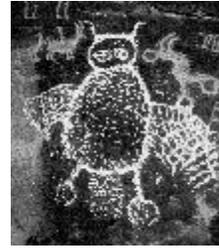


# VESTIGES



April 2001  
Volume 21  
No. 4

Monthly newsletter of URARA, Utah Rock Art Research Association

## 2001 Symposium Set For October 6-8

This year's symposium set for Oct. 6-8 2001 and will be held in Moab again this year. Additional information will be available later.

The St. George field trip was a great success thanks to Phil Thum (field trips) and Boma Johnson for the meeting Saturday night. The group split into two field trip groups of about 20 or so each and



*Phil Thum reported URARA members from California, New Mexico, Colorado, Arizona and Washington arrived for the field trips in St. George. The group was divided into two sections to accommodate the size of the group.*

visited sites Saturday. We then got together that night at Dixie Downs where Boma Johnson treated us to a very interesting slide show. Maybe he will put on a program in SLC for those who missed it in St. George. Thanks Phil & Boma for the great field trips and slide show.

Two field trips will be offered this month. The first will be to Nine Mile Canyon on the 14th and 15th; trip leader is Layne Miller. Layne will discuss the new Nine Mile Interpretive Plan and take members to some exciting sites. A limit of 30 participants has been set. Call Layne at 435-637-8954 for reservations. The tour will leave the CEU Prehistoric Museum parking lot at 9 A.M. Saturday.

The second field trip will be on the following weekend April 21st and 22nd to Fools Creek and will be led by Ron Lee. The Fools Creek trip will meet at the junction of Hiway 6 & Hiway 174 north of Delta, Utah, (Delorme's *Utah Atlas & Gazetteer Topo Maps*: 44) and it will meet at 9:00 Saturday morning. Camping can be found at the Little Sahara Recreation Area west of Jericho Jct. or Delta.

The Monthly Meeting will be at the Headstart building, 10th E. & 9th S., 7:00 P.M., April 27th. The Executive Committee meeting will be at the Headstart building at 5:30 P.M., April 27th.

Quilt Blocks need to be in by June meeting (Friday, June 22nd). Give them to Craig Barney or send them to Norma Lance at Box 697, Monticello UT 84535.

I would like to thank Tom Getts & Jean Tappen for all the time spent on the new website. Thanks guys, it's looking good. While I'm thanking, thanks Layne, the newsletter is great too.

Craig Barney, President

# A Letter From the Editor

Hello everyone,

It has been a good month here in Price; most of our dirt has been blown south into Emery County. Emery County residents say the reason the wind blows in Emery County is because Carbon County sucks. Well, I don't believe that for a minute because the wind always blows here in the spring. The only good thing about that is that it is a sure sign spring is at hand.

I have volunteered to lead a special field trip into Nine Mile Canyon on April 14-15 to explain the new interpretive plan being developed for the canyon. Now, I know a lot of you have visited Nine Mile before, but this trip should be informative because I will review the interpretive plan being created by the Nine Mile Canyon Coalition and the Bureau of Land Management. Saturday night the discussion will continue at my house where you can ask questions and make suggestions on the plan. I would like to restrict the trip to 30 people just to make it more manageable, so call me if you would like to go.

Call me at 435-637-8954 if you plan to attend or email me at [layne@afnetinc.com](mailto:layne@afnetinc.com).

There are several places to park a trailer including in front of my house (or you can reserve a spot for a sleeping bag on the floor) or in front of the CEU Prehistoric Museum. Several nice motels can be found in Price including:

Carriage House Inn - 435-637-5660

Price River National 9 Inn - 637-7000

Holiday Inn - 637-8880

Greenwell Inn - 637-3520

Come prepared to bring a side dish if you plan to attend the discussion at my house. I can't think on an empty stomach, so we will also eat.

I received a note from URARA member Nancy Mason from Boulder, Colorado, about the June field trip.

"The June field trip for URARA will go into the San Luis Valley on June 16-17. We will be

fortunate to have Ken Frye, archaeologist with the Rio Grande National Forest and Bureau of Land Management as our guide. Look for camping, lodging, and other information about the field trip in the May issue of *Vestiges*. You can also contact me (Nancy) at 303-459-3397."

