

# VESTIGES



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Monthly newsletter of URARA, Utah Rock Art Research Association

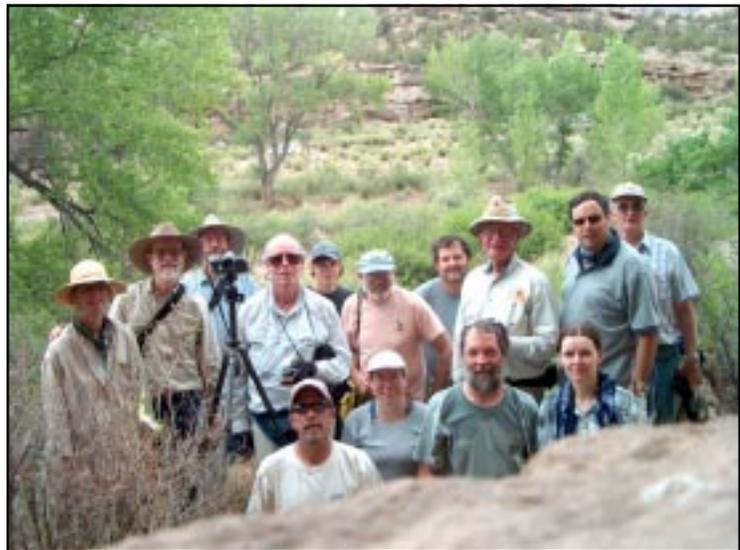
## President's Message



## URARA Participates in Range Creek Documentation Project

Ron Rood, Utah Assistant State Archaeologist, presented a fine program on the subject of "Archaeology on and around the Wasatch Front: Current Antiquities Section Projects" at the August 22<sup>nd</sup> monthly URARA meeting. We had 29 people in attendance to enjoy Ron's presentation. Thank you, Ron!

We appreciate URARA members Craig Barney, Nina and Craig Bowen, Gary Burningham, Dell Crandall, Steve Manning, Layne Miller, Troy Scotter, and Margaret and Glen Stone for their participation on very short notice in the Range Creek Recording Project. Every one of us including yours truly was excited about the sites we found, observed, and recorded. This was a wonderful and rewarding service project, and gives additional credibility to the name of our organization – Utah Rock Art Research Association. We're planning to be



The crew in Range Creek pauses for a photo.

involved in more service projects in the future, giving many of you the opportunity to participate and feel the satisfaction of providing service. (See Layne Miller's excellent report in this issue of *Vestiges*)

I'm pleased to announce that Barbara Green and Dorde Woodruff have accepted appointments to our newly-formed Membership Committee, and we would like to add one more person. The purpose of this committee is to develop a plan to recruit new members and retain current members.

We hope to see you at our September 28-29 Monthly Meeting and Field Trip in Vernal, Utah; the meeting is on Saturday evening at 7:00 p.m. at the Uintah County Commissioners Chambers, 152 East 100 North in Vernal, next door on the west side of the museum.

Until next time, have a wonderful month,  
John Macumber, URARA President 2002

# Range Creek- A Real Experience

Rock art has been my passion for 25 years. I first became involved with it 25 years ago after moving to Price, Utah, and learning I lived in the middle of thousands of wonderful petroglyph and pictograph panels. Using Dr. J. Eldon Dorman's guidance and tutoring, I began a quest to document as many panels as I could find. Buried deep in my consciousness was the idea that one day I would view a panel for the first time in a thousand years, knowing the possibility was shrinking as I grew older and rock art gained in popularity. My quest to be the first is over!

Before I explain how my fantasy was fulfilled, let me digress and refer back to the August issue of *Vestiges*, to my note about getting ready to visit Range Creek, and an explanation of how we only had a few days to put together a recording crew to work for nine days on what has been private land for over 100 years.

The Federal Government recently purchased the Wilcox Ranch. What its future will be is still up in the air, but more on that later. Before the Bureau of Land Management can manage the resources on the ranch, officials need to learn what those resources are. That's where URARA comes in. A hand-selected crew of nine people volunteered 50 person-days recording 77 cultural resource sites, including approximately 35 rock art sites with over 60 panels of petroglyphs and pictographs. The organization also donated \$500 (\$10 per person per day) to help with food costs. Those attending the field event unanimously agreed it was the opportunity of a lifetime.

But I'm very torn at this point in my report. Do I rave about the experience and the wonderful sites we uncovered, risking an onslaught of visitors to this pristine canyon? Or do I simply give a few details and keep the canyon hidden from public view? The future of Range Creek is still undecided, and at some point in the near future URARA members will be asked to step up to the political plate and help ensure that its future includes protecting its cultural resources. So...

