast.

Perhaps I'll return someday to try another trek to the summit of Duffer Peak, but it's surely no hike for duffers.

Richard A. Lovett of Portland, Oregon, is a freelance writer and author of several outdoor books.



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Center Photo: Gayland Anderson Background: Jay Aldrich

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Nevada's car shows let us celebrate the music and wheels of our youth.

Why We Love Those Cars



Motorheads stay true to their cars with hot hubcaps and white-wall tires.

By Cory Farley

There are truths to face here:

- John Wayne was a lousy actor.
- Fabian couldn't sing a lick.
- The '57 Chevy was nothing special.

And the Chevy wasn't alone. Heresy it may be, but if you put the most fondly remembered '40s, '50s, or '60s ride up against even a basic econobox of the '00s, you'll wonder how Grandpa drove his car as far as the mailbox.

But are the Beach Boys going to totter to the mike in 2030 and belt out a chorus of "Fun, Fun, Fun, 'Til Her Daddy Takes the Civic Away"? Not on your chrome reversed wheels.

What we're celebrating when we celebrate vintage cars is not the quality of the transportation. A grocery-getter off the dealer's clearance rack today will run forever at a higher speed than racer Louis Schneider averaged to win the Indianapolis 500 in 1931. We're honoring something much more elusive: Ourselves.

More specifically, our youth, and the selves we wanted to be.

Want proof? Match car to owner at any automotive event. Occasionally you'll find a septuagenarian with a Sixpack Dodge or a 32-year-old with a Deuce (1932) coupe. Almost always, though, the age of the vehicle will equal the age of the owner minus 16.

The '65 GTO with the "4EVER18" plates? He'll be in his early 50s this season.

The flathead with the three two-barrels? The owner designed that car in freezing Korean foxholes. Made no difference that by the time he could afford it, flatheads were sold by the pound for use as boat anchors. As long as it runs, he's the man he thought he someday might be.

It's silly, really. Maybe a little pathetic. And if that makes anybody want to unload a '64 Malibu ragtop, keep an eye out for the tall spectator with the look of longing. That'll be me, in the market at last.

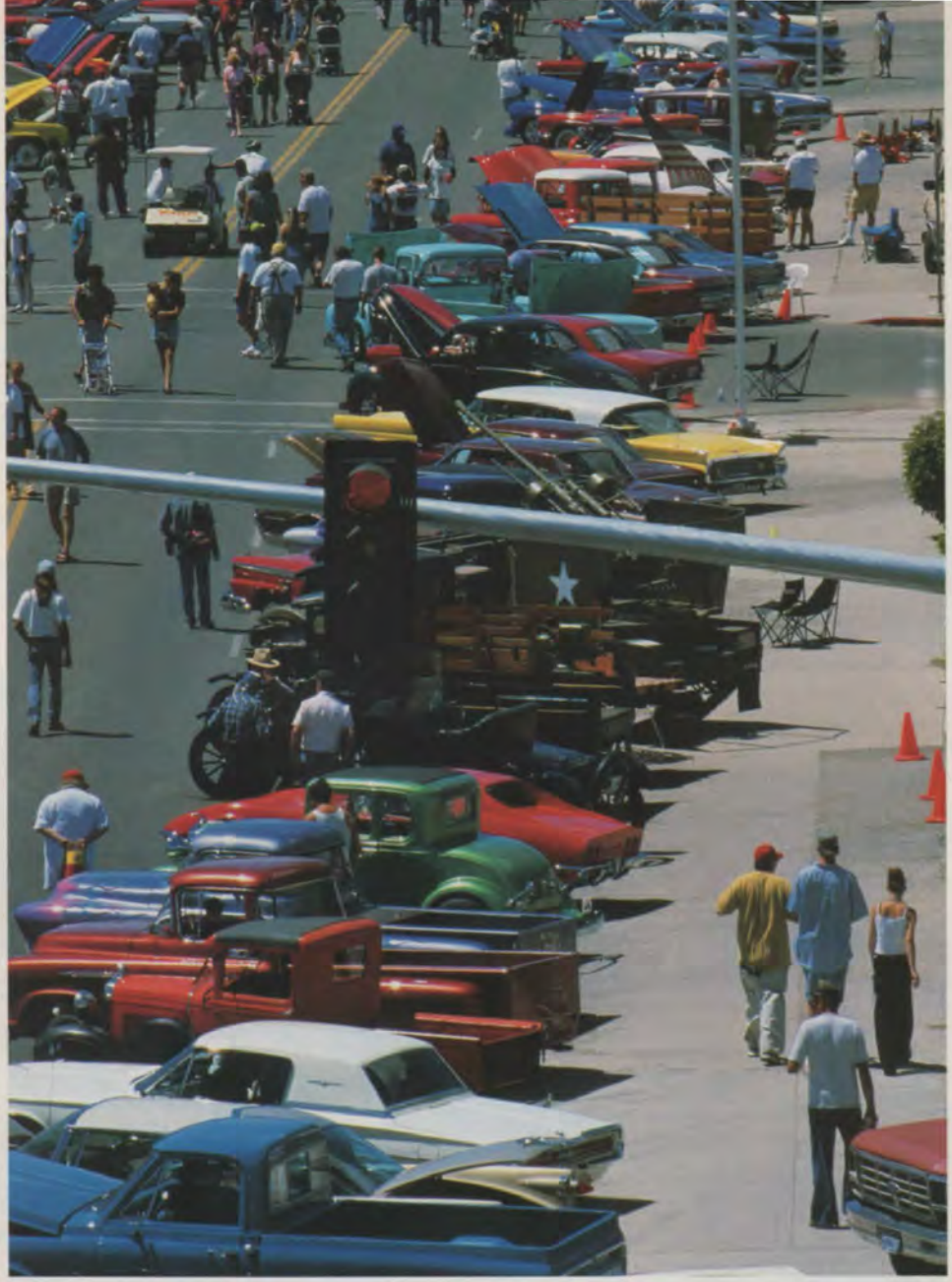
Cory Farley of Verdi is a columnist for the Reno-Gazette-Journal *and senior contributing editor for* AutoWeek.

Shows & Shines

Where to find classic car shows in Las Vegas, Reno, and other meccas for auto fanatics. **By Jason Hanson**

Fans of cherry engines and Arnold Roth paint jobs can celebrate their love of classic cars at several shows and gatherings in Nevada this summer and fall. The shows pay homage to the era when tuck 'n' roll jobs, glass-pak mufflers, and poodle skirts were matters of national interest. In Las Vegas, cruising Fremont Street was a part of the courting ritual. In Reno, tree-shaded Idlewild Park was the perfect place to hang out with friends and apply yet another coat of wax to the family wheels.

Photo: Chris Talbot



In Winnemucca cars line the streets during Fifties Fever (above). The July 28-30 event includes the Good Times Street Drags, concerts, parade, street dances, and lots of classic cars. In Reno (below) participants cruise downtown Virginia Street during Hot August Nights. This year's event is July 31-August 6.

Recapturing those days can be an expensive proposition. A complete restoration of a pickup can run $12,000 to $18,000, according to Jim Hatch, manager of Tucker's Classic Pickup Parts in Las Vegas. Hatch admits he has spent $27,000 so far on his candy-purple '66 Chevy pickup. The former Reno resident says, "If I get it done in time, I'll be going up to Hot August Nights."

Following is a guide to car shows in the Silver State where machines and memories come together:

Las Vegas Territory

Roddin' on the River in Laughlin is scheduled for September 28-October 1 at the Riverside Resort. The ninth annual event hosts street rods, classics, and customs. Activities include a show and shine, cruises, slow drags, valve-cover races, and a poker run and walk. There is a $40 entry fee for participants. Call 800-452-8445, option 4.

The **Las Vegas Super Run 2000**, October 6-8, is open to all classic cars, trucks, and motorcycles. The children's charities fundraiser offers an auction, cruises, show and shine, poker walks and runs, slow drags, burn-out competition, fan-belt flips, and lifter tosses. Call 702-739-0045.

Spring Jamboree, next May 5-6 in Boulder City, will host a car show, craft booths, food, music, and entertainment at Bicentennial Park. Call 702-293-2034.

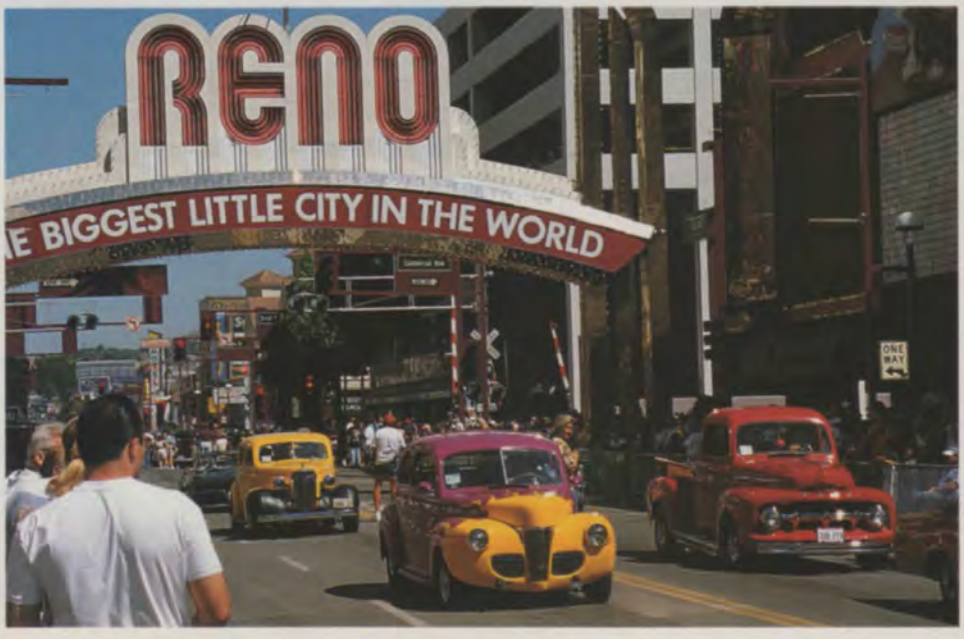
Dates are yet to be set for the **Craft Fair and Rib Burn-Off** in Las Vegas, held in May (call 702-455-8206), and Laughlin's **Hot Rods and Hogs**, tentatively set for October 2001 (call 800-452-8445, option 4.)

Reno-Tahoe Territory

Bikini and strongman contests are highlights of the **Reno Millennium Truck Show**, July 1-2. More than 300 trucks—that is, anything built on a truck chassis—are expected to draw 10,000 spectators who appreciate workmanship and showmanship. Events include an off-highway rally at the Reno-Fernley Raceway in Fernley, show and shine, cruises, poker fun, fireworks, and music both days in downtown Reno. The event is free to spectators. The entry fee for participants is $50. Call 775-826-6157.

Carson City hosts the **Silver Dollar Car Classic** on July 28-30. The sixth annual event will attract 250 cars of all years of models. Events include a show and shine, poker run, drive-in movie theater, and street dance. The band Back in Time will perform on Friday night. Call 775-687-7410.

The largest Nevada car show is **Hot August Nights**, held this year on July 31 to August 6 in Reno and Sparks. The stars are cars from



Photos: Jess W. Smith (top left), Lonnie Peck/Reno News Bureau (bottom right)

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More Cars: Nevada's Auto Collections

Car buffs can see antique and special-interest cars year-round in major collections in Reno, Las Vegas, and Laughlin.

The **National Automobile Museum (the Harrah Collection)** in Reno showcases 220 cars and other vehicles, including James Dean's '49 black Mercury. Open 9:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Mon.-Sat., 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Sun. Admission is $7.50 for adults. Call 775-333-9300.

The **Imperial Palace Auto Collection** in Las Vegas features 300 classic, antique, and celebrity cars, including Marilyn Monroe's '55 pink Lincoln Capri convertible. Open for tours 9:30 a.m.-11:30 p.m. daily. Admission is $6.95 for adults. Call 702-794-3174.

The **Riverside Resort** in Laughlin displays 70 cars dating back to 1901. Open for tours 9 am.-10 p.m. weekdays, 9 a.m.-11 p.m. weekends. Admission is free. Call 702-298-2535.

1969 and earlier. Events include show and shines, cruises, a swap meet, auction, golf tournament, sock-hop, prom, drag races, and entertainment. There is a $100 entry fee for participants. Call 775-356-1956.

The next edition of Carson City's **Run What Cha Brung** takes place June 22-24, 2001. More than 300 hot rods and custom cars roll into Nevada's capital city for the annual event at Fuji Park. Call 775-883-0927.

Rural Nevada

The **Fallon Street Drags**, July 22-23, hosts about 2,500 people, many of whom dress '50s style. The third annual event is open to all model cars and includes a poker run, music, and burn-out contests. The participant entry fee is $25. Call 775-423-1920.

Fifties Fever, July 28-30 in Winnemucca, will entertain more than 1,800 motorheads with concerts, parade, street dances, poker runs, and a show and shine. Fifties Fever is held in conjunction with the **Good Times Street Drags**. Call 775-623-5071.

The **Wells Fun Run 2000 Car Show**, July 28-30, will have fireworks on Friday night, a Main Street cruise, and a street dance. Cars from 1900s to 1990s can enter the event, which costs $20 for participants and is free to spectators. Call 775-752-3540.

Ely hosts the **Fantasy Car and Truck Show** on August 11-12. The show includes a car parade of 120 automobiles. The event is free. Call 775-289-9279.

Antique fire trucks and Model Ts will be showcased at the **Antique Engine and Tractor Show** in Minden on August 12-13. The show attracts about 3,000 people who come to see tractors dating from 1925 to 1935. Admission is $3 for adults, and kids 12 and under enter free. Call 775-267-4816.

The **Main Street Event** is August 18-20 in Minden and Gardnerville. The classic car show features a street dance, barbecue, and show and shine. Call 775-265-2256.

On June 1-2, 2001, Yerington plans its annual **Spring Fling Car Show**, which attracts classic cars and their owners looking for cruises, a poker run, show and shine, crafts, and food booths. Call 775-463-2245.

Jason Hanson, a Nevada Magazine *editorial assistant, has considered trading in his compact for a '58 Ford convertible.*

Nevada 2000: A Millennium Race

By Jackie Brett

The Nevada 2000, the longest off-road race in America, will cover 2,000 miles of prime boondocks on July 8-15. Drivers will briefly cross highways and spend nights in Mesquite, Ely, Elko, Reno, and Tonopah. During the days they will take a circuitous route through mountain passes, lonely playas, and winding canyons.

The race, which starts and ends in Las Vegas, has attracted about 200 teams in 18 car-truck and 29 motorcycle-quad classes. Drivers and riders will hail from 25 states, Japan, Canada, France, South Africa, Mexico, and Italy. The race was the brainchild of Casey Folks, a Las Vegas resident and director of the Best in the Desert Racing Association.

"Nevada is a perfect setting for our sport," says Reno resident and off-road racer Rod Hall, who drives for Team Hummer. Hall adds, "A lot of long-distance races are adventures in themselves." Other Nevada competitors include Hall's Hummer partner Roger Norman of Reno; Ty Davis and his partner Russ Pearson of Caliente, who ride for Yamaha; and the Herbst brothers, Ed, Tim, and Troy, of Las Vegas, competing in their new Ford, the *Animal*, in the unlimited Trick Truck class.

The Nevada 2000 doesn't have viewing stands, but there is viewer appeal at daily destinations and at the start. The support teams add to the spectacle by arriving in RVs, helicopters, and big, fancy trailers called haulers.

On Saturday, July 8, participants will register at the Orleans in Las Vegas. Technical inspection in the parking lot will offer plenty to see. Sunday, the race begins with a parade from the Orleans led by Governor Kenny Guinn. The first day's course parallels I-15, stopping for the night at Si Redd's Oasis in Mesquite.

Monday, the racers head north to Ely, where traffic will be heaviest between 4 and 6 p.m at the fairgrounds. Tuesday, teams continue to Elko, congregating behind the convention center. Wednesday, the action turns westward to Reno, winding up at the Reno Hilton. Thursday, participants head south to Tonopah. Viewers can check out the gathering there at Joe Friel Park. Friday, the last day of racing, ends in Las Vegas. Saturday, awards will be presented at the Gold Coast.

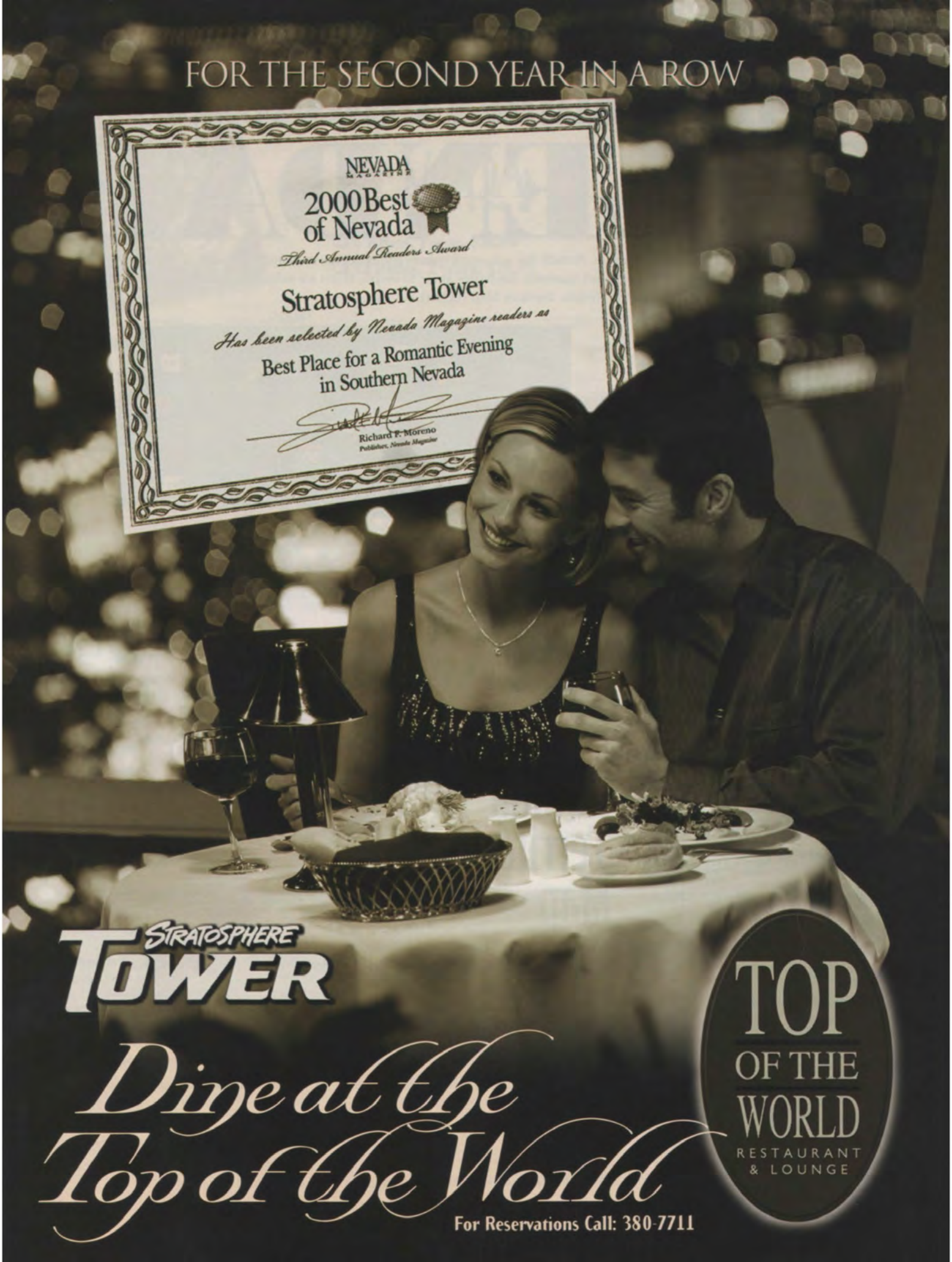




Nevada 2000 organizer Casey Folks (left) will join off-road racing fans at the July event, which will take racers through a treacherous backcountry course while visiting such towns as Ely, Elko, and Tonopah.

For more information contact Best in the Desert Racing Association, 702-457-5775, or visit www.bitd.com.

Jackie Brett of Las Vegas is motorsports manager for the Nevada Commission on Tourism.


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Millennium Countdown

CALENDAR

Nevada is holding a celebration for the millennium. Nevada has welcomed visitors and residents to months of festivities that extend to Martin Luther King Jr. Day, January 15, 2001. Following is a statewide day-by-day guide to events. Dates are subject to change, so it is wise to confirm dates and times. Each event is color-coded to the Nevada Territory Map (below).

July 2000

- **June 28-July 30 Horse Shows in the Sun (HITS) Tahoe Circuit:** World-class hunter-jumper horse show is expected to draw more than 1,000 horses and 3,000 riders, handlers, and spectators in its first year in Western Nevada. The sixth HITS circuit in the country will have $50,000 prizes each Sunday, culminating in a $100,000 event. Minden, www.hitsshows.com, 914-876-3666.
- **June 30-July 3 Silver State International Rodeo:** Parade, booths, high-school rodeo competitors. Fairgrounds, Fallon, 775-423-4674.
- **1 History of Ward Charcoal Ovens:** Guided tour. Ward Charcoal Ovens State Historic Park, 19 miles (10 dirt) south of Ely. 775-728-4460.
- **1 Meet the Artist: Jason Babcock:** Musical interpretations in paintings. Art Encounter, Las Vegas, 702-227-0220.
- **1 Youth Camerata Orchestra:** Classical music. Winchester Center, Las Vegas, 702-455-7340.
- **1 Sandstone Canyon Hike:** Three-hour moderate to strenuous hike. Long pants and hiking shoes advised. Bring water and snacks. Spring Mountain Ranch State Park, 18 miles west of Las Vegas, 702-875-4141
- **1 Super Summer 2000: "Fiddler on the Roof":** Outdoor picnic performance of the Broadway play. Spring Mountain Ranch State Park, 18 miles west of Las Vegas, 702-594-PLAY.
- **1 and 6-8 "Cabaret":** Broadway musical. Bruka Theatre, Reno, 775-323-3221
- **1-2 37th National Basque Festival:** Traditional dances, games, food, drink, and contests of strength. Fairgrounds and City Park, Elko, 775-738-7135.
- **1-2 Butterfly Programs:** Slide program July 1 and walk on July 2. Cathedral Gorge State Park, Panaca, 775-728-4460.
- **1-2 Mule Show:** Packing, log skidding, driving, performance, gymkhana. Fuji Park, Carson City, 775-267-1073.
- **1-2 Reno Millennium Truck Show:** Entertainment, show and shines, contests. Fourth and Virginia streets, Reno, 775-826-6157
- **1-2 and 4 Jarbidge's Fourth of July Celebration:** Dance to Milestone July 1-2, deep-pit barbecue, parade, and bingo July 2, barbecue July 4. Outdoor Inn, Jarbidge, 775-488-2311
- **1-4 Fourth of July Transportation Fair:** Steam-up and rolling stock on display. Nevada State Railroad Museum, Carson City, 775-687-6953.
- **1-4 Tonopah Fourth of July:** Central Nevada Museum Swap Meet, boxing matches, and fireworks. Tonopah, 877-TONOPAH.
- **1-4 RSVP Cavalcade of Spectaculars:** Fireworks, dance, carnival, midway games, arts and crafts, food booths, and entertainment. Mills Park, Carson City, 775-687-4680.
- **1-4 White Pine High School All-Class Reunion 2000:** Games, music, displays, picnics, and barbecues. Ely, 775-289-8877
- **1-31 Uptown Downtown ARTown:** Summer arts festival with performances and exhibits citywide. Reno, 775-329-1324.
- **1-Sept. 3 Nevada Shakespeare Festival:** The comedy "Tex, Mug, and Something Droll" plays four times daily except Monday. Piper's Opera House, Virginia City, 775-847-0600.
- **2 Martha Graham Dance Ensemble:** Arts for the Schools event. Celebrity Showroom, Cal-Neva Resort, Crystal Bay, 530-546-4602.
- **3 Sprint Race:** Mesquite Raceway, Mesquite, 800-621-0187



Nevada Territory Map

To assist you in your travels through Nevada, the state has been divided into the following territories:

- Reno-Tahoe Territory
- Cowboy Country
- Pony Express Territory
- Pioneer Territory
- Las Vegas Territory
- Indian Territory

NEVADA'S 15-Month Celebration

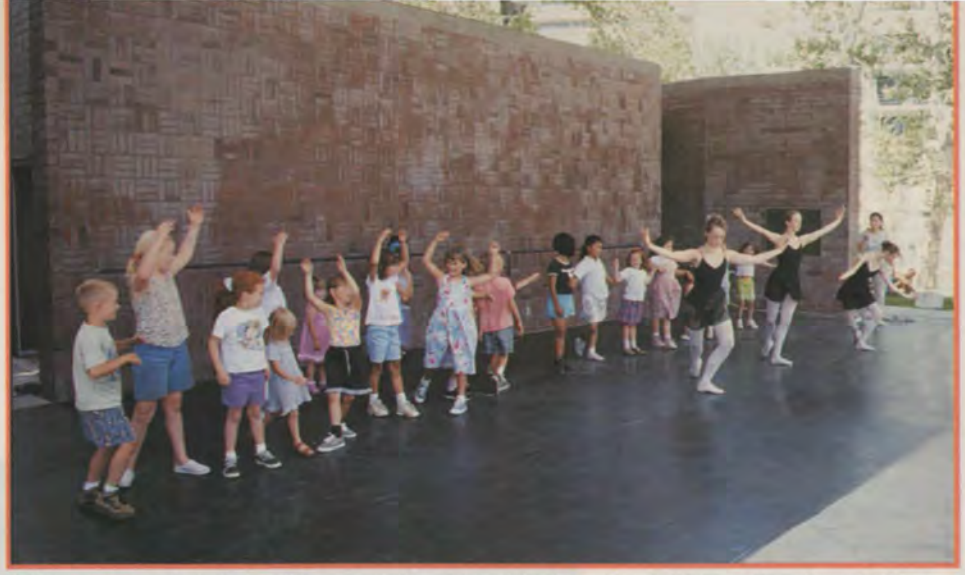
• **3 Mud Bogs, Hobby Stocks, and Bombers:** Races at Great Basin Raceway, Ely, 775-289-3232.
• **3 Senior Celebration:** Entertainment and activities for all ages. Wingfield Park, Reno, 775-334-2262.
• **3 Tri-Holiday Sweepstakes:** Stock-car race. Silver State Raceway, Carson City, 775-885-2079.
• **3-4 Freedom Fest 2000:** Parade, barbecue, arts and crafts, live music, and fireworks. Scobie Park, Wendover, 800-426-6862 or 775-664-3414.
• **4 Rodeo and Powwow:** Duck Valley Reservation, Owyhee, 775-757-3211
• **4 MX Race:** Mesquite Raceway, Mesquite, 800-621-0187
• **4 Erika Paul Trio:** Jazz and blues music. Wingfield Park, Reno, 775-626-7878.
• **4 Fernley Fourth of July:** Parade, fireworks. Out of Town Park, Fernley, 775-575-2660.
• **4 Ely Fourth of July:** Fireworks, barbecue, train ride, parade, and fireworks. Event includes roping at the Fairgrounds. Ely, 775-238-5238.
• **4 Squaw Valley Fourth of July:** Ice skating, swimming, hiking, fireworks. Squaw Valley USA, Lake Tahoe, 530-583-6955.
• **4 Red, White, and Boom!:** Live entertainment, food booths, family games, fireworks display. Desert Breeze Park, Las Vegas, 702-455-8200.
• **4 Fireworks:** Las Vegas Motor Speedway, 702-632-8422.
• **4 Family Fourth of July Celebration:** Games, food, petting zoo, dunk tank, fireworks at City Park. Day coincides with the Great Winneducks Duck Race on the Humboldt River. Winnemucca, 775-623-5071
• **4 Fireworks and BBQ Train:** Reservations required for a barbecue picnic and train ride on the Hiline Route for a view of the fireworks. Nevada Northern Railway Museum, East Ely, 775-289-2085.
• **4 Fourth of July Party:** Parade, street events, arena roping. Austin, 775-964-2269.
• **4 Independence Day Celebration:** Anything that floats can compete in the Liar's Boat Race, plus games, food, and water sports. Cliff House Beach, Walker Lake, Hawthorne, 775-945-5896.
• **4 Pops in the Park:** The Sierra Philharmonic performs holiday music. Mormon Station State Historic Park, Genoa, 775-782-2590.
• **4 Mason Valley Fourth of July:** Barbecue, crafts, entertainment, fireworks. Mt. View Park, Yerington, 775-463-2245.
• **4 Damboree:** Old-fashioned celebration with parade, games, patriotic program, food, and fireworks. Central Park, Boulder City, 702-293-9256.
• **4 Parade and Fireworks:** Virginia City, 775-847-0311
• **4 Henderson's July Fourth Celebration:** Family event highlighted by an evening of fireworks. Henderson, 702-565-2367
• **4 Old-Fashioned Fourth of July:** Parade, family events, and fireworks. City Park, Beatty, 775-553-2424.
• **4 Rockets Over the River:** 22-minute fireworks over the Colorado River. Laughlin, 702-298-2214.
• **4 Fireman's Celebration:** Fireworks, parades, ball games, kid's games. Caliente, 775-726-3317
• **4 Skyfire:** Entertainment and fireworks. Rancho San Rafael Park, Reno, 775-332-3333.
• **4 Mesquite Fourth of July Celebration:** Activities at the Recreation Center, fireworks at the water tower. Mesquite, 702-346-8732.
• **5-9 Ringling Brothers and Barnum and Bailey Circus:** Thomas and Mack Center, Las Vegas, 702-895-3900.
• **5-9 ArTour 2000:** Sierra artists open their studios to the public. Catalogs and maps at North Tahoe Art Center, Tahoe City, 530-581-2787
• **6 Gold Country Cajun Band:** Dance music. Boathouse Theatre, Tallac Historic Site, South Lake Tahoe, 530-542-4166.
• **6, 13, 20, and 27 Tea With Mrs. Tevis:** Afternoon tea in a 1900s garden. Reservations necessary. Tallac Historic Site, South Lake Tahoe, 530-541-5227
• **7 Stargaze:** Night stargazing led by experts from the Fleischmann Planetarium at U of N, Reno. Mormon Station State Historic Park, Genoa, 775-782-2590.
• **7, 21, and 28 Bunkhouse Fridays:** Western music concert series. Western Folklife Center, Elko, 775-738-7508.
• **7-8 Silver State 100:** Race on semi-banked clay oval. Great Basin Raceway, Ely, 775-289-3232.
• **7-8 Jackpot 200:** Off-road race. Jackpot, 801-773-1651
• **7-8 and 14-15 Mex-Rock:** Songs and dances of the rock and roll era in Mexico. Winchester Center, Las Vegas, 702-455-7340.
• **7-9 Traditional Fandango:** Games, gambling, dancing, free admission. Ely Shoshone Reservation, Ely, 775-289-3013.
• **7-9 American Century Celebrity Golf Championship:** Sports and entertainment stars compete in golf tourney. Edgewood Tahoe Golf Course, Stateline, 800-288-2463.
• **7-9 Keno Shootout Tournament:** Comstock, Reno, 800-273-7494.
• **8 Birds of Prey:** Slide show on native and migratory birds and how animals and birds are rescued, rehabilitated, and released. Free admission. Dayton State Park, Dayton, 775-687-5678.
• **8 Fireman's Barbecue and Dance:** Smith Valley, 775-463-2245.
• **8 Bats in Your Belfry:** Slide program on how bats control insects and pollinate plants. Cathedral Gorge State Park, Panaca, 775-728-4460.
• **8 Comedy with Altitude:** Tahoe Improv Players. Boathouse Theatre, Tallac Historic Site, South Lake Tahoe, 530-542-4166.
• **8 Pops on the River:** Concert and picnic. Wingfield Park, Reno, 775-323-2030.
• **8 Swap Meet:** Genoa Park, Genoa, 775-782-8696.
• **8 Red Tail Ale Trans Tahoe Sail Regatta:** Tahoe Yacht Club, Tahoe City, 530-581-4700.
• **8 USAC Sprint Car Western States Championship:** Silver State Raceway, Carson City, 775-885-2079.
• **8 Stargazing Evening:** Ward Charcoal Ovens State Historic Park, Willow Creek Campground, 19 miles (10 dirt) south of Ely. 775-728-4460.
• **8 Gymkhana:** Caliente, 775-726-3203.
• **8 Bingo Blowout:** John Ascuaga's Nugget, Sparks, 800-843-2427
• **8 Rainbow Springs Hike:** Strenuous hike to the top of the escarpment takes eight hours. Bring lunch, snacks, water, hiking shoes, and dress in layers. Spring Mountain Ranch State Park, 18 miles west of Las Vegas, 702-875-4141
• **8 and 22 Hidden Cave Tours:** Guided tour to an archaeological site. Churchill County Museum, Fallon, 775-423-3677
• **8-9 Winnemucca Junior Rodeo:** Humboldt County Fairgrounds, Winnemucca, 775-623-5071.



Fireworks from the Skyfire celebration sparkle above Rancho San Rafael Park on Independence Day in Reno.

Photo: Gayland Anderson

Millennium Countdown Calendar



Children can sample ballet, painting, and other arts in July during Reno's Uptown, Downtown, ARTown.

• **8-15 Nevada 2000:** A 2,000-mile off-road race loops around the state to celebrate the millennium. The start and finish will be in Las Vegas. Best in the Desert Racing Assn., 702-457-5775.

• **9 Chili Cook-Off:** City Park, Wells, 775-752-3540.

• **9 Argenta Ensemble:** Chamber music. The Chateau Clubhouse at Incline Championship Golf Course, Incline Village, 530-546-3634.

• **9-10 Nevada 2000 Off-Road Race:** Competitors stop at the Convention Center. Ely, 775-289-8877

• **9-10 Radical Riches Slot Tournament:** Atlantis, Reno, 888-551-7007

• **9-11 Crazy Reels Slot Tournament:** Comstock, Reno, 800-273-7494.

• **9-12 Lincoln County Fair:** Talent show, rodeo, entertainment. Caliente, 775-729-2514.

• **10 Sierra Nevada Master Chorale:** Concert at Wingfield Park, Reno, 775-333-9224.

• **11 Men of Worth:** Celtic music. Boathouse Theatre, Tallac Historic Site, South Lake Tahoe, 530-542-4166.

• **12 Gentlemen Prefer Blondes:** Film starring Marilyn Monroe and Jane Russell. Boathouse Theatre, Tallac Historic Site, South Lake Tahoe, 530-542-4166.

• **12 and 19 Lake Tahoe Summer Music Festival:** Reno Philharmonic concert. Topol Pavilion, Homewood, Lake Tahoe, 530-583-3101

• **12-15, 19-22, and 26-29 Super Summer 2000: "Grease":** Outdoor picnic performance of the Broadway play. Spring Mountain Ranch State Park, 18 miles west of Las Vegas, 702-594-PLAY.

• **13 Debbie DeFazio and Rocky Sleight:** Piano and vocal jazz concert. Boathouse Theatre, Tallac Historic Site, South Lake Tahoe, 530-542-4166.

• **13 Lyle Cogen Concert:** Young People's Summer Concert Series. Winchester Center, Las Vegas, 702-455-7340.

• **14, 21, and 28 Children's Summer Concert Series:** Variety of performing arts for children age five and older. Reed Whipple Cultural Center, Las Vegas, 702-229-6211

• **14-15 Don Edwards:** Western singer performs two concerts. Eureka Opera House, Eureka, 775-237-6006.

• **14-15 Summer in the City:** Free entertainment. Fremont Street Experience, Las Vegas, 702-678-5777

• **14-15 44-Hour Softball Tournament:** More than 90 teams compete around the clock. Winnemucca, 775-623-5071

• **14-16 River Rick's Video Poker Tournament:** $100 entry includes room, welcome dinner, awards brunch, three rounds of play. Pioneer Hotel, Laughlin, 800-634-3469.