Sounds like a good trip to me.

Here is a note about Temple Mountain. There has been quite a bit of debate among the Conservation and Preservation Committee members about restricting camping at the rock art site. You will remember that there is a large informal camping area, created when a drill hole was put there years ago. Some members of the committee were in favor of eliminating camping and some thought there ought to be a limitation on campfires. The Bureau of Land Management has agreed to police a No Campfires ban but considerable debate has taken place. To help finalize a policy, the Executive Committee voted on the issue during its meeting in St. George last month and decided to allow camping (State Lands has agreed to go along with what we decide) and but not allow campfires.

Here is some information for you to keep in your hat for future reference. The Utah Division of State History now has grants available for groups like URARA to make them more effective and to include more of the public in their activities. URARA officials are examining the grant application to see if we qualify. If we do, and I have been reassured we do, we will submit an application for funding.

Also, notice the copy of the new rock art form being suggested for use with IMACS forms when recording archaeology sites for the state. If you are interested and want to comment on the form, contact Julie Howard in the State BLM office in Salt Lake City. Her contact information is on the form.

Send your news items and photos to *Vestiges* editor, Layne Miller, 956 No. Wadleigh Lane Price, Utah 84501, or via email at [layne@afnetinc.com](mailto:layne@afnetinc.com).

# IMACS ROCK ART ATTACHMENT

## Rock Art Panel Description

(Keyed to site map, drawings and/or photographs)

1. Site Name \_\_\_\_\_ Temp. Site# \_\_\_\_\_ State Site#
2. Panel# \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_
3. Description of panel situation (mark on site map):
4. Dimension: L \_\_\_\_\_ x H \_\_\_\_\_ Or L \_\_\_\_\_ x W \_\_\_\_\_ (Boulders)
5. Technique(s):
  - a. Petroglyph:  Solid-pecked  Stipple-pecked  Cupule  Abraded/rubbed  Incised  Scratched  Groove  Ground area  Other (describe):
  - b. Pigment/painting:  Polychrome  Monochrome
  - c. Combination: Petroglyph/Painting Describe: \_\_\_\_\_ d. Petroglyph
- Patination Levels:  Light  Medium  Dark
6. Approximate number of elements and description of identifiable elements:

### 7. Design Colors (mark on drawing(s)):

Element(s)	Color Name	Munsell #
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a.

#### b. Background(s) (mark on drawing(s)):

Munsell #:

Describe:

### 8. Height of lowest element above present ground level:

### 9. Superimposition? Natural rock feature incorporation? (indicate on drawing (s))

### 10. Relationship of rock art panel and cultural features (s):

### 11. Aspect of Panel:

### 12. Panel Condition:

#### a. Natural Impacts

Description:

#### b. Vandalism or modification:

Modern:

Historic:

Prehistoric:

---

#### c. Other:

### 13. Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

### 14. Recorder: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

*Editor's note: The BLM is seeking input on the preceding form. Please send comments to Julie Howard at: [julie\\_howard@blm.gov](mailto:julie_howard@blm.gov) or Julie Howard, Bureau of Land Management, P.O. Box 45155, SLC Utah 84105.*

## URARA contact information:

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Published by the Utah Rock Art Research Organization, P. O. Box 511324, Salt Lake City UT 84151-1324.

Website: <http://www.utahrockart.org> URARA membership is open to anyone interested in the study, protection, and preservation of rock art. Membership is \$17.00 for one person, \$20.00 for a family, and \$12 for a student.

Don't miss out on *Vestiges*.

Your renewal date is on the address label; if highlighted, your membership is about to expire. Send renewals or new memberships to the address above.

We solicit articles, news, and letters for *Vestiges*. Anything that might be of interest to our members is encouraged. We might edit your contribution. Deadline for possible inclusion in the next issue is the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month. Send to Layne Miller, 956 Wadleigh Ln., Price UT 84501-1843, or [layne@afnetinc.com](mailto:layne@afnetinc.com). Please send *Vestiges* notice of wrong addresses, new addresses, your email address if not listed and you wish it to be, or member's rock art websites we are unaware of. Send address changes to the secretary also.

