

VESTIGES



*December
2001
Volume 21
No. 11*

Monthly newsletter of URARA, Utah Rock Art Research Association

Merry Christmas
From the Vestiges
Staff and URARA
Officers. May Your
New Year Be
Filled With Rock
Art And Friends



President's Message

Goodbye! That kind of says it all for me. It's been a terrific year, we've had some fun, learned a lot, got some things done, and been successful, what else could you ask for?

I would like to thank everyone that has helped me with URARA this year. To the Executive Committee, vice president John Macumber, secretary Clari Clapp, treasurer Troy Scotter, committee people and to the Vestiges staff and field trip leaders- thanks, you have made my job easier.

I would also like to wish next year's officers success and good luck. We began the process of change in URARA in 2001, I hope the process continues and even expands in 2002. The other group that needs thanking is those involved with the symposium this year in Moab. We had a terrific symposium. It couldn't have been done without you. Thanks.

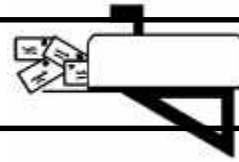
The unsung hero behind my personal successes this year is my wife. To her I owe a debt of gratitude. She has put up with a long list of inconveniences such as late-night phone calls, unending email messages, sometimes irate answering machine calls and long trips to Salt Lake City for meetings. Thanks dear, I couldn't have done it without you. I also promise to spend more time with you next year.

I would like to continue the website. If you have suggestions, contact the website committee.

That's about it from here, if any of you are in the Moab area looking at rock art or simply looking around, give us a call, or stop by to say hello. Thanks to you all for your support.

Craig Barney
URARA president

Letters To The Editor



Editor's note: See page 4 for explanation of so many letters to the editor.

Dear Layne,

I found the California rock art web site very valuable for researchers, yet protective of native peoples' concerns about access. I would strongly support creating such a site for Utah rock art sites. It would seem to be a major undertaking, but valuable for the present as well as the virtual preservation of the sites.

But judging from Anne's comments ("Don't do it!") I can see that posting the Utah rock art sites certainly increases the chances of harm to them. If there is some way to publish some sites that can be protected from vandalism, I would support that. I'm on the fence. I would be interesting to hear the arguments on either side.

Cheers,

Lynda McNeil

Dear Layne,

One additional point to consider when selecting the date for future- URARA symposiums (or is it symposia?) is that the Colorado Archaeological Society (CAS) annual meeting is traditionally held over the Columbus Day weekend. Since many URARA members also belong to CAS, they have a conflict when both meetings are held over the same long weekend. These are two of the best meetings of the year in Utah and Colorado for folks interested in rock art and archaeology. It seems a shame to make people choose between them by scheduling them both for the same weekend.

Sue Ludtke

I do hope that we can incorporate some of the suggestions we have received. For example: How about putting a 3-month calendar on the back page every single time. Give dates of monthly meeting and where, what and contact person and number; and the same for the monthly field trips. That way you don't have to hunt through all the articles to find out what is going on.

Many people have lots of commitments and this way they can find the info easily and we may get more participation that way. This is something I have wanted for a long time and I have heard others ask for the same.

Another one is the email and website address, and maybe put the new membership form in every other time or so. Aren't you sorry you asked? That's all, for now.

Clari Clapp

I really want to get the newsletter. E-mail is great but I like going out to my mailbox and getting the newsletter. Layne kindly sent me an e-mail vestiges this is ok, (and thank you layne) but please send, by the United States Postal Service, my vestiges. Here is a hint for the newsletter person. It is helpful to include the addresses of the venues that are posted in the newsletter. Not enough information equals lots of long distance phone calls from URARA members. Most of the time they might just forget about the hassle of it all and not participate. Everyone does not know where the Head Start building is. Salt Lake City is not the world's biggest city but it is big enough to have more than one Head Start building. The newsletter has a lot of information but not so much URARA information; including where the events are actually taking place would be a nice touch. I understand I do not know much about these things. Please put me on the list to get the newsletter.

Ron Lee

Dear editor

I think the California BLM web site is terrific! And think it would great to have a similar site for URARA. Should it be available to general public or only URARA participants?

I was in Moab over last weekend and hiked from the top of the chair lift to Hidden Valley. Unfortunately, I didn't find the panels and would have liked to see them. I went to Horseshoe Canyon during the Symposium and thought I could come back and find Hidden Valley myself. (I, of course, had an enjoyable hike but now have to go again to find the panels!) It would have been great for me to have a web site with directions!