• **14-16 The Big Easy:** Louisiana-style festival with food, music, dance, parades, and shopping.



Photo: Lonnie Peck/Reno News Bureau

ONGOING EVENTS

Boulder City Farmer's Market: Thursdays 9am-1pm, on Colorado St. behind City Hall, 702-293-5933.
Las Vegas Farmer's Markets: Sundays at Village Square at Peccole Ranch, Tuesdays at Children's Memorial Park and Wednesdays at Bruce Trent Park. Las Vegas, 702-683-GROW.
Las Vegas Stars Baseball: The San Diego Padres' triple-A team plays June 30-July 3 v. Salt Lake, July 7-9 v. Calgary, July 17-20 v. Sacramento, July 21-24 v. Tacoma, Aug. 3-6 v. Edmonton, Aug. 15-18 v. Oklahoma, Aug. 19-22 v. Edmonton, Aug. 28-31 v. Fresno, Sept. 1-3 v. Sacramento. Cashman Field, Las Vegas, 702-386-7200.
Kuan Chun-mai: Exhibit of Carved Eggshells: Thru July 4. Charleston Heights Arts Center, Las Vegas, 702-229-6383.
Pool Concerts: Hot Lava, Polynesian band, July 8; Island Tyme, Reggae music, July 22; Conched Out, Aug. 12. Black Mountain Aquatics Complex, Henderson, 702-565-2367
Asian Art Now: 2000: Thru July 9. Exhibit by 140 artists from Japan, Taiwan, and Korea. Las Vegas Art Museum, 702-360-8000.
Handed Down: Nevada's Living Folk Arts: Thru July. Master artists from the Nevada's Folk Arts Appreciation Program. Western Folklife Center, Elko, 775-738-7508.
Twilight in the Plaza Concerts: Carl Lodico Band, July 14; Frankie Randall: A Tribute to Sinatra, July 28; Buddy Charles Jazz Orchestra, Aug. 4; Nevada Chamber Symphony, Aug. 18. Civic Center Plaza, Henderson, 702-565-2367
Summer Park Concert Series: The Fab, July 15; Jump, Jive, and Wail, Aug. 26. Discovery Park, Henderson, 775-565-2367
Chagall for Children: Thru Aug. 11 Lied Discovery Children's Museum, Las Vegas, 702-382-3445.
Apron Strings: Ties to the Past: Thru Aug. 13. Aprons chronicle the changing views of women and domestic work. Free recipes. Clark County Heritage Museum, Henderson, 702-455-7955.
These Rare Lands: Thru Aug. 20. Panoramic photographs organized by the Smithsonian Institute of Traveling Exhibitions. Marjorie Barrick Museum Gallery, Las Vegas, 702-895-3381
Friday Night Festival and Riverside Farmer's Market: Fridays thru Aug. 25. Concerts at Wingfield Park Amphitheater and produce, baked goods, and arts and crafts at West Street Plaza, Reno, 775-334-2414.
Annie Lee and Friends: Thru Aug. 28. Original works by nationally acclaimed African-American artists. Reed Whipple Cultural Center, Las Vegas, 702-229-6211
Tuesdays at Third Street: Thru Aug. 29 (except July 4). Country fair, music, food, crafts. Downtown, Carson City, 775-887-1294.
Sparks Hometowne Farmer's Market: Thursday evenings thru Aug. 31 (except Aug. 3). Victorian Square, Sparks, 775-353-2291
Humboldt River Canoe Trips: Thru Aug. Rangers lead boaters on a nature tour along 10 miles of the Humboldt River below Rye Patch Dam. Participants must bring own canoes or other boats. Dates may depend on water flow. Rye Patch State Rec. Area, 22 miles north of Lovelock, 775-538-7321
All That Is Glorious: Paintings From the Hudson River School: Thru Sept. 3. Nevada Museum of Art, Reno, 775-329-3333.
Silver Ladies in Golden Splendor: Thru Sept. 4. Exhibition of gowns worn by 10 of Nevada's first ladies, 1945-1999. Nevada State Museum and Historical Society, Las Vegas, 702-486-5205.
Carson Outdoor Farmer's Market: Wednesdays thru Sept. 13. Produce, flowers, crafts, and entertainment. Pony Express Pavilion, Carson City, 775-687-7410.
Reno Municipal Band Concerts: Weekdays at noon. Wingfield Park, Reno, 775-329-7488.
Stock Car Racing: Thru Sept. Mini, pro, hobby, modified, dwarfs and cruiser classes. Summit Raceway, Elko, 775-738-5641
Farmer's Market: Thru Sept. 29 from 2:30-7:30pm every Friday. Ponderosa Ranch, Incline Village, 775-831-4440.
The 1930s: Boom or Bust: Thru Oct. 2. Car exhibit. National Automobile Museum, Reno, 775-333-9300.
History Channel Great Race: Thru Oct. 9. Exhibit of cars that have run in the race. National Automobile Museum, Reno, 775-333-9300.
Roberts House Crafts Sale: First Sat. and Sun. of each month, thru Oct. Roberts House Park, Carson City, 775-882-1805.
Drag Racing: Weekends thru Nov. 19. Las Vegas Motor Speedway, 702-644-4444.
Pueblo Grande de Nevada: The Only City in Nevada a Millennium Ago: Thru Dec. 31 Exhibit highlights life of Pueblo people in Southern Nevada. Lost City Museum, Overton, 702-397-2193.
Discover the Arts: July 3-31 Weekdays from 1-2:30pm. Hands-on art projects for children. Wingfield Park, Reno, 775-322-5443.
Outdoor Movie Film Festival: Wednesdays, July 5-15. Bring lawn chairs or blankets and a picnic. Nevada State Railroad Museum, Carson City, 775-687-6953.
Food for the Soul World Music Series: Wednesdays, July 5-26. Cajun-Zydeco music and a Nigerian band and dance troupe. Wingfield Park, Reno. 775-331-3663.
Movies in the Park: Fridays at dusk, July 7-28. Movies include *Raiders of the Lost Ark*, *Rocky Horror Picture Show*, *Harold and Maude*, and *Sound of Music*. Special show Tuesday, July 25, *Casablanca*. Wingfield Park, Reno, 775-784-1985.
A Show of Hands: July 15-Dec. 30. Baskets of the Great Basin Basketmakers and antique quilts. Opening day includes annual ice cream social and book signing. Nevada Historical Society, Reno, 775-688-1190, ext. 0.
Fallon Farmer's Market: Aug.-Sept. Fresh fruit and vegetables, games and craft booths, food and entertainment. Downtown Fallon, 775-423-4556.
Minerals Go to War: Aug. 19-Oct. 29. Exhibit of World War II posters and wartime materials. Clark County Heritage Museum, Henderson, 702-455-7955.
The State of the Art: Printmaking: Aug. 21-Sept. 29. Virginia City artist Edward Martinez and prints from the 50 States Project. College Gallery, Western Nevada Community College, Carson City, 775-883-0259.



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Millennium Countdown Calendar

Victorian Square, Sparks, 775-353-2291

- **14-16 Fallon All-Indian Rodeo and Powwow:** Rodeo, Native American dancers, handgames, arts and crafts, dance, parade, and food booths. Annual rodeo and gathering takes place at Regional Park, Fallon, 775-423-2544.
- **15 Tevis Cup Horse Race:** 100-mile race. Squaw Valley USA, Lake Tahoe, 530-583-6955.
- **15 Meet the Artist: Karen Wheeler:** Primarily paintings of animals. Art Encounter, Las Vegas, 702-227-0220.
- **15 Plena Libre:** Hispano-Caribbean dance music performed by a 12-member Puerto Rican ensemble. Oates Park, Fallon, 775-423-1440.
- **15 Hobby Stocks and Bombers:** Races at the Great Basin Raceway. Ely, 775-289-3232.
- **15 Roundup 2000:** Sheriff's Posse barbecue, marketplace, exhibits, demonstrations, dinner, dance. Fairgrounds, Gardnerville, 775-782-9937
- **15 Uncle Sugar and the Sweet Daddies:** Big band dance. Charleston Heights Arts Center, Las Vegas, 702-229-6383.
- **15 Topaz Golf Tournament:** Limited to 120 entrants. Carson Valley Golf Course, Gardnerville, 775-782-7917
- **15 Funny Car Fever:** Drag races. Top Gun Raceway, Fallon, 775-423-0223.
- **15-16 King of the West Motor Sport Spectacular:** Monster truck competition. Hawthorne, 775-945-5854.
- **15-16 Competition Rocket Launch:** Cheap Access to Space high-altitude launch. Black Rock Desert, 775-623-1528.
- **15-16 Art in the Park:** Handcrafted and fine arts. City Park, Elko, 775-777-7901
- **15-16 USTRC Affiliate Roping:** Fairgrounds, Ely, 775-238-8877
- **15-16 Minden Music Festival and Fine Arts Show:** Esmeralda Ave., Minden, 775-782-2444.
- **15-16 Squaw Valley World Cup Downhill:** World Cup mountain bike race featuring pro racers from 40 nations. Squaw Valley USA, Lake Tahoe, 530-582-8900.
- **15-17 Full Moon Hikes:** Squaw Valley USA, Lake Tahoe, 530-583-6955.
- **15-19 The Big Time:** Largest boy's high school summer basketball tournament with 312 teams from 40 states playing 776 games. Southern Nevada high schools, Las Vegas, 702-799-5456.
- **16 Geology Walk:** Easy ranger-led excursion. Bring a picnic breakfast. Cathedral Gorge State Park, Panaca, 775-728-4460.
- **16 Celtic Festival at Valhalla:** Music and dance. Valhalla Lawn, Tallac Historic Site, South Lake Tahoe, 530-542-4166.
- **16 Gao Ping:** Piano concert. The Chateau Clubhouse at Incline Championship Golf Course, Incline Village, 530-546-3634.
- **16 Nevada Raptors:** Lecture by Nancee Goldwater on birds found in Northern Nevada. Mormon Station State Historic Park, Genoa, 775-782-2590.
- **16 Concert on the Green:** Picnic performance. Genoa Park, Genoa, 775-782-8696.
- **16-18 Fifth Birthday Slot Tournament:** Silver Legacy, Reno, 800-MUST-SEE.
- **16-18 Salute to the States Slot Tournament:** Colorado Belle, Laughlin, 800-572-3553.
- **16-19 Road to Riches Slot Tournament:** MGM Grand, Las Vegas, 800-891-4220.
- **16-19 $190,000 Slot Tournament:** Caesars Palace, Las Vegas, 888-927-2758.
- **17 Lake Tahoe Disabled Watersports Clinic:** Water and jet ski instruction. Reservations required. Sand Harbor, Incline Village, 530-581-4161
- **17 "Wind of a Thousand Tales":** Lilliput Players presentation. Boathouse Theatre, Tallac Historic Site, South Lake Tahoe, 530-542-4166.
- **17-18 Super Star Bingo Tournament:** Showboat, Las Vegas, 800-876-2628.
- **17-20 Great Basin Chautauqua:** Portrayals of historical figures include Geoffrey Chaucer and Mary Wollstonecraft. Rancho San Rafael Regional Park, Reno, 775-784-6587
- **18 Gold Hill Lecture:** Stories and Songs from the Old West by John Tyson and Friends. Gold Hill Hotel, 775-847-0111
- **18 Los Lupenos: Traditional Ballet Folklorico:** Boathouse Theatre, Tallac Historic Site, South Lake Tahoe, 530-542-4166.
- **19 Chamber Champion Golf Tournament:** Includes lunch, 18 holes with cart, and awards dinner. Cost is $135 per player. Washoe County Golf Course, Reno, 775-337-3030.
- **19 Top Hat:** Film starring Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers. Boathouse Theatre, Tallac Historic Site, South Lake Tahoe, 530-542-4166.
- **19 U.S. Army Field Band:** Artemus Ham Hall, UNLV, 702-895-3734.
- **20 Madison Avenue:** R&B and jazz concert. Boathouse Theatre, Tallac Historic Site, South Lake Tahoe, 530-542-4166.
- **20 and 22-23 "Return to the Forbidden Planet":** Play with a science fiction and rock and roll theme. Wingfield Park, Reno, 775-784-1985.
- **21 "Weird Al" Yankovic:** Pioneer Center for the Performing Arts, Reno, 775-686-6600.
- **21 "The Owl and the Pussycat":** Play for all ages. Reed Whipple Center, Las Vegas, 702-229-6211
- **21-23 Rib Cook-Off and Craft Fair:** Downtown, Carson City, 775-884-4411
- **21-23 Pai Gow Tournament:** Flamingo Reno, 800-950-2946.
- **21-23 Midnight Special:** SNORE off-road race. Eldorado Valley, Boulder City, 702-452-4522.
- **21-23 Reno Basque Festival:** Traditional food, dance, games, Mass, barbecue. Wingfield Park, Reno, 775-787-3039.
- **21-23 Blackjack Tournament:** Comstock, Reno, 800-273-7494.
- **21-23 USTRC Grassroots Team Roping:** Cowboys compete for pride and cash. Fairgrounds, Winnemucca, 775-623-5071
- **22 In the Good Old Summertime:** Ice cream social. Roberts House, Carson City, 775-882-1805.
- **22 Brews and Blues Festival:** Microbrews and concert. Horizon, Stateline, 530-542-4166.
- **22 Paradise Valley Mountain Bike Race:** Paradise Valley, 775-623-1515.
- **22 Topaz Sertoma Charity Golf Tournament:** Four-man scramble, shotgun start, Carson Valley Golf Course, Gardnerville, 775-782-7917
- **22 Dutch Oven Cooking Demonstration:** Cathedral Gorge State Park, Panaca, 775-728-4460.
- **22 Keno Tournament:** John Ascuaga's Nugget,

Sparks, 800-843-2427

• **22 Chautauqua: Dr. Eliza Cook:** First female doctor in the Carson Valley. Mormon Station State Historic Park, Genoa, 775-782-2590.

• **22 Mountain Run I:** The 3.6-mile uphill course follows the 1960 Olympic downhill ski route to the High Camp facility. Event includes an alternate fitness walk. Squaw Valley USA, Lake Tahoe, 530-550-0885.

• **22-23 Comstock Firemen's Muster:** Firefighters compete using antique equipment. E Street, Virginia City, 775-847-0454.

• **22-23 Bud in the Trees:** SNORE off-road championship race. Caliente, 702-452-4522.

• **22-23 Annual Lund Rodeo:** Lund, 775-238-5238.

• **22-23 Make-A-Wish Car Show and Fallon Street Drags:** Fundraiser includes poker run, music, burn-out contest, car show, and drag racing. Boyce's Billiards, Fallon, 775-423-1920. Fallon Street Drags, 775-423-0223.

• **22-23 Great Eldorado BBQ, Brews, and Blues Festival:** Food, microbrews, music. Eldorado, Reno, 800-648-4597

• **23 The Suhrstedts:** Piano duets. The Chateau Clubhouse, Incline Championship Golf Course, Incline Village, 530-546-3634.

• **23 Celtic Festival at Valhalla:** Traditional music, dance, crafts, food, and ale from Ireland and Scotland. Tallac Historic Site, South Lake Tahoe, 530-541-4975.

• **24 "Romeo and Juliet":** Lilliput Players presentation. Boathouse Theatre, Tallac Historic Site, South Lake Tahoe, 530-542-4166.

• **24-25 2000 Jazz Spectacular:** Bands play on the town's boardwalks and at Piper's Opera House. Virginia City, 775-847-9114.



Families get into the Fourth of July spirit at Las Vegas' Red, White, and Boom celebration at Desert Breeze Park.

• **25 Robert Thies:** Piano concert. Boathouse Theatre, Tallac Historic Site, South Lake Tahoe, 530-542-4166.

• **25-Aug. 27 Lake Tahoe Shakespeare Festival:** "Love's Labour's Lost" and "Much Ado About Nothing" are presented on the beach with Lake Tahoe as a backdrop (dark Mon.). Sand Harbor, Incline Village, 800-74-SHOWS.

• **26 Nevada Ballet Theatre's Smart Steps:** Review of the evolution of dance. Ages five and up. Charleston Heights Arts Center, Las Vegas, 702-229-6383.

• **26 Cabaret:** Film starring Liza Minnelli, Michael York, and Joel Grey. Boathouse Theatre, Tallac Historic Site, South Lake Tahoe, 530-542-4166.

• **26 Ice Cream Social:** Old-fashioned gathering. Nevada Historical Society, Reno, 775-688-1191

• **26-29 Superior Livestock Auction:** Event includes golf tournament, entertainment, food. Winnemucca, 775-623-5071

• **26-29 Land Speed Opener:** World-class racing to set land speed records on the Bonneville Salt Flats. Wendover, 801-785-5364.

• **27 Inside Out with Jackie Landrum:** R&B concert. Boathouse Theatre, Tallac Historic Site, South Lake Tahoe, 530-542-4166.

• **27 Rice and Renee in Concert:** Young People's Summer Concert Series. Winchester Center, Las Vegas, 702-455-7340.

• **27 Winemaker's Dinner:** Atlantis, Reno, 888-551-7007

• **27-29 Horse Race Handicapping Tournament:** Harrah's Reno, 775-786-3232.

• **28-29 "Nunsense":** Comedy. Boathouse Theatre, Tallac Historic Site, South Lake Tahoe, 530-542-4166.

• **28-29 Good Times Street Drags:** Winnemucca, 775-623-5071

• **28-30 Stargazing:** Telescopes provided. Squaw Valley USA, Lake Tahoe, 530-583-6955.



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- **28-30 Hobo Rendezvous:** Mulligan's stew, poetry, games. Fairgrounds, Elko, 775-738-738-4091
- **28-30 Nevada All-Around Working Cow Horse Championship:** Competition for cash and prizes. Winnemucca, 775-623-5071
- **28-30 Fifties Fever Car Show:** Concerts, parade, street dances, poker runs, show and shine. Winnemucca, 775-623-5071
- **28-30 Wells Fun Run Car Show:** Burn outs, show and shine, poker run, street dance, fireworks. Wells, 775-752-3540.
- **28-30 Winner Take All Blackjack Tournament:** John Ascuaga's Nugget, Sparks, 800-843-2427
- **28-30 Lovelock Frontier Days:** Games, barbecue, vendors, arm wrestling, horseshoes, home arts. Court House Park, Lovelock, 775-273-7213.
- **28-30 Jim Butler Days:** Annual town party will celebrate Tonopah's founding in 1900. Tonopah, 775-482-3558.
- **28-30 Silver Dollar Car Classic:** Street dance, custom cars, poker run, barbecue, entertainment. Mills Park, Carson City, 775-687-7410.
- **28-31 Aeronaut Rocket Launch:** High-altitude amateur rocketry invitational. Black Rock Desert, 775-623-1528.
- **29 Leave No Trace Workshop:** Low-impact camping demonstration. Ward Mountain Campground, six miles southwest of Ely via S.R. 6. 775-728-4460.
- **29 Too Tall For Our Hair:** Group presents history and performance of bluegrass music. Courthouse Park, Lovelock, 775-273-2082.
- **29 Sunset at Steptoe Train Ride:** Nevada Northern Railway Museum, Ely, 775-289-2085.
- **29 Hobby Stock and Bombers:** Races at Great Basin Raceway. Ely, 775-289-3232.
- **29 Heritage Day at the Las Vegas Natural History Museum:** Activities include a treasure hunt and panning for gold. Las Vegas Natural History Museum, 702-384-DINO.
- **29 Sporting Clays Shoot:** Oasis Gun Club, Mesquite, 800-621-0187
- **29 Meet the Artist: Janet Trobough:** Oil and watercolor painter. Art Encounter, Las Vegas, 702-227-0220.
- **29 Coeur d'Alene Art Auction:** Major auction of Western, sporting, and wildlife art. Silver Legacy, Reno, 800-287-7909.
- **29 Sierra Folklife Festival:** Celebrate Nevada's cultural heritage with entertainment, crafts, food. Wingfield Park, Reno, 775-329-2787
- **29 Ruins Tour:** Ranger-led tour of Fort Churchill. Fort Churchill State Historic Park, Silver Springs, 775-577-2345.
- **29 Water Olympics:** Children seven to 14 years learn about the properties of water. Mormon Station State Historic Park, Genoa, 775-782-2590.
- **29 Valhalla Brews and Blues Festival:** Unlimited tasting of 150 brews from 80 microbreweries and distributors. Admission includes a souvenir beer glass and a concert. Must be 21 or older to attend. Tallac Historic Site, South Lake Tahoe, 530-541-4975.
- **29-30 Donner Lake Campout:** Water sports and camping weekend for the disabled and their family and friends. Reservations required. Donner Lake, Truckee, 530-581-4161
- **29-30 VORRA Off Road Desert Race:** Top Gun Raceway, Fallon, 775-423-0223.
- **29-30 Coyotes Hare Scrambles:** Desert motorcycle race. Ely, 702-437-6726.
- **29-30 Goldfield Days:** Parade, 10K run, bike

race, horseshoes, gold panning, food and vendor booths, miner's breakfast, arts, crafts, chili cook-off. Goldfield, 775-485-6365.

• **29-30 Renaissance Fair:** Arts and crafts, antiques, actors, jugglers, jousters, and rapier fighters. Antiques Plus, Genoa, 775-782-4951 or 775-782-2893.

• **30 Hong Kong Juvenile and Youth Chinese Classical Orchestra:** Concert highlights include the theme from the film *Titanic* played on Chinese instruments. Clark County Library Theatre, Las Vegas, 702-382-3493.

• **30 Barbini and Waseley:** Piano and violin concert. The Chateau Clubhouse, Incline Championship Golf Course, Incline Village, 530-546-3634.

• **30-31 Children's Festival:** Mask making, T-shirt printing, and papermaking. Location TBA, North Lake Tahoe, 530-546-4602.

• **31 Hot August Nights Kick-Off Party:** Cars, music, and dancing in the north parking lot. Peppermill, Reno, 775-337-3030.

• **31-Aug. 6 Hot August Nights:** Hot rods, music of the '50s and '60s, dances, and concerts. Reno and Victorian Square, Sparks, 775-356-1956.



Burning Man, the counterculture arts festival scheduled for August 28-September 4 on the Black Rock Playa, culminates with the burning of a wooden effigy. The theme of this year's event explores the "secret world of our embodied being."

August 2000

• **1 and 3 Brian Farnon Big Band Dance:** Valhalla Grand Hall, Tallac Historic Site, South Lake Tahoe, 530-542-4166.

• **1-6 Hot August Nights:** Hot rods, music of the '50s and '60s, dances, and concerts. Reno and Victorian Square, Sparks, 775-356-1956.

• **1-27 Lake Tahoe Shakespeare Festival:** "Love's Labour's Lost" and "Much Ado About Nothing" on the beach. Sand Harbor, Incline Village, 800-74-SHOWS.

• **1-Sept. 3 Nevada Shakespeare Festival:** The comedy "Tex, Mugs, and Something Droll" plays four times daily except Monday. "Hamlet" and "Midsummer Night's Dream" will be performed in repertory Aug. 8-20 (dark Aug. 14). Piper's Opera House, Virginia City, 775-847-0600.

• **2 My Fair Lady:** Film starring Audrey Hepburn and Rex Harrison. Boathouse Theatre, Tallac Historic Site, South Lake Tahoe, 530-542-4166.

• **3-5 Senior Games:** Golf, bowling, tennis, 5K run, fun walk, cycling, and trap and pistol shooting events. Ely, 775-289-8202.

• **4 Children's Summer Concert Series:** Performing arts program for children age five and older. Reed Whipple Cultural Center, Las Vegas, 702-229-6211

• **4-5 SCORE Las Vegas Primm 300 Desert Race:** 200 vehicles compete. Free admission to grandstand seating behind Buffalo Bill's Resort in Primm, 43 miles south of Las Vegas on I-15. 702-735-7123.

• **4-5 NPC-USA Body Building:** Artemus Ham Hall, UNLV, 702-895-ARTS.

• **4-5 and 11-12 "Blythe Spirit":** Broadway play by Noel Coward. Boathouse Theatre, Tallac Historic Site, South Lake Tahoe, 530-542-4166.

• **4-6 Tahoe Rim Trail's Back Country Camp:** Trail-building campout. Meals, tools, and hard hats provided. Cost is $45 per person. Along the ridge tops of Lake Tahoe, west of S.R. 431 between Reno and Incline Village. 775-588-0686.

• **4-6 $1,250,000 Maximus Slot Tournament:** Caesars Palace, Las Vegas, 888-927-2758.

• **4-6 Blackjack Tournament:** Tropicana, Las Vegas, 739-2222.

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2000 EVENTS CALENDAR

Fallon Air Show, TBA
Spring Wings Bird Festival, May 12-14
Silver State Int'l Rodeo, June 30 - July 4
Stampede & Pioneer Days Paw Wow, July 14-16
Hearts O' Gold Cantaloupe Festival, Sept. 1-4
Wings Over the Valley Hunting Festival Sept. 29-Oct. 1



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Millennium Countdown Calendar

• **5 History of the Ward Charcoal Ovens:** Guided tour. Ward Charcoal Ovens State Historic Park, 19 miles (10 dirt) south of Ely, 775-728-4460.

• **5 Basque People of Nevada:** Slide show on the Basques and why they immigrated to Nevada. Free admission. Dayton State Park, Dayton, 775-687-5678.

• **5 Valhalla Summer Gala:** Champagne, hors d'oeuvres, dinner, music, dancing. Tallac Historic Site, South Lake Tahoe, 530-542-4166.

• **5-6 Carson City Railroad Museum Encampment and Ride the Rails:** Living-history festival features demonstrations and train rides. Nevada State Railroad Museum, Carson City, 775-882-5378, 775-687-6953.

• **5-6 Tom Vernesch at the Las Vegas Natural History Museum:** Science demonstrations for children. Las Vegas Natural History Museum, 702-384-DINO.

• **5-6 Arts in the Park:** Show and sale, food booths. County Park, Ely, 775-289-8877

• **6 The Lenz Trio:** Piano, flute, and cello concert. The Chateau Clubhouse, Incline Championship Golf Course, Incline Village, 530-546-3634.

• **6 Logging in the Sierra:** Lecture and video presentation about the Tahoe Basin in the 1800s. Mormon Station State Historic Park, Genoa, 775-782-2590.

• **6-7 Makin' Money Slot Tournament:** Silver Legacy, Reno, 800-MUST-SEE.

• **7 "Pinocchio":** Lilliput Players perform classic play. Boathouse Theatre, Tallac Historic Site, South Lake Tahoe, 530-542-4166.

• **8 Harmonics Steel Drum Band:** Concert. Valhalla Grand Hall, Tallac Historic Site, South Lake Tahoe, 530-542-4166.

Biking in Austin

The Claim Jumpers Mountain Bike Festival, August 19-20 in Austin, is open to all levels—novice to expert riders—for cross-country and downhill races. The annual event in the Central Nevada town features a barbecue and entertainment.

• **9 Summer Music Festival at Plumpjack Squaw Valley Inn:** Celtic music. Squaw Valley USA, Lake Tahoe, 530-583-6955.

• **9-12 Lincoln County Fair and Rodeo:** Arts and crafts, talent contest, cow-dog trials, swap meet, vendors. Lincoln County High School Gymnasium and the Rodeo Arena, Panaca, 775-725-3821

• **9-12, 16-19, and 22-26 Super Summer 2000: "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat":** Outdoor picnic performance of the Broadway play. Spring Mountain Ranch State Park, 18 miles west of Las Vegas, 702-594-PLAY.

• **9-13 Northern Nevada Living History Festival:** Civil War camps, mountain man rendezvous, pow-wow, pro rodeo, carnival. Fernley, 775-575-4459.

• **10 Encore Noel:** Musical review of Noel Coward's work. Boathouse Theatre, Tallac Historic Site, South Lake Tahoe, 530-542-4166.

• **10 Linda Arnold in Concert:** Young People's Summer Concert Series. Winchester Center, Las Vegas, 702-455-7340.

• **11 Mule Deer:** Lecture about the social structure, physical features, and roaming area of the animal in Northern Nevada. Mormon Station State Historic Park, Genoa, 775-782-2590.

• **11 The Italians in Eureka:** Historian Brian Frehner speaks about the Italian emigrants in the 1870s. Eureka Opera House, Eureka, 775-237-6006.

• **11-12 Concours d' Elegance:** On-the-water boat show featuring more than 125 antique and wooden boats dating back to the 1800s. Show includes tented exhibits, presentations, clinics, food and beverages, and live music. Proceeds benefit Lake Tahoe charities. Sierra Boat Company, Lake Tahoe, 530-581-4700.

• **11-12 Fantasy Car and Truck Show:** Antique automobiles on display, games, parade. Ely, 775-289-8877

• **11-13 Jarbidge Days:** Live music in the bar on Friday and outdoor music on Saturday afternoon. Arts and crafts and food and drink booths. Jarbidge, 775-488-2311

• **11-13 Great Gatsby Festival:** Living-history event celebrating the 1920s includes tours, food, vintage clothing and cars, music, children's activities. Tallac Historic Site, South Lake Tahoe, 530-541-5227

• **11-13 Eureka County Fair:** Horse show, exhibits, roping. Fairgrounds, Eureka, 775-237-5263.

• **11-13 Ruth Town Reunion:** Town Park, Ruth, 775-289-2188.

• **12 Leave No Trace Workshop:** Low-impact camping demonstration. Cathedral Gorge State Park, Panaca, 775-728-4460.

• **12 360 and Mini Sprint:** Races at Great Basin Raceway. Ely, 775-289-3232.

• **12 Meet the Artist: Elizabeth Kurtak:** Watercolor painter. Art Encounter, Las Vegas, 702-227-0220.

• **12 Road to Indy Western Super Modified Series Race:** Silver State Raceway, Carson City, 775-885-2079.

• **12 Fishing Seminar:** Tips and techniques demonstration. Cave Lake State Park, 15 miles south of Ely. 775-728-4460.

• **12 Swap Meet:** Genoa Park, Genoa, 775-782-8696.

• **12 Santa Maria Day:** Italian harvest festival with music, parade, games, horseshoes, food, crafts. Volunteer Fire Department, Dayton, 775-246-7909.

• **12 Nevada's Best Cow Dog Trials:** Trained cow dogs move cows on specific field course. Lincoln County Fair, Delmue Ranch, Panaca, 775-728-4682.

• **12 Mule Deer in Nevada:** Slide show on mule deer population trends and habitat. Free admission. Dayton State Park, Dayton, 775-687-5678.

• **12 Las Vegas Music Festival Concert:** Artemus Ham Hall, UNLV, 702-895-3801

• **12-13 Quicksilver Dog Agility Trials:** Dogs ranked from beginner to elite classes compete on obstacle courses. Fuji Park, Carson City, 775-847-9847

• **12-13 Nevada Two-Man Best Ball:** Golf tournament. White Pine County Golf Course, Ely, 775-289-4095.

• **12-13 Concert Fantasy 2000 and Fantasy Petite 2000:** Performance to benefit the Make-A-Wish Foundation. Cashman Theatre, Las Vegas, 702-458-7575.

• **12-13 Donner Lake Campout:** Water sports



The National Championship Air Races, September 14-17 at Reno-Stead Airport, hosts fans of aerobatics, airplane races, and aircraft displays like this one in downtown Reno.

and camping weekend for the disabled and their family and friends. Reservations required. Donner Lake, Truckee, 530-581-4161

• **12-13 NHRA Junior Dragster Race:** Top Gun Raceway, Fallon, 775-423-0223.

• **12-13 Junior High Rodeo:** All-around rodeo events. Rodeo Grounds, Lovelock, 775-273-2968.

• **12-13 Antique Engine and Tractor Show:** Tractor pulls, exhibits, food, parades. Heybourne Road and Stephanie Way, Minden, 775-267-4816.

• **12-18 Bonneville National Speed Week:** Largest and most popular event on the Bonneville Salt Flats featuring straight-track racing against the clock, with times expected in the 500-600 mph range. Bonneville Salt Flats, Wendover, 805-526-1805.

• **13 Bedelian and Griffitt:** Piano and violin concert. The Chateau Clubhouse, Incline Championship Golf Course, Incline Village, 530-546-3634.

• **13-14 $7,500 Fabulous '50s Keno Tournament:** Atlantis, Reno, 888-551-7007

• **13-15 Dollar Slot Marathon:** John Ascuaga's Nugget, Sparks, 800-843-2427

• **13-15 Pony Express 100:** Open road race from Austin to Battle Mountain also has a car show, dance, and parade. Civic Center, Battle Mountain, 775-635-8245.

• **13-16 Summer Classic Slot Tournament:** Flamingo Reno, 775-322-1111

• **15 Ebo Okokan:** Afro-Cuban folkloric music. Boathouse Theatre, Tallac Historic Site, 530-542-4166.

• **16 Gigi:** Film starring Leslie Caron, Maurice Chevalier, and Louis Jordan. Boathouse Theatre, Tallac Historic Site, South Lake Tahoe, 530-542-4166.

• **17 California Cajun Orchestra:** Dance music. Valhalla Grand Hall, Tallac Historic Site, South Lake Tahoe, 530-542-4166.

• **17-20 Lyon County Fair and Rodeo:** Rodeo, carnival, parade, tractor pull, hay boom, dance, demolition derby. Yerington, 775-463-2245.

• **18 Cattle Women's BBQ:** Fairgrounds, Ely, 775-289-6113.

• **18 Nevada's Best Cow Dog Trials:** Trained cow dogs move cows on arena course. White Pine County Fairgrounds, Ely, 775-728-4682.

• **18-19 Island Beach Bash:** Live entertainment. Fremont Street Experience, Las Vegas, 702-678-5777

• **18-20 Ely Horse Race and Roping:** Fairgrounds, Ely, 775-238-5238.

• **18-20 Asian Slot Tournament:** Flamingo Reno, 775-322-1111

• **18-20 Annual Valley Cruisers Main Street Event:** Car show open to all vehicles 1969 and older. Steak dinner, dancing in the street, and pancake breakfast also featured. Minden and Gardnerville, 775-265-2256.

• **19 Petal to Pod:** Slide program on local blooming plants. Cathedral Gorge State Park, Panaca, 775-728-4460.

• **19 Direct From Ireland: "Solas":** Celtic music concert. Clark County Amphitheater, Las Vegas, 702-455-8242.

• **19 Leave No Trace Workshop:** Low-impact camping demonstration. Cave Lake State Park, 15 miles south of Ely. 775-728-4460.

• **19 Uncle Sugar and the Sweet Daddies:** Dance to the music of the '40s. Charleston Heights Center, Las Vegas, 702-229-6383.

• **19 Tonopah Town Picnic:** Annual gathering of citizens and visitors, with much storytelling. Tonopah, 877-TONOPAH.

• **19 Drag Racing:** Top Gun Raceway, Fallon, 775-423-0223.

• **19 Candle and Soap Making:** Lecture on how pioneers made the household essentials. Mormon Station State Historic Park, Genoa, 775-782-2590.

• **19 Railroads of Nevada:** Slide show on railroads significant to the development of Nevada during the Comstock and Tonopah-Goldfield booms. Free admission. Dayton State Park, Dayton, 775-687-5678.

• **19-20 Bowers Mansion Encampment:** Civil War camp features demonstrations, church services, and ice cream. Bowers Mansion, U.S. 395, Carson City, 775-849-1825.

• **19-20 Reno Pride Celebration:** Educational and recreational booths, vendors, and entertainment. Wingfield Park, Reno, 775-825-2299.