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**Vice President**, John Macumber, Sandy, Ph. 801-942-7864, email [jpmac@slkc.uswest.net](mailto:jpmac@slkc.uswest.net)

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Vern Bush, office: SLC, 801-531-1182, [bushv@wwdb.org](mailto:bushv@wwdb.org)

**Past Presidents**: Ron Lee, [rl@ronlee.net](mailto:rl@ronlee.net), and Jessie Warner

***Vestiges* newsletter editor**, Layne Miller, Price, 435-637-8954, email [layne@afnetinc.com](mailto:layne@afnetinc.com); production assistance Dorde Woodruff; mailing Ken and Elva Ogden.



*This hearty group of URARA members made the February field trip into the Needles District of Canyonlands National Park. Weather was cool and breezy but everyone had a good time.*

## Oldest rock art found in El-Hosh Egypt

An international team led by the Belgian Royal Museums of Art and History, and financed by the National Geographic Society and the Fund for Scientific Research-Flanders has been studying the petroglyphs of El-Hosh since 1998. The rock art was dated using the Accelerator Mass Spectrometry C-14 method.

The petroglyphs in the vicinity of the village of El-Hosh, about 100 kilometers (62 miles) south of Thebes, were discovered more than a century ago. German explorer and ethnographer Hans Winkler surveyed the area in the 1930s and published a number of the drawings. These include bizarre-looking curvilinear designs, capped with mushroom-shaped protuberances. Frequently appearing in clusters and occasionally as isolated figures, these curvilinear designs are often associated with abstract and figurative motifs, including circles, ladder-shaped drawings, human figures, footprints, and crocodiles.

The El-Hosh curvilinear designs may be representations of fish traps, as their outlines are similar to a ground plan for a fish-trapping device called a labyrinth fish fence. Such traps channel and barricade fish into a confined space, where they can easily be speared, netted, and collected by hand.

The first goal of the expedition, with participants from Belgium, Australia, Egypt, and Italy, was to properly record the rock art in drawings and photographs. Australian Alan Watchman collected several dozen samples of the dark, patinated deposits from within petroglyphs and on the surrounding rock. He found that minute amounts of organic matter (namely, plant fiber) appeared to have been trapped within the surface patina.

One of the samples, taken from a typical “fish-trap” design, gave a radiocarbon date of about 5,900 to 5,300 B.C. This date provides a minimum-age estimate for the petroglyphs. It is estimated that the curvilinear designs are between 13,000 and 8,000 years old, well beyond the age of any other graphic activity known in the Nile Valley.

The rock art of El-Hosh testifies to a hitherto unknown cultural-artistic phase in the history of Egypt, evidently characterized by a rich and elaborate body of thought. The spectacular dating results are being published in the British journal *Antiquity*.

### *Additional Information on San Juan River Trip*

URARA member John Remakel has talked to the rafting company which is handling the URARA San Juan River trip this fall and is asking that the following information be included in *Vestiges*: Please mail your deposit and subsequent payment(s) to: Moab Rafting, P.O. Box 801, Moab UT 84532. Thank You! Interested people can acquire additional information by email or from the website. The company’s e-mail address is: coyotepr@lasal.net, and their website is: www.moab-rafting.com

#### **This and that items**

I would like to share a ride to Oregon for the ARARA meeting with someone. I have accomodations and a return ride, just need a ride up. Anyone who is willing could call at 801-944-7774 or email at jeantap@juno.com. Thanks, Jean Tappan.

And this from Norma Lance: Please send me the 12-inch quilt blocks for the symposium quilt. Send them to Norma Lance, Box 697, Monticello UT 84535.

# Nevada Contains Over 1,000 Rock Art Sites

By Alanah Woody

People have lived in Nevada for thousands of years and left behind abundant evidence of their presence. We primarily find stone tools, but because of Nevada's climate, we also find basketry and other perishable materials. One of the things left behind was rock art.