Range Creek contains rock art sites from Archaic to Classic Fremont to Barrier Canyon Style. None are vandalized – they are pristine – untouched. Many are painted, a large number in yellow ocher and red. We found at least one source for this golden yellow color located in the back of a large alcove in the upper end of the canyon. The rock art and ruins run the entire gamut of canyon from the upper end at 7,000 feet elevation to its lower end near Turtle Canyon at approximately 4,000 feet. It is a wonderful place!

The habitation sites are just as wonderful as the rock art. Archaeologists found pithouse villages, granaries, and other sites the uses of which are not currently explained. They are also untouched. After only



One of the many pictographs recorded by URARA members in Range Creek

two days of recording, University of Utah professor Duncan Metcalf said he saw more pristine sites in two days than he has previously in his entire career – quite a statement.

But here's the kicker, the reason I've decided to try to impress you with the value of the cultural resources – there will be legislation introduced in Congress some time in October to transfer ownership of the canyon to Utah State. Utah Congressman Jim Hansen helped push through the initial legislation to fund the purchase of the ranch, about \$3.5 million for about 4,000 acres. He apparently intends for it to end up in state ownership, and I'm told the target department is the Division of State Lands and Forestry.

That department is a little-known one that most Utah residents are not aware of. Preliminarily I have several concerns.

- The word “forestry” indicates that timber harvesting and the tree resources in Range Creek are tremendous. I'm not an expert on healthy forest, but it appears to me that the forest there is overgrown and needs to be thinned. This is always difficult politically because of opposition by extreme environmentalists – though perhaps after the disastrous, weeks-long fire this summer in the Book Cliffs which consumed a large amount of acreage they reputedly blocked thinning, they will see it differently.
- A wildlife conservation easement will be included in the transfer legislation, which indicates big game hunting will be a major part of the canyon's future. We didn't see many deer, and I saw no elk, nor elk sign. The Tavaputs Plateau does hold huge herds of elk, and I saw large herds of trophy-sized elk as I flew with the Division of Wildlife Resources several years ago while they were conducting an aerial survey of the elk herds. Big game permits on the Tavaputs are currently selling for \$10,000 and more.
- The Department of Agriculture (U.S. Forest Service I assume) will also hold a conservation easement for the canyon.
- Opening the canyon to complete public access would mean a quick end to what makes the canyon special and in my opinion would ruin a national treasure.

After spending several days on the phone learning about the politics of Range Creek's future, here is what I can report.

- State officials are aware of the special cultural resources found in the canyon and are promising to protect them.
- The transfer from public land to state land has not yet happened and we must ensure that protection language is included in the transfer legislation, which is critical.
- The Department of State Lands and Forestry does not have a mandate to maximize revenues the way the department of State and Institutional Trust Lands Administration does. The department can protect lands and keep them intact for the future.

Utah politicians and state leaders respond well to public opinion, so here's what I propose. I spent



Steve Manning searches for rock art.

parts of two days making phone calls to people in influential positions in Salt Lake City and in Emery County, telling them about my experience, and impressing them with the importance of protecting the cultural resources of Range Creek. It is imperative we keep pressure on those who are responsible for its future. We must remain vigilant and not become complacent. I will do my best to keep informed on the canyon's future, and will inform you in return. Most of those notices will go out via email, so if you have an email address and want to keep informed (unless you're on the *Vestiges* email list and so will receive them automatically) send me your email address.

After walking the cliffs of Range Creek for five days, I can truly say, "I have been the first to see a beautiful rock art panel since it was created by the Fremont culture a thousand years ago." Wow!

## ***What's The Ranch's Future? Who Knows?***

So what's the future of Range Creek and the Waldo Wilcox Ranch?

That seems to be the million-dollar question. No one has an easy answer.

Some folks think they know. For instance, the Division of Wildlife Resources is taking the lead on what it thinks is the future of the property. Officials erected numerous signs to direct hunters to places open for hunting and to keep them out of places that are closed. Many hunters have the false impression the Wilcox Ranch is a great savannah teeming with big game, and they are especially interested in the trophy deer and elk that are said to inhabit the ranch property.

Here are the facts as I've been able to uncover them. The Bureau of Land Management either has or will soon have an agreement to allow hunting on the ranch property. It was hunting interests with strong political ties that pushed through legislation allowing the purchase of the ranch. Current access into the canyon bottom is controlled by a locked gate, which restricts access to foot or horse. That in itself is a good limiting factor.