Understanding that more information on site location may put more traffic into the area with an opportunity for vandalism AND that more traffic into an area may also be a deterrent for vandalism, you may be on to a good service.

Thank you for all the info and requests for input!

Regards,

Paula Derevensky

Layne

From an out of state viewpoint I think that this would be of great value to those of us who do not know the locations of rock art like you do. As you have demonstrated in the past your work would be only the best.

However, it seems that you would be taking on a tremendous task.

Best wishes.

Lester and Jo Anne Carr

Layne,

Please don't do it! California BLM is not a good model to follow. Although many of the BLM's publicized sites are what some people call "throw-away sites" (I'm not sure there is such a thing as a "throw-away site"—unless it is completely destroyed, there may always be something new that can be learned from it), some of them are fragile and have no protections (other than in some cases directions that are nearly impossible to follow).

Utah already has loads of rock art sites that are publicized by local agencies—more than enough to go around.

If you want to make site information available, tell people to join URARA and you'll take them to see the rock art. That way URARA member will have a chance to educate the people on the importance of the rock art—otherwise the idiots will go out there and mess up another blue bison.

Don't do it!

Anne Mcconnell

Dear Layne,

Someone put a lot of work into the Web page on California Rock Art you attached to your inquiry. I do not believe that publication of this information is necessarily destructive to the sites. In fact, I believe that those who see the page and seek out the sites are more likely to treat them with respect than the jerk who stumbles on them by accident and decides to "leave his or her mark".

This leaves only the "collector" who goes to the site with the intention of "getting a piece of it". I don't know what can be done to discourage these people - but I would put a banner headline on every map and page giving the penalties and fines for disturbing a site if Utah decides to publish information about its sites.

Chuck Bailey

Editor's Notes

Hello everyone. Boy, how time flies. It seems like just yesterday that a new team took over the leadership role at URARA and I became *Vestiges* editor. This is the final issue for 2001 but we are already gearing up for next year. President-elect John Macumber graciously asked me to stay on as editor, and I agreed. It seems like it takes more than a year to get used to a new job. In fact, my mother told me it takes a year to get used to a job, another year to experiment with it and a third year to do the best possible job you can. Well, don't expect me to stay at the editor's desk for three years, but his could a year of experimentation. Stay tuned!

Looking back at last year shows lots of changes have taken place in the group. Clari Clapp's list of new members keeps getting longer and longer, indicating we are more high profile than before and I also think it indicates most people like what they are seeing. Craig Barney has done an excellent job clinging to the old traditions of a time-tested group and has encouraged us to change and think outside the box. The changes have been good and I think you will see others introduced as we attempt to make URARA the best rock art association in the country. I see this as a very exciting time, so hang on and continue to join us for a great ride.

I have received an extraordinarily large number of letters to the editor this past month. They were triggered by a simple message I sent to the *Vestiges* email list commenting on a new website created by the California Bureau of Land Management showing the location on many rock art sites. I think it is the first government-sponsored website of its kind identifying site locations. I sent out the web address of the site and simply asked: What do you think? I didn't suggest URARA follow suit and never suggested I wanted to follow suit- I am not a webmaster and wouldn't know where to begin even if I did. As you will read, the question triggered some very deep emotions and made a lot of people think. I believe you will enjoy the letters.

I also sent a message to the same group asking for suggestions for improving the newsletter and received some wonderful ideas. I plan to incorporate as many as I can and you will see some new ideas with this issue. Thanks for all the support you have given the newsletter and me over the past year. It was fun and I'm looking forward to next year.

Finally, good luck to next year's officers. It's difficult to know how much work is required in governing an organization like URARA until you get involved yourself. It takes a great deal of time, patients. Craig Barney and the others involved this year did an excellent job, which set a high standard for John Macumber and David Sucec to follow for 2002 but they are up to the challenge. I'm looking forward to another excellent year.

As always, you can contact me at 435-637-8954 or email at layne@afnetinc.com. Have a Merry Christmas and a very good new year.

Layne Miller
Vestiges editor



President's (Elect) Message



I want to express my appreciation and thanks to Craig Barney for his leadership of URARA in 2001. He's done a fine job. I would also like to thank all of the Executive Committee for their contributions.

As your elected president for the coming year of 2002 I would like to share goals for the organization for 2002.