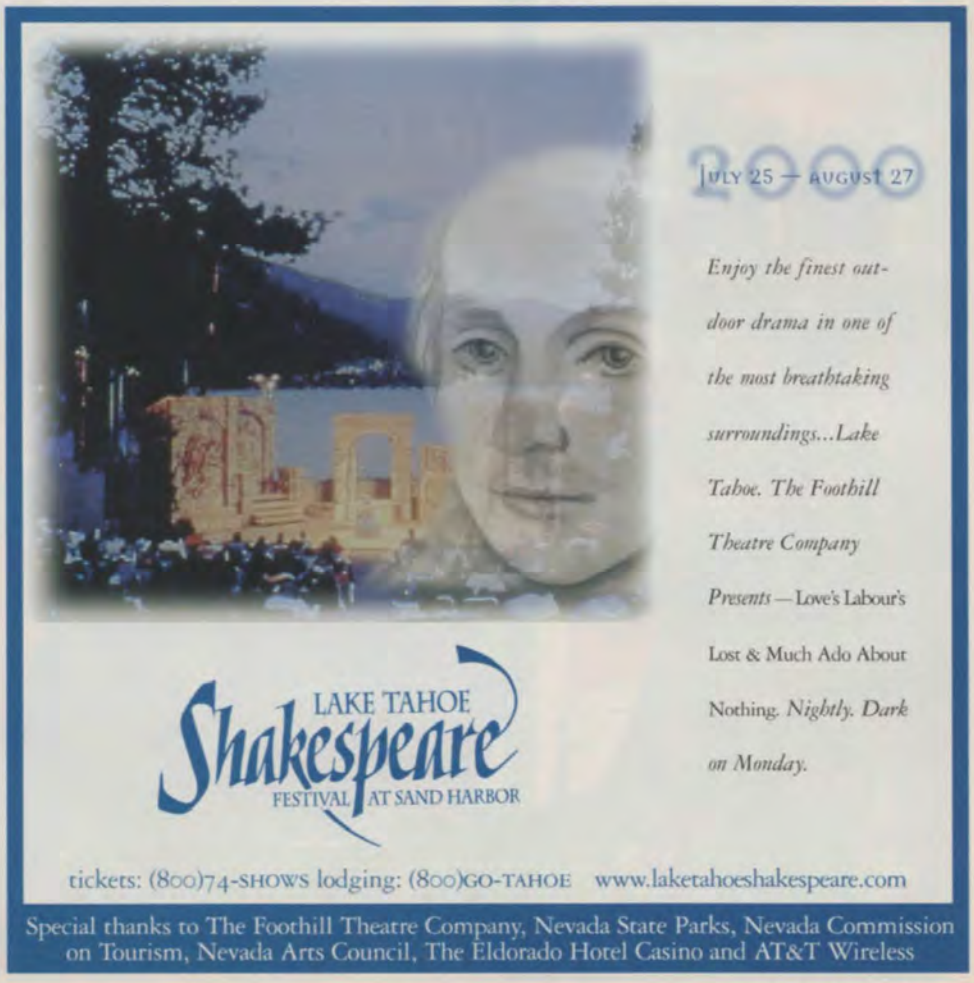


Photo: Gayland Anderson

• **19-20 White Pine County Fair and Horse Races:** Fairgrounds, Ely, 775-289-6729.
• **19-20 Ride the Rails:** Train rides at the Nevada State Railroad Museum. Carson City, 775-687-6953.
• **19-20 Fallon Motocross Festival:** Arena racing. Fairgrounds, Fallon, 775-423-2544.
• **19-20 Claim Jumpers Mountain Bike Festival:** 9-26-mile cross-country race, barbecue, entertainment, downhill race; novice to expert racers. Austin, 775-964-2200.
• **19-20 White Pine County Fair and Horse Races:** Fair with displays, vendors, games, rides, food booths, parimutuel betting. Fairgrounds, Ely, 775-289-8877
• **20 Concert on the Green:** Bring chairs and a picnic. Genoa Park, Genoa, 775-782-8696.
• **20 Reggae Sunday on the Valhalla Lawn:** Music, food, and beverages on the large grassy lawn of Valhalla. Tallac Historic Site, South Lake Tahoe, 530-541-4975.
• **20-22 Quick Strike Keno Tournament:** Comstock, Reno, 775-329-1880.
• **20-23 '50s Theme Slot Tournament:** John Ascuaga's Nugget, Sparks, 800-843-2427
• **20-23 When Slots Attack Slot Tournament:** MGM Grand, Las Vegas, 800-891-4220.
• **21 Niel McCoy in Concert:** Singer performs a benefit for area youth prevention programs. Broadbent Park, Ely, 775-289-3440.
• **21-27 The Greens.com Open at Reno-Tahoe:** Golf tournament featuring top PGA players, rounds Thurs.-Sun. Montreux Golf and Country Club, Reno, 775-322-1213.
• **23-27 Nevada State Fair:** Livestock exhibits and auction, creative living competition, food booths, carnival, and entertainment. Livestock Events Center, Reno, 775-688-5767
• **24-27 USTRC Northwest Regional Finals:** Western team ropers compete. Fairgrounds, Winnemucca, 775-623-2220.
• **24-27 Mineral County Fair:** Carnival, bike and foot races, food, crafts. Hawthorne, 775-945-5896.
• **25 Back 40 and Too Tall For Our Hair:** Performances by two bluegrass bands. Eureka Opera House, Eureka, 775-237-6006.
• **25 Fantcha and Band From Cape Verde:** Concert. Convention Center, Fallon, 775-423-1440.
• **25-27 Super Slots Tournament:** Comstock, Reno, 775-329-1880.
• **25-27 Spirit of Wovoka Days Powwow:** Native American dance, food, arts, crafts. Yerington, 775-463-2350.
• **26 Creepy, Crawly Critters:** Slide program on lizards, snakes, insects, and spiders. Cathedral Gorge State Park, Panaca, 775-728-4460.
• **26 Great Truckee Meadows Rubber Duck Race:** Benefit for Make-A-Wish Foundation. Ducks are sold, numbered, and placed in the Truckee River for a race. Wingfield Park, Reno, 775-677-9419.
• **26 Hobby Stocks and Bombers:** Races at the Great Basin Raceway. Ely, 775-289-3232.
• **26 Ely After Dark Train Ride:** Nevada Northern Railway Museum, Ely, 775-289-2085.
• **26 Meet the Artist: Marlon D'Joshaway:** Charcoal, acrylics, and watercolors artist. Art Encounter, Las Vegas, 702-227-0220.
• **26 Monster Trucks:** Races at the Fairgrounds, Fallon. 775-423-7733.

Millennium Countdown Calendar

• **26 Living History Canoe Trip:** Join a ranger for a tour and lecture. Bring your own canoe and lunch. Cave Lake State Park, 15 miles south of Ely. 775-728-4460.
• **26 Nevada's Best Cow Dog Trials:** Trained cow dogs move cows on arena course. Elko County Fair, Elko, 775-728-4682.
• **26 BCRA Nevada State Midget Championship Race:** Silver State Raceway, Carson City, 775-885-2079.
• **26 Sertoma Truck Pull:** Food, drinks, and T-shirts. Fairgrounds, Gardnerville, 775-782-1939.
• **26 Ruins Tour:** Ranger-led tour of Fort Churchill. Fort Churchill State Historic Park, Silver Springs, 775-577-2345.
• **26 Canning by the Early Pioneers:** Lecture about how the pioneers preserved their food. Mormon Station State Historic Park, Genoa, 775-782-2590.
• **26 Star Gaze:** Astronomers from the University of Nevada, Reno will guide viewers through the major constellations and explain astrological myths. Free admission. Dayton State Park, Dayton, 775-687-5678.
• **26-27 Donner Lake Campout:** Water sports and camping weekend for the disabled and their family and friends. Reservations required. Donner Lake, Truckee, 530-581-4161
• **26-Sept. 4 Elko County Fair:** Quarter horse and thoroughbred racing, working cow horse competition,



team-branding contests, 4-H livestock shows and sale, arts and crafts, food booths, dancing, and a carnival. Fairgrounds, Elko, 775-738-3616.

• **27 Festival of the Arts:** Performances by Liberace scholarship students from the Las Vegas Music Festival, Nevada Ballet Theater, UNLV Liberace String Quartet, and Nevada School for the Arts Suzuki violinists. Clark County Library Theater, Las Vegas, 702-798-5595, ext. 20.

• **27-29 Valhalla Fine Quilt Exhibit:** Historic and modern quilts, demonstrations, workshops. Valhalla Estate, South Lake Tahoe, 530-542-4166.

• **28-Sept. 4 Burning Man Festival:** Radical free



Summer is the time for old-fashioned fun at county fairs and holiday celebrations in Nevada. Here, youngsters compete in a watermelon-eating contest during Mason Valley's Fourth of July festivities in Yerington.

expression arts festival. Black Rock Desert, 415-550-3080.

• **31-Sept. 4 Best in the West Nugget Rib Cook-Off:** Concerts, arts and crafts, and rib tastings. Victorian Square and John Ascuaga's Nugget, Sparks, 775-353-2291

September 2000

• **1-3 Stargazing:** Telescopes provided. Squaw Valley USA, Lake Tahoe, 530-583-6955.

• **1-3 Tri-County Fair and Stampede:** Rodeo, carnival, entertainment, exhibits, and vendors. Event includes the Western Art Roundup and Summer Art Festival. Fairgrounds, Winnemucca, 775-623-5071

• **1-3 Krazy Keno Tournament:** Comstock, Reno, 775-329-1880.

• **1-3 Nevada Shakespeare Festival:** The comedy "Tex, Mugs, and Something Droll" plays four times daily except Monday. Piper's Opera House, Virginia City, 775-847-0600.

• **1-4 Hearts of Gold Cantaloupe Festival:** Fallon, 775-423-2544.

• **1-4 Elko County Fair:** Quarter horse and thoroughbred racing, working cow horse competitions, team-branding contest, 4H livestock show and sale, home art exhibits, food booths, carnival, and dances. Fairgrounds, Elko, 775-738-3616.

• **1-4 Pioche Labor Day Celebration:** Mining events, parades, contests, booths, dancing, and arts and crafts. Pioche, 775-962-5544.

• **1-4 Best in the West Nugget Rib Cook-Off:** A world-class event featuring the West's best rib cookers competing for fame and the crowd's acclaim. Also featured are nightly entertainment and an arts and crafts fair. Victorian Square and John Ascuaga's Nugget, Sparks, 775-356-3300.

• **2 Alpen Wine Fest at Plumpjack Squaw Valley Inn:** Wine tastings, hors d'oeuvres, and silent auction to benefit Jimmie Heuga Center. Squaw Valley USA, Lake Tahoe, 530-583-6955.

• **2 Railroad Day:** Train rides on the V&T, barbecue, and tours. Virginia City and Gold Hill, 775-847-7500.

• **2 "Oh, Nuts!":** Tips on gathering and cooking pine nuts. Cave Lake State Park, 15 miles south of Ely, 775-728-4460 for further event information.

• **2 Eastern Nevada Mining History:** Slide program highlights more than 100 years of mining. Cathedral Gorge State Park, Panaca, 775-728-4460.

• **2-3 Annual Corn Feed:** Potluck dinner, live music, and bingo. Proceeds go to community needs. Jarbidge, 775-488-2311

• **2-3 Ultra Lite Fly-In:** Air show, hot-air balloon rides, Ultra Lite flights for the public. Yelland Air Field, Ely, 775-289-4687

• **3 History of Ward Charcoal Ovens:** Slide-illustrated talk. Ward Charcoal Ovens State Historic Park, 19 miles (10 dirt) south of Ely, 775-728-4460.

• **3-5 Video Poker Tournament:** Comstock, Reno, 775-329-1880.

• **8-9 BULLNANZA:** Top 55 pro bull riders compete. Livestock Events Center, Reno, 800-595-RIDE.

• **8-9 Boulder City Chautauqua:** Scholars portray historical characters. Event includes arts and crafts, food booths, and musical entertainment. Bicentennial Park, Boulder City, 702-294-4365.

• **8-10 Pony Express 100 Car Race:** Highway race between Battle Mountain and Austin on S.R. 305. 775-635-8245.

• **8-10 ACTRA Team Roping:** Contestants from the Western states. Fairgrounds, Winnemucca, 775-623-2220.

• **8-10 Virginia City International Camel Races:** Camel, ostrich, and water buffalo races, specialty acts, daily parades, and food. Camel Arena, Virginia City, 775-847-0311 or 775-329-7469.

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Photo: Mabel Huber

• **8-10 Great Reno Balloon Race:** A top ballooning event that draws 120,000 people. The early morning rally has been voted as one of Northern Nevada's best events. Rancho San Rafael Park, Reno, 775-826-1181

• **8-10 High Desert Jazz Festival:** Workshops, food, drinks. Brewery Arts Center, Carson City, 775-883-1976.

• **9 Race to the Angel:** Walkers, runners, and mountain bikers follow the 13.1-mile course that climbs 3,000 feet from downtown Wells to Angel Lake. Wells, 775-752-3540.

• **9 Antique and Collectible Sale:** Carson Valley Museum and Cultural Center, Gardnerville, 775-265-6097

• **9 Canoe Trip:** Park rangers lead a canoe trip on the Carson River from Fort Churchill to Lahontan Reservoir. Fort Churchill State Historic Park, Silver Springs, 775-577-2345.

• **9 Gymkhana:** Caliente, 775-726-3203.

• **9 International Chili Cook-Off:** Ponderosa Ranch, Incline Village, 775-831-4440.

• **9-10 Fine Arts and Crafts Street Celebration:** Annual arts and crafts fair features live entertainment and food booths. Downtown Minden, 775-324-6435 or 775-782-8144.

• **9-10 Nevada State Museum/Carson City Mint Coin Show:** More than 35 dealers from across the U.S. showcase coins, collectibles, historical papers, books, stamps, jewelry, and medals. There will be free appraisals and free admission. Nevada State Museum, Carson City, 775-687-4810 ext. 221

• **9-11 Black Rock X1 and EX2 Rocket Launches:** High-altitude amateur rocketry invitational. Black Rock Desert, 775-623-1528.



Musicians warm up the Sand Harbor crowd at the Lake Tahoe Shakespeare Festival, July 25-August 27.

• **9-11 Reunion Celebration:** Past and present residents gather in Tonopah. Tonopah, 877-TONOPAH.

• **10 Las Patrias Festival:** Entertainment on three stages, fireworks, food, crafts. Lorenzi Park, Las Vegas, 800-634-6133.

• **10 Sundae in the Park:** Art and food festival with locally produced quilts, crafts, foods, and art. Entertainment and free ice cream. Yerington, 775-463-1783.

• **11-13 Twice as Nice Twin Stakes Slot Tournament:** Fremont, Las Vegas, 702-385-3232.

• **13-17 Summerlin Street Fair:** Arts and crafts, music, entertainers, demonstrations. Summerlin Community, Las Vegas, 702-286-4944.

• **14-17 National Championship Air Races:** Four classes of racers—Unlimited, Formula One, AT-6, and Biplane—plus military displays and aerobatics. Reno, 775-972-6663.

• **15-17 Silver State Classic Challenge:** Ninety-mile open road car race against the clock on S.R. 318

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Photo: Lonnie Peck/Reno News Bureau

from Lund to Hiko. Pre-race activities in Ely, 775-289-8877

- **15-17 Dayton Valley Days:** Country fair, rodeo, crafts, entertainment. Dayton, 775-246-3378.
- **15-17 Pahrump Harvest Festival:** PRCA rodeo, carnival, vendors, music, and parade on Sept. 16. Community Park, Pahrump, 775-727-5800.
- **16 Pacific Crest Ultra Marathon:** 12K, 25K, and 50K races. Squaw Valley USA, Lake Tahoe, 530-583-6955.
- **16 Horseback Endurance Ride:** Annual 100-mile ride in 25-mile loops around the hills of the Comstock mining town and scenic areas such as Washoe Lake. Virginia City, 775-847-0311
- **16 Tahoe Rim Trail Annual Hike-A-Thon:** Tahoe Rim Trail, 775-588-0686.
- **16 Buckland Station History Talk:** Rangers lead a discussion about the newly restored station. Fort Churchill State Historic Park, Silver Springs, 775-577-2345.
- **17-18 Stash the Cash Slot Tournament:** Silver Legacy, Reno, 800-MUST-SEE.
- **17-19 Meadow Valley Days:** Poker run, horseshoes, baseball, barbecue. Caliente, 775-726-3129.
- **20 Arrangers' Holiday Concert:** Jazz composers and arrangers perform their favorite works. Nicholas Horn Theatre, Community College of Southern Nevada, North Las Vegas, 702-651-5483.
- **20-Oct. 1 Snaffle Bit Futurity:** Horses and riders compete for more than $700,000 in prize money. Livestock Events Center, Reno, 775-688-5750.
- **21-23 World of Speed:** Land speed time trials and record runs. Bonneville Salt Flats, Wendover, 801-785-5364.
- **21-24 Las Vegas Street Fair:** International food festival, concerts, carnival rides, exhibits. Corner of Valley View Blvd. and Flamingo Rd., Las Vegas, 702-286-4944.
- **21-24 San Gennaro Feast:** Italian food festival, music, vendors. Vacation Village, Las Vegas, 702-286-4944.
- **21-24 Street Vibrations Music, Metal and Motorcycles Festival:** Motorcycle tours, entertainment, ride-in shows, a parade, poker run/walk, vendors, and concerts. Various community locations, Reno, 775-329-SHOW or 800-200-4557
- **22-24 Gold Coast SNORE 250:** Off-road race. Las Vegas, 702-452-4522.
- **22-24 Cribbage Tournament:** Convention Center, Winnemucca, 775-623-5071
- **22-24 Annual Nevada Shakespeare in the Park:** Outdoor presentation of plays by the Bard. Henderson, 702-565-2367
- **22-24 Taste of Vegas:** Food and music. Clark County Amphitheater, Las Vegas, 702-730-0300.
- **22-Oct. 31 "Macbeth":** Nevada Shakespeare Festival production in black leather. Piper's Opera House, Virginia City, 775-847-0600.
- **23 MX Race:** Mesquite Raceway, Mesquite, 800-621-0187
- **23 Dash for Cash:** Gymkhana. Caliente, 775-726-3203.
- **23 Starving Artists Sale:** Nothing over $100. Sierra Arts Center, Reno, 775-329-1324.
- **23 Horseback Tours:** Rangers lead a tour of Carson River ranches. Fort Churchill Historic State Park, Silver Springs, 775-577-2345.
- **23 $15,000 Turkey Nationals Big Bucks Race:** Top Gun Raceway, Fallon, 775-423-0223.
- **23-24 Ferrari Club of America Hillclimb, Parade, and Car Show:** Time trials. Virginia City,

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Contestants in the double-jack drilling contest compete during Jim Butler Days. Photo by Jim Galli

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775-847-0311 for further information.

- **23-24 Genoa Candy Dance:** 80th annual arts and crafts fair featuring more than 300 fine arts and crafts booths. Dinner and dance held on Saturday night. Genoa, 775-782-TOWN.
- **23-24 High Desert Classic Softball Tournament:** Coed softball tournament. Event held at Lampe Park, Gardnerville, 775-782-9828.
- **23-24 Rattlin' Rails Handcar Races:** International Short Course Championship, Yucca Street Rail Yard, Boulder City, 702-595-7223.
- **24 Mountain Run II:** Event includes 10K run and four-mile fitness walk on a high mountain loop course following dirt roads and trails from Roller Pass and the Pacific Crest Trail. Lake Tahoe, 530-550-0885.
- **24 Stew-Doo:** Stew-cooking contest, food, arts and crafts, and a classic car show. Penny Park, Silver Springs, 775-577-3424.
- **24-30 America's Loneliest Bike Tour:** Annual camping-style ride across Nevada on U.S. 50 from Lake Tahoe to Great Basin National Park. Call 775-588-9658.
- **25-29 John Ascuaga's Nugget Amateur Open:** Golf tournament will be held on five area courses. Top finishers will play ArrowCreek Legend Course on final day. Entry fees include five-day, four-night packages. John Ascuaga's Nugget, Sparks, 800-648-1177
- **28-Oct. 1 Roddin' on the River:** Ninth annual classic and custom car event. Riverside Resort, Laughlin, 800-452-8445, option 4.
- **28-Oct. 1 Desert Oasis Music Festival:** David Grer and Matt Flinner, Judith Edelman, Ron Spears and Within Tradition play bluegrass, folk, and Celtic music. Jam sessions, barbecue, crafts, workshops. Fairgrounds, Fallon, 775-423-7733.
- **29-Oct. 1 World Championship Chili Cook-Off:** Fremont Street Experience, Las Vegas, 702-678-5777
- **29-Oct. 1 Fall Home Show:** Cashman Center, Las Vegas, 702-798-4944.
- **29-Oct. 1 Crazy Reels Slots Tournament:** Comstock, Reno, 775-329-1880.
- **29-Oct. 1 Annual Tahoe Donner International Wheelchair Tennis Sectional Championship:** More than 80 players are expected in the 14th annual event. Tahoe Donner Tennis Club, Truckee, 530-587-2108.
- **29-Oct. 1 Wings Over the Valley Hunting Festival:** Fallon, 800-874-0903.
- **30 Riders in the Sky:** Country-western performers present a concert, including their music from the soundtrack of *Toy Story II*. Clark County Amphitheater, Las Vegas, 702-455-8242.
- **30 Great Basin Book Festival:** Authors and readers conduct readings, panels, and book signings. Themes include Word War II, Native American literature, Nevada architecture, and women and the West. Wingfield Park, Reno, 775-784-6587
- **30 Frozen Fury IV:** NHL preseason exhibition game between the Los Angeles Kings and Colorado Avalanche. MGM Grand, Las Vegas, 702-474-4000.
- **30 Ruins Tour:** Ranger-led tour of Fort Churchill. Fort Churchill State Historic Park, Silver Springs, 775-577-2345.
- **30-Oct. 1 Yerington Airport Fly-In:** Poker run, war bird display, static displays. Municipal Airport, Yerington, 775-463-3511

October 2000

- **1 Smith Valley Fun Days:** Show-and-shine, food, arts, crafts, Smith Valley, 775-465-2354.
- **1 Snaffle Bit Futurity:** Horses and riders compete for more than $700,000 in prize money. Livestock Events Center, Reno, 775-688-5750.
- **1-31 16th Annual Comstock Art Show:** Virginia City, 775-847-0311
- **1-31 "Macbeth":** Nevada Shakespeare Festival production in black leather. Piper's Opera House, Virginia City, 775-847-0600.
- **3-8 Las Vegas International Bike Festival and Expo:** Racing, motocross, stunt shows, rock concerts, a world land speed record. Las Vegas, 702-260-8605.
- **5 Lulu Lifetree Trio:** Cindy Pearson leads musicians playing original jazz, blues, swing, and contemporary music. Center Club Showroom, Ramada Inn, Lovelock, 775-273-2082.
- **6-8 Las Vegas Super Run 2000:** Open to all classic vehicles. Welcoming party, poker walks and runs, slow drags, burn-out competition, cruises. Las Vegas, 702-739-0045.
- **6-8 Pahrump Fat Tire Festival:** Mountain-bike cross-country race, hill climb, night rides, poker run, and tours for beginners and advanced. Pahrump, 775-727-5800.
- **7 Dinosaur Ball:** Dinner, dancing, and auction to benefit the Las Vegas Natural History Museum. Evening includes presentation of the Dinosaur Academy Awards a la Hollywood 65 million years ago. Las Vegas Natural History Museum, 702-384-DINO for further event information.
- **7 Art and Earth Festival:** Art, food, crafts. Hawthorne, Walker Lake, and Schurz, 775-945-5896.
- **7 Scarecrow Festival:** Make your own life-size

Millennium Site



The Nevada Millennium Countdown Calendar, devoted to the state's 15-month millennial celebration, appears in each issue of *Nevada Magazine* during the state's celebration. The Nevada Millennium Countdown Calendar also is available online at www.2000nevada.com. In addition to millennium events, the site has information on ordering "NV2000: Making Millennium Magic" merchandise, millennium travel packages, and a countdown clock. The site links to the Nevada Commission on Tourism's information site, www.travelnevada.com, which offers a wide variety of travel and vacation ideas.

scarecrow or purchase a ready-made. Food, pumpkins, face- and pumpkin-painting. Carson Valley Museum and Cultural Center, Gardnerville, 775-782-7629.

• **7 World Championship Outhouses Races:** Virginia City, 775-847-0311

• **7-8 Annual Donner Party Hike:** Docent-led hike along the Donner Trail. Squaw Valley USA, Lake Tahoe, 530-583-6955.

• **7-8 Kokanee Salmon Festival:** Migration of landlocked kokanee salmon. Event includes children's activities, shows, salmon dinners, entertainment, exhibits, and environmental education. Forest Service Taylor Creek Visitor Center, South Lake Tahoe, 530-573-2674.

• **7-8 Art in the Park:** More than 300 booths featuring fine art and crafts for sale and browsing. Bicentennial Park, Boulder City, 702-294-1611

• **7-8 Valhalla Book Fair:** Used book sale, children's storytelling, a book appraiser, and book signing. Tallac Historic Site, South Lake Tahoe, 530-542-4166.

• **7-8 Great Italian Festival:** Activities include a grape stomp, spaghetti-eating contest, Italian food booths, and entertainment. Eldorado Hotel, Reno, 775-786-5700.

• **8 Annual Lake Tahoe Marathon:** 5K, 10K, half-marathon, and marathon. Squaw Valley USA, Lake Tahoe, 530-583-6955.

• **8 Nevada Chamber Symphony:** Light classics and popular music. Clark County Amphitheater, Las Vegas, 702-455-8242.

• **8 Las Vegas Basque Festival:** Authentic Basque food, dancing, exhibitions, including weightlifting and wood chopping. St. Viator Community Center, Las Vegas, 702-361-6834 for more information.

• **8-9 Hit the Jackpot Slot Tournament:** Silver Legacy, Reno, 800-MUST-SEE.

• **8-11 The Perils of Nora Slot Tournament:** MGM Grand, Las Vegas, 800-891-4220.

• **11-15 Invernsys Classic at Las Vegas:** 18th annual PGA tournament. Top pros play at TPC at Summerlin, Desert Inn Golf Club, and Las Vegas Country Club. Las Vegas, 702-242-3000.

• **13-15 Renaissance Faire:** Food, medieval games, demonstrations. Sunset Park, Las Vegas, 702-455-8289.

• **13-15 $750,000 Cleopatra Slot Tournament:** Caesars Palace, Las Vegas, 888-927-2758.

• **13-15 and 19-22 "Steel Magnolias":** Western Nevada Theatre Company, Black Box Theatre, Carson High School, Carson City, 775-887-3115.

• **14-15 2000 THQ U.S. Open:** American Motorcycle Association supercross race. MGM Grand, Las Vegas, 702-474-4000.

• **14-15 Native American Festival/Snow Dance:** Basketweaving, canoeing demonstrations, arts, crafts, food. Sand Harbor State Park, Incline Village, 775-831-4440.

• **15 Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation Northern Nevada Race for the Cure:** 5K run-fitness walk. Washoe Village at South Meadows, Reno, 775-355-7311

• **15 Harvest Farm Auction:** Antique sale. Smith Valley, 775-465-2353.

• **15-Nov. 30 ABC/WIBC Festival of Bowling:** Amateur bowlers compete at the National Bowling Stadium. Reno, 800-304-BOWL.

• **18-21 World Finals:** Cars and motorcycles try one last time in the year 2000 to set new land speed records. Bonneville Salt Flats, Wendover, 805-526-1805.

• **19-22 Henderson Expo:** Art show, food booths, carnival, and businesses exhibit. Convention Center, Henderson, 702-565-8951

• **20-21 Deer Widows Weekend:** Non-deer-hunting spouses head to Wendover for the weekend. Wendover, 800-426-6862 or 775-664-3414.

• **20-22 Elko Te-Moak Powwow:** Tribal Gym, Elko, 775-753-5055.

• **20-22 Gem and Mineral Fair:** Demonstrations, sales of minerals, fossils, and rocks, silent auction. Clark County Heritage Museum, Henderson, 702-455-7955.

• **21 Tough Truck Field Meet:** Expo. Sunset Station, Henderson, 702-457-5775.

• **21 Carson City Symphony:** Premiere of Continental Harmony Project composition by Jim Cockey. Churchill County High School, Fallon, 775-883-4371

• **21 Cemetery Tour:** Carson Valley Historical Society, Gardnerville. Call for directions, 775-782-2010.

• **21-22 Celtic New Year Celebration:** Pipe band competition, Celtic dancing, entertainment, food, crafts. Livestock Events Center, Reno, 775-323-3138.

• **21-22 Fort Churchill Living History:** Troop formations, apple butter making, spinners, camp cooking, and crafts. Fort Churchill State Historic Park, Silver Springs, 775-358-2284.

• **22 Carson City Symphony:** Classical concert. Community Center, Carson City, 775-883-4154.

• **24 Shoshone Christmas Craft Bazaar:** Native American arts and crafts, food booths. Shoshone

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Wendover Area Chamber of Commerce & Tourism WACCT

Indian Colony, Ely, 775-289-3013.

- **24-31 Nevada Day Celebration:** Parade (on Oct. 28), carnival, midway games, entertainment, food booths, arts and crafts, and dance bands. Mills Park, Carson City, 775-687-4680.
- **25-26 Haunted Grand Hall at Valhalla:** For children under 12. Valhalla Grand Hall, South Lake Tahoe, 530-542-4166.
- **26-29 Professional Bull Riders Bud Light Cup World Championships:** Thomas and Mack Center, Las Vegas, 800-634-6698.
- **27-28 Fall Tri Game-A-Thon:** Blackjack and slot tournament. Carson Valley Inn, Minden, 877-783-7711
- **27-29 Autumn Food and Wine Festival:** Food and wine tastings, cooking and baking demonstrations, seminars, entertainment. Squaw Creek, Lake Tahoe, 530-583-6955.
- **27-29 BF Goodrich Tires Trans-Am Series:** Las Vegas Motor Speedway, 702-644-4444.
- **28 Nevada Day Halloween Drag Race:** Top Gun Raceway, Fallon, 775-423-0223.
- **28 Nevada Day Parade:** More than 250 entries celebrate Nevada's admission to the Union. Carson Street, Carson City, 775-687-7410.
- **28 Kit Carson Trail Ghost Walk:** Walking home tour to hear historic tales presented by spirits of the past. Historic District, Carson City, 775-687-7410.
- **28 Black and Black Ball:** Ghosts, ghouls, live music, appetizers, and potions. Tallac Historic Site, South Lake Tahoe, 530-542-4166.
- **28 Pig Roast/Halloween Party:** Pig roasted on a spit on Saturday afternoon with a bake auction by Jarbidge School following the barbecue. Costume party on Saturday night. Jarbidge, 775-488-2311
- **28 Burro Races:** Race against time to pack and unpack an uncooperative burro. City Arena, Beatty, 775-553-2424.
- **29-Nov. 1 Halloween Slot Tournament:** Flamingo Reno, 775-322-1111
- **30 Kids Carnival:** Games, costumes, entertainment. Caliente, 775-726-3422.
- **30-Nov. 5 National Senior Pro Rodeo Finals:** Athletes 40 and older compete. Livestock Events Center, Reno, 775-323-8842.

November 2000

- **1-30 ABC/WIBC Festival of Bowling:** Amateur bowlers compete at the National Bowling Stadium. Reno, 800-304-BOWL.
- **2-5 Reserve 250:** SNORE off-road race. Las Vegas, 702-452-4522.
- **3-5 Western Heritage Festival:** Cowboy poetry gathering featuring chautauquas, Western music entertainment, vendors, arts and crafts, pickup truck display, and hot-air balloons. Community College of Southern Nevada, North Las Vegas, 702-658-4679.
- **3-5 Rhymer's Rodeer Cowboy Poetry:** Tales of the trail and Western lore. Carson Valley Inn, Minden, 775-782-9711 or 800-321-6983.
- **3-5 and 10-12 "Tommy":** Rock opera. Nicholas Horn Theatre, Community College of Southern Nevada, North Las Vegas, 702-651-5483.
- **3-5, 10-12, and 17-19 "My Fair Lady":** Western Nevada Musical Theatre Company. Community Center, Carson City, 775-887-3115.
- **4 Las Vegas Pro Polo:** America vs. Great Britain. Location TBA, Las Vegas, 775-826-6157
- **4 Festival Americana:** Native American and pioneer crafts, demonstrations, entertainment, and food at the home of the Anasazi Indians. Lost City Museum, Overton, 702-397-2193.

• **5 Tour Las Vegas: Ride of the Century:** Fully supported bicycle rides. 775-588-9658.
• **5-8 Hawaiian Slot Tournament:** Flamingo Reno, 775-322-1111
• **6 Veterans Day Celebration:** Annual salute to the military. Henderson, 702-565-2367
• **11 Veterans Day Parade:** Patriotic pride on the Comstock. Virginia City, 775-847-0311
• **11 Pomegranate Art Festival:** Arts, crafts, pomegranate foods, cookbooks, entertainment. Moapa Valley Art Gallery, Overton, 702-397- 8323.
• **11 Veterans Day Parade:** Virginia Street, Reno, 775-334-2262.
• **13 St. Anne's Holiday Bazaar:** Local crafters' sale. Catholic Center, Yerington, 775-463-3842.
• **17-19 Pahrump Valley Chamber Inter Tribal Powwow:** Native American music and dancing. Community Park, Pahrump, 775-727-5800.
• **17-19 Charlie Nannini Invitational Chariot Races:** Horse-drawn chariot racers compete. Chariot Track, Wells, 775-752-3540.
• **17-19 Valhalla Holiday Faire: A Dickens Experience:** Holiday crafters, artists, boutiques, carolers, holiday treats, Father Christmas, and characters from Charles Dickens. Tallac Historic Site, South Lake Tahoe, 530-542-4166.
• **19 Faculty Solo Concert:** Classical and contemporary music. Nicholas Horn Theatre, Community College of Southern Nevada, North Las Vegas, 702-651-5483.
• **19 Trout Fishing in America:** Keith Grimwood and Ezra Idlet perform folk music. Center Club Showroom, Ramada Inn, Lovelock, 775-273-2082.
• **24-26 "The Nutcracker":** Tchaikovsky's holiday ballet performed by the Pinkerton Dance Company. Community Center, Carson City, 775-882-3054.
• **25 Fisherman's Holiday Fish Derby:** Anglers compete for cash prizes. Walker Lake, Hawthorne, 775-945-5896.
• **25 Annual Thanksgiving Dinner:** R.S.V.P. and Senior Center, Caliente, 775-726-3129.
• **26-27 Scrooge's Craft Fair:** Homemade crafts, food. Caliente, 775-726-3649.
• **29 Deck the Halls of Valhalla:** Bring a non-breakable ornament for Christmas party. Valhalla Grand Hall, South Lake Tahoe, 530-542-4166.
• **30 Downtown Hoedown:** Live entertainment to celebrate the National Finals Rodeo. Fremont Street Experience, Las Vegas, 702-678-5777
• **30-Dec. 9 NFR Cowboy Christmas Gift Show:** North Hall, Las Vegas Convention Center, 702-260-8605.