Rock art is found throughout the world and all across Nevada in an astonishing variety of styles and locations. Rock art is either carved ("petroglyphs") or painted ("pictographs"). There are more than 1,000 rock art sites in Nevada, many more than in other parts of the United States or the desert West. Why would there be so much rock art in Nevada when compared to other places? For many years it was thought that rock art played a role in the rituals associated with hunting. It was thought that rock art sites occurred primarily in locations related to hunting, but now we know that this is not necessarily the case. More recently some have suggested that rock art is related to shamanism. They propose that shamans, the healers of the group, would carve or paint their visions on rocks in order to better remember them. But in Nevada at least, shamans' songs were the most important part of their healing ritual.

The truth is that we don't know for sure why rock art was created. But, if the locations where it is found are indications, it probably had many functions or purposes. Much of Nevada's rock art is found in domestic contexts or where people were living. In some way, it must have played an integral role in their daily lives. But at other times, it is found separated from habitation areas or in locations of abundant resources. Some is even found in hunting locales. Until a more thorough record of the state's rock art is made, we will never know for sure.

Until recently it has not been possible to accurately date rock art. But today methods of directly dating both petroglyphs and pictographs are being developed. For pictographs, organic materials such as melted fat or blood were mixed with mineral pigments to make paint, and these can be dated using radiocarbon dating techniques. For petroglyphs, it has been much more difficult. However, current advances allow very minute amounts of organic material to be radiocarbon dated. Directly dating petroglyphs is now possible by extracting organic material from rock varnish.

Most of Nevada's rock art is abstract. It doesn't appear to depict any specific thing. But some rock art is naturalistic and does depict specific things, especially animals or people. These naturalistic images are found throughout Nevada, but are especially dominant in the southern and eastern parts of the state. It is interesting to note that in those areas people lived a more settled lifestyle and often farmed in addition to gathering wild plants and hunting. Historic imagery is also found in Nevada (mostly imagery of horses or cowboys), again primarily in the south. These historic images indicate quite clearly that at least some rock art was being made in historic times.

To see local rock art, visit Grimes Point, near Fallon. This may be among the oldest rock art sites in Nevada. When you visit the site, try to imagine how the landscape has changed since the petroglyphs were created - from Pleistocene Lake Lahonton, to a large marsh, to the landscape you see today.

To learn more about Nevada's rock art and history visit the Nevada State Museum in Carson City, or visit the website at <http://dmla.clan.lib.nv.us>. The Museum's new exhibit, Selections from the Collections, will open in April in the Museum's new North Building. The exhibit will feature rock art photographs and many seldom-seen treasures.

*Alanah Woody, collections manager at the Nevada State Museum, is an archaeologist who specializes in rock art. Used with permission.*

# A Draft of Committee's Guide For Trip Leaders

*Editor's Note: This is a draft of the Trip Leader's Guide being developed by the Conservation and Preservation Committee. To comment on the guide, contact Layne Miller at [layne@afnetinc.com](mailto:layne@afnetinc.com) or 956 No. Wadleigh Lane, Price, Utah 84501.*

## The Purpose of this Guide

The interest in rock art and other archaeological sites is rising and the role of the "guide" is increasing in popularity and responsibility. Many of those responsibilities are obvious but others are not. It is the intent of this guide to provide the necessary information so all members of the field trip can have a good time, see the rock art, and leave the area in better shape than it was before the URARA-sponsored trip occurred. This guide will discuss some of the practical, logistical, and ethical concerns of taking URARA members or members of the public to these valuable resources.

Knowing the location of a rock art site is not enough for a person to be a good trip guide. In order to lead others to a site, a thorough familiarity with the route, an awareness of the level of knowledge of individuals planning to make the trip, and a schedule for the trip are also necessary. Other information needed beforehand includes:

- 1- Distances on roads
- 2- *Current* road conditions
- 3- Hiking distances, gain of elevation, and condition of trails or terrain, general level of difficulty
- 4- Time required to get to the site(s)
- 5- Nearby facilities: gas stations, restrooms, stores, restaurants, dumpsters, etc.
- 6- Ownership of the property on which the site is located

Other items to consider are:

- 1- Where to get water
- 2- Possible camping sites, and map to first night's camp
- 3- Campfire locations and sources of fuel; individual or group campfires
- 4- Maps for the area

In order to keep a site from being overly impacted, a determination should be made on the appropriateness of the group size and published in *Vestiges* ahead of time. Not all sites can handle the same size group. Adhere to the agreed-upon size. The leader also needs to consider the appropriateness of the camp site(s).