1. To reach out, receive and listen to suggestions to continue to improve our organization from our membership.
2. To be active in developing public policy with public agencies such as Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Forest Service, Utah State Trust Lands, etc. for education, protection and conservation of rock art and archeological sites.
3. Continue to implement a site monitoring/stewardship program by providing a training program for our members and other interested persons.
4. To seek education and advice from Native American people on their beliefs and understanding of rock art.
5. To have 3 or 4 of our monthly meetings in conjunction with a field trip outside of the Salt Lake City area to serve more of our members.

I realize there many other things that can be done and that is why we need active participation from as many members as possible. Please feel free to write any Executive Committee member and share your suggestions and comments.

I'm looking forward to a great year! Thank you for your cooperation and support!

John Macumber,

URARA President -Elect for 2002

Other Items:

1. Christmas Party -December 7, 2001. Starts at 6:00 PM. Contact Cindy Everett @801-272-7764, Barbara Saxon @801-262-4432 or Barbara Green @801-466-7702 in Salt Lake City to let them know what food dish you plan to bring for the pot-luck dinner.

Location: Mount Olympus Presbyterian Church, 3280 East 3900 South, Salt Lake City, UT, Phone #277-2674 (See directions in the October Vestiges)

You are encouraged to bring your own plates/cups/utensils. The 2002 Calendar will be ready for distribution to those in attendance and will be mailed and e-mailed to those unable to attend.

The Executive Committee will meet at approximately 4:00 PM prior to the Christmas Party.

2. We're in need of 2 to 3 volunteers for each of the two following committees: A) Field Trip coordinating Committee, B) Monthly Meeting Program Coordinating Committee. Contact John Macumber at Phone 801-942-7864 or 1-800-564-0039 or E-Mail: jpmac@slkc.uswest.net

3. The 2002 Symposium will be in St. George, UT, November 9, 10 & 11, 2002

A Study of Footprints in Texas Rock Art

This article appeared in ESRARA's quarterly, and Dr. Turpin was kind enough to allow us to reprint it, as well as making a couple of scans for us. Footprint Glyphs in Texas and Thereabouts By Dr. Solveig A. Turpin, Rock Art Foundation

The article on footprints in stone from Vermont in the last ESRARA newsletter was of interest to me because of the numerous petroglyphs of human feet in southwest Texas and north-central

(Continued on page 7)

UTAH ROCK ART RESEARCH ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Welcome to URARA. Membership in URARA includes Vestiges, the monthly newsletter, reduced prices on books and symposiums, and full information about field trips. URARA is non profit, all proceeds are used to cover expenses and contributions to rock art projects. If you could fill out the following form we can get started on making you a member of URARA. Once you have filled out the form please use your browser’s print function to print it out. Sign the printed form and mail it, along with a check, to address in the upper left corner of this page.

Top of Form 1 Membership Form First Name:

Last Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____

Zip: _____

Spouse: _____

Home Phone: _____

Membership type:

Please list talents, interests, interest in rock art, research projects or any other information about yourself.

Please list talents, interests, interest in rock art, research projects or any other information about yourself.

PLEASE READ AND UNDERSTAND THE FOLLOWING RELEASE OF LIABILITY Bottom of Form 1

The above named applicant(s) participants(s) agrees to abide by all rules and regulations established by the Utah Rock Art Research Association (hereafter referred to as URARA) and/or any organization(s), agency(s) or person(s) that may have jurisdiction or regulatory powers of any nature concerning the activities, field trips, meetings, etc. of URARA; and the above named applicant(s) participant(s) must and hereby agrees to bear the total cost of damages and fines resulting from his/her/their actions, thereby releasing URARA, its officers and representatives and personnel from any liability whatsoever. The above name applicant(s) participant(s) realizes that there are certain dangers inherent in any activity and hereby releases URARA from all liability regarding dangerous activity. Either acts of God (such as, but not limited to, snakebite, poisonous plants and insects, etc.) or self-induced dangers (such as, but not limited to, climbing on loose rocks or ledges, walking along cliff edges, exposure, dehydration, etc.) and any other situation not described above that may jeopardize the safety or well being of the applicant(s) participant(s) shall not be the liability of URARA, its officers or representatives or personnel. The above named applicant(s) participant(s) authorize URARA, its officers and representatives and personnel involved in the above activities, in its broadest sense, to administer emergency treatment for any accident, injury or illness incurred during the period of the above named activities, and to enlist, contract for, or hire any professional medical and/or dental services they feel are necessary for the safety and well being of the above named applicant(s) participant(s). It is further understood that the cost of such emergency transportation and/or rescue

