



## September 2008 Newsletter

National Park Hospitality Association

[www.parkpartners.org](http://www.parkpartners.org)

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### **Park Services Forum right around the corner!**

There is still time to register for the National Park Hospitality Association's first-ever *Park Services Forum*! The *Park Services Forum* (formerly the mid-year meeting) will be held at the Green Valley Ranch in Henderson, Nevada on October 12-14. Registration will be accepted through Friday, September 19, 2008, so please submit your forms as soon as possible! Also, Green Valley Ranch is continuing to offer rooms for the NPHA event temporarily, but reserve your room today! **Call Green Valley Ranch at 866-617-1777 for reservations. You must mention NPHA when booking!**

NPHA is pleased to confirm our keynote speaker, the Honorable Lyle Laverty, Interior Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks. Mr. Laverty is eager to use the *Park Services Forum* for strengthening cooperation and coordination between the National Park Service (NPS) and concessioners. Joining Secretary Laverty at Henderson will be key NPS officials including Pacific West Regional Director Jon Jarvis, Chief of the NPS Concession Program Jo Pendry and Tourism Director Dean Reeder.

The NPS Concessions Management Advisory Board, chaired by Clay James, will meet at the Lake Mead National Recreation Area Water Safety Center on Wednesday, October 15, following our meeting. The NPHA Executive Committee is scheduled to make a presentation to the board on key concessioner concerns and priorities. The Concessions Management Advisory Board meeting will also include an optional dinner cruise. If you would like to attend, please send a check for \$40.30 payable to Lake Mead Cruises to Roxanne Dey at Lake Mead NRA, 601 Nevada Way, Boulder City, Nevada 89005. Payment must be received by October 3.

To download the registration form for the *Park Services Forum*, [click here](#).

To download the latest *Park Services Forum* schedule, [click here](#).

To read the Concessions Management Advisory Board meeting notice, [click here](#).

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## **American icon Airstream explores placing Airstreams in national parks for overnight rentals**

Airstream is exploring a proposal to create Airstream Villages at selected key national park campgrounds. "Ruggedized" Airstream trailers would be placed in concessioner-managed campgrounds and made available for park visitors to reserve and rent. The Villages would serve as an attractive alternative to fully booked lodges and resorts during busy seasons and could provide opportunities for visitors to gain deeper experiences during park stays. Although Airstream believes that many non-RV owners would be interested in this new and exciting option, company officials also believe that many RV owners, including Airstream owners, might choose to leave their own units home for some distant adventures, flying to a nearby gateway or traveling in a smaller vehicle. Airstream has contacted five concessioners, reports interest has been strong and plans to provide further information at the *Park Services Forum*.

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## **Pillars of Support: Delaware North receives NPS 2007 Environmental Award and more!**

NPHA is proud to highlight concessioners' contributions to parks and cooperation with the National Park Service. NPHA members provide contributions of goods, services and labor for the benefit of the American public and the national parks in parks across the nation. NPHA shares stories of concessioner achievements to underscore the partnership between NPHA members and the National Park Service, protecting parks and serving visitors.

### **Delaware North Companies Parks & Resorts, Yellowstone and Yosemite National Parks**

We are pleased to report that the National Park Service (NPS) recently presented NPHA member Delaware North Companies Park & Resorts with one of its 2007 Environmental Achievement Awards for incorporating high environmental standards into their operations. "These parks and concessioners are dedicated to sustainable design, recycling, and energy-efficiency," said NPS Director Mary A. Bomar. "Their accomplishments provide a roadmap for success in environmental leadership as we prepare for the NPS Centennial in 2016." Delaware North, through its recycling efforts in Yellowstone and Yosemite, diverted approximately 1,589 tons of materials from the solid waste stream in 2007. Guided by their environmental management system GreenPath®, Delaware North trains more than 2,400 seasonal employee-associates each year about how to participate in the company's recycling efforts.



Delaware North's historic and grand hotel in Yosemite National Park, The Ahwahnee, has also been named the best national park lodge by ShermansTravel.com, a travel Web site that routinely posts top-10 lists. "The Ahwahnee is a special place. In addition to being a wonderful lodge, its backdrop is the majestic Yosemite National Park," said Kevin Kelly, president of Delaware North Companies Parks & Resorts. "We're proud that this list has validated the uniqueness and charm of The Ahwahnee. It's a great honor." For the full article on The Ahwahnee, [click here](#). NPHA congratulates

Delaware North for their well-deserved recognitions and for continuing to enhance the services of our national parks. Well done!

Do you have a contribution story to highlight the positive role of concessioners in our parks? Send your story to Mindy Meade at [mmeade@parkpartners.org](mailto:mmeade@parkpartners.org) or call 202-682-9530.