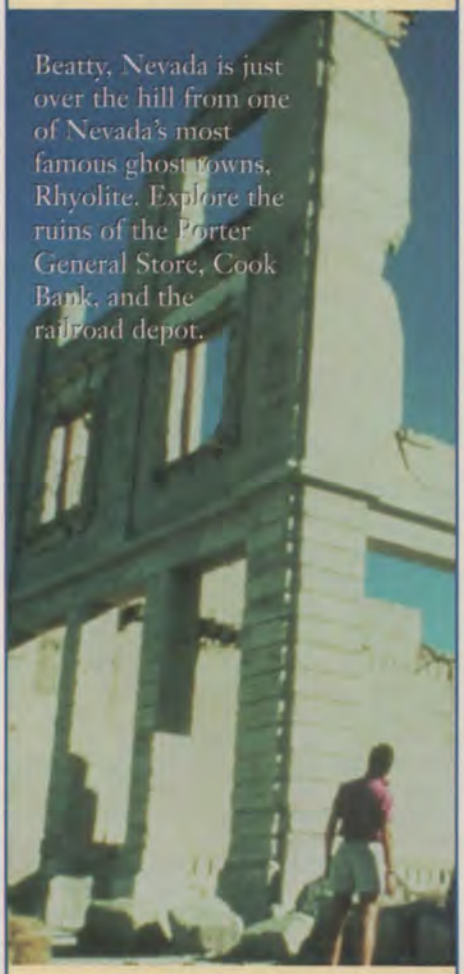
December 2000

• **1-3 Las Vegas 200:** A 200-mile off-road race with start and finish on the Moapa Indian Reservation northeast of Las Vegas. 702-457-5775.
• **1-3 No Frills Slot Tournament:** Flamingo Reno, 775-322-1111
• **1-9 NFR Cowboy Christmas Gift Show:** About 500 exhibitors sell their cowboy trappings. North Hall, Las Vegas Convention Center, 702-260-8605.
• **1-10 National Finals Rodeo:** Top 126 rodeo contestants compete for more than $4.2 million in prize money. Thomas and Mack Center, Las Vegas, 702-260-8605.
• **1-30 The Magical Forest:** Holiday lights and decorations create the annual winter wonderland. Opportunity Village, Las Vegas, 702-259-3700.
• **2 Crafters Christmas Bazaar:** Convention Center, Ely, 775-289-8261
• **2 Christmas on the Comstock:** Parade of lights and fireworks. Virginia City, 775-847-0311
• **2 Christmas Ghost Train Ride:** Holiday excursion aboard steam-powered train. Nevada Northern Railway Museum, Ely, 775-289-2085.
• **2 Christmas Parade:** Santa arrives at Bicentennial Park, Boulder City, 702-293-2034.
• **2 Parade of Lights:** Annual parade of 50 decorated boats on Lake Mead. Lake Mead Marina, Lakeshore Road, Boulder City, 702-457-2797
• **2 Sparks Hometowne Christmas:** 14th annual parade with Santa, music, arts and crafts, and a tree-lighting ceremony. Sparks, 775-353-2291
• **2-3 Festival of Trees:** Area businesses decorate trees in three themed categories. Wingfield Park and the Truckee River, Reno, 775-334-2417
• **2-3 Genoa Christmas Faire:** Arts and crafts fair, with Christmas carols and appetizers on Friday. Town Hall and Fire Bay, Genoa, 775-782-TOWN.
• **3 Victorian Home Christmas Tour:** Historic District, Carson City, 775-882-1565.
• **4 Pioche Christmas Tree Lighting and Santa Visit:** Christmas lighting, bonfire, hot chocolate, Santa arrives with gifts for all the children. Pioche, 775-962-5544.
• **7 Christmas at the Liberace Museum:** Las Vegas, 702-798-5595, ext. 20.
• **7 Silver and Snowflake Festival of Lights:** Christmas tree-lighting ceremony. State Capitol Building, Carson City, 775-882-1565.
• **8-9 Indian Art Market and Christmas Sale:** Paiute, Shoshone, and Washoe artists exhibit and sell traditional works. Reno-Sparks Indian Colony, Reno, 775-786-7029.
• **8-10 Ramada Express International Car Rally:** Off-road endurance race. Ramada Express, Laughlin, 800-243-6846.
• **9 Country Christmas:** Visit by Santa, Christmas tree lighting. Yerington, 775-463-2245.
• **9 Children's Christmas Parade:** Santa meets and greets children after parade through town. Convention Center, Henderson, 702-565-8951
• **9-10 Merry Money Slot Tournament:** Silver Legacy, Reno, 800-MUST-SEE.
• **10 Christmas Celebration on Main Street:** Parade, tree-lighting ceremony, and caroling. Yerington, 775-463-2245.
• **10-13 $140,000 Slot Tournament:** Caesars Palace, Las Vegas, 888-927-2758.
• **15-17 International Stamp and Coin Expo:** Tropicana, Las Vegas, 818-997-6496.
• **15-17 No Frills Slot Tournament:** Flamingo Reno, 775-322-1111
• **16 "Mark Twain Tonight":** Hal Holbrook stars in the one-man show he performed 20 years ago. Piper's Opera House, Virginia City, 775-847-0600.
• **16 Christmas Booksigning and Sale:** Local authors autograph books. Tea and cookies, music. Nevada Historical Society, Reno, 775-688-1191
• **17 Christmas at CCSN:** Music and dance concert includes a Christmas Carol sing-along. Nicholas Horn Theatre, Community College of Southern Nevada, North Las Vegas, 702-651-5483.
• **18-21 Reebok Holiday Prep Classic:** Boys' high school basketball tournament featuring 64 teams from 17 states. Green Valley and Durango high schools, Las Vegas, 702-799-5456.
• **31 New Year's Eve Celebrations:** Statewide.

January 2001

• **13-15 Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday Celebration:** Events will take place in Las Vegas and Reno/Sparks.

NEVADA'S GATEWAY TO DEATH VALLEY



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NEVADA NV2000
Making Millennium Magic

Nevada Showguide

Where the stars and shows are playing in July and August.

Nevada clubs and hotels offer big-name entertainment and production shows. This summer, Howie Mandel will appear at Caesars Palace in Las Vegas, Collin Raye performs at Sunset Station in Henderson, and Lou Rawls headlines at John Ascuaga's Nugget in Sparks. Here, *Nevada Magazine* presents a guide to featured performers this summer. Showrooms often fill fast, so call for show times and reservations. Las Vegas Territory's area code is 702; the rest of the state is 775.



Convincing Personas

Cast members of "American Superstars" at the Stratosphere in Las Vegas don the personas of Charlie Daniels (Johnny Potash), Elvis (Darren Lee), Gloria Estefan (Sandy Taggart), Madonna (Coty Alexander), and Michael Jackson (Damian Brantley).

Las Vegas Territory

BOULDER CITY

Hacienda • Between Boulder City and Hoover Dam, 293-5000 or 800-245-6380: Entertainment TBA.

HENDERSON

Joker's Wild • 564-8100: Live entertainment Wed.-Sun.

Reserve • 558-7000: Wasimba's Lounge: Bands play Wed.-Sun.

Sunset Station • 547-7777: Club Madrid: Bugs Henderson, July 3. Big Bill Morganfield/Steady Rollin' Bob Margolin, July 10. Louie Louie, Thurs.-Sat. Sunset Amphitheater: Joe Walsh, July 1. Will Downing/Phil Perry/Chante Moore/Gerald Albright, July 7. The Rippingtons, July 8. Paula Poundstone, July 28. Southside Johnny, Aug. 4. Collin Raye, Aug. 19. Najee, Sept. 1. Rick Springfield, Sept. 2. Lonestar, Sept. 8. Dave Koz, Sept. 23. B.J. Thomas, Sept. 30. John Cafferty and the Beaver Brown Band, Dec. 8. Sunset Brewing Co.: Karaoke on Wed., bands play Thurs.-Sat.

JEAN

Gold Strike Hotel • 477-5000 or 800-634-1359: Bands play nightly except Tues.

Nevada Landing • 387-5000 or 800-628-6682: Bands appear nightly except Wed.

LAS VEGAS

Arizona Charlie's • 258-5200: Naughty Ladies Saloon: Bands play nightly. Palace Grand Theatre: Entertainment TBA.

Arizona Charlie's East • 951-5800: Bands play in the Palace Grand Lounge at the Boulder Highway hotel.

Bally's • 739-4567 or 800-237-SHOW: Jubilee Theater: "Jubilee!" (dark Fri.). George Carlin, Aug. 10-31. Indigo Lounge: Van McGlothen on piano nightly except Tues.

Barbary Coast • 737-7111: Bands play Tues.-Sun. Karaoke, Mon.

Bellagio • 888-987-6667: Cirque du Soleil's "O," indf. (dark Wed.-Thurs., Aug. 14-17).

Boulder Station • 432-7777 or 800-683-7777: Railhead Lounge: Don McLean, Sept. 9. Montgomery Gentry, Sept. 15. Loretta Lynn, Sept. 16. BTO, Sept. 22. Merle Haggard, Sept. 23. Hal Ketchum, Oct. 7. Earl Klugh, Oct. 14. Jerry Vale, Oct. 20-21. Mark Wills, Dec. 9. Bands play nightly. Karaoke Fri.-Sat. Margaritaville: Rocco Barbato on Thurs., karaoke on Fri.-Sat.

Bourbon Street • 737-7200: Bourbon Street Lounge: Bands play nightly except Mon.

Caesars Palace • 731-7333 or 800-445-4544: Circus Maximus: Smokey Robinson, July 13-16. Howie Mandel, July 21-23. Chuck Berry/Little Richard, Aug. 8-13. The Legends of Motown starring the Temptations, Freda Payne, and the Marvelettes, Aug. 24-27. Steve Lawrence and Eydie Gorme, Aug. 31-Sept. 3. Bands play in the Forum, Galleria, and La Piazza lounges, and Terrazza restaurants, and Cleopatra's Barge. Piano music in the Galleria Bar. Magicians perform Tues.-Sat. in the Secret Pagoda and Sultan's Palace theaters at Caesars Magical Empire.

Casino Royale • 737-3500: Volcano Room: TBA.

Circus Circus • 734-0410 or 800-444-CIRCUS: Free circus acts from 11am to midnight.

Desert Inn • 733-4566 or 800-634-6909: Crystal Showroom: Kevin James, June 30-July 1. Don Rickles, July 6-9. The Golden Boys: Fabian, Frankie Avalon, and Bobby Rydell, July 14-16. Gladys Knight, July 20-23. Dana Carvey, July 28-30. Dennis Miller, Sept. 14-17. Dana Carvey, Sept. 22-24. The Golden Boys: Fabian, Frankie Avalon, and Bobby Rydell, Oct. 13-15. Don Rickles, Oct. 19-22. Gladys Knight, Oct. 26-29. Dennis Miller, Nov. 2-5 and Nov. 30-Dec. 3. Dana Carvey, Dec. 8-10. Starlight Lounge: Entertainment TBA.

Excalibur • 597-7600: King Arthur's Arena: "Tournament of Kings," music-dinner show. Court Jesters Stage: Strolling entertainers 10am-10pm. Minstrels Lounge: Live bands and dancing. Music in the Lance-a-Lotta Pasta and Camelot Casual Dining restaurants.

Fitzgeralds Holiday Inn • 388-2400 or 800-274-LUCK (U.S. outside Nevada): Michael Kennedy's "Tribute to Elvis," Fri.-Mon. on the casino floor, thru July 9.

Flamingo Las Vegas • 733-3333 or 800-221-7299: Flamingo Showroom: "The Great Radio City Spectacular" starring the Rockettes (dark Fri.), thru July 31. Sunset Ballroom: Foreigner, July 7-8. Damon Wayans, Aug. 4-5. "Voice of Magic," starring Darren Romeo, 3pm (dark Wed.). Bugsy's Celebrity Theatre: "Forever Plaid," '50s musical revue (dark Mon.). "Hip-Nosis: Playin' With Your Head," starring Justin Tranz, R-rated comedy show, midnight Fri.-Sat.

Flamingo O'Shea's • 737-1343: Comedy Thearte: "Hip-Nosis: Playin' With Your Head," starring Justin Tranz, R-rated comedy show, 9pm Tues.-Sat.

Four Queens • 385-4011 or 800-634-6045.

Four Seasons • 632-5000: Piano entertainment during High Tea in the Verandah restaurant, 2-5pm daily.

Gold Coast • 367-7111 or 888-402-6278 (U.S. outside Nevada): East Lounge: Kinda Dixie Jazz Band, noon to 6pm Mon.-Fri. Bands play nightly except Mon. Karaoke nightly in the West Lounge. Gold Coast Showroom: "Original Tribute to Patsy Cline and the Jordanaires," Aug. 30-Sept. 24, Oct. 18-Nov. 12 (dark Tues.). "Country Heroes and Honky Tonk Angels: Tammy Wynette, George Jones, Loretta Lynn, Conway Twitty, Dolly Parton, and Kenny Rogers," impersonator revue, Sept. 27-Oct. 15 and Nov. 15-30 (dark Mon.-Tues). Salsa All Stars, Sat. (indf.). Ballroom dancing with disk jockey Larry Taylor Tues. and Sun.

Golden Nugget • 385-7111: Bands play in the lounge nightly except Mon.

Hard Rock Hotel • 226-4650: The Joint: Ottmar Liebert, July 29.

Harrah's Las Vegas • 369-5222 or 800-392-9002: Clint Holmes Theatre: "Takin' It Uptown," starring Clint Holmes, musical variety show (dark Wed.). Improv Showroom: Comedy club nightly except Mon. Mac King Comedy Magic Show, 1 and 3pm, Tues.-Sat., Cook E. Jarr, Fri.-Sat. midnight-2:30am. Carnaval Court: Bands play outdoors noon-5:30pm and 6:30-midnight. Music nightly in the La Playa Lounge and Range Steakhouse Lounge.

Holiday Inn Boardwalk • 730-3194: Lighthouse Showroom:

"The Dream King," starring Elvis impersonator Trent Carlini.

Imperial Palace • 794-3261: Imperial Theatre: "Legends in Concert," celebrity impersonator show, from Elvis to Madonna (dark Sun.). Kabuki Lounge: Bands play 4:30pm-1:40am. Poolside: "Hawaiian Hot Luau," Polynesian revue and buffet, Tues. and Thurs. at 6:30.

Jackie Gaughan's Plaza • 386-2110 or 800-634-6575 (U.S. outside Nevada): Plaza Theater: "Kenny Kerr's Boylesque," female impersonator revue, 8 and 10pm (dark Sun.-Mon.). "Houdini Lives Again," starring magician Dixie Dooley, 4pm Tues.-Sun. Omaha Lounge: Dusty Barron and the Sunspots play daily except Mon.

Key Largo • 733-7777: Sand Bar Lounge: Bands provide live entertainment.

Lady Luck • 477-3000 or 800-523-9582: Lady Luck Theater: "Stars of the Strip," comedy impersonators, 2 and 3:30pm Mon.-Fri.

Las Vegas Hilton • 732-5755 or 800-222-5361: Hilton Theater: Engelbert Humperdinck, July 11-16. Reba McEntire, Sept. 14-17. Kenny Rogers, Sept. 22-23. Tim Conway/Harvey Korman, Oct. 19-21. The NightClub: Scintas play Tues.-Sat. Piano bar Mon.-Sat. in the Kabuki Lounge.

Luxor • 262-4400: Live Theatre: Blue Man Group, percussion theater (dark Tues.). "Lasting Impressions With Bill Acosta" (dark Mon.). "Midnight Fantasy," production show at 10pm, also midnight on Sat. (dark Tues.). Showroom at Ra: Singer Jimmy Hopper performs nightly except Sun.-Mon.

Main Street Station • 387-1896 or 800-713-8933: 777 BrewPub: Karaoke on Wednesdays.

Mandalay Bay • 877-632-7400: Mandalay Bay Theatre: Entertainment TBA. Mandalay Bay Events Center: Ricky Martin, July 22. Mandalay Beach: Cheap Trick, July 3. Hall and Oates, July 21. House of Blues: Boz Scaggs, July 8. Entertainment nightly. Gospel Brunch, 10am and 1pm Sun. Bands play in the Island, Orchid, and Coral Reef lounges.

MGM Grand • 891-7777 or 800-929-1111: Hollywood Theatre: Grand Theatre: "EFX" starring Tommy Tune (dark Sun.-Mon.). Grand Garden Arena: Britney Spears, Aug. 4. NHL Hockey: Frozen Fury IV, Sept. 30. THO U.S. Open of Supercross, Oct. 14-15. Hollywood Theatre: Carrot Top, thru July 5. Rodney Dangerfield, July 6-12 and Aug. 24-Sept. 6. Penn and Teller, July 27-Aug. 9. Carrot Top, Sept. 7-13. Wheel of Fortune Theatre: Stage version of the TV game show, *Wheel of Fortune*, 2, 4, and 7:30pm Sat.-Mon.; 3 and 7:30pm Tues.-Wed.; 3 and 7:30pm Fri. (dark Thurs.). Studio 54: Dancing nightly. Live entertainment in the Show Bar Lounge, Brown Derby, Betty Boop Bar, and Gatsby's.

The Mirage • 792-7777: Siegfried and Roy Theater: "Siegfried and Roy," magic spectacular (dark Wed.-Thurs.). Danny Gans Theatre: Impressionist Danny Gans performs nightly except Fri. and Mon. Bands play in the Lagoon Saloon and Baccarat Bar (piano bar).

Monte Carlo • 730-7000: Lance Burton Theatre: "Lance Burton, Master Magician" (dark Sun.-Mon.). Top 40, disco, country, and classic-rock dance music nightly in the Monte Carlo Pub and Brewery.

New Frontier • 794-8200: Gilley's Saloon: Bands play Thurs.-Sat.

New York-New York • 740-6969: Broadway Theatre: "Michael Flatley's Lord of the Dance" (dark Sun.-Mon.). Bands play in the Empire Bar. The N.Y.P.D. (New York Piano Duos) dueling pianos play 8pm-2:15am nightly in the Bar at Times Square.

The Orleans • 800-ORLEANS: Orleans Showroom: Robert Goulet, June 29-July 2. S.O.S. Band, July 3. Olga Breeskin, July 6-9. Everly Brothers, July 12-16. Smothers Brothers, July 25-30. Ms. U.S. Pageant, Aug. 28. Little River Band, Sept. 1-3. Jerry Lewis, Sept. 7-10. Righteous Brothers, Sept. 13-25 (dark Sept. 18). Ray Charles, Sept. 27-Oct. 1. Debbie Reynolds, Oct. 5-8. Smothers Brothers, Oct. 10-15. Neil Sedaka, Oct. 17-22. Everly Brothers, Oct. 25-29. Righteous Brothers, Nov. 1-12. Jerry Lewis, Nov. 16-19. Lorrie Morgan, Dec. 1-3. Tanya Tucker, Dec. 8-10. Don Ho, Dec. 15-17. Bourbon Street Cabaret: Bands play nightly (dark Mon.).

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Palace Station • 367-2411 or 800-634-3101: Trax Nightclub: The Yellowjackets, Aug. 4. Gary Puckett, Aug. 26. Keiko Matsui, Sept. 29. The Al DiMeola Project, Nov. 18. Bands play in Trax and Fri.-Sat. in the Palace Saloon.
Paris Las Vegas • 800-237-SHOW: Le Theatre de Arts: "Notre Dame de Paris," theatrical show (dark Sun.-Mon.). Entertainment in Le Cabaret Show Lounge (dark Tues.). Napoleon's Cigar Bar: Music from 9pm-1am (dark Mon.).
Regent Las Vegas • 877-869-8777: J.C. Wooloughan Irish Pub: Entertainment nightly. Addison's Lounge: Bands play Tues.-Sun. Round Bar: Jazz Fri.-Sun.
Rio Suite Hotel • 252-7776 or 800-PLAYRIO (U.S. and Canada): Copacabana Entertainment Complex: "David Cassidy at the Copa," musical variety show. Pavilion Theatre: "Footloose," musical plays thru Aug. 18. Masquerade Show in the Sky: Carnival-themed parade with exotic floats and costumes above the casino, every two hours beginning at 2pm Sun.-Tues. and 1pm Thurs.-Sat. (dark Wed.). RioBamba Cabaret: Earl Turner. Live entertainment in the Ipanema Piano Bar and Voodoo Lounge. Club Rio: Dance nightclub Wed.-Sat.
Riviera • 794-9301: Splash Theatre: "Splash," production show. Royale Pavilion: Bobby Vee's Solid Gold Rock 'n Roll Show with Danny and the Juniors and Shirley Alston, June 30-Juy 1. Tony Orlando, Oct. 13-14. Top of the Riv: Rich Little, Sept. 29-30. Jackie "The Joke Man" Martling, Oct. 20-21. La Cage Theatre (third floor): "An Evening at La Cage," celebrity female impersonators revue (dark Tues.). Mardi Gras Plaza (second level): "Crazy Girls: Sensuality and Passion," adult revue (dark Mon.). "Riviera Comedy Club," comedians appear nightly. Le Bistro Lounge: "Tribute to Elvis" with Billy Ortiz from 4-7:30pm Fri.-Sun.; Jazz on the Strip, Mon.; Lon Bronson's All-Star Band, Sat. at 1am Fri.-Sat.; bands play Tues.-Sun. in the lounge.
Sahara • 737-2515: Sahara Theatre: Magician Steve Wyrick. Congo Room: "The Rat Pack Is Back," tribute revue (dark Mon.). Bands play in the Casbar Lounge.
Sam's Town • 454-8048: Western Dance Hall: Bands play 9pm-3am. Roxy's Saloon: Entertainers play 4pm-2:30am, Mon.-Thurs., noon-4am, Fri.-Sun. Mystic Falls Park: Laser and water show at 2, 6, 8, and 10pm.
San Remo • 739-9000 or 800-522-7366: Parisian Cabaret: "Les Trix," starring the Showgirls of Magic (dark Mon.). Bon Chance Lounge: Entertainers perform nightly.
Santa Fe • 658-4900: Ice Lounge: Groups perform nightly. Pavilion: Jazz noon-3:30pm Wed.-Sat. and Sun. and piano Sun.-Tues.
Showboat • 383-9232 or 800-826-2800: Mardi Gras Room: Entertainment nightly except Mon.
Silverton • 263-7777 or 800-588-7711: Rattlesnake Rickey's Saloon: Bands play nightly.
Stardust • 732-6111 or 800-824-6033: Wayne Newton Theatre: Wayne Newton, thru Aug. 18 (dark Sun.). The Pointers, Aug. 24-26. Stardust Ballroom: Ray Anthony and His Orchestra, July 15. Les Brown and His Band of Renown, Aug. 5. Glenn Miller Orchestra, Sept. 9. Harry James Orchestra, Oct. 7. Tex Beneke and His Orchestra, Nov. 25. Ricky and the Redstreaks, Nov. 29-Dec. 10. Bands play in the Starlight Lounge. Stardust Conference Center: Bob Anderson, thru July 15, July 26-Aug. 5, and Aug. 21-Sept. 15.
Stratosphere • 382-4446 or 800-99-TOWER: Broadway Showroom: "American Superstars," impersonator revue (dark Thurs.). "Viva Las Vegas," musical revue, 2 and 4pm daily except Sun. Entertainment in the Top of the World and Oasis lounges.
Treasure Island • 894-7111: Cirque du Soleil in "Mystère" (dark Mon.-Tues. and Aug. 6-9). Music in Captain Morgan's piano bar.
Tropicana • 739-2411: Tiffany Theatre: "The Best of the Folies Bergere...Sexier Than Ever" (dark Thurs.). "The Magic of Rick Thomas," 2 and 4pm daily except Fri. Celebration Lounge: Bands play nightly. Comedy Stop Theatre: "The Comedy Stop," stand-up comedy nightly.
Vacation Village • 897-1700 or 800-658-5000: Koo Koo's Lounge: Bands play nightly.



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Venetian • 733-5000: C2K Showroom: André Philippe-Gagnon, impressionist, indf. (dark Mon.). Entertainment daily in the Rialto Bar and La Scena Lounge at the Venetian.

Westward Ho • 731-2900: Westward Ho Lounge: Entertainment nightly.

Wild Wild West Gambling Hall • 736-8988. Loose Trax Sports Lounge: Karaoke, Thurs.-Sat.

World Trade Center • 369-5750: International Showroom: Michael La Rocca Show, indf.

LAUGHLIN

Avi • 535-5555: Bands play nightly.

Colorado Belle • 298-4000: "D" Deck: Riverboat Ramblers, strolling musicians. Bands like Echo Love Chamber and Man Almighty play in the Boiler Room Brew Pub.

Edgewater • 298-2453: Kokopelli's Lounge: Classic Rock Tribute: Chris Hiatt and Cold Shot, June 27-July 2. Classic Rock Tribute: Bad Moon Rising, July 4-9. Daemine and the Rhythm Connection, July 11-16, Aug. 8-13, and Sept. 5-10. Steel Breeze, July 18-23 and Aug. 29-Sept. 3. Wild At Heart, July 27-30, Aug. 1-6, and Sept. 19-24. Louie Fontaine and the Rockets, Aug. 15-20 and 22-27.

Flamingo Laughlin • 298-5028 or 800-435-8469: Silver Bullet Showroom: "Dancing to the Hitz," revue (dark Fri.). Center Stage Experience: Bands play nightly.

Golden Nugget Laughlin • 298-7111 or 800-237-1739: Tarzan's Lounge: Bands like Stinger and Menage play Thurs.-Sun., DJ Tues.-Wed., karaoke 6:30-9:30pm Tues. (dark Mon.).

Harrah's Laughlin • 298-4600 or 800-447-8700: Fiesta Showroom: Improv Comedy Club thru Sept. 3.

Ramada Express • 298-4200 or 800-243-6846: Pavilion Theater: The Limeliters, July 1-3. Grass Roots, July 8-9. John Pinette, July 15-16. Back to the 1940s Speakers, Tues. at 1:15pm, free. "On the Wings of Eagles: A Tribute to American Heroes," multimedia show, daily on the hour beginning at 9am. Caboose Lounge: Bands play nightly except Mon. Karaoke Madness, Mon. Swing and Latin dance contests, 5pm daily. Train rides also are available.

River Palms • 298-2242 or 800-835-7904: Crystal Sands Showroom: "Diamonds and Pearls," revue, nightly except Fri., matinee 4pm Sun. DJ music or bands perform nightly in the Bermuda Club Lounge. Karaoke with Don West, 4-7pm Wed.

Riverside Resort • 298-2535 or 800-227-3849 ext. 616: Don's Celebrity Theatre: Gallagher, June 30-July 2. Bill Medley, Oct. 12-14. Everly Brothers, Nov. 2-5. Debbie Reynolds, Nov. 22-26. Charlie Prose, Jan. 14-Feb. 8, at the Colorado River casino.

MESQUITE

CasaBlanca • 346-7529 or 800-459-7529: CasaBlanca Theatre: Denise Holland, June 27-July 9. Bands play nightly except Mon. in the Cascades Lounge; piano bar is scheduled for afternoons.

Rancho Mesquite • 346-4646: Live entertainment Tues.-Sun. in the Wild Cactus Lounge.

Si Redd's Oasis • 346-5232 or 800-621-0187: Redd Boot Saloon: Video and live DJ, Fri. and Sat. Sandy Hackett's Comedy Club on Sat. Cabaret Lounge: Bands play nightly.

Virgin River • 346-7777 or 800-346-7721: Bands like Wheels play in the casino lounge nightly except Mon.

NORTH LAS VEGAS

Fiesta Casino • 631-7000: Roxy's Theatre: Headliners TBA. Pipe organ music nightly. Silent movie night on Thurs. Bands play nightly in the Cabo Lounge. Gardunos Restaurant: Mariachis play 10:30am-2:30pm Sun.

Jerry's Nugget • 399-3000: Royal Street Lounge: Dance bands play Fri.-Sun.

Texas Station • 631-1000: South Padre: Entertainment TBA. Armadillo Lounge: Dancing to Sunday Swing with Jerry Tiffe 4-8pm Sun., karaoke Thurs. Bands play Fri.-Sat.

PRIMM

Buffalo Bill's Resort • 382-1111 or 800-FUN-STOP: Star of the Desert Arena: Clint Black, Aug. 24. Stage Bar: Bands play Thurs.-Sun. Carolee's Comedy Club: Michael Rapport hosts guest comedians.

Primm Valley • 382-1212 or 800-826-4471.

Whiskey Pete's • 382-1212 or 800-367-7383: Whiskey Pete's Showroom: Entertainment TBA.

Reno-Tahoe Territory

RENO/SPARKS

Atlantis • 825-4700 or 800-723-6500: Free Outdoor Concert: America, Jefferson Starship, Fabulous Thunderbirds, and BTO, July 15. Grand Ballroom: Polynesian Luau, July 21-22. Dion, Aug. 4-5. Lee Greenwood, Aug. 11-12. Danny Marona, Sept. 1-3 and Nov. 3-5. Bands play nightly in the Center Stage Cabaret.

Boomtown • 345-6000: Boomtown Cabaret: Entertainers like Zella Lehr and Stew Stewart play nightly except Mon.

Cal-Neva Virginian • 323-1046, 877-777-7303.

Circus Circus • 329-0711: Free circus acts, 11am-midnight.

Comstock • 329-1880.

Eldorado • 786-5700, 800-648-5966 (U.S. outside Nevada) or 800-648-3024 (Canada): Eldorado Showroom: "Spirit of the Dance: The New Millennium," Irish dance production show, thru Sept. 3 (dark Mon.). Brew Brothers: Rock, blues, and swing bands play nightly at the microbrewery. Piano music in Bistro Roxy. BuBinga Lounge: Dance to DJs and live music.

Eddie's Fabulous '50s • 329-1950: Lounge entertainment. Also DJ music at Reno Live at Eddie's.

Fitzgeralds • 785-3300 or 800-648-5022 (U.S. outside Nevada): Bands like X Factor and Whiskey Ridge perform nightly.

Flamingo Reno • 785-7080: Flamingo Showroom: "Carnival of Wonders," magic production show, thru Nov. (dark Tues.). Entertainment at the Top of the Flamingo restaurant (dark Tues.).

Harrah's Reno • 788-3773 or 800-HARRAHS: Sammy's Showroom: "Dancin' in the Streets," revue, 7:30pm Sun.-Fri. and 7 and 9pm Sat. (dark Thurs., June 29-July 6, Aug. 3, and Sept. 15-17). New late-night adult revue opens July 7. Smothers Brothers/Gary Mule Deer, June 30-July 4. Lil' Elmo and the Cosmos, Aug. 3. Coasters and Drifters, Aug. 4-6. Vonda Shepard, Sept. 15-17. The Plaza: Oak Ridge



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A Whole Lotta Country

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Boys, July 8. Tanya Tucker, July 20. Coasters and Drifters, Aug. 4. Lil' Elmo and the Cosmos, Aug. 5. Survivor, Aug. 10. Taylor Dayne, Aug. 24. Professional boxing, Aug. 25. Ray Charles, Sept. 7. KC and the Sunshine Band, Sept. 28. Professional boxing, Sept. 29.

John Ascuaga's Nugget • Sparks, 356-3304 or 800-648-1177: Rose Ballroom: Neville Brothers, June 30-July 1. Boz Scaggs, July 14-15. Foreigner, July 21-22. Celebrity Showroom: Herb Reed and the Platters, July 6-19. Charo/Sammy King, Aug. 17-30. Lou Rawls, Aug. 31-Sept. 6 and Sept. 8-13. The Lettermen, Sept. 14-27. Crystal Gayle/Mark Kornhauser, Sept. 28-Oct. 11. Bands play nightly in the Casino Cabaret and Trader Dick's.

Peppermill • 826-2121 or 800-648-6992: Tahoe Grand Showroom: Charlie Daniels Band, July 29. Bands play in the Cabaret Lounge.

Rail City Casino • Sparks, 359-9440: Entertainers play on weekends in Rail City's Side Track Lounge.

Ramada Inn and Speakeasy Casino • 329-7400: Pretty Boy Floyd's Bar features live entertainment.

Reno Hilton • 789-2285 or 800-648-3568 (U.S. outside Nevada): Hilton Theatre: "Work That Skirt," musical revue. George Thorogood, Aug. 24. Outdoor Amphitheater: String Cheese Incident, July 22. B-52's/Go-Go's/Psychedelic Furs, July 30. Sting/k.d. lang, Aug. 2. Beach Boys, Aug. 5. Poison/Cinderella/Dokken/Slaughter, Aug. 9. B.B.King/Buddy Guy/Susan Tedeschi/Tommy Castro, Aug. 10. The Garage: Bands play nightly. The Improv Comedy Club: Stand-up comedy nightly except Mon.

Riverboat • 323-8877.

Silver Club • Sparks, 358-4771 or 800-648-1137 (U.S. outside Nevada).

Silver Legacy • 329-4777 or 800-225-BASS (U.S., Canada, and Mexico): Grande Exposition Hall: Alabama, June 30-July 1. Isaac Hayes, July 7-8. Dan Fogelberg, July 15. John Lee Hooker/John Mayall/Elvin Bishop, July 22. Brian Setzer Orchestra, Aug. 12. Dwight Yoakam, Aug. 19. Hootie and the Blowfish, Aug. 25-26. Carrot Top, Sept. 2-3. Loretta Lynn, Sept. 9. Chicago, Sept. 15-16. Doobie Brothers, Sept. 22-23. Tony Bennett, Oct. 6-7. Comedians perform at the Catch a Rising Star comedy club (dark Sun.-Mon.). Silver Baron Lounge: Piano music.

Sundowner • 786-7050.

Western Village • Sparks, 331-1069 or 800-648-1170.

CARSON AREA

Carson Nugget • Carson City, 882-1626 or 800-426-5239 (continental U.S. including Nevada): Nugget Show Bar: Bands like the Motifs and Blind Date play nightly.

Carson Station • Carson City, 883-0900: Bands nightly.

Carson Valley Inn • Minden, 782-9711 or 800-321-6983: Shannon Ballroom: Swing Fever, dance music, July 1-2. Bands play in the Cabaret Lounge for dancing nightly except DJ night on Mon.
Ormsby House • Carson City, 882-1890: Mark Twain Lounge: Bands play nightly.
Piñon Plaza • Carson City, 885-9000: Sports Book Lounge: Bands play Fri.-Sat.
Sharkey's Nugget • Gardnerville, 782-3133: Live music and dancing Fri. and Sat. Also, extensive displays of boxing, circus, and rodeo memorabilia.
Topaz Lodge • Topaz Lake, 266-3339.

STATELINE, LAKE TAHOE

Bill's Lake Tahoe • 588-2455.
Caesars Tahoe • 588-3515 or 800-648-3353: Circus Maximus: Trisha Yearwood, July 7-8. Howie Mandel, July 14-15. Paula Cole, July 21-22. David Copperfield, Aug. 8-13. Clint Black, Sept. 15-16. The Temptations, Oct. 13-14. Nero's 2000 nightclub has live music. Cleo's Bar and Entertainment Lounge: Pianist Arthur Hervey appears indf.
Harrah's Lake Tahoe • 800-HARRAHS: South Shore Room: Everly Brothers, June 29-July 2. Smokey Robinson/Tom Dreesen, July 6-9. Bands play nightly in the Casino Center Stage.
Harveys • 588-2411 or 800-553-1022 ext. 2883: Cabaret: "Passion 2000," adults only (dark Mon.).
Lake Tahoe Horizon • 588-6211 or 800-322-7723: Golden Cabaret: "Phantasy," magic and comedy revue (dark Mon.). Bands play in the Aspen Lounge.
Lakeside Inn • 588-7777: Entertainment TBA.

NORTH LAKE TAHOE

Cal-Neva Resort • Crystal Bay, 832-4000 or 800-225-6382: Frank Sinatra Celebrity Showroom: Entertainment TBA.
Crystal Bay Club • Crystal Bay, 831-0512: Bands play nightly.
Hyatt Regency Lake Tahoe • Incline Village, 832-1234: Regency Ballroom: TBA. Casino Stage Bar: Performers play nightly except Mon.
Jim Kelley's Tahoe Nugget • Crystal Bay, 831-7157.
Tahoe Biltmore • Crystal Bay, 831-0660: Nevada Room: Entertainment TBA. Bands play in the Aspen Lounge.

Cowboy Country

ELKO

Commercial Hotel • 738-3181: Comedy on Wed.
Gold Country • 800-621-1332: J.R.'s Lounge: Entertainment Tues.-Sat.
High Desert Inn • 738-8425: Comedy show, Fri.
Red Lion • 738-2111 or 800-545-0044 (Western U.S. outside Nevada): Club Max Showroom: Bands play nightly.
Stockmen's Hotel • 738-5141 or 800-648-2345 (U.S. and Nevada): Bands play in the lounge.

JACKPOT

Barton's Club 93 • 755-2341.
Cactus Petes • 800-821-1103: Gala Showroom: Sons of the Pioneers, July 4-9. Danny Marona, July 11-16 and 18-23. The Pendragons, July 25-30 and Aug. 1-6.
Horseshu Casino • 755-2321.

LOVELOCK

Ramada Inn • 775-273-2971: Center Club Showroom: LuLu LaFever Trio, Oct. 5. Trout Fishing in America, Nov. 19.

MILL CITY

Burns Bros. Casino • 538-7306.

WENDOVER

Peppermill • 664-2255 or 800-648-9660 (U.S. outside Nevada): Bands play nightly.
Red Garter • 664-2111 or 800-982-2111 (continental U.S. outside Nevada).
Silver Smith • 664-2231 or 800-354-3671: Jim's Bar: Live entertainment nightly.
State Line • 664-2221, 800-354-3671: Stateliner Lounge: Entertainment TBA.