services is to be born in full by the applicant(s) participant(s) and URARA and its officers or representatives are released from any obligation or liability concerning such costs. I certify that I have read the above terms regarding participation in URARA's activities. I am signing this release of liability and promise to comply with all rules, etc., regarding these activities willingly and without pressure. I certify that I am of legal age and competence to act in this manner. If any participant is a minor I certify that I am a legal parent or guardian of that participant. If minor children are participating in this activity or application, I certify the I am the legal head of that family and am acting in behalf of each of them in this release. Signed _____ Date _____

Signed _____ Date _____

Please sign and mail to: URARA Secretary, PO Box 511324, Salt Lake City, Ut 84151-1324; along with your check (see membership type for amount). Once again thank you for you interest in URARA, we look forward to meeting you. Copyright (c) URARA, 1997-2001

(Continued from page 5)

Mexico.

Most of the Texas glyphs are in small sites centered around tinajas or potholes in the limestone bedrock that hold water for lengthy periods after a substantial rain. Although the water holes are natural, they are often mis-

Lids, made of convenient slabs of immediately adjacent to the holes, to conserve the water in them. with deer and bison hoof prints, designs, a very few stick human

The general impression is leaving their hoof prints in the between the glyphs and casual waterless divide, I believe that scheduled (based on rainfall) proto enhance the attracting power is needed to explain a set of bear River.

Two prints flank a long tion is ringed by a number of ated that they would completely incapacitate the thrower. These two tracks appear to be those of a biped – perhaps an anthropomorphic bear or a human in its bear persona. In one Lower Pecos pictograph, a mountain lion is clearly drawn with only two legs; I believe the intent is to show that this is the were-cougar, a human-animal composite that appears in several Pecos River sites.

The footprint glyphs of northern Coahuila and Nuevo Leon are usually on boulders rather than bedrock. A outer darker layer of mudstone is pecked and abraded away, exposing the light interior of the rock. They too are intermingled with abstract motifs, spear throwers, projectile points, antlers, and some animal prints, but the relationship between human and animal is much weaker than in Texas.

One interpretation favored by local rock art enthusiasts is that the footprints describe travel routes, much like those marked by Aztec traders who may have ventured this far north. Regardless of the specific interpretation, whether hunting magic, shamanistic empowerment, or cartography, footprints in stone are so widely distributed that they, like many other images, must have held a special attraction for the artist that the well-shod people of today may not recognize.



taken for bedrock mortar holes. limestone, have been found atop or suggesting there were some attempts The footprint glyphs are intermingled turkey tracks, abstract geometric figures, and meandering lines. of animals milling around the water, mud. Given the clear association ter and their isolation on a generally their production was related to the curement of game, and was intended of the tinajas. More obtuse reasoning tracks at Lewis Canyon on the Pecos

serrated line, and the entire composi-

atlatls, all with weights so exagger-

Dating Technique Shows Art is 30,000 Years Old

A new dating of spectacular prehistoric cave paintings reveals them to be much older than previously thought.

Carbon isotope analysis of charcoal used in pictures of horses at Chauvet, south-central France, show that they are 30,000 years old, a discovery that should prompt a rethink about the development of art.

The remarkable Chauvet drawings were discovered in 1994 when potholers stumbled upon a narrow entrance to several underground chambers in a rocky escarpment in the Ardeche region.

Because the paintings are just as artistic and complex as the later Lascaux paintings, it may indicate that art developed much earlier than had been realised.



The analysis was performed by Helene Valladas and colleagues at the Laboratory for Climate and Environment Studies at France's CEA-CNRS research centre at Gif-sur-Yvette.

The prehistoric cave art found in France and Spain shows ancient man to be a remarkable artist. When Pablo Picasso visited the newly-discovered Lascaux caves, in the Dordogne, in 1940, he emerged from them saying of modern art, "We have discovered nothing".

They are obviously very old, but dating them has been difficult because of the small quantities of carbon found on the walls or in the caves. The element is needed, in the form of charcoal or bones, for the standard technique of carbon dating.

To overcome these problems the French researchers have used a newer technique called accelerator mass spectrometry. This separates and counts carbon isotopes found in dead animal and vegetal matter.