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## **CONPac co-hosts event for Congressional Travel and Tourism Caucus Co-Chair**

CONPac was a lead host in arranging a gathering of travel, tourism and recreation organization leaders in Washington to meet with the Honorable Jon Porter (R-NV 3) and provide support for his re-election campaign. Representative Porter, Co-Chair of the Congressional Travel and Tourism Caucus, spoke to NPHA members at the March 2008 meeting in Washington and has worked actively to support the National Park Service Centennial Challenge Fund, the Travel Promotion Act and other measures important to parks and tourism. In addition to NPHA representatives, the session included representatives of the Travel Industry Association of America, National Tour Association, American Horse Council, National Association of RV Parks and Campgrounds, National Marine Manufacturers Association and more. A full report on CONPac activities will be provided at the *Park Services Forum* by NPHA Policy Advisor Jim Santini and John Schoppmann, Chairman of the CONPac Advisory Committee.

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## **NPS Southeast Regional Director joins NPHA at Southeast Tourism Society's 25th Annual Meeting**

National Park Service Southeast Regional Director David Vela, newly arrived in Atlanta from his previous post as Superintendent of the George Washington Memorial Parkway, joined Derrick Crandall at the Southeast Tourism Society's 25th annual meeting in Little Rock for a panel entitled "Creating Excitement in the Southeast with Recreation and Tourism." Although impacted by Hurricane Hanna, this premier gathering of regional tourism leadership showed real enthusiasm for the messages of the panel. Key follow-up activities will include preparation for an expected surge in public interest in parks following the release of the new Ken Burns PBS special on the national parks later this year and outreach to Americans who now infrequently visit parks and other public lands. Regional Director Vela also encouraged tourism leaders to explore with the National Park Service innovative ways to expand park interpretive efforts, both using new technologies and through programs such as Trails to Rails -- where NPS interpreters board Amtrak trains along key corridors to share information with train travelers.

Mr. Vela and Mr. Crandall were joined on the panel by Arkansas Tourism Director Joe David Rice, Sue Whittington of the US Army Corps of Engineers and Gilbert Welch, Vice President of Marinas International. Southeast Tourism Society President Bill Hardman told Mr. Crandall that he expects more focus on parks and recreation at future meetings of this important group, especially since the panel received the highest ratings of all sessions at the meeting.

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## **Gettysburg Visitor Center to officially open September 26**

Tourists and local residents will witness history as the doors officially open at the new Gettysburg National Military Park Museum and Visitor Center on September 26. The \$103 million building boasts a modern museum, which allows visitors who don't have much time to pick up on the major themes while breezing through and history buffs to slow down and enjoy the artifacts. A new 22-minute feature film, "A New Birth of Freedom," offers an overview of the events leading up to the Civil War, the Battle of Gettysburg and the aftermath.

Visitors can walk through the exhibits and see artifacts such as Union General Abner Doubleday's slouch hat, which bears the tear from a shell fragment during the Battle of Gettysburg, and a field desk believed to have been used by Confederate General Robert E. Lee. When tourists get hungry, they can sample Civil War-era food, such as hardtack, in the Refreshment Saloon.

The new museum and visitor center houses "The Battle of Gettysburg" Cyclorama painting, which has been cleaned and restored. The new center sits about two-thirds of a mile from the old visitor center and Cyclorama, which are expected to be torn down next year. The old site sits directly on the battle line of the Union Army where heavy fighting took place and 900 soldiers were killed, wounded or captured. Plans call for restoring that area to its 1863 appearance, which included two orchards and open fields.

Other opening celebrations including a black tie event have been planned.

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### ***Federal Parks and Recreation Newsletter: Independent advisory group begins work***

National Park Service Director Mary Bomar last month promised a blue ribbon commission on the future of the National Park System her agency's full support, just as the commission got underway. "As National Park Service Director, I pledge the support of the National Park Service for the commission's work, and look forward to working with you toward making 'America's best idea' truly worthy of that title," she said. However, not everyone is as enthusiastic as Bomar. Chuck Cushman, president of the American Land Rights Association (ALRA), said, "The commission members are playing inside baseball. There are no critics there. We're going to have to fill in the gap and bring in people to show Sens. Baker and Johnston where the Park Service can do a better job," he said, while acknowledging many individuals in the agency now do "great work."

To read the latest *Federal Parks & Recreation Newsletter* and reports on the new commission, progress of NPS Centennial legislation and more, go to your member-benefit copy of the *Federal Parks & Recreation Newsletter* on the NPHA website and use your password: **nphaonly** [[Click here](#)].

***Federal Parks & Recreation Newsletter – a free service for NPHA members – gives you up-to-date information on park and outdoor recreation policy developments.***

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### **News**

- [NPS Concessions: News on the Latest Prospectuses](#)
- [Ken Burns on vacation/location at Glacier National Park](#)
- [Judge throws out Yellowstone snowmobile plan](#)
- [National Public Lands Day: September 27](#)

For more information or to send questions/comments, please email: [mmeade@parkpartners.org](mailto:mmeade@parkpartners.org)

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