Since the guide is responsible for the safety of the group, we recommend that each guide should know first aid and CPR, and should carry a basic first-aid kit. If the guide lacks the knowledge, someone trained in those skills should be provided. There may be legal ramifications in the event of an accident because of inadequately assessed dangers, so we recommend that each trip member sign a liability release form. Safety should always take precedence over all other considerations, and be paramount in the mind of the guide.

As you prepare for the site visit, make sure details of the trip are listed in *Vestiges* at least a month before. Information available to participants and arrangements made on or before the day of the trip should include:

- 1- Geology of the area
- 2- Previously published information on the site
- 3- Decide if special activities are appropriate during the trip. These could include a general cleanup of the area. If so, have garbage bags available.
- 4- Coordinate carpooling

- 5- Mark the route in if necessary
- 6- Arrange for Port-A-Potties if needed
- 7- Contact the archaeologist responsible for the site
- 8- Have maps available for participants if needed
- 9- Location of nearby gas stations and restaurants should be noted.
- 10- Ask for trip assistants to help deal with the crowd if needed.

*As we work with the website and email exchange among members, some of this may be done online.*

Actually leading the field trip can be time-consuming and harrowing, but preplanning can alleviate many problems and stress. Here are a few suggestions:

- 1- Suggest ahead of time that everyone arrive at camp with a full tank of gas; make sure in the morning that this is so to prevent delaying the trip.
- 2- Introduce yourself and conduct a meeting where you explain the route, and make sure everyone knows rules of conduct while on the trail, and site etiquette while viewing the rock art. Hand out participant's guide if necessary. Complete a sign-up sheet and liability release form. This will help organize the group and will provide a sign-out list to make sure everyone returned successfully.
- 3- Discuss lunch plans to make sure everyone has appropriate food and water.
- 4- Leave the trailhead when everyone is ready. Designate someone to bring up the rear to be see take care of stragglers or breakdowns. CB radios may be helpful.
- 5- Remind parents they are responsible for their children. Some trips are inappropriate for children.
- 6- Owners must be responsible for dogs. Dogs on trails must be leashed, and not interfere with hikers. Dogs must be controlled in camp.
- 7- Slow down or stop during the trip to make sure slower hikers keep up with the group. Be sensitive to the needs of disabled people.
- 8- Allow time for discussion at each site. Explain what you know about the site and ask for input from the group.

Suggestions for along the trail and at the site:

- 1- Stay together; everyone should have the person in front and the person behind in sight
- 2- Stay on existing trails.
- 3- Do not litter; picking up litter left previously if possible - carry a small garbage bag.
- 4- Provide accurate information on the panel and quote only reputable experts.
- 5- Check for recent vandalism at the site and report any to the appropriate land management agency (BLM, Forest Service, etc.).

As you leave a site or camp, or finish a trip, here are some suggestions:

- 1- Check each rock art site to see if garbage collection is necessary. Be sure to check the group campsite to make sure it is clean and untouched. Leave each site in better condition than when you arrived.
- 2- Remove any directional markers you may have put up to guide the group to the site.
- 3- Write up an article for *Vestiges*.
- 4- Follow up with an article for Salt Lake media and local newspapers near the activity, if possible.

### **Here are a few suggestions about sanitation**

- 1- Rent a Port-A-Potty for the group campsite if group size warrants. If not, be sure paper is properly disposed of and waste is well buried. Dog waste should not be disposed of around camp, in well-traveled areas, or near rock art sites.
- 2- Provide for a group garbage collection, and haul out any garbage that is collected.