WINNEMUCCA

Winners Hotel • 623-2511: Bands play nightly.
Model T Hotel • 623-2588.
Holiday Inn Express • 800-HOLIDAY.
Sundance Casino • 623-3336.
Red Lion • 800-633-6435.

Pony Express Territory

ELY

Hotel Nevada • 289-6665.

FALLON

Bonanza Inn • 423-3111 ext. 47.
Fallon Nugget • 423-3111.

Pioneer Territory

AMARGOSA VALLEY

Longstreet Inn • 372-1777: Weekend entertainment.

BEATTY

Stagecoach • 553-2419 or 800-4-BIGWIN (U.S. outside Nevada): Nightly entertainment.
Exchange Club • 553-2368: Weekend entertainment.

HAWTHORNE

El Capitan • 945-3322: Entertainment TBA.
Joe's Tavern • 945-2302.

PAHRUMP

Mountain View Casino and Bowl • 727-7777: Bowling alley.
Saddle West Hotel, Casino, and RV Park • 727-1111: Casino-lounge entertainment.

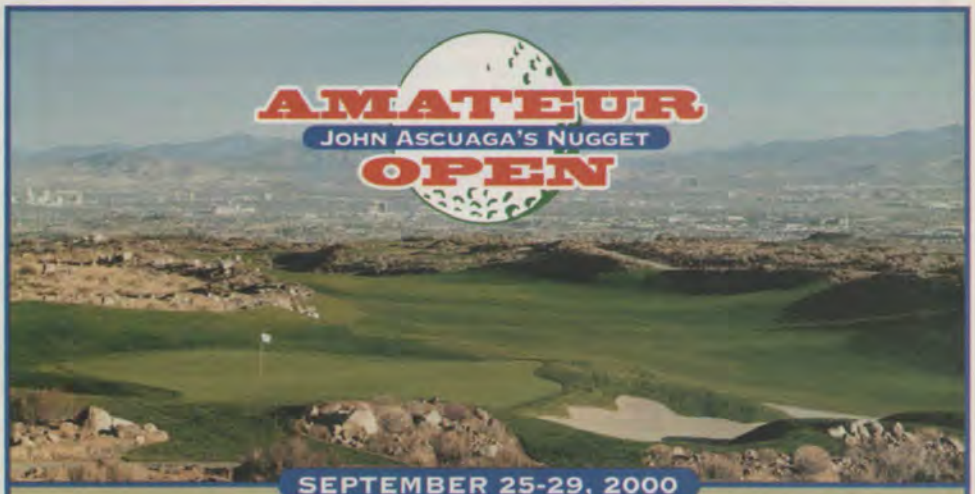
TONOPAH

Banc Club • 482-5409: Entertainment TBA.
Mizpah Hotel • 482-6200.
Station House • 482-9777: Bands play nightly.

YERINGTON

Casino West • 463-2481: Weekend music.
Dini's Lucky Club • 463-2868.

A Reminder: Please phone ahead to confirm dates and times. Las Vegas Territory's area code is 702; the rest of the state is 775.



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Howie's World

Comedian Howie Mandel makes time for both family and Caesars.

By Kathy Espin

Comedian Howie Mandel launched his Nevada career as the opening act for singer Diana Ross at Caesars Palace two decades ago, so it seems fitting that he will be one of the last entertainers to perform in the Circus Maximus Showroom before it closes in September as part of a $70-million renovation of the Las Vegas resort.

Reflecting on the gig with Ross, Mandel admits it wasn't exactly a comedian's dream. "It wasn't a disaster as much as it was a highlight," he says. Ross had seen him perform on Merv Griffin's show and liked his work. "She was always very supportive," he recalls. But Ross' Vegas fans didn't know quite what to make of Mandel.

"The audience was there to hear her and had no idea what I did. They were just waiting for me to finish so they could hear her," he says. "It was a tough house for a young comedian who had only recently had his first big break."

The engagement included another memorable night, Mandel recalls. "The house was sold out to Sony Japan, and there wasn't an English-speaking person in the room. I went on anyway, but it was a tough night."

Mandel is now a headliner in his own right in Las Vegas, Reno, and Lake Tahoe. He will appear at Caesars Tahoe on July 14-15. A week later, July 21-23, he will perform at Caesars Palace. He says he enjoys playing in Nevada because it allows him to stay close to his wife, Terry, and their three children in Southern California.

"Even when I'm on the road, I don't spend that much time away from home," he says. "When I play Las Vegas, for instance, I commute. On weeknights I fly out after the show so I can be there in the morning to take the kids to school, then fly back in time for the show that night. On Friday night the whole family will fly out and spend the weekend. Actually, I spend more time with my children than people who have nine-to-five jobs," Mandel says with some pride.

In Lake Tahoe, the Mandel family enjoys skiing in the winter and boating in the summer, but in Las Vegas the hotel offers all the entertainment they could want, he says. "At Caesars Palace they have the mall, the pool, and restaurants. There's no reason to walk away. My 15-year-old loves the mall," he says of the Forum Shops at Caesars. "When I play Lake Tahoe, I'm a lot more physically active during the day."

Onstage, Mandel is primarily a verbal comedian, although sometimes he uses the sight gag of pulling a surgeon's glove over his head and blowing it up from the inside. He also has a knack of choosing people from the audience and making them part of his show as he comes back o them time and again.

"I've always derived a lot of my material from the audience. A big part of my act is improvisational. Every night, depending on whom I talk to, it's somewhat different," he explains.

For example, Mandel remembers doing a show in the round, and when a women got up to go to the restroom, he rearranged the entire audience so that she couldn't find her seat when she got back. "For the next half hour, you would see her go down the aisle looking for her seat. I wouldn't do that again. It wouldn't work without the surprise," he says.

Mandel's career began at an amateur night at the Comedy Store in Los Angeles in 1979. A producer in the crowd signed him for a game show called *Make Me Laugh*, a performance that led to talk-show appearances and the job with Ross. Later he spent six years starring as Dr. Wayne Fiscus on NBC's *St. Elsewhere*, made 10 television specials, did 200 concerts a year, appeared in several films, and hosted his own daily talk show. The younger generation got to know him when he wrote and produced an animated children's series called *Bobby's World*, which ran for eight seasons on Fox.

During his show Mandel can call on Bobby, a four-year-old character whose view of the world includes a fantasy friend Captain Squash, the Caped Zucchini. Or Bobby's take on a history lesson about pioneers becomes "pies and ears" driving covered wagons.

Mandel says he has cut back on his personal appearances to devote more time to his television and film career. His latest film is called *Spin Cycle*, and he is pursuing other ventures in writing, producing, and voice-over work. "I like to do different things," he says. "I have the attention span of a gnat."

When Mandel treads the old boards at the Caesars Palace showroom for the last time this summer, it may bring back memories of his first appearance there. But Mandel says he doesn't pine for those early days.

"Now people come and pay money to see my show. It's a different feeling. But it does not make me crave for the good old days. This is the good old now, and I'm enjoying that."

Kathy Espin is a Las Vegas writer.

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Casino Notes

News from hotel-casinoland. **By Jason Hanson**

Las Vegas Territory

Showroom Closes: The Circus Maximus Showroom at **Caesars Palace** will close after Steve Lawrence and Eydie Gorme perform August 31-September 3. The showroom will be replaced by high-roller suites, which are part of a $70-million expansion and renovation at Caesars. Plans for an entertainment venue have not been announced but are expected to include a multipurpose facility for concerts, meetings, and special events.

Rollin' on the River: Riders on the Cyber Roller Coaster at the **Colorado Belle** in Laughlin can decide how scared or sick they want to be after a ride on the new motion simulator. The virtual-reality attraction is fully programmable, from mild to wild. The Cyber Roller Coaster is open daily during daylight hours and costs $5 per person.

Organ Music: Silent-movie fans get the full treatment Thursday nights in Roxy's Pipe Organ Pizzeria at the **Fiesta** in North Las Vegas. Movies starring Charlie Chaplin, Buster Keaton, Harold Lloyd, and Clara Bow appear to music supplied by a pipe organ that was used for 30 years at the Roxy Theater in New York City.

Kosher Kitchen: The **Four Seasons** on the Las Vegas Strip has added a kosher kitchen. The new kitchen operates separately from others in the hotel, and a mashgiach, a kosher-food expert and appointed overseer, is on site to supervise food preparation.

Hot Property: Mandalay Bay recently was named to *Condé Nast Traveler's* list of trendy hotels. The Las Vegas Strip resort was one of four U.S. hotels chosen for the publication's May "Hot List."

Daytime Drama: At night, comedienne Carole Montgomery tells R-rated jokes in the revue "Crazy Girls" at the **Riviera.** During the day, she corrects third-grade spelling tests, plans bake sales, and fulfills her duties as vice-president of the PTA at her son's school. "After all, this is Las Vegas," she says. "When it comes to being a mom by day, I'm as normal as you can get."

Tee Time: The **Rio Suite Hotel** in Las Vegas, along with the hotel's Rio Secco Golf Club, recently was named to the list of the world's "Top Ten Golf Resorts" by *USA Today.* The selection was made by the editors of *USA Today* and *Travel and Leisure Golf Magazine.*



Show me the money: Jackpot winners at the Silver Legacy in Reno can enter the Greenback Gazebo and attempt to grab flying bills in the casino's "Capture the Cash" promotion on weekends.

Reno-Tahoe Territory

Wine Programs: The **Atlantis** in Reno offers wine tasting at the Sky Terrace Oyster Bar and Lounge. For $12 per person, tasters are given a flight of seven wines to sample. A tasting guide outlines the nuances one may notice with each selection.

Et Tu, Caesars?: Caesars Tahoe in Stateline has received the Paragon Award from *Corporate Meetings and Incentive Magazine.* Hotels are recognized for their ability to handle meetings and incentive programs.

New Games: The **Carson Valley Inn** in Minden has added interactive slot machines to its games, including the Elephant King, complete with appropriate jungle sounds, and Little Green Men, which deals with such otherworldly matters as flying saucers and abducted earthlings.

Sparkling Award: Harveys Resort at Stateline has received the American Automobile Association's Four Diamond Award for the 19th consecutive year. The Lake Tahoe hotel's signature restaurant, Llewellyn's, was named a Four Diamond eatery for the eighth consecutive year. Llewellyn's is located on Harveys' 19th floor and offers good views of the lake.

Good Deals

Golf Packages: Two "Hole in One" golf packages are available weekdays at the **Eldorado** in Reno. Golfers can play at four courses: ArrowCreek, Lake Ridge, Wolf Run, and Red Hawk. The "Birdie Package" starts at $103 per person and offers a two-night stay, one round of golf per person, one buffet per person, preferred tee times, and airport shuttle. The "Eagle Package," beginning at $165 per person, features a two-night stay, one round of golf per person, one show ticket per person, preferred tee times, and airport shuttle. For reservations call 800-648-5966.

Show and Dinner Packages: Restaurante Orozko at **John Ascuaga's Nugget** in Sparks has a "Steppin' Out" package that includes dinner and a ticket to see a Celebrity Showroom concert for $21.95. The package is available Sunday through Friday. For reservations call 800-648-1177 or 775-356-3448. At **Harrah's Reno** the "Night on the Town" package offers dinner at Café Andreotti and a show in Sammy's Showroom for $29.50. For reservations call 800-HARRAHS or 775-788-2900.

Perks for Players: New York-New York on the Las Vegas Strip offers reserved parking for Slot

Photo: Shannon Montana

Exchange players on the third floor of the hotel's parking garage. The VIP status gives members direct access to the hotel and casino through the north and south walkways. Membership is free in the slot club, which also allows gamblers to earn bonus points.

Promotions

Million-Dollar Giveaway: At **Caesars Tahoe** in Stateline, a "Break the Bank 2000" promotion offers Emperor's Club members a chance to win $1 million. To enter, players select eight numbers to see if they can match Break the Bank's code. A player who gets all eight number wins $1 million; seven numbers earns $100,000. The contest is held daily between noon and 10 p.m.

Earning Points: Guests at the **Flamingo Laughlin** can earn points for meals and cash when they participate in the Point of Purchase Program. For every dollar spent, 10 points are earned for purchases made in the gift shop, hotel, and hotel-owned restaurants. Participants need to be members of the Flamingo Magic Club, which can be joined at no cost.



A pipe organ that was used in the Roxy Theater in New York City now provides music for silent movies playing at the Fiesta in North Las Vegas.

New Promotion: "Capture the Cash" at the **Silver Legacy** in Reno offers slot players a chance to make a grab for cash. When gamblers win jackpots of 300 coins or more, they will be given 30 seconds in the Greenback Gazebo. Contestants qualify by playing designated machines during posted hours. Capture the Cash is available from 2 p.m. to midnight Saturday and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday.

Jason Hanson is a Nevada Magazine *editorial assistant.*

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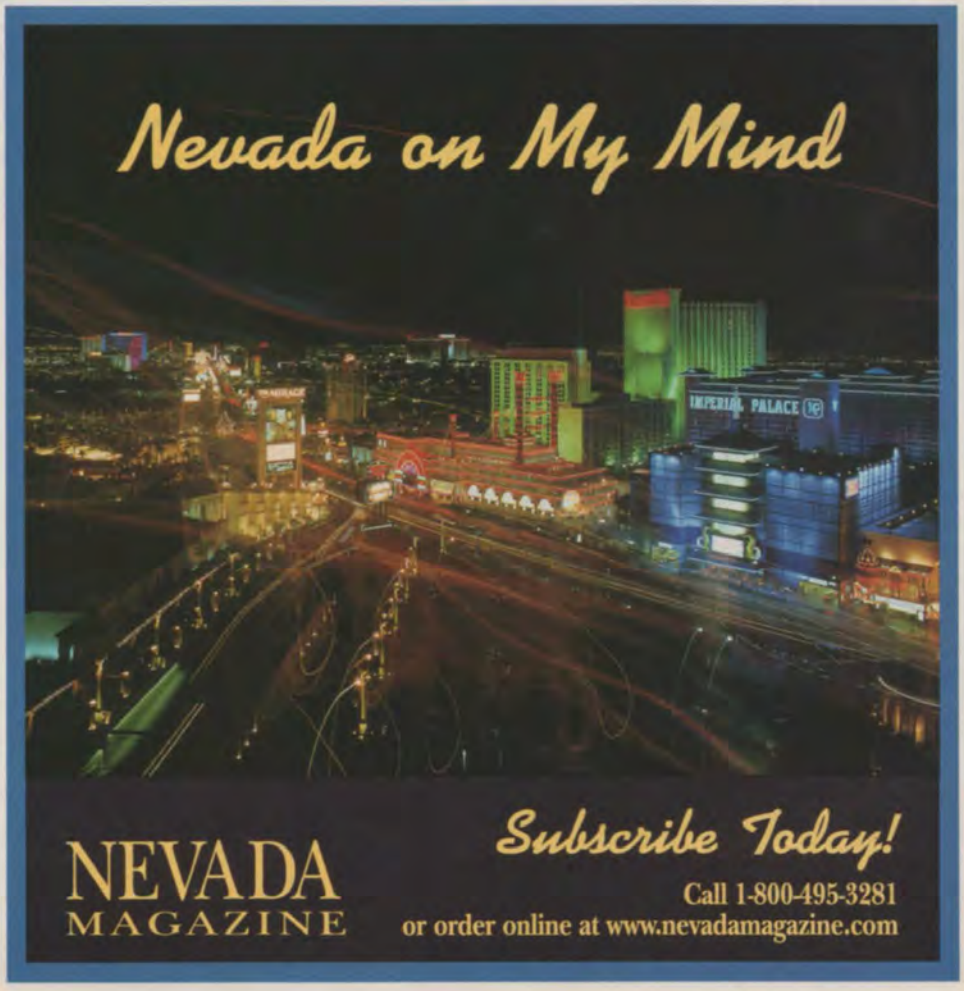
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Las Vegas Territory

BOULDER CITY

Black Canyon River Raft Tours • 293-3776 for information.
Boulder City Historic District • Walking tour. 1305 Arizona, 293-2034.
Boulder City/Hoover Dam Museum • Displays and books on the dam's construction in 1930s. 1305 Arizona, 294-1988.
Boulder Dam Hotel • 1305 Arizona, 293-7731.
Hoover Dam and Hoover Dam Visitor Center • Tours, theaters, exhibit hall. U.S. 93, 294-3515, 293-8367, 293-8000.
Lake Mead Cruises/Desert Princess • Excursions on Lake Mead, 293-6180.
Lake Mead National Recreation Area • 293-8906.
St. Jude's Ranch for Children • Children's Art Museum, artifacts, tours. 100 St. Jude's St., 294-7100.

HENDERSON

City of Henderson Bird Viewing Preserve • Self-guided or guided tours for more than 10 people of the 80-acre preserve. 2400 Moser Street off Sunset, Henderson, 565-4264.
Clark County Heritage Museum • 1830 S. Boulder Hwy., 455-7955.
Ethel M Chocolate Factory and Cactus Garden • Tours. 2 Cactus Garden Dr., 458-8864.
Mountasia Family Fun Center • 2050 Olympic, 898-7777.
Ron Lee's World of Clowns • 330 Carousel Pkwy., 434-1700.

LAS VEGAS

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A.J. Hackett Bungy • 810 Circus Circus, 385-4321.
All-American Sportpark • Golf, baseball, in-line skating, and NASCAR racing, corner of Las Vegas Blvd. and Sunset Road, 798-7777.
Bellagio • Art gallery, fountain shows, 693-7111.
Caesars Palace • Dining, magic shows, and special effects at Caesars Magical Empire, 731-7333.
Crystal Palace In-Line Skating and Hockey Complex • 9295 W. Flamingo, 253-9832.
Elvis-A-Rama Museum • 3401 Industrial, Las Vegas, 309-7200.
Excalibur • Dragon battle in front moat, motion simulators, 597-7777.
Flamingo Las Vegas • Wildlife sanctuary. 733-3111.
Floyd Lamb State Park • Picnicking and fishing. 9200 Tule Springs Rd., 486-5413.

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Let's Get Real

ReBoot The Ride, the new high-tech motion simulator at the Circus Circus Adventuredome in Las Vegas, takes riders on a cyberchase through Mainframe, a city that exists in the innards of a PC. Dot (above), the heroine of the adventure, has the directions for escaping the villain, Megabyte.

Flyaway Indoor Skydiving • 200 Convention Center Dr., 731-4768.
Forum Shops at Caesars • "Race for Atlantis" IMAX 3D motion simulator. Caesars Palace, 893-4800.
Fremont Street Experience • Light show on the hour from dusk to midnight. Downtown Las Vegas, 678-5600.
Gameworks • Climbing wall and arcade. Showcase Mall, 597-3122.
Guinness World of Records Museum • 2780 Las Vegas Blvd. S., 792-3766.
Harley-Davidson Cafe • Motorcycle memorabilia, Harleys and other items on display. Las Vegas Strip, 740-4555.
Holy Cow! Casino • Brewery tours, 732-2697.
Imperial Palace Auto Collection • Classic and antique vehicles, 794-3174.
Laser Quest • 7361 West Lake Mead, Las Vegas, 243-8881.
Las Vegas Art Museum • 9600 W. Sahara Ave., 647-4300.
Las Vegas Club • Sports memorabilia. Downtown, 385-1664.
Las Vegas Motor Speedway • Guided tours. 644-4444.
Las Vegas Natural History Museum • From dinosaurs to desert creatures. 900 Las Vegas Blvd. N., 384-DINO.
Liberace Museum • Pianos and memorabilia. 1775 E. Tropicana, 798-5595.
Lied Discovery Children's Museum • Science and other learning exhibits. 833 Las Vegas Blvd. N., 382-KIDS.
Luxor • Motion rides, IMAX Theatre, and King Tut's Tomb and Museum, 262-4000.
M&M's World • Showcase Mall, 736-7611.
Marjorie Barrick Museum of Natural History • 4505 Maryland Pkwy., UNLV, 895-3381.
MGM Grand • Lion habitat open daily. MGM Grand Adventures Theme Park open daily thru Aug. 20, then weekends till Sept. 4, 891-7979.
Mirage • Dolphin habitat, volcano, and Secret Garden with tigers, elephant, lions, and panthers, 791-7111.
Motown Cafe • Memorabilia and entertainment. New York-New York, 740-6440.
Mount Charleston • Recreation info., 222-1597.
NASCAR Cafe • Race cars displayed. Sahara Hotel, 734-7223.
Nevada State Museum and Historical Society • Lorenzi Park, 700 Twin Lakes Dr., 486-5205.
New York-New York • Roller coaster, 740-6969.
Old Las Vegas Mormon Fort Historic State Park • Site of 1855 settlement. 908 Las Vegas Blvd. North at Washington Avenue, 486-3511.
Omnimax Theatre • Caesars Palace, 731-7900.
Race Rock Cafe • Race cars and monster trucks. Fremont Street Experience, 382-7223.
Rainforest Cafe • Bird habitat and animated creatures. MGM Grand, 891-8580.
Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area • 363-1921.
Rio Suite Hotel • Free carnival-themed sky parade, exhibition of artifacts from the *Titanic*, 252-7777.
Sahara Hotel • Speed: The Ride roller coaster, NASCAR Cafe, virtual-reality car racing, 737-2735.
Sam's Town • Water and laser show, 456-7777.
Santa Fe Hotel • Ice arena. 4949 N. Rancho Dr., 658-4993.
Shelby American • Shelby Cobra auto museum and factory tour. Las Vegas Motor Speedway, 643-3000.
Southern Nevada Zoological Park • Home of 150 species,

from apes to peacocks. 1775 N. Rancho Dr., 648-5955.
Spring Mountain Ranch State Park • Red Rock Canyon, 875-4141.
Star Trek: The Experience • Las Vegas Hilton, 697-8751.
Stratosphere • Roller coaster and Big Shot ride, 380-7777.
Treasure Island • Sea battle every 90 minutes from 4 to 11:30 p.m., 894-7111.
Tropicana • Birds, tiger habitat, and gambling museum, 739-2222.



Venetian Hotel • Madame Tussaud's Celebrity Encounter wax museum, gondola rides, 733-5000.
Walker African-American Museum and Research Center • Exhibits and records, by appointment only, 647-2242.
Wet 'n Wild • Water theme park open daily through Oct. 1, 734-0088.

LAUGHLIN

Big Bend of the Colorado State Recreation Area • Nature and water sports, four miles south of Laughlin, 298-1859.
Colorado Belle • Cyber Roller Coaster and Boiler Room Microbrewery, 298-4000.
Colorado River Museum • Arizona Hwy. 95, 520-754-3399.
Del Rio Beach Club • Colorado River sightseeing boat tour, 298-6828.
Davis Dam • Self-guided tours, 298-2214.
Grapevine Canyon • Seven miles west of Laughlin. Inquire about road conditions, 298-2214.
Lake Mohave Resort • 602-754-3245.
Laughlin River Tours • Colorado River, 298-1047.
Ramada Express • WWII museum and multi-media tribute to American war heroes, 298-4200.
Riverside Resort • Classic cars, river tour boat, and bowling center, 298-2535.

MESQUITE

Desert Valley Museum • 346-5705.
Si Redd's Oasis • Gun club, hayrides, ATV and horseback rides, 346-5232.

NORTH LAS VEGAS

The Planetarium • Community College of Southern Nevada, 651-5059.
U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds • Tour of demonstration squadron facility, 2pm Tues. and Thurs. Nellis Air Force Base, North Las Vegas, 652-4018.

OVERTON

Lost City Museum of Archaeology • Pueblo culture, 397-2193.
Valley of Fire State Park • 397-2088.

PRIMM

Primadonna Resorts • Roller coaster, water flume, cyber coaster, and Turbo Drop rides at Buffalo Bill's; cars belonging to Bonnie and Clyde and Dutch Schultz and Clyde's bullet-riddled shirt at Whiskey Pete's, 382-1111.

SEARCHLIGHT

Searchlight Gallery • 297-1540.
Searchlight Historic Museum • 455-7955.

Reno-Tahoe Territory

CARSON CITY

Brewery Arts Center • 449 W. King St., 883-1976.
Carson and Mills Park Railroad • Mills Park, 887-2523.
Children's Museum of Northern Nevada • Museum has educational exhibits. 813 N. Carson St., 884-2226.
Kit Carson Trail • Walking tour. 687-7410 or 800-638-2321.
Nevada State Capitol • 687-5030.
Nevada State Library and Archives • State Constitution exhibit. 100 Stewart St., 687-5210.
Nevada State Museum • 600 N. Carson St., 687-4810.
Nevada State Railroad Museum • S. Carson St. at Fairview Dr., 687-6953.
Nevada Supreme Court • Tours. Stewart St., 687-8616.
Roberts' House Museum • 1207 N. Carson St., 882-1805.

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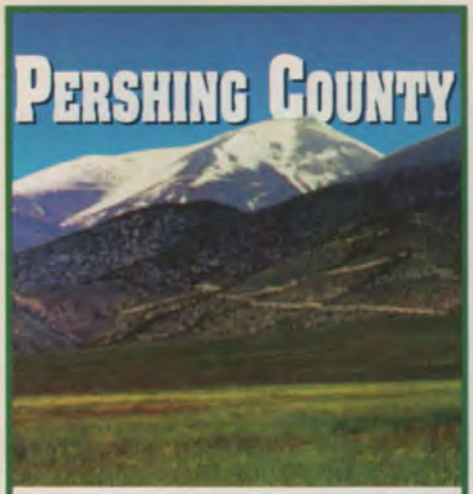
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Summer Water Parks

The Royal Flush at the Wet 'n Wild water theme park can give riders a case of the whirlies as they rush in a circular motion before being dumped in a cool pool. Wet 'n Wild in Las Vegas and Wild Island in Sparks offer visitors a respite from summer sizzle.

Stewart Indian Museum and Cultural Center • 5366 Snyder, 882-6929.
Warren Engine Co. No. 1 Museum • 777 S. Stewart St., 887-2210.

DAYTON

Dayton State Park • 687-5678.
Dayton Historic Society Museum • Open weekends on Shady Lane.

GARDNERVILLE

Carson Valley Museum and Cultural Center • Old Douglas County High School on U.S. 395, 782-2555.
Sharkey's Nugget • Boxing, rodeo memorabilia. 782-3133.

GENOA

Genoa Courthouse Museum • 782-4325.
Mormon Station State Historic Park • 782-4325, 687-4379.
David Walley's Hot Springs • 782-8155.

LAKE TAHOE

Hard Rock Cafe • Harveys, Stateline, 588-2411.
Heavenly Aerial Tram • Seasonal. Stateline, 586-7000.
Lake Tahoe Nevada State Park • Sand Harbor, 2005 Hwy. 28, Incline Village, 831-0494.
M.S. Dixie II Sternwheeler • Zephyr Cove, 588-3508.
Ponderosa Ranch • Open through October. Incline Village, 831-0691.
Tahoe Gal Paddlewheeler • Tahoe City, 530-583-0141.
Tahoe Rim Trail • 150-mile system, 588-0686.
Tallac Historic Site • Tours daily Memorial Day through Sept., South Lake Tahoe, 530-544-3029.
U.S. Forest Service Visitors Center • Stream-profile chamber, 530-573-2600.
Vikingsholm • Tours, 530-525-7232.
Zephyr Cove Resort • Cruises, boat rentals. 588-5021.

RENO

Animal Ark • Open until Oct. 31, 10 mi. north of Reno on U.S. 395, then 12 mi. on Red Rock Road to reach Animal Ark, 969-3111.
Bartley Ranch Regional Park • Hiking, horse arena, and one-room Huffaker schoolhouse. Reno, 828-6612.
Earth Window Museum • Native American artifacts, 100 N. Sierra St., Town Center Mall, 333-2828.
Fleischmann Planetarium • Stargazing programs, U of N campus, 784-4811.
Galena Creek Regional Park • Mount Rose Hwy., 785-4319.
Harrah's Reno • Laser show nightly at the outdoor plaza. 775-786-3232.
Liberty Belle Slot Collection • Liberty Belle Saloon, 4250 S. Virginia St., 825-1776 for further information.
National Automobile Museum (the Harrah Collection) • 10 Lake St. S., 333-9300.
National Bowling Stadium • Tournaments and IMAX theater. 300 N. Center St., 334-2695.
Nevada Historical Society Museum • 1650 N. Virginia St., 688-1190.
Nevada Museum of Art, E.L. Wiegand Gallery • 160 W. Liberty St., 329-3333.
Playland • Rides, picnicking. Idlewild Park, 329-6008.
Raymond I. Smith Truckee River Walk • 334-2077.
Reno Hilton • Water golf, Ultimate Rush thrill ride, putting course, 789-2000.
Reno Tahoe Gaming Academy • Tours. 215 S. Wells Ave., 329-5665.

Seeing Elvis

Elvis fans can get their fill of the King in Las Vegas at the Elvis-A-Rama Museum, which has a $3.5-million collection of the singer's memorabilia. The museum is two blocks west of the Fashion Show Mall.

Sierra Arts Center Gallery • Gallery and offices, 200 Flint St., 329-2787.
Sierra Safari Zoo • 10 mi. north of Reno at Red Rock Rd., 677-1101.
Silver Legacy • Giant mining machine and laser shows every hour, 325-7396.
Wilbur D. May Arboretum and Botanical Garden • Rancho San Rafael Park, 785-4153.
Wilbur D. May Great Basin Adventure • Seasonal, Rancho San Rafael Park, 785-4064.
Wilbur D. May Museum • Rancho San Rafael Park, 785-5961.

PYRAMID LAKE

Numana Hatchery Visitors Center • 574-0290.

SPARKS

John Ascuaga's Nugget • Ranchers' brands exhibit, 356-3300.
Sparks Heritage Foundation and Museum • 355-1144.
Wild Island • Water park open in summer, miniature golf and raceway open year-round. Off I-80, 359-2927.

VERDI

Boomtown Family Fun Center • Motion theater, Ferris wheel, and miniature golf, 345-8668.

VIRGINIA CITY

Assay Office Museum • 847-0777.
The Castle • 847-0275.
Chollar Mine • Tours of workings, 847-0155.
Fourth Ward School Museum • 847-0975.
Julia C. Bulette Red Light Museum • 847-9394.
Liberty Engine Co. No. 1 Comstock Firemen's Museum • 847-0717.
Mackay Mansion Museum • 847-0173.
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Piper's Opera House • 847-0433.
Ponderosa Mine • Tours, 847-0757.
Territorial Enterprise Mark Twain Museum • 847-0525.
Virginia and Truckee Railroad • 847-0380.
Virginia City Radio Museum • 847-9047.
Virginia City Tours • 786-0866.
Way It Was Museum • 847-0766.
Wild West Museum • South C Street, 847-0400.

WASHOE VALLEY

Bowers Mansion Park • Historic mansion of Comstock millionaires, 849-1825.
Davis Creek Park • 849-0684.
Washoe Lake State Park • Birdwatching, windsurfing, fishing, East Lake Blvd., 687-4319.

Cowboy Country

BATTLE MOUNTAIN

Trail of the 49ers Interpretive Center • Pioneer exhibits, research room, 453 N. Second St., 635-5720.

ELKO

Jarbidge Wilderness Area • North of Elko, 208-543-4129.
Northeastern Nevada Museum • 1515 Idaho St., 738-3418.
Sherman Station Complex • Restored 1875 ranch, tours. Visitor information, 738-7135.
Western Folklife Center • 501 Railroad St., 738-7508.
Wild Horse State Recreation Area • 65 miles north of Elko, 758-6493.

LOVELOCK

Giant Tufa Park • West of Lovelock, 273-7213.
Pershing County Marzen House Museum • Lovelock-area history, 273-7213.

WENDOVER

Bonneville Salt Flats • 801-977-4300.

WINNEMUCCA

Buckaroo Hall of Fame • 623-2225.
Humboldt Museum • Winnemucca-area history, 623-2912.

Pony Express Territory

AUSTIN

Hickison Petroglyph Recreation Site • Self-guided tour with interpretive signs, 24 miles east of Austin on U.S. 50.

ELY/GREAT BASIN N.P.

Cave Lake State Recreation Area • 15 miles south of Ely, 728-4467.
East Ely Railroad Depot Museum • Tours, 289-1663.
Great Basin National Park • Hiking, camping, ancient bristlecones, and tours of Lehman Caves. Baker, 65 miles east of Ely, 234-7331.
McGill Historical Drug Company • Call for tours of an old-fashioned drug store. McGill, 775-235-7082.
Nevada Northern Railway Museum • Train rides on historic locomotives. 1100 Ave. A, East Ely, 289-2085.
Ward Charcoal Ovens State Historic Site • 16 miles (11 dirt) south of Ely, 728-4467.
White Pine Public Museum • Exhibits on history of Ely area. 2000 Aultman St., 289-4710.

EUREKA

Eureka Opera House • Open Mon.-Fri. or by appointment, tours, 237-6006.
Eureka Sentinel Museum • 237-5010.

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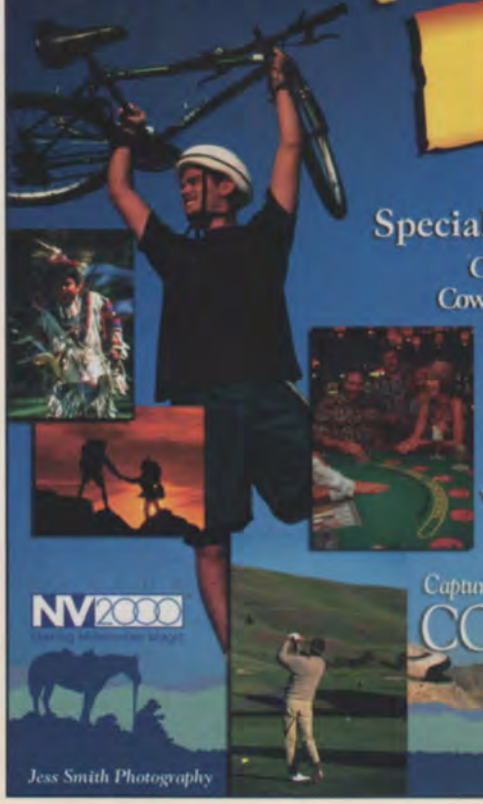
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FALLON

Churchill County Museum and Hidden Cave • Tours. 1050 S. Maine St., 423-3677.
Fort Churchill State Historic Park • Eight miles south of Silver Springs, 577-2345.
Sand Mountain • Giant sand dune, 20 miles east of Fallon, 885-6000.
Stillwater National Wildlife Refuge • 15 miles east of Fallon, 423-5128.

SILVER SPRINGS

Fort Churchill State Historic Park • Eight miles south of Silver Springs, 577-2345.

Pioneer Territory

BEATTY

Beatty Museum • Mining exhibits, 553-2424.
Death Valley National Park • Park can be reached via Beatty, 619-786-2331.
Rhyolite Bottle House Historic Site • Four miles west of Beatty, 553-2424.

GABBS

Berlin-Ichthyosaur State Park • Dinosaur fossils and ghost town, 23 miles east of Gabbs, 964-2440.

HAWTHORNE

Mineral County Historical Museum • Exhibits on the history of the Hawthorne area, 400 10th St., 945-5142.
Walker Lake State Recreation Area • Fishing, camping, and birdwatching, 945-5896.

PAHRUMP

Death Valley National Park • Park can be reached via Pahrump, 619-786-2331.
Pahrump Valley Winery • Tours. 3810 Winery Rd., 727-6900 or 800-368-WINE.

PIOCHE/CALIENTE

Box Car Museum • Railroad and local history. Caliente, 726-3129.
Cathedral Gorge State Park • South of Pioche, 728-4460.
Elgin Living History Schoolhouse Museum • Open for weekend tours or by appointment. Located 21 miles south of Caliente via Rainbow Canyon. Write Lynn Wood, Box 266, Caliente, NV 89008.
Kershaw-Ryan State Park • South of Caliente, 728-4460.
Lincoln County Historical Museum • Pioche, 962-5207.
Million Dollar Courthouse • Pioche, 962-5207.
Spring Valley State Park • 728-4460.
Stone Cabin Living History Museum • One mile north of Spring Valley State Park near Pioche, seasonal, 728-4460.