'Reconsider theories'

It found the Chauvet drawings to be between 29,700 and 32,400 years old. This is about 10,000 years older than comparable cave art found in the Lascaux caves that are around 17,000 years old.

According to Helene Valladas the research shows that ancient man was just as skilled at art as the humans who followed 13,000 years later.

"Prehistorians, who have traditionally interpreted the evolution of prehistoric art as a steady progression from simple to more complex representations, may have to reconsider existing theories of the origins of art," she says.

Edge of Cedars Museum Event Dates Released

Note: Programs are subject to cancellation or changes; please call 435-678-2238 to confirm.

January

10 Navajo poet, Sherwin Bitsui and Argentinian Poet, Hector Ahumada. 7-9 p.m.

31 Sunny Dooley, Storyteller Workshop, 7-9 p.m.

April

20 7p.m. – Dr. Andrew Gulliford of the Center for Southwest Studies at Fort Lewis College, Durango, Co will speak and have a slide show on **Preserving Sacred Indian Landscapes** and sign his book Sacred Objects and Sacred Places – Preserving Tribal Traditions.

New Book on Plains Rock Art Released

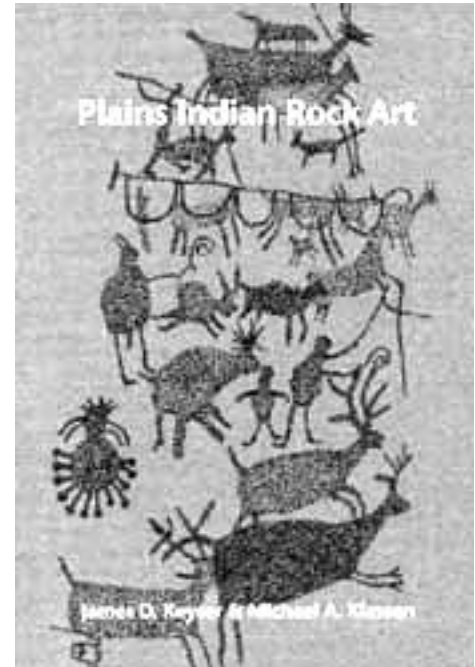
James D. Keyser and Michael Klassen

Used with permission

The Plains region that stretches from northern Colorado to southern Alberta and from the Rockies to the western Dakotas is the land of the Cheyenne and the Blackfeet, the Crow and the Sioux. Its rolling grasslands and river valleys have nurtured human cultures for thousands of years. On cave walls, glacial boulders, and riverside cliffs, native people recorded their ceremonies, vision quests, battles, and daily activities in the petroglyphs and pictographs they incised, pecked, or painted onto the stone surfaces.

In this vast landscape, some rock art sites were clearly intended for communal use; others just as clearly mark the occurrence of a private spiritual encounter. Elders often used rock art, such as complex depictions of hunting, to teach traditional knowledge and skills to the young. Other sites document the medicine powers and brave deeds of famous warriors. Some Plains rock art goes back more than 5,000 years; some forms were made continuously over many centuries.

Archaeologists James Keyser and Michael Klassen show us the origins, diversity, and beauty of Plains rock art. The seemingly endless variety of images include humans, animals of all kinds, weapons, masks, mazes, handprints, finger lines, geometric and abstract forms, tally marks, hoofprints, and the wavy lines and starbursts that humans universally associate with trancelike states. ***Plains Indian Rock Art*** is the ultimate guide to the art form. It covers the natural and archaeological history of the northwestern Plains; explains rock art forms, techniques, styles, terminology, and dating; and offers interpretations of images and compositions.



Problems with URARA Papers Publications

A number of problems have surfaced with a few issues of the Symposium Papers, Utah Rock Art. Please check your copies.

Volume 9:

The last page should be page number 94. If not, pages are missing.

Volume 10:

The Table of Contents may be missing and pages 149 to 231 may be missing.

Volume 17:

The last page should be page number 131. If your copy ends in page 121, pages are missing.

If you find these problems please contact me and I will send you the correct pages to be inserted.

Sorry for this inconvenience,

Steven Manning

Publications Committee Chairman

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

Calendar Of Events



1. Christmas Party -December 7, 2001. Starts at 6:00 PM. Contact Cindy Everett @801-272-7764, Barbara Saxon @801-262-4432 or Barbara Green @801-466-7702 in Salt Lake City to let them know what food dish you plan to bring for the potluck dinner.

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