The goal of this URARA guideline is to offer advice, support and guidance to prospective trip leaders. Rock art is becoming increasingly popular with the public, and as a result, membership in URARA is increasing and attendance at field trips is growing. Therefore, it becomes increasingly important for trip leaders to control the group and ensure damage isn't done to the environment or to the rock art sites.

It is important to remember that rock art sites and the landscapes surrounding them are fragile. Just visiting the site can have an impact and visitation by a large group can be disastrous in some situations. On the other hand, visitation by itself can discourage the opportunistic vandal, and public awareness and education of rock art can also help reduce future vandalism.

Leading a field trip is more than just "knowing the way." Distances on roads and their *current condition*, and condition of trails leading to the panels should all be considered and the information provided to those making the trip. The slowest member of the group will determine the time required to drive the roads and hike the trails.

Here is a word about ethics. The trip leader is responsible to determine which sites can be visited and which should be avoided. Permission to visit the site should be obtained prior to the trip and guidance sought from the appropriate land management agency.

### **Conclusion**

This trip leader's guide does not cover important information or skills such as site etiquette, safety on the highway leading a large group, and effective communication skills. It also does not address such things as how to safely access a site without negatively impacting it. Those things should be addressed and considered by the trip leader prior to scheduling the trip.

The goal of this guide is to list a few practical, logical, and ethical concerns that will make the guide a better leader. It also points out the absolute need for a guide to be thorough and knowledgeable about a great deal more than just rock art.

### **Executive Committee Meeting March 24, 2001 at 6 p.m. in St. George, Utah**

In attendance: Craig Barney, John Macumber, Troy Scotter, Ben Everett, Nina and Craig Bowen, Clari Clapp

1. Craig Barney called the meeting to order and the minutes of the last meeting were approved.
2. Treasurer's report showed a balance of \$11,289.
3. Jean Tappan, who has worked as web master for the last two years, said the present research papers on the web have been there since the inception of the web site some four years ago. She thought it would take a great deal of time to re-key the changes in the bibliographies so the Executive Committee (EC) voted to take these papers off the web and replace them as new, properly formatted research papers or articles are submitted.
5. The EC agreed that the opening web page did not clearly represent the goals of the association. EC approved the following new statement for the web page:

Welcome to URARA, an organization dedicated to the education about and preservation of Native American rock art. Membership is open to anyone eighteen or over, and includes monthly newsletters, field trips, and meetings. URARA also sponsors an annual symposium held in Utah every fall to hear papers on  
(Continued on back page)

URARA  
Utah Rock Art Research Assoc.  
Box 511324  
Salt Lake City Utah 84151-1324

new rock art research and to go on field trips in the area to see rock art first hand.

Click on any of the buttons to your left for additional information. Thanks for dropping in, and please come back soon.

4. Clari presented a revised membership application that included an optional email address to receive electronic copies of *Vestiges* instead of postal service to save the association money. The EC approved the new revision and it will be posted on the web for new members to print out and mail. It was suggested that a list be put in *Vestiges* of those whose memberships are about to lapse. The email recipients would then have a reminder of when to pay dues just like the warning of the red marker on mailed *Vestiges*. If they don't get their *Vestiges*, they know they need to pay dues.

5. The EC wants to add the current By-Laws as a link on our web site so that new members will know what they agree to when they become a member of URARA.

6. Nina stated that the price for the symposium volumes already included the tax. It was agreed that we should change the mailing and handling costs to \$5.00 instead of \$2.00. This information should be corrected in the next *Vestiges*.

7. Craig presented some options to impede the vandalism at Temple Mountain because State lands (SITLA) requested that URARA come up with a plan. After a lot of discussion, the EC voted to allow camping without fires, and we will find a way to restrict access to the petroglyphs. We will monitor the site to see if more drastic measures need to be initiated.

8. Nina presented a list of publications that she recommended for the association library. The EC approved the expenditure of \$120.

9. The EC approved the expenditure of \$20 for an Approach Database Manual.

10. The next EC meeting will be on April 27 at 5:30 p.m. at the Head Start building in Salt Lake City prior to the regular monthly meeting, which will be held at 7 p.m.