ROUND MOUNTAIN

Smoky Valley Museum • 1935 schoolhouse and assay equipment. Open second Wednesday of the month and by appointment, 377-2243.

TONOPAH

Belmont Courthouse State Historic Site • 50 miles north of Tonopah, 867-3001.
Central Nevada Museum • Artifacts and photographs on Tonopah-area history, 482-9676.
Tonopah Historic Mining Park • 482-9274.

YERINGTON

Lyon County Museum • Exhibits and photos on the history of the Yerington area, 463-2245.

A Reminder: To confirm hours of operation, please use the phone number listed with each attraction. The area code is 702 in the Las Vegas area, and the rest of the state is 775.

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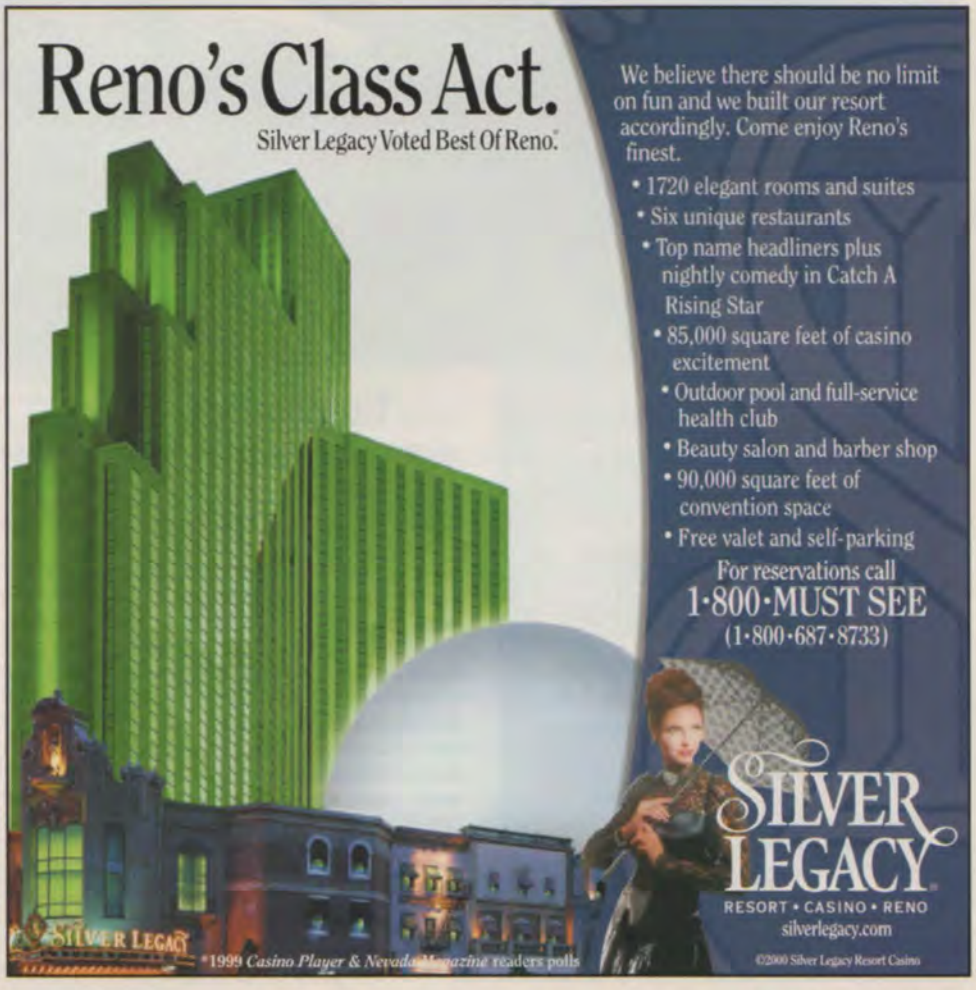
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Cowabunga, Dude

A jet skier catches air while crossing a wake on Lake Mead, one of Nevada's prime destinations for water sports. Lake Tahoe and Walker Lake near Hawthorne also draw jet-ski enthusiasts.

When planning your Nevada trip or vacation, be sure to write or phone these one-stop sources for information. Also, Internet users can visit the Web sites listed. If you plan to stop by a chamber of commerce (C of C) office, chances are it will be open in the daytime Monday through Friday.

Statewide Information

Nevada Commission on Tourism: 401 N. Carson St., Carson City, NV 89701; www.travelnevada.com; 775-687-4322 or 800-NEVADA-8 anywhere in U.S. and Canada.

Las Vegas Territory

African American Activities: 3838 Raymert Dr., Las Vegas, NV 89121; 702-456-3838.

Asian C of C: 900 E. Karen, No. C217, Las Vegas, NV 89109; 702-737-4300.

Boulder City C of C: 1305 Arizona, Boulder City, NV 89005; www.bouldercitychamber.com; 702-293-2034.

Boulder City Visitor Center: 100 Nevada Hwy., Boulder City, NV 89005; 702-294-1252.

Henderson C of C: 590 S. Boulder Hwy., Henderson, NV 89015;www.hendersonchamber.com; 702-565-8951.

Henderson Convention Center: 200 Water St., Henderson, NV 89015; www.cityofhenderson.com/convention; 702-565-2171.

Hoover Dam Visitors Services: Box 60400, Boulder City, NV 89006; www.hooverdam.com; 702-294-3524.

Jean Visitor Center: Interstate 15 South, Exit 12, Box 19470, Jean, NV 89019; lasvegas24hours.com; 702-874-1360.

Las Vegas C of C: 3720 Howard Hughes Pkwy., Las Vegas, NV 89109; lvchamber.com; 702-735-1616.

Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority: 3150 Paradise Road, Las Vegas, NV 89109; www.lasvegas24hours.com; 702-892-0711.

Latin C of C: 829 S. Sixth St., Las Vegas, NV 89125; LasVegasLatincc.com; 702-385-7367.

Laughlin C of C: Box 77777, Laughlin, NV 89028; www.laughlinchamber.com; 702-298-2214 or 800-227-5245 outside Nevada.

Laughlin Visitor Center: 1555 Casino Dr., Box 502, Laughlin, NV 89029; www.visitlaughlin.com; 702-298-3321 or 800-4LAUGHLIN.

Mesquite Area C of C: 850 W. Mesquite Blvd., Mesquite, NV 89027; www.mesqite-chamber.com; 702-346-2902.

Mesquite Visitor Center: Interstate 15, Exit 122, 460 Sandhill Blvd., Mesquite, NV 89027; 702-346-2702 or 877-MESQUITE.

Moapa Valley C of C: Hwy. 169, Box 361, Overton, NV 89040;

Photo: Jerome Hamilton

www.moapavalley.com; 702-397-2160 for information.
North Las Vegas C of C: 2290 McDaniel, North Las Vegas, NV 89030; 702-642-9595.

Reno-Tahoe Territory

Carson City C of C: 1900 S. Carson St., Suite 100, Carson City, NV 89701; carsoncitychamber.com; 775-882-1565.
Carson City Convention and Visitors Bureau: 1900 S. Carson St., Suite 200, Carson City, NV 89701; www.carson-city.org; 775-687-7410 or 800-NEVADA-1 in U.S.
Carson Valley C of C and Visitors Authority: 1512 Hwy. 395, No. 1, Gardnerville, NV 89410-5283; www.carsonvalleynv.org; 775-782-8144 or 800-727-7677 in U.S.
Dayton Area C of C: 200-B Main St., Box 2408, Dayton, NV 89403; www.daytonnvchamber.org; 775-246-7909.
Greater Reno-Sparks C of C: 1 E. First St., Reno, NV 89501; www.reno-sparkschamber.org; 775-686-3030.
Incline Village/Crystal Bay C of C: 969 Tahoe Blvd., Incline Village, NV 89451; www.laketahoechamber.com; 775-831-4440.
Lake Tahoe, Incline Village/Crystal Bay Visitors Bureau: 969 Tahoe Blvd., Incline Village, NV 89451; www.gotahoe.com; 775-832-1606 or 800-GO-TAHOE anywhere in U.S.
Lake Tahoe Visitors Authority: 1156 Ski Run Blvd., South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150; www.virtualtahoe.com; 530-544-5050, 800-AT-TAHOE in U.S.
North Lake Tahoe C of C: 245 N. Lake Blvd., Box 884, Tahoe City, CA 96145; www.tahoefun.org; 530-581-6900.
North Lake Tahoe Resort Association: 245 North Lake Blvd., Box 5459, Tahoe City, CA 96145; www.tahoefun.org; 530-583-3494 or 800-824-6348.
Reno-Sparks Convention and Visitors Authority: 4590 S. Virginia St., Box 837, Reno, NV 89504; www.renolaketahoe.com; 775-827-7600 or 800-FOR-RENO in U.S.
Reno-Sparks Indian Colony Tribal Council: 98 Colony Rd., Reno, NV 89502; 775-329-2936.
South Lake Tahoe C of C: 3066 Lake Tahoe Blvd., South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150; www.tahoeinfo.com; 530-541-5255.
Sparks C of C: 831 Victorian Ave., Sparks, NV 89431; www.sparkschamber.org; 775-358-1976.
Tahoe-Douglas C of C: Box 7139, Stateline, NV 89449; 195 Hwy. 50 at Round Hill, Zephyr Cove; www.tahoechamber.org; 775-588-4591.
Virginia City C of C: V&T Railroad Car, 131 South C St., Virginia City, NV 89440; www.comstocklode.com; 775-847-0311.

Cowboy Country

Battle Mountain C of C: Box 333, Battle Mountain, NV 89820; 775-635-8245.
Elko C of C: 1405 Idaho St., Elko, NV 89801; www.elkonevada.com; 775-738-7135.
Elko Convention and Visitors Authority: 700 Moren Way, Elko, NV 89801; www.elkocva.com; 775-738-4091, 800-248-3556 outside Nevada.
Jarbidge Community Association: Trading Post, 72 Main St., Box 260072, Jarbidge, NV 89826; jarbidge@aol.com; 775-488-2315.
Lovelock C of C: Box 821, Lovelock, NV 89419; 775-273-7213.
McDermitt Information: Box 278, McDermitt, NV 89421; 775-532-8742.
Wells C of C: 395 Sixth St., Box 615, Wells, NV 89835; www.wellsnv.com; 775-752-3540.
Wendover Area Chamber of Commerce: 735 Wendover Blvd., Box 2468, West Wendover, NV 89883; www.wendover-usa.org; 775-664-3414 or 877-WENDOVER.
Winnemucca C of C: 30 W. Winnemucca Blvd., Winnemucca, NV 89445; www.winnemucca-nv.org; 775-623-2225.
Winnemucca Convention and Visitors Bureau: 50 W. Winnemucca Blvd., Winnemucca, NV 89445; www.winnemucca.nv.us; 775-623-5071 or 800-WMCA-NEV.

Pony Express Territory

Austin C of C: Box 212, Lander County Courthouse, Austin, NV 89310; 775-964-2200.
Ely's Bristlecone Convention Center: 150 Sixth St., Box 958, Ely, NV 89301; www.elynevada.net; 775-289-3720.
Eureka County C of C: 111 N. Main St., Box 1078, Eureka, NV 89316; 775-237-5484.
Fallon Convention and Tourism Authority: 100 Campus Way, Fallon, NV 89406; 775-423-4556 or 800-874-0903.
Fernley C of C: 70 N. West St., Box 1606, Fernley, NV 89408; www.fernleynevada.net; 775-575-4459.
Great Basin Business and Tourism Council: Information on Baker and Great Basin National Park. Box 166, Baker, NV 89311; 775-234-7323.
Greater Fallon Area C of C: 65 S. Maine St., No. B, Fallon, NV 89406; 775-423-2544.
Silver Springs EDASS (Econ. Dev. Authority of Silver Springs): Box 269, Silver Springs, NV 89429; 775-577-2069.
White Pine C of C: 636 Aultman, Ely, NV 89301; www.elynevada.net; 775-289-8877.

Pioneer Territory

Amargosa C of C: HCR 69-2, Box 401W, 821 E. Farm Rd., Amargosa, NV 89020; www.armaosavalley.com; 775-372-1515.
Beatty C of C: 119 E. Main St., Box 956, Beatty, NV 89003; www.governet.net/nv/as/bea; 775-553-2424.
Caliente C of C: Depot Building, Box 553, Caliente, NV 89008; 775-726-3129.
Gabbs, City of: 509 Main St., Box 176, Gabbs, NV 89409; 775-285-4019.
Goldfield C of C: Box 219, Goldfield, NV 89013; members.xcom.com/gfldchamber; 775-485-3560.
Greater Smoky Valley C of C: State Route 376 at Carver's Station, Box 1977, Round Mountain, NV 89045; 775-377-2490.
Mason Valley C of C: 227 S. Main St., Yerington, NV 89447-2536; www.tele-net.net/lceda; 775-463-2245.
Mineral County C of C: 932 E Street, Box 1635, Hawthorne, NV 89415; www.mineralcountynvchamber.org; 775-945-5896.
Pahrump Valley C of C: 1021 S. Frontage Rd., Box 42, Pahrump, NV 89041; www.ahrumpchamber.com; 775-727-5800 or 800-633-WEST.
Pioche C of C: Box 127, Pioche, NV 89043; 775-962-5544.
Tonopah C of C: 301 Brougher Ave., Box 869, Tonopah, NV 89049; www.tonopahnevada.com; 775-482-3859.
Tonopah Convention Center: Box 408, 301 Brougher Ave., Tonopah, NV 89049; www.tonopahnevada.com; 775-482-3558.

Indian Territory

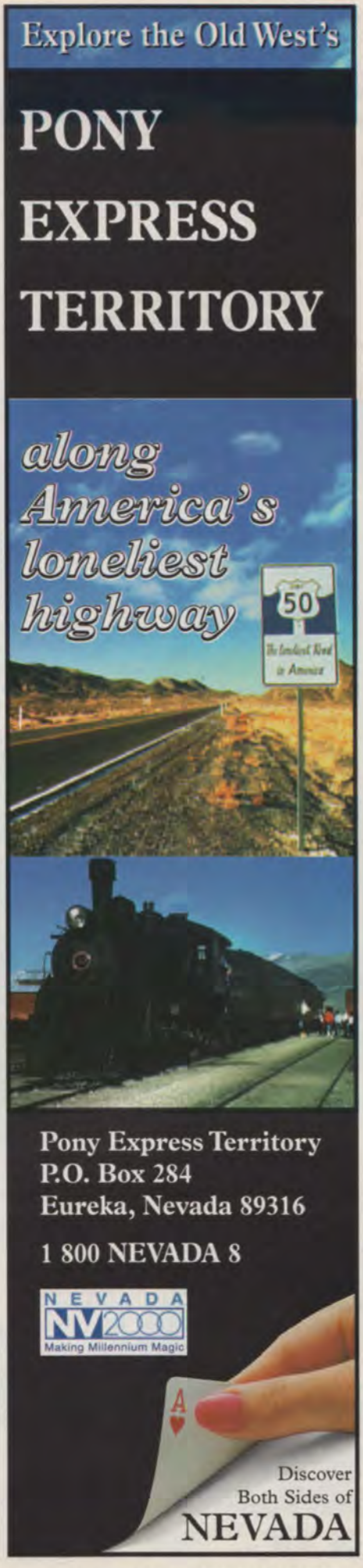
Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada: 680 Greenbrae Dr., No. 265, Sparks, or Box 7440, Reno, NV 89510; 775-355-0600.
Indian Territory: Nevada Commission on Tourism, 401 N. Carson St., Carson City, NV 89701; www.travelnevada.com; 775-687-4322 or 800-NEVADA-8.

State and National Parks

Death Valley National Park: Beatty Visitor Center: 307 Main St., Beatty, NV 89003; 775-553-2200. Park: Death Valley, CA 92328; 760-786-2331.
Great Basin National Park: Nevada Hwy. 488, Baker, NV 89311; www.nps.gov/grba; 775-234-7331.
Lake Mead National Recreation Area: 601 Nevada Hwy., Boulder City, NV 89005; www.nps/gov/lame; 702-293-8907.
Nevada Division of State Parks: 1300 S. Curry St., Carson City, NV 89710; www.state.nv.us/stparks; 775-687-4370.
Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area: HCR 33, Box 5500, Las Vegas, NV 89124; www.redrockcanyon.blm.gov; 702-363-1921.

More Outdoor Activities

Bicycling in Nevada: Nevada Department of Transportation: 1263 S. Stewart St., Carson City, NV 89712; www.bicyclenevada.com; 775-888-RIDE.
Bureau of Land Management: Main office: Reno, www.nv.blm.gov, 775-861-6400; Las Vegas, 702-647-5000; Elko, 775-753-0200; Winnemucca, 775-623-1500; Carson City, 775-885-6000; Ely, 775-289-1800; Caliente, 775-726-8100; Battle Mountain, 775-635-4000; Tonopah, 775-482-7800.
Nevada Division of Wildlife: Main office: 1100 Valley Rd., Reno, NV 89512; www.state.nv.us/cnr/nvwildlife/; 775-688-1500; Southern Nevada: 4747 W. Vegas Dr., Las Vegas, NV 89108; 702-486-5133.
Pyramid Lake Fisheries: Star Route, Sutcliffe, NV 89510; www.pyramidlakefisheries.org; 775-476-0500.
Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest: www.fs.fed.us/htnf/; 1200 Franklin Way, Sparks, NV 89431; 775-331-6444; 2881 S. Valley View, Suite 16, Las Vegas, NV 89102; 702-873-8800; 2035 Last Chance Rd., Elko, NV 89801; 775-738-5171.



Dining Directory

The following Nevada dining directory includes current magazine advertisers. Each listing gives sample dishes, whether breakfast, lunch, or dinner (B, L, D) are served, and accepted credit cards. Price ranges refer to typical entree price per person: up to $10 ($), $11 to $20 ($$), $21 to $30 ($$$), and more than $30 ($$$$). Nevada's area codes are 702 in the Las Vegas area and 775 in the rest of the state. Major credit cards are accepted at the restaurants unless otherwise noted.

Las Vegas Area

AMERICAN

Imperial Palace/Betty's Diner—794-3261. Shakes, malts, and sundaes as well as sandwiches, soup, breakfast bakery. B, L, D. $.

Imperial Palace/Burger Palace—794-3261. Burgers, fries, and other fast-food items. B, L, D. $.

Imperial Palace/Emperor's Buffet—731-3311. Carving station, roast baron of beef. B, L, D. $.

Imperial Palace/Imperial Buffet—794-3261. Prime rib and champagne dinner nightly. B, L, D. $.

Imperial Palace/Rib House—794-3261. Barbe-cued ribs, chicken, blackened entrees. D. $$.

Imperial Palace/Teahouse—731-3311. Carving station with prime rib. Weekend brunch. B, L, D. $.

Riviera/Kady's Coffee Shop—794-9403. $-$$.

Sam's Town Hotel/Mary's Diner—454-8073. All-American cuisine and blue plate specials in a 1950s-style diner. B, L, D. $.

Sam's Town Hotel/Smokey Joe's Cafe—456-7777. 24-hour coffee shop in a market-style atmosphere featuring prime rib and two-pound Dungeness crab. B, L, D. $$.

Sam's Town Hotel/The Great Buffet—456-7777 B, L, D. $.

Stratosphere/Roxy's Diner—380-7777. A '50s themed diner with thick shakes, big sandwiches, burgers, and blue plate specials. B, L, D. $.

Stratosphere/Stratosphere Buffet—380-7777. Seafood night on Friday and Saturday. B, L ,D. $.

Stratosphere/Triple Crown Deli—780-7777. Sub sandwiches. L, D. $.

INTERNATIONAL

Riviera Hotel/Mardi Gras Food Court—734-5110. Nine quick-service eateries featuring international cuisine. B, L, D. $, no credit cards.

Riviera Hotel/World's Fare Buffet—794-9400. International cuisines plus prime rib. B, L, D. $.

ITALIAN

Imperial Palace/Pizza Palace—794-3261. Pizza, pasta, salads. L, D. $.

Riviera Hotel/Ristorante Italiano—794-9363. Italian eatery serves lobster Francaise, fresh seafood. D. $-$$$$.

Sam's Town Hotel/Papamios Italian Kitchen—454-8041. Choose your pasta and sauce with bottomless salad and a glass of wine. D. $.

Stratosphere/Fellini's Tower of Pasta—380-7777. Italian cuisine is presented in an Old World setting. L, D. $$.

ASIAN

Imperial Palace/Ming Terrace—794-3261. Mandarin and Cantonese cuisine, abalone, kung pao shrimp, roast duck. D. $$.

Riviera Hotel/Rik' Shaw—794-9537. Pineapple duck, orange roughy with black pepper sauce. D. $-$$.

STEAK & SEAFOOD

Imperial Palace/Embers—794-3261. Steaks and continental dishes, 28 menu choices. D. $$.

Imperial Palace/Seahouse—794-3261. Alaskan crab legs, seafood salads. D. $$.

Riviera Hotel/Kristofer's—794-9233. Steak, seafood, and chicken. D. $$.

Sam's Town Hotel/Billy Bob's Steak House—454-8031. Entrees include 28-ounce ribeye steak, rotisserie chicken, fresh catch of the day, prime rib. D. $$.

Stratosphere/Montana's Café and Grille—380-7777. Steaks, seafood, pasta, and desserts. B, L, D. $.

Stratosphere/Top of the World—380-7777. Steaks, fish, and lobster. D. $$$$.

Laughlin

AMERICAN

Ramada Express/Carnegies's 24-Hour Dining Car—298-6231. Dine in a detailed reproduction of a railroad dining car. Carnegie's has a wide variety of menu items as well as a unique ambiance. B, L, D. $.

Ramada Express/Roundhouse Buffet—298-4200. Choose from more than 100 items, including a carving station. B, L, D. $.

Ramada Express/Under the Stairs Cafe—298-4200. Sandwiches, hot dogs, salads, shrimp cocktails, and pastries. B, L, D. $.

Ramada Express/Station Cafe—298-4200. L, D. $.

ITALIAN

Ramada Express/Passaggio Italian Gardens—298-4200. Chef Rafi's Italian-with-attitude variations. Homemade pastas and pizzas. D. $.

STEAK & SEAFOOD

Ramada Express/The Steakhouse—298-4200. Specializing in flame-broiled meats. D. $$.



The Steakhouse at the Ramada Express in Laughlin.

Reno-Carson Area

AMERICAN

Atlantis/Purple Parrot—Reno, 825-4700. Breakfast and American favorites served 24 hours a day. B, L, D. $-$$.

Atlantis/Toucan Charlie's Buffet—Reno, 825-4700. Friday-night seafood buffet and Sunday champagne brunch. B, L, D. $-$$.

Best Western Piñon Plaza Resort/Branding Iron Cafe and Margarita Saloon—Carson City, 885-9000. Western favorites at moderate prices. B, L, D. $-$$.

Carson Nugget/Buffet—882-1626. Sunday champagne brunch, Saturday breakfast buffet, Friday seafood buffet. B, L, D. $.

Carson Nugget/Coffee Shop—882-1626. Open 24 hours. B, L, D. $.

Carson Station/Station Grill and Rotisserie—883-8400. Baby back ribs, fish specials. L, D. $$.

Carson Station/Station Restaurant—883-0900. Homestyle cooking. B, L, D. $.

Carson Valley Inn/Fiona's—Minden, 783-6650. Steaks, seafood, and nightly specials. D, $$.

Carson Valley Inn/Katie's—Minden, 782-9711. Four-course prime rib dinner, steak and lobster, half-pound burgers, and breakfast specials. B, L, D. $-$$.

Carson Valley Inn/Michael's—Minden, 782-9711. Rack of lamb and seafood creations. D. $-$$.

John Ascuaga's Nugget/Farm House Coffee Shop—Sparks, 356-3300. Old-fashioned home cooking including omelettes, pancakes, fried chicken. B, L, D. $.

John Ascuaga's Nugget/Gabe's Pub and Deli—Sparks, 356-3300. Snacks, sandwiches, desserts, pastries. B, L, D. $.

John Ascuaga's Nugget/General Store—Sparks, 356-3300. Prime rib, giant apple pancake, seafood Louis, Sunday brunch. B, L, D. $.

John Ascuaga's Nugget/Rotisserie—Sparks, 356-3300. Buffet, Sunday brunch. B, L, D. $-$$.

Silver Legacy/Fresh Express Food Court—Reno, 329-7400. A variety of menus, including Chinese noodle kitchen. B, L, D. $.

Silver Legacy/Legacy Saloon and Deli Exchange—Reno, 329-4777. Roast garlic Rosemary chicken with spinach pizza, chicken. B, L, D. $.

Silver Legacy/Victorian Buffet—Reno, 329-4777. Shrimp and crab cioppino, homemade ravioli. B, L, D. $.

ITALIAN

Atlantis/Café Alfresco—Reno, 825-4700. Brick-oven pizzas, pastas. L, D. $.

Atlantis/MonteVigna—Reno, 825-4700. Tuscan-style Italian cuisine, 4,000-bottle wine cellar. D. $$$.

Eldorado/La Strada—Reno, 786-5700. Northern Italian cuisine with veal, chicken, and seafood entrees. Award-winning wine list. D. $$.

INTERNATIONAL

Eldorado/Bistro Roxy—Reno, 786-5700. Gourmet dishes include Chilean sea bass with Yukon gold potatoes and creamed spinach. D. $$.

Eldorado/Chefs' Buffet—Reno, 786-5700. USDA prime rib, homemade pastas, Mongolian grill, salad bar, dessert bar. B, L, D. $.

Eldorado/Choices—Reno, 786-5700. Deli, espresso bar, bakery, Asian Noodle Kitchen. B, L, D. $.

Eldorado/Tivoli Gardens—Reno, 786-5700. Multi-ethnic, 24-hour restaurant. B, L, D. $.

BASQUE

Louis' Basque Corner—301 E. Fourth St., Reno, 323-7203. Sweetbreads, tripe, paella, other seafood dishes. L, D. $$.

ASIAN

Eldorado/Golden Fortune—Reno, 786-5700. Hong Kong-style cuisine. D. $$.
John Ascuaga's Nugget/Trader Dick's—Sparks, 356-3300. Cashew chicken, Szechwan specialties, flaming dagger brochette. L, D. $$.
Silver Legacy/Sweetwater Cafe—Reno, 329-4777. Baked homemade tortellini, fried shrimp, prime rib, Cantonese pepper steak. B, L, D. $.

STEAK & SEAFOOD

Atlantis/Atlantis Seafood Steakhouse—Reno, 825-4700. Steaks, prime rib, seafood, and pastas. D. $$$.
Atlantis/Oyster Bar on the Sky Terrace—Reno, 825-4700. Oysters, clams, shrimp, and lobster. L, D. $$.
Carson Nugget/Oyster Bar—882-1626. Clam chowder, fish and chips, and pan roasts. L, D. $.
Carson Nugget/Steak House—882-1626. Veal scaloppini, scampi in dill sauce, and more. D. $$.
Eldorado/The Grill Steakhouse—Reno, 786-5700. Prime rib, seafood, and grilled entrees. D. $$.
John Ascuaga's Nugget/Oyster Bar—Sparks, 356-3300. Lazyman's cioppino, seafood stews. L, D. $$.
John Ascuaga's Nugget/Steak House—Sparks, 356-3300. Prime rib, steak, and lobster. L, D. $$.
Silver Legacy/Fairchild's Oyster Bar—Reno, 329-4777. Crab cakes, oyster pan roast. L, D. $$.
Silver Legacy/Sterling's Seafood and Steakhouse—Reno, 329-4777. Entrees include medallions of filet mignon, spicy roast chicken. D. $$.

MEDITERRANEAN

John Ascuaga's Nugget/Restaurante Orozko—356-3300. Veal medallions saltimbocca, braised lamb shank, paella valenciana. D. $.

BREW PUBS

Eldorado/The Brew Brothers—Reno, 786-5700. Gourmet pizzas, ribs, barbecue shrimp, sausage sampler. L, D. $.

Lake Tahoe

AMERICAN

Caesars Tahoe/Cafe Roma—Stateline, 588-3515. Lamb chops, prime rib. B, L, D. $-$$.

ITALIAN

Caesars Tahoe/Primavera—Stateline, 588-3515. Linguini carbonara, tenderloin pizzaiola. D. $$.

ASIAN

Caesars Tahoe/Empress Court—Stateline, 588-3515. Szechwan, Mandarin. D. $$.

MEXICAN

Harveys Tahoe/El Vaquero—588-2411. Traditional Mexican dishes and gourmet Southwestern specialties. D. $$.

CONTINENTAL

Harveys Tahoe/Llewellyn's—588-2411. Lake Tahoe views and contemporary cuisine. L, D. $$.

STEAK & SEAFOOD

Caesars Tahoe/Broiler Room—Stateline, 588-3515. Prime rib, seafood, Cajun specialties. D. $$.
Harveys Tahoe/Sage Room—588-2411. Western-themed steak house, tableside preparation. D. $$.
Harveys Tahoe/Seafood Grotto—588-2411.

Around the State

JACKPOT: Cactus Petes Resort Casino/Canyon Cove Buffet—821-1103. International buffet nightly as well as carved prime rib. Friday and Saturday nights enjoy seafood displays. Saturday and Sunday brunch. B, D. $.
JACKPOT: Cactus Petes Resort Casino/Canyon Cove Deli Buffet—821-1103. Sandwiches fixed to order. Homemade soups and an array of salads and desserts. L. $.
JACKPOT: Cactus Petes Resort Casino/Coyote Cafe—821-1103. Offers breakfast and grilled menu selections. B, L, D. $.
JACKPOT: Cactus Petes Resort Casino/Gala Showroom—821-1103. One of only a few dinner showrooms in all of Nevada. Cactus Petes provides a fine dining restaurant in a classic, Las Vegas-style showroom setting. D. $$.
JACKPOT: Cactus Petes Resort Casino/Desert Room—821-1103. Specializing in American and Chinese favorites 24 hours a day. B, L, D. $.
JACKPOT: Cactus Petes Resort Casino/Plateau Room—821-1103. Offering a wide variety of continental cuisine, desserts, moderately priced regional wines. D. $$.
LOVELOCK: Ramada Inn/Sturgeon's—273-2971. Coffee shop open 24 hours, family dining room. Fiesta Room supper club Tuesday-Saturday. Steaks, seafood, Mexican dishes. B, L, D. $-$$$.
WINNEMUCCA: Model T/Casino Restaurant—623-2588. Chicken strips, chicken-fried steak, prime rib special, ribeye steak, fried prawns. B, L, D. $.





A 'Skirt' That *Swings*

"Work That Skirt" at the Reno Hilton returns live music to the casino showroom.

By Carolyn Graham





Swinging steps by James Harkness (above) set the tone for "Work That Skirt," while Heather Harnish rolls over J.C. Cook in a classic '40s move.

The dancers in "Work That Skirt," the high-energy, Broadway-style production at the Reno Hilton, indeed work their skirts—and all their clothing and body parts. But the show offers more than just high kicks and fast feet. The backbone of "Work That Skirt" is the 10-piece orchestra whose live music is a rarity among casino revues.

As the name indicates, "Work That Skirt" spotlights swing music and dance as well as the days of juke joints and jitterbug contests. "Skirt" jumps into the swing theme with both feet, offering a toe-tapping tribute to the nightclub scene and taking the audience on a journey that starts in the 1940s and ends with today's retro-swing revival.

The show begins in a modern swing club, where naive Joey Pechuco, played by Vince Raggio, hopes to impress other swing dancers with the natty threads he found in his grandfather's closet. Seemingly possessed of two left feet, Joey is greeted by Duke Bigalow, portrayed by David Hayes, who offers to teach Joey—and the audience—that the roots of swing dancing are more about moves and less about wardrobe.

One of the best aspects of the show is that it doesn't rush through breathless medleys or follow a strict chronology. The audience has time to experience the moves and sounds of swing through six decades. Duke first takes Joey back to a 1940s Cotton Club, where Joey and a group of amorous Army boys are mesmerized by a performance of "Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy." The three singers portraying the Andrews Sisters are perched atop an airplane wing. The orchestra keeps the performance fresh, and soon the servicemen and other club patrons are swing dancing.

Richelle Rivera, a singer and dancer who studied voice under Chris Calloway, daughter of Cab Calloway, adds sparkle to the scene with her rendition of "Sentimental Journey." The moment is one of several in which the singers and musicians take the spotlight without the distraction of fancy sets or feathered showgirls—just music set amid a nightclub atmosphere.

Aside from all the skirt working, this show touches on the not-so-pleasant aspects of wartime. At one point, the cast sings and dances in a German nightclub, and the audience is reminded through radio broadcasts and Duke's narration that Hitler refused to allow the clubs to play music made by Jewish or black performers or songwriters. The upbeat tempo returns with a tribute to Count Basie, creating an uproar of big-band sounds with lots of chair dancing and girl tossing.

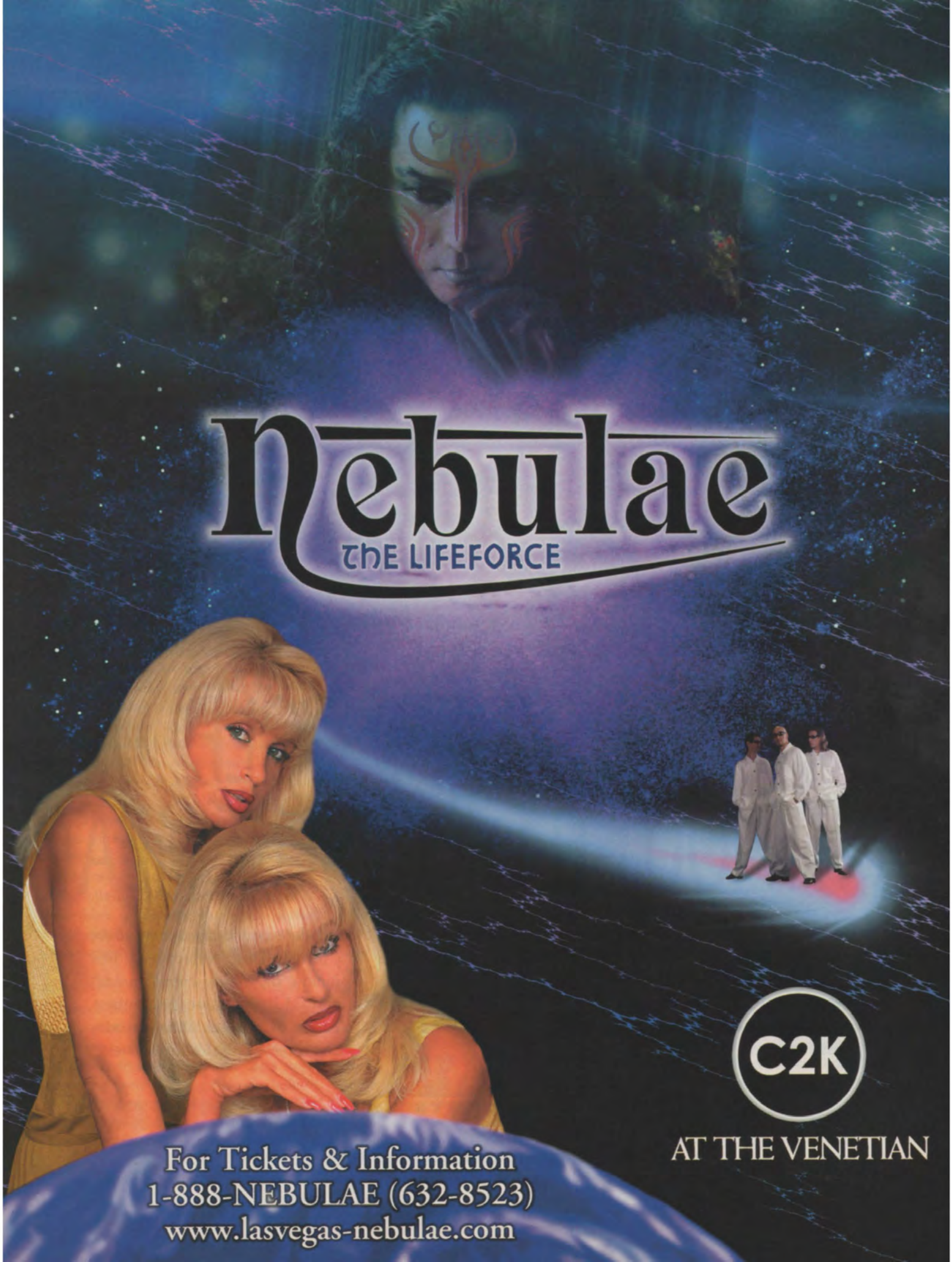
During another scene, Joey is transported to the Savoy in Harlem, where Hayes makes a convincing appearance as Cab Calloway. The male dancers, dressed in loud, striped suits, elevate the mood to the level of the music. Hayes, wearing bright yellow, knocks off the audience's socks by singing his rendition of the Calloway classic, "Minnie the Moocher." The audience then drifts into a sultry mood when saxophonist Remmel Wilson belts out the theme from *Mike Hammer*. The haunting melody seems to envelop the showroom.

Toward the end of the show a group of dancing gangsters create a "Zoot Suit Riot" as showgoers get their fingers snapping to that 1990s tune by the Cherry Poppin' Daddies. The action pauses long enough for Joey to enter a dance contest. Naturally, he and his partner win the contest, but in the end Joey learns an important lesson: that swing isn't about the clothes or dance lessons—it's about bringing people and music together. That's a lesson the audience enjoys learning, too.

Carolyn Graham is Nevada's *associate editor.*

Show Notes

"Work That Skirt" appears in the Hilton Theater at the Reno Hilton at 8 p.m. Saturday through Wednesday and 9 p.m. on Friday (dark Thursday). Tickets cost $24.95 for adults and $16.50 for children five to 12 and seniors 55 and older. The price includes two drinks. Dinner-and-show packages are available. Call 800-321-6014 for reservations.


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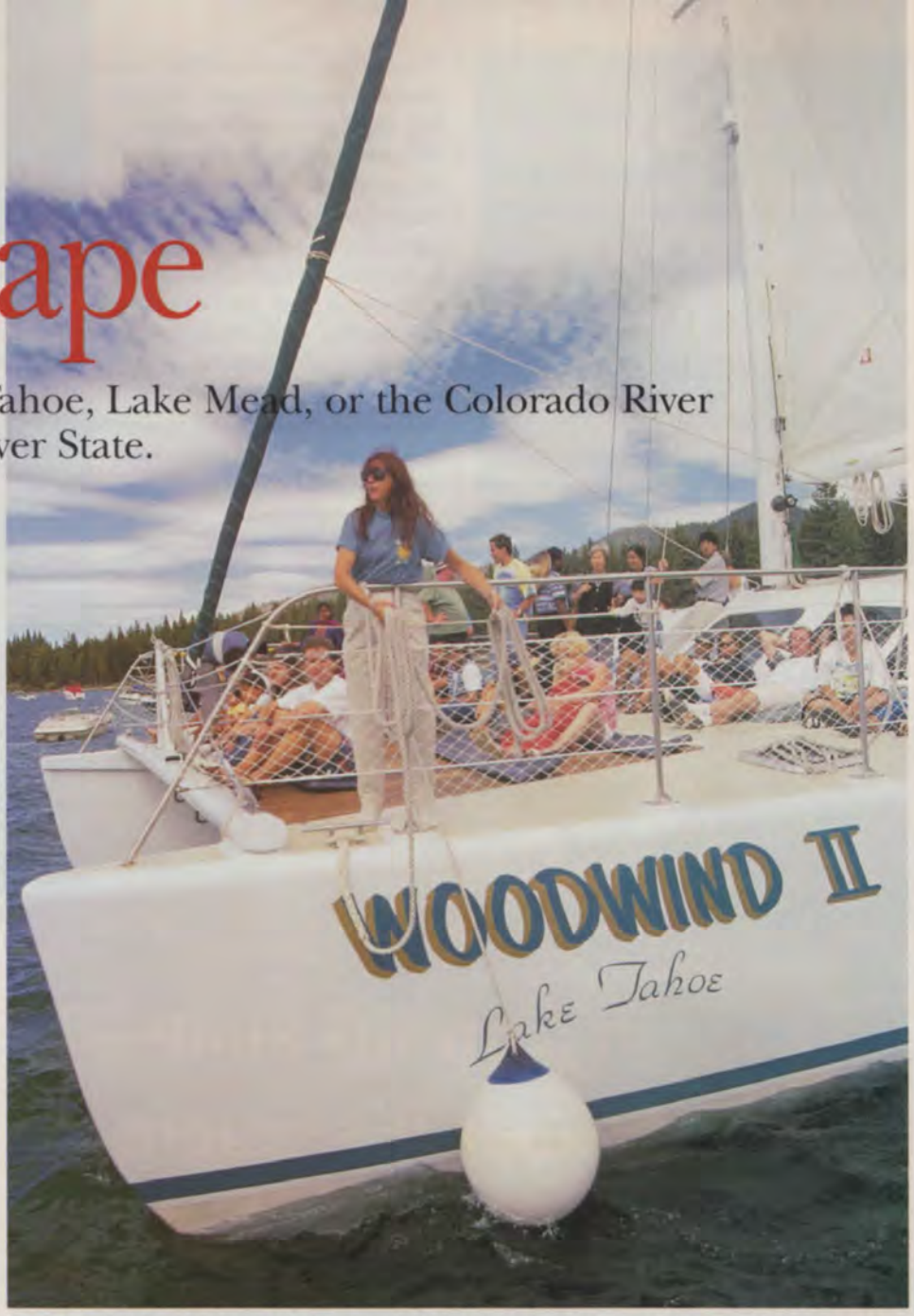
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Ship Shape

Taking a cruise on Lake Tahoe, Lake Mead, or the Colorado River offers new views of the Silver State.

By Shannon Montana



The *Woodwind II*, one of several cruise boats on Lake Tahoe, is a catamaran with room for 50 passengers.

One of the most intriguing ways to see Nevada is from the deck of a cruise ship. "I've always said that the boat offers the best way to see the lake and the surrounding Sierra," says David Johnson of Hornblower Cruises Lake Tahoe. "When you're in the mountains, it is tough to see the mountains. From the boat, in every direction the scenery is a postcard. It's a special view that you can't get from the shore."

Those special views can be found on the scheduled cruises offered by 10 passenger boats that ply Nevada waters. The cruise ships on Lake Mead, the Colorado River, and Lake Tahoe have numerous nautical options. You can have breakfast, see historic homes, or go dancing on deck after dinner as the waves lap pleasantly against the hull.

Most ships take private charters for large groups and weddings if reserved in advance. It's best to make reservations even when taking one of the ships' daily cruises. Most cruises are narrated and last one-and-a-half to two hours. Tours are offered year-round unless otherwise noted. Times and prices are subject to change, especially by the season.

Following is a sampling of cruises that offer a freshwater perspective of Nevada. Remember to take sunscreen and a hat. Major credit cards are accepted unless otherwise noted.

Lake Mead/Boulder City

Lake Mead Cruises: Passengers on the *Desert Princess* have a unique view of Hoover Dam—from the upstream side. The *Desert Princess* cruises Lake Mead, the giant reservoir created when Hoover Dam was built to control flooding on the Colorado River. The narrated tour describes the difficult working conditions endured by the men, desperate for work, who built the dam in the 1930s. The paddlewheeler goes about 100 feet from the dam and intake towers. As the ship passes Fortification Hill and other landmarks, binoculars may help you spot desert bighorn sheep walking on the ridge tops.

Some daily cruises begin at Hoover Dam itself. The dock at the dam has been underwater due to rises in the lake's level, but Lake Mead Cruises plans to reopen the dock in mid-July and conduct daily cruises from and to the dam.

The *Desert Princess* holds 300 passengers and has air-conditioned decks and an open promenade. The vessel is based on Lakeshore Road at Lake Mead Cruises Landing, 7.5 miles northeast of Boulder City and 3.5 miles north of the visitor center for Lake Mead National Recreation Area.

The following timetable runs through October 31. The cruise schedule is trimmed slightly in winter. ***Excursion:*** 10 a.m., noon, and 2 and 4 p.m. daily. Adult $18, child $9. Snack bar is available. ***Breakfast:*** 10 a.m. Sat.-Sun. on Excursion Cruise. Adult $26, child $14. Buffet with eggs Benedict, French toast, sausage, bacon, ambrosia, and fruit. ***Early Dinner:*** 6:30 p.m. Sun.-Thurs. Adult $35, child $18. Entrees include prime rib, stuffed chicken breast, and seafood. ***Dinner Dance:*** 7:30 p.m. Fri.-Sat. or by charter. Adults only, $49. Dinner is followed by dancing in the second deck lounge during the three-hour outing. Call Lake Mead Cruises, 702-293-6180, www.lakemeadcruises.com.

Laughlin/Colorado River

Del Rio: This 55-foot Blue Water Yacht based at Harrah's Laughlin carries up to 49 passengers, who have access to the *Del Rio's* large flying bridge. Cruising the Colorado River to Davis Dam and back, the captain de-

Photo: Carolyn Fox

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scribes Laughlin's hotels, casinos, and natural history. A popular story tells of Mrs. Lafferty, who held on to her acre and small trailer wedged between two Laughlin hotels. She finally agreed to terms that included a luxuriously furnished flat atop a casino, complete with room service and a maid. Sadly, Mrs. Lafferty died shortly after her dream home was finished.

Cruises: 10 a.m., noon, and 2 and 4 p.m. daily. Adult $10, child $5. Complimentary water and lemonade are served. There is no bar, but passengers can bring drinks and small food coolers. Call 702-298-6828, www.desertrec.com. Major credit cards (except AE) are accepted.

Laughlin River Tours: Docked at the Flamingo Laughlin, the *Edgewater Belle* and the *Celebration* are 150-passenger side-wheeler replicas. While cruising upriver to Davis Dam and back, you'll get a different view of the casinos—an outdoor view, with desert browns and grays framing the resorts of Casino Drive.



The *M.S. Dixie II* docks at Zephyr Cove on Lake Tahoe's southeast shore after a run to Emerald Bay.

Excursion: Cruise times vary. Adult $11, child $6, six and under free. ***Lunch:*** $16, includes a box lunch. ***Dinner:*** $26. Entrees include seafood, filet mignon, and chicken. The ships have snack bars. Call 702-298-1047 or 800-228-9825. No credit cards.

U.S.S. Riverside: You can cruise the Colorado from the Riverside Resort to the base of Davis Dam on the *U.S.S. Riverside*, a 65-foot ship that holds 119 passengers. The narrated tour describes the history of the area's casinos, Davis Dam, and the Colorado River.

Cruises: The *U.S.S. Riverside* departs every two hours between 10:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. daily. Adult $10, child $6. On board passengers will find a bar, sodas, and snacks. Call 702-298-2535 or 800-227-3849, www.riversideresort.com.

Lake Tahoe

M.S. Dixie II: Passengers meet the *M.S. Dixie II* on the dock at Zephyr Cove Resort, the longtime *Dixie* berth four miles north of the Stateline casinos. The paddlewheeler holds 570 passengers. The 360-degree vistas include landmarks like the snowy cross on Mount Tallac and the sandy beaches of Zephyr Cove. On daytime cruises you can watch *Sunken Treasures of Lake Tahoe*, a 20-minute video that explores the scuttled steamer *S.S. Tahoe*, or see the lake's depths for yourself through the boat's glass-bottom window.

The *Dixie* offers a free shuttle by reservation from the South Shore casinos. Passengers should take sweaters or light jackets since lake breezes can be chilly even in midsummer.

The Emerald Bay Sightseeing and Dinner Dance cruises run year-round. Following is the summer schedule through September 3; it's scaled back somewhat through October 29. ***Historic Glenbrook Breakfast:*** 9 a.m. Mon., Tues., Thurs., and Sat. Adult $25, child $9. Reveals the facts and folklore of 19th-century Glenbrook, its lumber mills, the boom days of Virginia City, and Tahoe history. Passengers on this cruise see a special collection of historic photographs. ***Champagne Brunch:*** 9 a.m. Sun., Wed., Fri. Adult $25, child $9. Views of Heavenly Ski Resort, the Stateline casinos, and Edgewood Tahoe Golf Course. ***Emerald Bay Sightseeing:*** 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. daily. Adult $20, child $5. Narrated tour heads to Fannette Island, Vikingsholm Castle, and other sights of Emerald Bay. Lunch may be purchased on board. ***Emerald Bay Dinner:*** 5 p.m. daily. Adult $35, child $15. (Cruise only: adult $20, child $5.) Entrees include steak, halibut, and chicken. ***Sunset Dinner Dance:*** 7:30 p.m. daily. Adult $45, child $25. Passengers dress "smart casual" for dinner and dancing. Call 775-588-3508, 775-

Photo: Carolyn Fox

882-0786, www.tahoedixie2.com for details.

Woodwind: The two *Woodwind* vessels are powered by the wind in their sails. The *Woodwind I*, a 40-foot trimaran built in the 1970s, holds 30 passengers and docks at Camp Richardson at South Lake Tahoe. The cruise to Emerald Bay offers views of the Desolation Wilderness, the mansions of Grand Valhalla Estates, and Mount Tallac. Once you gain some distance from shore, the forests seem dwarfed against the towering Sierra peaks. On the return trip you can watch for nesting bald eagles at Eagle Point.

Based at Zephyr Cove Resort, the *Woodwind II*, a 50-passenger catamaran, has a flexible itinerary—she goes where the wind takes her. Thus, guests on the 55-foot ship get to explore little known parts of the lake.

The *Tahoe*, a restored 1950s mahogany powerboat originally owned by E.B. Scott, author of *The Saga of Lake Tahoe*, is available for charters and weddings (775-588-1855).

Sightseeing: Both sailboats depart daily at 11:30 a.m., 1:30 p.m., and 3:30 p.m., with a happy-hour cruise at 5:30 p.m. April-Oct., weather permitting. Adult $20, senior $18, child $10. ***Champagne Cruise:*** 7 p.m. daily, April-Oct. Adults only, $26. Call 888-867-6394, www.sailwoodwind.com, for additional information on cruise schedules.

Hornblower Cruises: Hornblower's *Tahoe Queen*, a Mississippi paddlewheeler, takes a wide variety of trips—heritage and sightseeing tours, dinner and full-moon dance cruises, even a ski shuttle. The *Tahoe Queen* is owned by Hornblower Cruises, which operates a cruise-ship fleet extending from San Francisco to San Diego.

Based at Ski Run Marina in South Lake Tahoe, the *Tahoe Queen* takes daily trips to Emerald Bay. The 435-passenger ship has a bar, restaurant, glass bottom, and showings of the video *The Mysteries Beneath Lake Tahoe* on daily cruises. In winter the *Tahoe Queen* operates a skier's cruise to the North Shore—"the only known water-borne ski shuttle in the world," according to sales manager David Johnson. Another vessel, the *Tahoe Princess*, is available for charter.

The following schedule runs to September 10, with all cruises except the Heritage Tour continuing (at varied times) to October 29. The Emerald Bay and Dinner Dance cruises operate till New Year's. ***Family Emerald Bay:*** 10 a.m. daily. Adult $20; kids ride free. ***Emerald Bay:*** 12:30 p.m. daily. Adult $20, child $8. ***Heritage Tour:*** 3:15 p.m. daily. Adult $20, child $8. Trip includes the video *Lake Tahoe Structures by Famous Architects: A Walk in the Sky*, which visits the works of such architects as Frank Lloyd Wright, Bernard Maybeck, and Julia Morgan. ***Midweek Dinner:*** 7 p.m. Sun.-Thurs. Adult $35, child $18 (ages 4-12). Entrees include Alaskan halibut, tricolored tortellini, and prime rib. ***Dinner Dance:*** 7 p.m. Fri.-Sat. Adult $47, child $28 (ages 4-12). A band plays on the cruise. ***Full Moon Cruise:*** A band plays for dancing. Call 530-541-3364 or 800-23-TAHOE, www.hornblower.com.

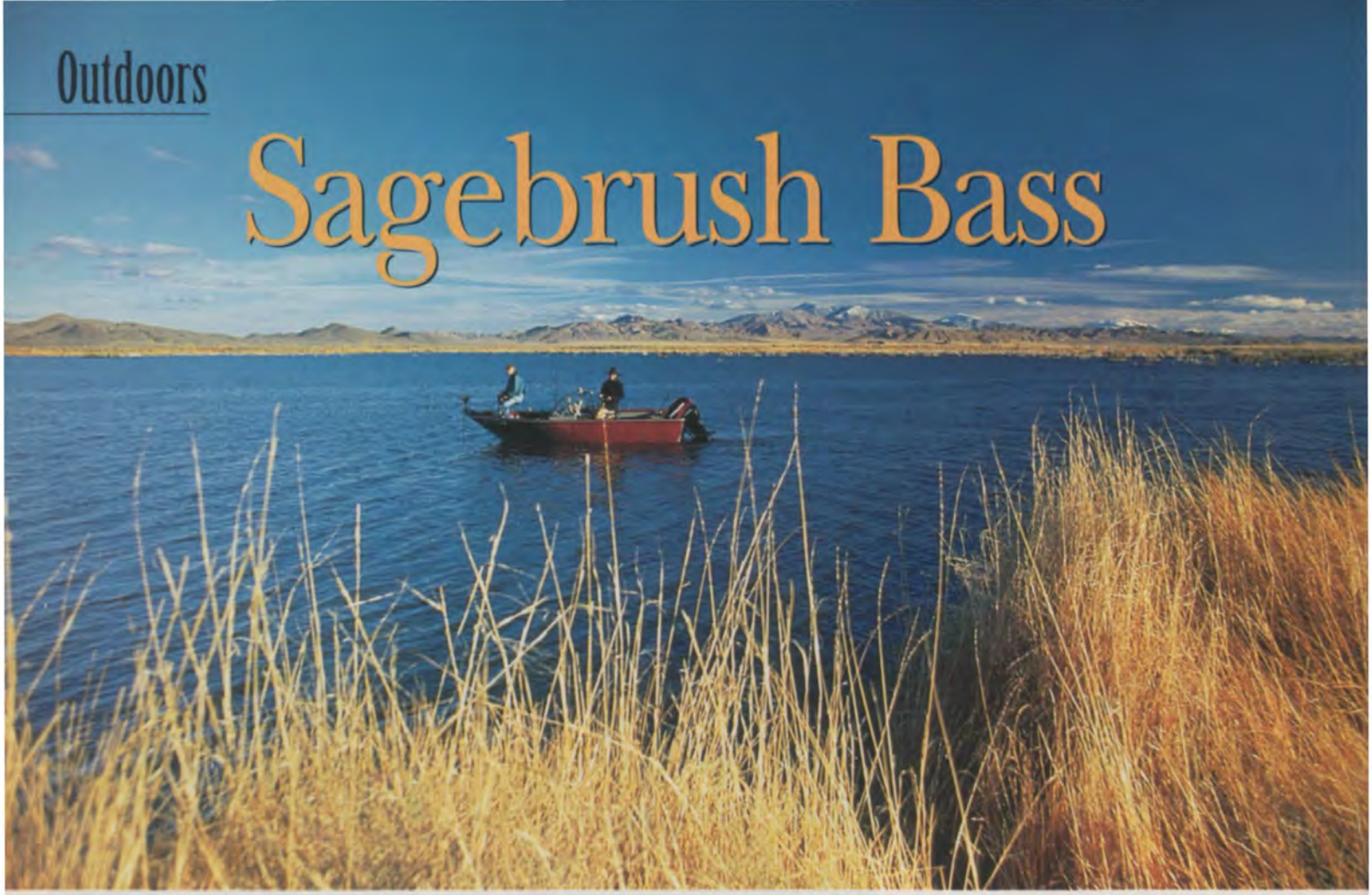
North Tahoe Cruises: The *Tahoe Gal*, a 150-passenger paddlewheeler, is based at Lighthouse Marina (behind Safeway) in Tahoe City. During regular cruises groups of up to 25 can rent the Commodore's Salon on the top deck. The *Tahoe Gal* can be chartered for dinners and weddings for up to 100 people. Its season runs through October.

Scenic Shoreline: 10:30 a.m. daily. Adult $17, child $7. On this trip the *Tahoe Gal* passes West Shore homes such as the Kaiser Estate, the setting for *Godfather II*. ***Emerald Bay:*** 12:30 p.m. daily. Adult $22, child $10. This luncheon cruise lasts three-and-a-half hours. ***Happy Hour:*** 4:30 p.m. daily. Adult $17, child $7. ***Sunset Dinner:*** 6:30 p.m. Mon.-Sat. Adult $18, child $7. ***Sunday Dinner With Jazz:*** 6 p.m. Sun. A jazz duo plays. Adult $25, child $12. Call 530-583-0141, 800-218-2464, www.tahoegal.com, for additional information.

Shannon Montana is a Tahoe explorer and an editorial assistant at Nevada Magazine.



Sagebrush Bass



The ponds near Yerington attract anglers ready to stalk the elusive largemouth bass. **By Bob "Digger" Rupracht**

For more than 20 years I've fished the waters of the Mason Valley Wildlife Management Area for largemouth bass. For most of those years I've fished by canoe with my friend Tim Hayden, who like me lives in Yerington. Over time we have established a good sense of mutual balance in the canoe. We even have mastered the art where both of us stand to cast, flip, and hook those hungry bass. However, one summer day we finally lost our balance—although I still have no idea why we flipped.

It was noon, the temperature was in the high 90s, and no adult beverages had yet been consumed. All I remember is that one moment I was upright and feeling dizzy, and the next Tim and I were both in the water. We managed to save the cooler, Tim's rod and reel, and some tackle. I lost several items in the drink—a watch, rod and reel, pager, and cell phone.

The next day my son Randy and I went diving at the spot, and we retrieved my watch (it was still ticking). But we found nothing else in the 12 feet of water. To this day, when we revisit that area, Tim can't resist making a wisecrack such as, "Hey, did you hear that, Digger? I think the fish are trying to make a call on your cell phone."

The management area is a beautiful, flat impoundment with fields of wild grasses. The water in some areas is so shallow the bass are easy prey for the eagles and red-tail hawks that have recently returned to Mason Valley. Cultivated fields stand on either side of the Walker River, which flows through the area, filling sloughs and ditches. There are days when the only noises we anglers hear are the calls of birds and the quiet rustle of the cattails as gentle breezes ripple the water. Locals call this quiet, serene place simply "the ponds."

We have a lot of great fishing in the Yerington area, including Lahontan State Recreation Area, the Walker River, the Fort Churchill Cooling Ponds, and Walker Lake, and I fish all those places. But during the management area's fishing season, from mid-February to the end of September, I tend to focus on the ponds, which are located 15 miles north of town.

The first time I fished the ponds, I wondered if the pools held any fish, much less the sought-after largemouth bass. Paddling with Tim in the canoe, I thought it the most unlikely of spots, devoid of bass-type cover such as rocks, tree stumps, and lily pads. Instead there were many shallow pools among the sagebrush.

After several casts, the afternoon breeze sent my top-water lure into a patch of sagebrush rather than beside it. A slight tug on the spider-wire line resulted in major swirling motion nearby. A V-shaped wake propelled toward the hung-up lure.

Then all hell broke loose. I "set up," snapping the rod upward to secure the fish on the hook. The bass was hooked, but the line was draped over a large bush. Would I be able to bring the fish alongside the canoe?

Expertly paddling, Tim positioned the canoe near the bush, allowing me to "lip" the hung-up bass; to do that I gripped the

Photo: Chris Talbot

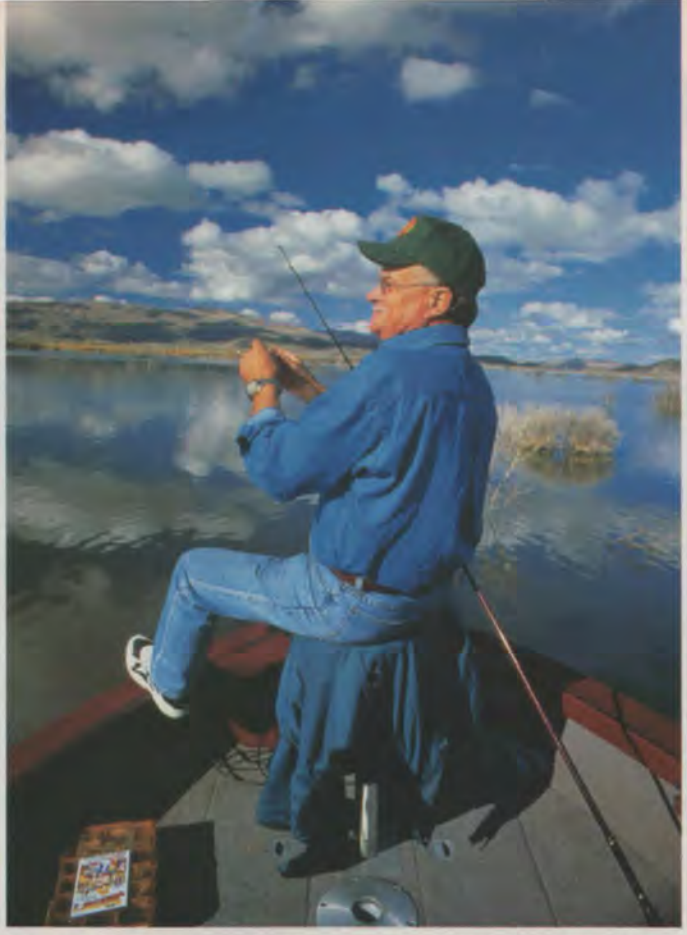
lower lip of the fish and pressed down, immobilizing the fish. After I had quickly assessed its size (about 14 inches), noted the coloring (pale compared to most bass I have caught), and looked for predator marks (healed talon scars caused by hawks), I released him. I caught that first bass on top-water buzz bait, a popular lure. We caught two dozen more on spinner baits. Most of the bass ranged 10 to 14 inches, with a few reaching 18 inches.

Since then I've noticed that the best way to fish the ponds is to use, as we did, a shallow-draft boat such as a canoe, flat-bottom pram, car topper, or even an inflatable dingy. (Regulations state: no wake, but electric and gas motors are allowed.) The 380-acre area, which is fed by the Walker River, includes North Pond, Bass Pond, Crappie Pond, and Hinkson Slough. The ponds are 15 feet deep at their deepest point and have numerous shallows along the shoreline. Some people fish from shore, while others use waders or float tubes. In some areas the float tubes outnumber the small boats and shore fishermen. My favorite area, North Pond, sometimes attracts lots of float tubes. Viewed from overhead, the pond would look like a bowl of cereal, with the float tubes bobbing up and down like Cheerios.

The route to this body of water is well marked, and the launches, restrooms, and parking areas are well maintained. A campground with nonpotable water is located next to the ponds' entrance. Fishing is allowed in the four above-mentioned ponds and the Walker River. Many local fishermen apply the catch-and-release method, while some visitors choose to take a few fish to family and friends.

In fact, fishing has long been a secondary concern in the Mason Valley Wildlife Management Area, which was established primarily as a waterfowl area. As a result, the impoundment is home to great hunting. Besides thousands of waterfowl, many quail live in the management area, and the ringneck pheasant is making a comeback. There are mule deer, and flocks of Texas wild turkeys are multiplying in great numbers. Coyotes and the occasional mountain lion are the main predators.

The fishing scene there has been helped by the Mason Valley Fish Hatchery, where the Nevada Division of Wildlife raises rainbow and brown trout for distribution in Northwestern Nevada. The hatchery also raises Lahontan cutthroat trout to be transplanted in Walker Lake. Anglers can fish in the ponds for rainbow and brown trout as well as crappie, bluegill, and the largemouth (black) bass. The bass were planted several decades ago. These desirable fish reproduce on their own, giving fishermen a run for their money whether they are casting from float tubes or from canoes.



Bob "Digger" Rupracht casts a glance across the ponds. The Mason Valley Wildlife Management Area is home to water birds as well as bass and trout.

Throughout the fishing season you can see all types of water craft on the ponds, but our best sighting to date has to be the couple in a $20,000 bass boat. They had the big outboard motor up and used a bow-mounted electric motor to cruise the ponds. Both occupants were having limited success, but the visuals added a new dimension. The man was wearing only shorts—nothing unusual there. However, the woman was wearing a very revealing bikini.

As we watched and fished, trying to be cool, we observed a solo fisherman who was quite taken with this particular scenery. As he stood casting off the bow of his boat, he was so intent on gawking that he lost his balance and pitched forward into the shallow water. He came up spitting and cussing, but he had his fishing rod in one hand and his hat in the other.

Tim and I trolled over to see if he was all right. After exchanging a few comments, we asked if he had recovered from his unplanned dunking. He replied, "Oh, man, I just had to cool off," as if the dunking was no big thing. We thought he'd try to convince us that a big bass had pulled him in, but we're sure the bikini had something to do with it.

Bob "Digger" Rupracht is an avid fisherman and owner of the Freitas-Rupracht Funeral Home in Yerington.

FISHING YERINGTON

Anglers can fish in spring and summer for largemouth (black) bass, trout, crappie, and bluegill at the Mason Valley Wildlife Management Area, 15 miles north of Yerington and 70 miles southeast of Reno. The season usually runs from the second Saturday in February through September 30 in the management area's ponds and the portion of the Walker River that flows through the area. Limit is five trout and 15 warmwater game fish, of which only two can be largemouth bass. The minimum size for largemouth bass is 14 inches. At Hinkson Slough, where only artificial lures are allowed, the bass regulations are the same, but for trout there is a limit of two and minimum size of 16 inches. Anglers must have a Nevada fishing license and trout stamp. Call the Mason Valley Wildlife Management Area, 775-463-2741, for details. Anglers have several other options in the area—the Walker River, Walker Lake, Lahontan State Recreation Area, and the Fort Churchill Cooling Ponds. Call the Nevada Division of Wildlife in Fallon, 775-423-3171, for more information on fishing in the region.





Anglers will find many fishing spots in the Yerington area.

Photos: Chris Talbot (top), Rhonda Wilson (bottom)

Barb Kallestad



The Incline Village artist draws inspiration from the sights and seasons of Lake Tahoe.



Old Woodie on Lake Tahoe, 15"x 22"· Kallestad came upon this boat at Obexer's marina on the lake's west shore one spring day. "I was riding my bike around Tahoe with some friends, and I found this great boat tied up at the dock." She snapped a photo and later painted the scene in watercolor.



Cowboy Joe, 22"x 30"· "This is Joe Knox, an authentic cowboy who used to board horses and operate ranches in Carson Valley. He now lives in Gardnerville and cuts hair in Incline Village."

For artist Barb Kallestad, living at Lake Tahoe continually provides inspiration. Kallestad often finds subjects for her paintings—the play of light across the surface of the lake, winter's first snowfall, sailboats racing in a stiff breeze—while relaxing on the deck of her Incline Village home. Sometimes a scene will catch her eye when she's riding her bike or skiing with friends and family. Tahoe's setting is unmatched, she says. "With the boats going by and the snow on the mountains, there is no more beautiful place."

Her diverse Tahoe and Nevada subjects include cowboys, tennis players, boats, and Hot August Nights hot rods. New subjects



Good Morning, Sand Harbor, 38"x 26"· This watercolor of Sand Harbor, based on a photograph taken by Kallestad's husband, John, depicts one of her favorite places at Lake Tahoe. "He took the photo during the drought a few years ago. One of the most interesting times for colors and shapes occurs when the lake level is low because the rocks are exposed and the water appears even more turquoise in the shallow areas."

come with commissions. "I paint anything and everything," Kallestad explains. One of her biggest commissions—literally—was the portrait of a bald eagle she painted for the Hyatt Regency Lake Tahoe's gourmet restaurant, the Lone Eagle Grille, in Incline Village. The painting is about four by five feet in size and hangs over one of the fireplaces in the restaurant.

At locations like Sand Harbor Kallestad often paints on site. When that isn't possible, she takes photos with her point-and-shoot camera or relies on the talents of her husband, John, a published photographer. Then she paints in her studio at home. She works in several media but enjoys watercolors the most. "I'm always looking to create the perfect watercolor," she says.

Kallestad, 56, discovered her artistic inclinations while growing up in South St. Paul, Minnesota. "Since the fourth grade I knew I wanted to study art," she says. After high school she attended the St. Paul School of Associated Arts for two years and spent a year at the Academy of Fine Arts in Florence, Italy. "The school was right above Michelangelo's 'David,'" she recalls. Later she pursued a career as a graphic artist in Minnesota and Florida, where she earned membership in the Florida Watercolor Society.

But in Florida Barb and John found they missed having four seasons. They yearned for a change. So in 1987 the Kallestads and their three children, Thor, Leif, and Erika, moved to Incline Village. They immediately felt at home. "I love the snow," Barb says. "I knew this was the place I wanted to live from the first time we drove through it."

Kallestad enjoys Lake Tahoe's year-round outdoor sports. In summer she rides her mountain bike every day uphill a couple of miles or more. In winter she skis almost daily at Diamond Peak, Northstar, Mount Rose, and other downhill resorts.

Regularly she brings her outdoor and artistic experiences to the classroom, teaching in area schools and in adult-education programs. As for her own work, Kallestad has focused on fine art during the past 10 years, exhibiting at local galleries and offering some of her work as limited editions and as greeting cards.

Kallestad will be among the artists featured July 5-9 during the North Lake Tahoe Art Center's ARTour 2000, a self-guided tour of 36 artists' studios (530-581-2787). Also, Kallestad can be reached at her studio (775-831-2864). Currently, she displays her work at Art Attack Gallery in Incline Village (775-832-7400) and the Incline Village Recreational Center (775-832-1300).—*Shannon Montana*

Confessions of a Sommelier

(Continued from page 19)

suggested. (I personally would accept the wine back and try to please my customer.) But regardless of the policy, simply try something else the next time. Remember, it is only wine.

• What if the restaurant does not have a sommelier? Don't be afraid to ask the waiter questions. A professional waiter should know the wine list and be able to help you through your dining experience.

• What about making dinner reservations? On a recent Friday Microsoft's Bill Gates arrived at Charlie Palmer Steak without a reservation. The hostess, who did not

A Brief Wine Tour of Nevada

Many restaurants in Las Vegas, Reno, Lake Tahoe, and other Nevada dining centers offer a wide range of wine options. A growing number have sommeliers whose sole purpose is to help you choose a wine to enjoy with dinner. Following is small sampling of wine places to explore in the Silver State. Reservations are recommended.

Wine Places of Las Vegas

Andre's French Restaurant, downtown at 401 S. Sixth St., 702-385-5016. Newly remodeled, this restaurant is the mainstay of the Las Vegas wine experience. The wine list has more than 1,400 selections and features vintage French Bordeaux and Burgundy wines.

Andre's, Monte Carlo Resort, 702-798-7151. Also specializing in vintage French wines. Go upstairs and experience the best port, cognac, and cigar selection in Las Vegas. The fireplace and overstuffed couches help make the room ideal for an after-dinner drink.

Aureole, Mandalay Bay, 702-632-4701. Master Sommelier Steven Geddes has created an impressive 44-foot-high wine tower featuring "wine angels" who are lifted up the tower on a cable to retrieve the wines from their climate-controlled storage bins. The wine list includes more than 2,500 bottles.

Charlie Palmer Steak, Four Seasons Hotel, 702-632-5120. With 130 wines, Steak probably has one of the smallest wine lists of the lot, but it's by far the hardest to duplicate. The list features hard-to-find wines from North America, Austria, and Australia. Each was hand-selected by Master Sommelier Steven Geddes and Advanced Sommelier Louis DeSantos.

Delmonico's Steakhouse, Venetian Hotel, 702-414-3737. Las Vegas' newest master sommelier, Kevin Vogt, has created a 27-page, 650-selection wine list that focuses on reds and big whites from France and California.

Gatsby's, MGM Grand, 702-891-1111. Sommelier Chris Janz's list features more than 500 wines from Bordeaux, Burgundy, California, and Oregon. The wait staff at Gatsby's is highly trained in the art of wine.

Grape Street Café, 7501 W. Lake Mead, 702-228-9463. Grape Street describes itself as an abundance of wine with cool character and even cooler food focusing primarily on North American wines.

Jazzed Café and Vinoteca, 2055 E. Tropicana, 702-798-5995. Owner Kirk Offerle has created an eclectic list that features some of the great small producers from North America and Europe. West Side Location, 8615 W. Sahara Ave., 702-233-2859. Features tasting flights.

Le Cirque, Bellagio, 702-693-7223. Master Sommelier Jay James has taken a classic 500-selection wine list and made it into a work of wine art. You will find wines there that you have only read about in wine publications.



Guests at Aureole in Mandalay Bay often gape at the 44-foot-high wine tower devised by Steven Geddes.

Napa, Rio Suite Hotel, 702-247-7961. Master Sommelier Barrie Larvin has created a list with 130 wines by the glass that complements the creative genius of Chef Jean-Louis Palladin.

Rio Wine Cellar and Tasting Room, Rio Suite Hotel, 702-364-9192. Under Barrie Larvin's direction, this room houses the largest publicly displayed collection of Chateau D'Yquem. If you get lucky at the tasting bar you may be able to sample a Chateau D'Yquem or a 1982 Chateau Mouton Rothschild.

Spago, Forum Shops at Caesars, 702-369-6300. Master Sommelier Greg Harrington's fine list presents 350 selections focusing on small boutique wineries from great wine-growing areas.—*Dennis B. Moyer*

Wine and Dine in Pahrump

Pahrump Valley Winery, Pahrump, 800-368-WINE. The winery in Pahrump, 65 miles west of Las Vegas, is open daily and offers tours, tastings, a restaurant, and a gift shop. Proprietor Jack Sanders offers eight wines at any given time; popular whites include Pahrump Valley Chardonnay and Symphony.

Wine Dining in Reno

Harrah's Steakhouse, Harrah's Reno, 775-788-2929. Harrah's Steakhouse recently celebrated 33 years on the Reno restaurant scene. Winner of the *Wine Spectator* Award of Excellence and the prestigious DiRoNA Award, the eatery carries more than 125 wine selections.

La Strada, Eldorado Hotel, 775-786-5700. The Eldorado's Northern Italian showpiece has won the casino a *Wine Spectator* Award of Excellence for six consecutive years with more than 330 selections and an inventory in the tens of thousands. Diners at the Eldorado, owned by the Carano family, can call for wines from the family's Ferrari-Carano Winery in Sonoma County, California.

LuLou's, 1470 S. Virginia St., 775-329-9979. Troy and Colleen Canaan's 15-table bistro features a small but top-quality wine list. Most of the wines are in the $25-plus category, but you'll get plenty of bang for your buck. The 1998 Rombauer Chardonnay is well worth the $36 price tag.

MonteVigna, Atlantis Resort, 775-825-4700. Atlantis sommelier Christian O'Kuinghttons oversees an inventory of "about a quarter-million dollars," including 4,500 bottles displayed in MonteVigna's exhibition wine cellar. O'Kuinghttons requires wait staff to participate in a six-month wine training program. The restaurant features 60 wines by the glass at a wide range of prices, as well as curiosity bottles such as a 6.0-liter 1994 Silver Oak Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon priced at just under a thousand dollars.

Viaggio, 2309 Kietzke Ln., 775-828-2708. The guys who opened the Viaggio restaurant love wine so much they built a retail wine shop on the side. At last report, the shop carries over 1,200 labels. You can peruse the menu and Viaggio's wine list at www.viaggio.net.

White Orchid, Peppermill Hotel, 775-826-2121. The White Orchid recently was awarded a *Wine Spectator* Award of Excellence for its 9,000-plus-bottle wine cellar as well as a Four Diamond rating from the American Automobile Association. Chef Roger Morris serves haute cuisine at its finest, including seafood, game, and Kobe beef.—*Kathleen Stebbins*

recognize him, informed Mr. Gates that there were no tables available but she would be happy to seat him at the bar where he could dine. He declined to eat at the bar and left the restaurant, at which point a customer told the hostess that she had just turned away the richest man in the world. So remember, reservations are recommended even if you are Bill Gates.

Wine Lists at Lake Tahoe

Llewellyn's, Harveys, Stateline, 800-553-1022. Both Llewellyn's and the Sage Room at Harveys have sommeliers who present about 250 wines, with a focus on California wines and a number of French Bordeauxs. Greg Psilopoulos presides at Llewellyn's, the California continental room on the 19th floor, and Bill Haslam offers wine advice in the Sage Room, a traditional steakhouse. They oversee a cellar of 10,000 bottles.

Lone Eagle Grille, Hyatt Regency Lake Tahoe, Incline Village, 775-832-1234. Three sommeliers, Robert Vicale, Cathie Wolf, and Patty Ruhl, serve customers at this lake-shore restaurant known for its certified Angus beef; reds are popular here. The wine list of 81 wines and 3,000-bottle cellar consist mostly of California wines, reflecting the clientele's preferences.

Primavera, Caesars Tahoe, 800-648-3353. Primavera maitre d' Diane Dominguez is studying to be a master sommelier—and to become only the ninth woman to attain that rank. The Primavera, which serves Northern Italian dishes, has earned *Wine Spectator* awards, as have two other Caesars restaurants, the Broiler Room and the Empress Court; one or the other has won for nine straight years.



La Strada's many wines include Ferrari-Carano, produced by the Eldorado's Carano family.

The Summit, Harrah's Lake Tahoe, Stateline, 800-HARRAHS. The Summit on Harrah's 16th floor has received the *Wine Spectator* Award of Excellence, the AAA's Four Diamond Award, and other honors. Also, on the 18th floor, guests at the newly opened Friday's Station Steak and Seafood Grill can inspect a 1,000-bottle display wine cellar at the entrance.—*David Moore*

Photo: Gary Elam

Tasting Wine

The issue of corked wine is highly important. Although not every sommelier tastes the wine prior to serving it, I follow the European custom and taste nearly every bottle I open. On one occasion I let one get by me, and, of course, it couldn't have happened at a worse time.

I was serving Greg Harrington, master sommelier for celebrity chef Wolfgang Puck's restaurant group. He had selected a wonderful bottle of Chinon from the Loire Valley of France. I presented the bottle, opened it, and tasted it. I felt it was sound and presented it to Master Harrington for his approval. He approved the bottle, but minutes later he called me over and asked me to retaste the wine. As soon as I did, I got the familiar tightening in my stomach and the slightly off aftertaste of a corked wine. Master Harrington was most gracious, although I face the fact that he may sit on one of my examination boards some day.

Not only do I taste every wine I offer to the customer, I have also tried many of them with food courses. Chef Jean-Louis Palladin at the Rio's Napa restaurant was instrumental in that part of my wine education. Every night after table service he insisted on preparing an appetizer and entree for me so that I could try several different wines with each course. Using the Rio's then 300 wine-by-the-glass selection—the largest in the country at that time—I learned to appreciate different wine and food combinations.

Although tasting and service are the public part of my position, behind the scenes I also help select the wines to be purchased to maintain the wine list at the restaurant, which sells in excess of 20 cases of wine a week. We do a lot of tasting before a wine will make our list.

Almost every resort in Las Vegas has a wine theme restaurant or outlet, and most fine dining rooms and steakhouses in Nevada have trained wine professionals on staff. You shouldn't miss these experiences. But remember, a sommelier, even a master, is just a wine guy. We're here to help you have a wonderful meal. And keep in mind that wine is not like directions to the freeway. It's OK to ask.

Dennis B. Moyer works as a certified sommelier at Charlie Palmer Steak in the evening and as a registered professional engineer for the City of Las Vegas during the day.

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Lights of Rhyolite





Richard T. Stephens often photographs the skies above the ghost town of Rhyolite, four miles west of his home in Beatty. Stephens, who has taught English, art, and photography at Beatty High since 1977 has weathered dust storms, cloudbursts, and lightning to take dramatic photos. His perseverance paid off last summer when he caught lightning striking the mountains near Rhyolite (lower right). Using an older Nikon—he feared it might rain on one of his newer models—Stephens captured both the illumination of the town's ruins by a full moon and the fury of a lightning storm. "You just don't get that usually," he says.

For his image of the Hale-Bopp comet passing over Rhyolite in 1997 (above), Stephens lined up the comet through a window of the J.S. Cook Bank. He made a time exposure—holding open his shutter a few moments—of the bank as his son, Skylar, fired a flash to light the building. Then Stephens immediately refocused on the comet. The result was metaphoric.

Stephens also photographed what the U.S. Air Force calls "the twilight phenomenon" (upper right). The squiggles of white light appear on unusually clear nights, just after sunset, when a ballistic missile is test-fired at Vandenberg Air Force Base in California. The wisps are crystallized water vapor and unburned rocket propellant, scattered by fierce winds in the upper atmosphere. You just don't get that usually, either.—*Richard Moreno*





John Muir's Nevada

The naturalist's trips to the Silver State in the 1870s sparked his passion for forests, mountaintop lightning storms, and the woman he loved.

By Charles Luce

The night of September 27, 1878, was an excruciating one for John Muir. After traveling the wilds of Nevada for more than two months, the newly famous lecturer and writer from California thought he had experienced every discomfort the desert could throw at him. But he wasn't ready for what happened outside the mining town of Ward.

"We arrived late when it was too dark to set the tents and we recklessly camped in a corral on a breezy hilltop," he wrote to friends about the night spent in Steptoe Valley south of Ely. "A wild equinoctial gale roared and tumbled down the mountainside all through the night sifting the dry fragrant snuff about our eyes and ears." He added, "Not exactly distressing but most absurdly and damnably ludicrous. How terribly we stood in need of deodorizers!"

Ludicrous, indeed. Here was the fast-rising naturalist, near the end of a life-changing trek through America's most dangerous wilderness, brought up short by windblown horse manure!

To modern readers John Muir may seem out of place in 19th-century Nevada. One would quickly associate the California naturalist with Yosemite National Park, redwood forests, and the Sierra Club, but never with the wild desert of the Great Basin.

Actually, Muir made three trips to Nevada and the Great Basin. In 1876 and 1877 he passed through the state quickly with a U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey crew on its way to Salt Lake City. In 1878 he returned with the same party to work exclusively in Nevada.

Muir and his USCGS colleagues trekked on horseback through weird and fantastic places: Carson Sink, Walker Lake, the verdant Reese River Valley, glacier-sculpted Arc Dome and Mount Jefferson, Lone Mountain, Troy Mountain, and the Snake Range. He found "Magnificent floods of sunshine," views that were "One mass of color beautiful and delicate as tinted rose petals or the lips of shells," and luxurious forests he repeatedly described as "gardens." That summer he wrote a series of five essays on his Nevada travels for the *San Francisco Evening Bulletin*. The newspaper's readers were treated to Muir's shrewd reports on the social as well as the natural landscape of the Silver State.

Today we can read Muir's essays on forests and "ghost cities" knowing that his Nevada journeys were to have a profound

Photo: Glenn Bamburg



John Muir climbed Wheeler Peak with a government survey crew in 1878. Wheeler, Nevada's second-highest peak at 13,063 feet, is shown on the right and Mount Jefferson Davis on the left in this view of Great Basin National Park.

effect on his life and career. In Nevada he found glacial evidence that would have upset the most advanced thinkers of his age. After seeing how mining companies had stripped the Great Basin forests—and admiring the beauty of tree communities on untouched summits—he concluded that saving forests was more important than his current scientific work, surveying glaciers. Finally, as he trekked lonely desert miles, sleeping in wool bedrolls, he grew achingly lonely for one Louie Wanda Strentzel. Resolving those inner conflicts shaped his mature life.

Actually, Muir was lucky to have a life after some of his Nevada adventures. One August afternoon he stood on a mountaintop in the Toquima Range south of Austin watching lightning slash all around. "A truly glorious spectacle—a dozen Nevada 'cloudbursts' falling at once while we were cordially pelted with hail," he wrote after getting away from the electrical display.

Later he got in a more serious jam while exploring a range near Eureka. Writing home on August 28, 1878, he said, "On Lone Mountain we were thirsty! Three of us ascended the mountain against my counsel and remonstrance while forty miles from any known water. Two of the men nearly lost their lives. One I found deathlike lying in the hot sun scarcely conscious The other I found in a kind of delirious stupor wandering in the sagebrush."

After getting his water-starved companions onto their horses, Muir led them all night to the USCGS camp and safety. Fully recovered two days later, he announced, "A lesson has been learned that will last and we will not suffer so again."

However, to Muir the greatest adventures and challenges in Nevada were intellectual. By the time Muir traveled the Silver State, he was a leading authority on Yosemite Valley. His lectures about glaciers had forced scientists and an awestruck public to accept a radical notion about the carving power of ice. His articles in *Harper's* and *Overland Monthly* shaped the thinking of politicians and intellectuals.

Muir was a man of humble beginnings. Born in 1838 in Dunbar, Scotland, he grew up near Portage, Wisconsin, where his family had immigrated in 1849. Although he received little formal education—he completed two years at the University of Wisconsin—he had a passionate love of nature.

In 1867 Muir began a lifetime of wanderings with a thousand-mile foot journey

from Indiana to Florida. His ambition was to travel to South America and the Amazon River, but sickness ended his trip in Cuba.

By 1869 a series of jobs and adventures landed Muir in Yosemite Valley. Awed by the canyon's majesty, he sought to understand its formation. Muir, who subscribed to the then-radical "Ice Age" theories of French geologist Louis Agassiz, believed that glaciers had done the work. Other scientists claimed Yosemite resulted from a collapse in the earth below. So Muir set out on foot to find evidence of glaciers in Yosemite. Retracing the paths that rivers of ice had made, he soon became an ice authority.

Muir's controversial glacier findings propelled him to fame. Now a public figure, he traveled up and down the West Coast in search of evidence to support his belief that glaciers once covered North America. During his Nevada travels Muir looked for signs of glaciation. But by 1878 he was feeling restless with his success and actively looking for other subjects.

Nevada didn't disappoint him. There was much natural beauty to write about. In the Forty Mile Desert near Carson Sink he noted the harsh setting: "How the burning air wavered and rippled! Strange that even the very sunlight may become dreary. Yet there is no real cause to make one lose his senses. The delicate pink Ambrosia is in full bloom. We saw one sunflower and a leguminous bush with purple flowers and even the sage is beautiful if one takes the time to look at it deliberately."

There were man-made subjects, too, like

Hiking in Muir's Footsteps

Despite Muir's Nevada adventures and literary efforts, there are no places in the state that bear his name. Still, it's possible to find most of the sites he visited and fuse them into a sweeping "Muir Trail" loop that begins and ends in Reno or Las Vegas. The focus of such a trip could be climbing six of the summits he wrote about: Wheeler, Troy, Morey, Lone Pine, Jefferson, and Arc Dome. Such a trip could take two to three weeks. Those with less time could hike the three most accessible mountains: Wheeler, Jefferson, and Arc Dome.

Great Basin National Park is the home of **Wheeler Peak**, which Muir climbed in 1878. The park, 70 miles east of Ely, is a five-hour drive from Las Vegas through long desert valleys, of which Muir wrote, "No singing water, no green sod, no moist nook to rest in—mountain and valley alike naked and shadowless in the sun-glare." Good stops are Cathedral Gorge State Park and Pioche, where Muir wrote those words.

The climb to Wheeler's summit follows a well-used trail and is the only Muir hike re-creation likely to include crowds. At the top you'll find far-reaching views, as did Muir, who noted, "The winter sunshine streaming through the clustered spires, glinting and breaking into a fine dust of spangles on the spiky leaves and beads of amber gum while the fresh snow beneath looks like a fine painting."

The next stops on an abbreviated Nevada "Muir Trail" are Mount Jefferson (11,941 feet) and Arc Dome (11,775 feet). These peaks grace the east and west sides of Big Smoky Valley between Austin and Tonopah. Both mountains are not heavily traveled and offer 19th-century solitude.

The quickest trail to **Mount Jefferson's** summit begins at Moore's Creek on Forest Road 8, which leaves State Route 376 just north of Carver's. The forest road is dirt; its condition should be checked by calling the U.S. Forest Service (see below). Rangers can give advice on camping in the Alta Toquima wilderness that surrounds the mountain.

On the other side of Big Smoky Valley, **Arc Dome** sits within a swirling core of peaks and ridges at the south end of the Toiyabe Range. Usually climbed from the west, Arc Dome can be approached from the east—a convenience for anyone who has just climbed Mount Jefferson. East-side hikers need to do some off-trail bushwhacking, but the steep eastern approaches pass through spectacular canyons—Jett Creek, Ophir Creek, and the North and South Twin Rivers. Trailheads stand at the end of short dirt roads that swing west from 376. Again, road and trail conditions should be checked. South Twin affords the quickest route to Arc Dome's summit. The approach is well described in John Hart's guidebook *Hiking the Great Basin* (see below).



A hiker looks down a rocky slope from the Wheeler Peak Summit Trail.

The climbs to Jefferson and Arc Dome pass through desert brush, piñon forests, and aspen groves. Views stretch west to the White and Sierra Nevada ranges. Allow enough time to seek out the evidence of glacial activity that Muir described and to ponder what these mountains must have been like during a long-ago era when hanging glaciers filled the cirques and deep lakes covered the playas. Your chances of having an afternoon made for lingering will improve if you climb the peaks in early fall, after thunderstorm season.

Hikers may wish to take along two helpful books. Muir's Nevada observations can be found in ***Steep Trails***, reissued in 1994 by Sierra Club Books (ISBN: 0871565358). All of Muir's hikes are well detailed in ***Hiking the Great Basin: The High Desert Country of California, Nevada, and Utah***, the excellent Sierra Club Totebook by John Hart.

Maps and information can be obtained at **Great Basin National Park** (for Wheeler Peak), Baker, NV 89311, 775-234-7331, www.nps.gov/grba, and the **Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest** (for Mount Jefferson and Arc Dome), Tonopah Ranger District, Box 3940, Tonopah, NV 89049, 775-482-6286, www.fs.fed.us/htnf/

No one should go into Nevada's remote regions without taking precautions. Carry plenty of extra fuel and water. Take good maps and a compass. Let someone know where you're going and when you'll return, and check on local road conditions in advance. Hiking boots, sunscreen, and layers of clothing (it gets cold in the mountains even in the summer) help make the trip comfortable. A portable gas or butane stove will let you cook even if wood is scarce or fires prohibited, as they are in wilderness areas.

Autumn is the ideal time to go, but the mountains that Muir once hiked can be visited in any season. Afternoon thunderstorms are frequent in July and August, and winter travelers need avalanche-awareness skills. Snow lingers on the higher peaks through June; spring travel may require ice axes and crampons.—*Charles Luce*

Photo: Chris Leedham

The Naturalist in Nevada

Muir speaks on Nevada's forests and ghost towns.

A popular author and lecturer in his day, John Muir recorded his Nevada impressions in letters and a series of articles for the *San Francisco Evening Bulletin* in the late 1870s, later collected in his book *Steep Trails* (1918). The essays are a mix of natural and social observations. He set down his impressions of the piñon pine in the essay "Nevada's Forests":

"The real character of a forest of this sort [piñon pine] would never be guessed by the inexperienced observer. Traveling across the sage levels in the dazzling sunlight, you gaze with shaded eyes at the mountains rising along their edges, perhaps twenty miles away, but no invitation that is at all likely to be understood is discernible. Every mountain, however high it swells into the sky, seems utterly barren. Approaching nearer, a low bushy growth is seen, strangely black in aspect, as though it had been burned. This is a nut pine forest, the bountiful orchard of the red man....It is pretty generally known that this tree yields edible nuts, but their importance and excellence as human food is infinitely greater than is supposed. In fruitful seasons like this one, the pine-nut crop of Nevada is, perhaps, greater than the entire wheat crop of California .The Indians alone appreciate this portion of Nature's bounty and celebrate the harvest home with dancing and feasting."

Human activities provided the material for one of Muir's best-known essays, "Nevada's Dead Towns," a cool yet biting observation of the effects of unregulated mining speculation:

"Passing through the dead town of Schellbourne last month, I asked one of the few lingering inhabitants why the town was built. 'For the mines,' he replied. 'And where are the mines?' 'On the mountains back here.' 'And why were they abandoned?' I asked. 'Are they exhausted?' 'Oh, no,' he replied, 'they are not exhausted; on the contrary, they have never been worked at all, for unfortunately, just as we were about ready to open them, the Cherry Creek mines were discovered across the valley in the Egan range, and everybody rushed off there, taking what they could with them—houses, machinery, and all. But we are hoping that somebody with money and speculation will come and revive us yet.'"

—*Charles Luce*



Muir pondered glaciers while hiking the canyons of Arc Dome (above) in the Toiyabes.

Photo: Jim Galli

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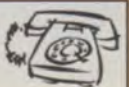
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the ripped-down forests. Entering Nevada near Reno placed him in a zone of arboreal devastation that continued down the Truckee River. The mountainsides were denuded, the trees falling victim to mining, town construction, the railroads. "Every pine and fir within reach of the locomotive's scream will eventually be called on literally to help push the car of progress," he wrote.

This Great Basin mix—natural beauty and human-caused devastation—were percolating in his thoughts as he sat one day on the summit of Mount Jefferson, in the Toquimas south of Austin, to sketch glacial moraines. Looking in the direction from which Arctic ice should have advanced, he wrote, "Strange to say on the same range immediately North of this mountain and adjacent the range presents no plain trace—scarce a hint of glaciation. At least during the last glacial period it seems to have been wholly free of ice."

According to biographer Linnie Marsh Wolfe, Muir's discoveries on Mount Jefferson and Arc Dome led him to realize that Agassiz was incorrect. If published, Muir's Nevada notes would have asserted that Ice Age glaciers sprang from the region's own mountaintops and did not simply sweep down from Arctic regions as his French mentor believed. Such a statement would have placed him dozens of years ahead of his time.

To print that would have meant challenging his mentor. Perhaps turning his attention to forests was easier. At any rate, that is what Muir increasingly did after his Nevada travels.

Forest-love was to become Muir's obsession and his great work. In his lifetime forests all over America were suffering. Pioneers had stripped and burned trees because they impeded agriculture. Forests gave up their wood for houses, barns, and buildings. The industrial revolution turned forests into fuel. From Maine to Arizona, American hillsides were being swept naked.

Muir had thought seriously about the plight of forests before he came to Nevada. He had written an article called "God's First Temples, How Shall We Preserve Our Forests?" in the *Sacramento Daily Union* of February 5, 1876.

In Nevada his commitment hardened. Two of his *Evening Bulletin* essays, "Nevada's Forests" and "Nevada's Timber Belt," expressed his appreciation for trees. To Muir, a properly husbanded forest was more useful than a chopped-down one. Animals could thrive for years among trees; so could humans. Watching Paiutes harvest piñon

nuts just west of the Snake Range was a revelation. "Looking over the whole continent, none of Nature's bounties seems to me so great as this in the way of food, none so little appreciated," he asserted.

When it came to human activities in Nevada, Indians and farmers had a monopoly on Muir's approval. Scorning mines and the boom-and-bust towns they created, he focused on "Plodding Dutchmen" farmers to draw positive examples of life eked from severity. His "Nevada's Dead Towns," another *Evening Bulletin* essay, was a put-down of early industrialism. "Nevada Farms" commended the state's marginal agriculture and those who created it. Muir noted, "The Nevada farmer can make more money by loose, ragged methods than the same class of farmers in any other state, while the almost savage isolation seems grateful to them."

More than direct observation seems to have gone into "Nevada Farms." Suffering from isolation, Muir was gravitating toward domesticity. Personal affairs were about to overtake him.

For several years Muir had been a frequent visitor to the Martinez, California, ranch of Dr. John Theopile Strentzel and had shown an increasing interest in Louie Wanda, the physician's daughter. This interest was getting serious by the time Muir shipped to Nevada, but the naturalist kept his feelings to himself, preferring to communicate only with the doctor and his wife. He and Dr. Strentzel sent boxes of fruit back and forth between Nevada railroad depots and the Strentzel's 2,600-acre ranch. Perhaps each exchange delivered a pang of loneliness, for shortly after returning home to San Francisco Muir asked for her hand.

John Muir and Louie Strentzel were married in June 1879. Neither his wife nor the two daughters born to them stopped the naturalist from his continued travels. In fact, Louie often begged him to go into the wilds; she knew it was a cure for his blues. However, Muir turned his attention completely to wet-climate forests, and he never returned to the Great Basin.

If Muir were to tramp about the Silver State today, he might be pleased to find that many of his favorite Nevada places are protected wilderness. And most of those wild areas are quite accessible. Foot trails lead to the summits of Wheeler, Jefferson, and Arc Dome. Bushwhacking ascents are possible on Morey and Troy summits. Even Lone, Grant, and Corey peaks are within the average hiker's reach.

The really good news might be that nothing in Nevada is named after the naturalist. Places with "Muir" on them tend to draw big crowds. On the trail in Nevada hikers usually experience nature's beauty and hardships alone, just as Muir so often did.

Swinging out of the car at the end of a dusty drive to the base of Troy Mountain, one can easily imagine the terror and beauty of Muir's travels. The land seems as if he left it yesterday, as if the imprint of his bedroll could still be found. Finding water is still the biggest problem, and the aspen groves remain beautiful. Back at a ranch called Nyala, the farmers who helped with directions might have been descendants of the "Jolly Irishman" who housed Muir and the USCGS survey crew.

As the sun sets and a sleeping bag fends off the mountain chill, a stupendous star show begins. What's that there? Must be Muir's ghost, come to find one of the few places on the planet that remains just the way he left it.

Charles Luce is an assistant professor of photography at County College of Morris, New Jersey. His story on Timothy O'Sullivan's travels in early-day Nevada, "Pioneer Photographer," appeared in the July/August '97 issue.

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Back to the Ponderosa

You may not spot Hoss or Little Joe at the Ponderosa Ranch, but you'll find lots of antiques, lassos, and sarsaparilla.

By Christy Chalmers





The Ponderosa Ranch sustains the legend of Adam, Little Joe, Ben, and Hoss 27 years after *Bonanza's* last episode. The theme park includes the Cartwright ranch house.

Every so often Buck Montgomery has to take a break from his role as Buck Bloodsworth, the Ponderosa Ranch's resident villain, and deal with some family business. "People will come up holding their identification and explain that their name is Cartwright and ask if they could see the family records because they think they might be related," he explains. "I think I've burst a few bubbles over the years."

So has Griz the blacksmith. "They ask if I'm a relative," says the burly, long-haired craftsman. "A lot of people think I'm one of Hoss' descendants."

Such is life at the Ponderosa, where fact and folklore mingle in the rarefied air of Lake Tahoe. Here visitors will find the Tahoe scenery and a replica of the famous house portrayed in 431 episodes of *Bonanza*, the television show that chronicled the lives of the fictional Cartwright clan: Ben, the patriarch, and his sons, Adam, Hoss, and Little Joe. After 14 seasons on the air, the show ended in 1973, but many visitors still come looking for the Cartwrights. What they find is a theme park that offers the chance to indulge any illusions about the Cartwrights and *Bonanza* while absorbing real-life lessons in Western history.

The park, located on Lake Tahoe's north shore in Incline Village, was established by Bill and Joyce Anderson in 1967. The Ponderosa features the ranch house, where some *Bonanza* scenes were filmed, as well as a Western town with stores, a saloon, children's playground, petting zoo, horseback rides, and gold panning.



The ranch gives nods to its Hollywood roots as well as its Western heritage. There are garages full of vintage vehicles, including chariots from *Ben Hur* and a car used in Charlie Chaplin movies. There's a saloon displaying antique guns, knives, swords, and even a rock-throwing device that ranch president David Geddes says dates to the 17th century. The Church of the Ponderosa has been the site of countless weddings, and each season a few couples return to renew their vows.

Pieces of machinery, like an almond-harvesting machine, are scattered around the grounds. Inside the town hall a unique marine engine shares space with a 1905 B.L.M. Pirate, billed as "America's first sports car."

"They've got some machinery here you don't see too often," says Wendell Geffre, a ranch cook. "If you really take your time

Map: NDOT/Nevada Magazine

and look at it, you'll find it's not something you can see in an hour."

You can, however, easily imagine the Cartwrights riding into town and moseying into the saloon for a shot of sarsaparilla. All of the ranch hands are well-versed in *Bonanza* lore. They get questions on everything from the names of the Cartwrights' horses to the clan's whereabouts on any given summer day.

"Our standard reply is they're over in Virginia City for the afternoon," says bartender Joe Dellinger, referring to the Cartwrights' remarkably casual TV commutes between the ranch and the Comstock mining town, which is 40 miles and two mountain ranges east.

In the boys' absence, the ranch is hopping with all the attractions of a Western town, not to mention hay-wagon breakfast rides, Hossburgers, and beverages served in the Ponderosa's trademark tin cups. Each day Buck Montgomery and his colleagues stage two "Wild West comedy stunt shows," and the ranch will host several top Western entertainers throughout the summer. The performers are part of what Montgomery says is an expanded entertainment package. The entertainment includes magic, card tricks, precision bullwhip slinging, and championship shooting.

Kowboy Kal comes to the ranch in July and August to do trick roping, gun spinning, and other feats from the back of his horse, Easy Dancer. Montgomery points out that Kal holds a world record for throwing the largest lariat loop ever—97 feet in diameter.

"It's the closest thing to Will Rogers you'll ever find," he promises.

If they were ever to return from Virginia City, the Cartwrights would be proud.

Ponderosa Notes

The Ponderosa Ranch in Incline Village is open daily from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. April through October. Admission is $10.50 for adults and $5.50 for children ages five to 11. Children under five enter free. The hay-wagon breakfast costs $2 above admission and is available Memorial Day through Labor Day. For details on performers and schedules call 775-831-0691 or visit www.ponderosaranch.com.

Christy Chalmers of Carson City is a reporter for the Record-Courier *in Gardnerville. An avid mountain biker, she keeps watching for the Cartwrights on the trails between Virginia City and Lake Tahoe.*

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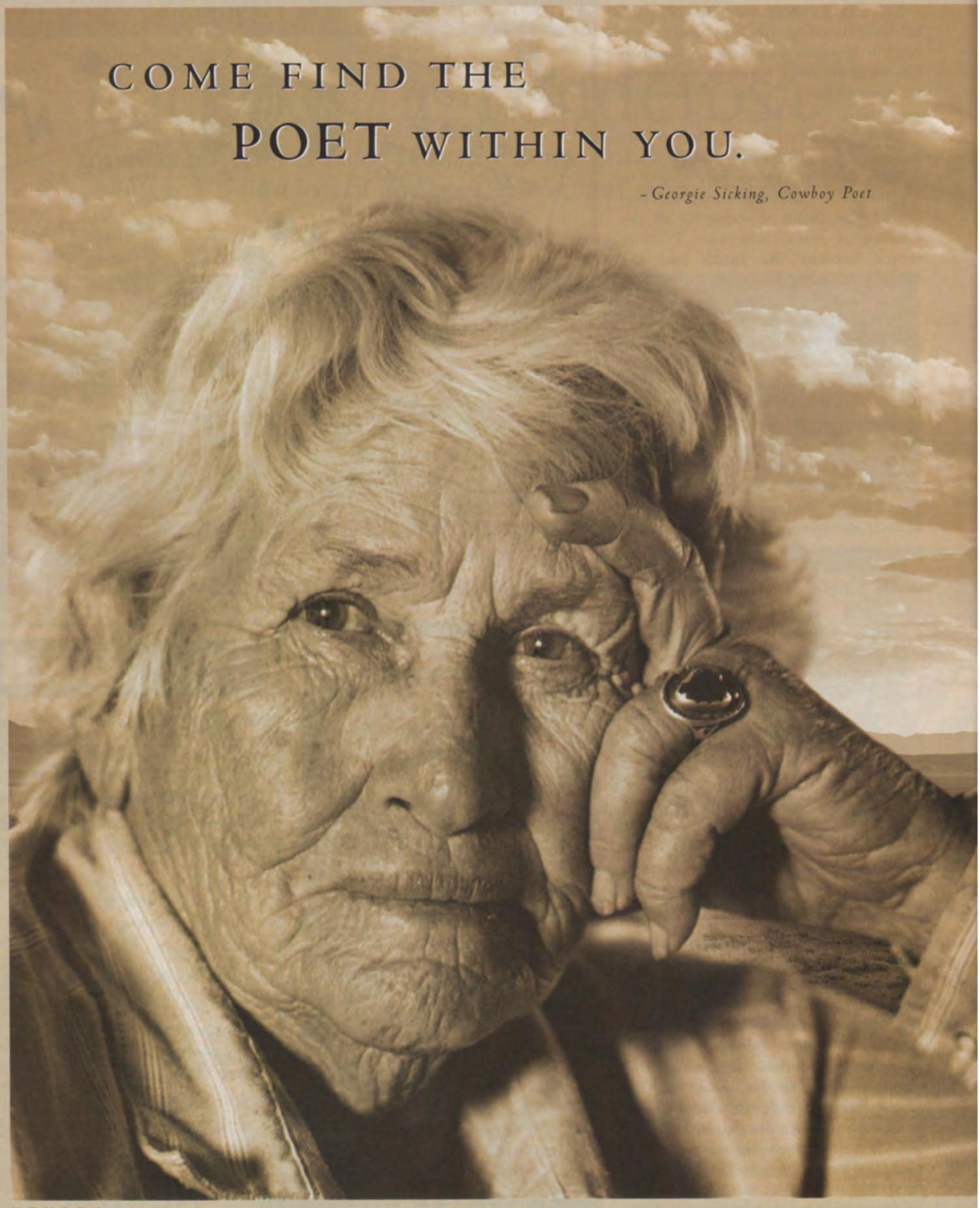
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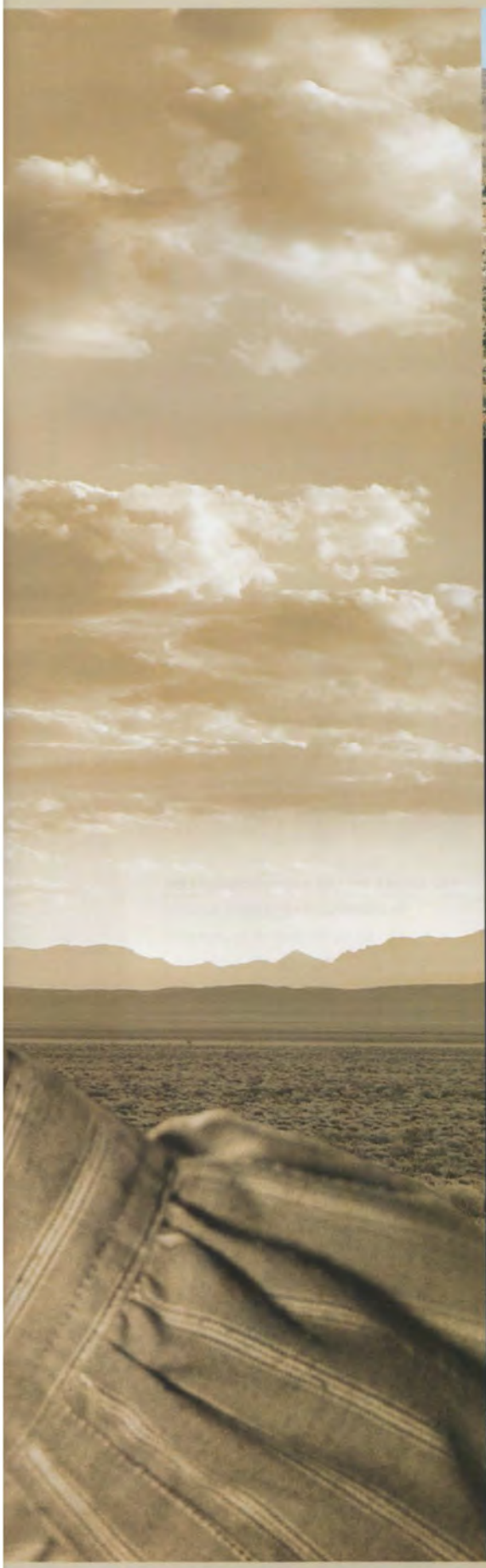
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