There's talk of placing a caretaker at the ranch house to help police the property, and to limit the natural deterioration the now taking place. The BLM has at least one possibility – a volunteer who spends his summers at Mineral Bottom on the Green River – and the DWR is quietly recruiting someone. I firmly believe the only way to way to preserve old buildings is to use them. So getting a caretaker for the property is wise and timely.

Stated elsewhere in *Vestiges* is a comment that Utah officials believe they will eventually end up with the ranch. BLM officials, however, don't see that happening, and they are proceeding with plans to protect the ranch's cultural resources. I'm well aware that federal funding is way short and staffing is even shorter, so just how much protection can be afforded is questionable. But the same thing can be said about the state. So no matter where it ends up, protecting the cultural resources will be a fight, in my opinion.

The BLM plans to have the ranch designated an area of critical environment concern (ACEC). That would afford it special protection status and, hopefully, bring additional funding. An ACEC plan will probably propose a couple of different protection options, and public comment should open in December or January. One official told me that, currently, there is no way of protecting the valuable resource if the locks are taken off the gates.

One of the best ways to protect cultural resources is to keep the gates of a fenced area locked. Pothunters and vandals are basically lazy. If they can't drive there, they usually stay away. There are exceptions to that, of course, but locks deter the casual vandal.

Waldo Wilcox sold the property because he wanted it preserved and not developed, and the cultural resources were the driving force behind the protection sought. Access to most of the nearly 4,000 acres located on top of the Tavaputs Plateau, and to the 900 acres in Range Creek, is prevented by a series of locked gates, and they should stay locked until a rock-solid protection plan is developed.

One of the ways of protecting the resources and benefiting from them is to have it designated a research park. Officials at the University of Utah are working on a similar proposal operated by the

Museum of Natural History. I believe a research park offers the highest scientific value for the property. If this were done, rock art research should be one of the values included in the park.

Currently threats to the park are more perceived than real. The heavy chain and sturdy lock are offering a great deal of protection. So an all-out letter-writing campaign opposing something is a little premature. However, writing letters of support for protecting the resources would be appropriate.

Since the land is in the hands of the federal government at this time, letters to the BLM should be addressed to:

**Price Field Office Manager  
Bureau Of Land Management  
125 South 600 West  
Price UT 84501**

Letters to the State of Utah should be written to:

**Kevin Conway, State Director, Utah Division of Wildlife Resources  
P.O. Box 146301  
Salt Lake City UT 84114-6301**



Six anthropomorphs painted in white, green, and red.

## Still Room on Salt Wash Field Trip, Changes Made in Maze Trip Date

There is still room for participants on the October 5-6 field trip going into North Salt Wash, reports trip leader Nancy Mason. Salt Wash is a beautiful Navajo sandstone-walled canyon in the northwestern part of the San Rafael Swell. Please note this is a different date than the one shown on the calendar and will *not* include Old Woman Wash in the eastern San Rafael Reef.

Participants will spend Saturday hiking in the canyon (some scrambling is involved in getting down into it), visiting a number of nice petroglyph sites, and possibly exploring to find additional ones.

On Sunday the tour will drive out of the Little Wedge area, visiting a variety of pictograph and petroglyph sites along the Horn Silver Gulch and Dutch Flat roads.

High clearance is needed, and because this trip is 20 miles on an impassible-when-wet road, the trip will be cancelled in case of rainy weather.

The limit is 20 people, but an additional session on Thursday-Friday or Monday-Tuesday could be organized if there is interest. Please contact Nancy Mason, 303-459-3397, to sign up and to receive information on the time and place to meet.

The October field trip slated for the Maze District of Canyonlands National Park has been moved

back one week to October 19-20 because of problems obtaining camping reservations in the park. Trip leaders are Craig Barney and Tracy Harris. To reserve a slot on the trip call 435-259-4510.

It will be limited to the campsite capacity of 10 people including the two trip leaders. If the trip is full, a backcountry-backpacking permit can be applied for by contacting the NPS at 435-719-2313, for those wishing to camp and backpack in the canyon on their own.

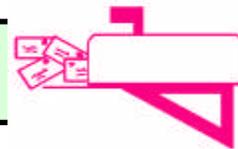
Camping will be at the Maze Overlook campsites Friday and Saturday nights. Four-wheel-drive is **absolutely** necessary for the Flint Trail. No camp trailers can be pulled down it so it will be tent camping only. No campfires are allowed. Participants must provide all their own food and water.

The climb into and out of the canyon is strenuous. It is about a 900-foot descent. In some places the use of so-called Moki Steps, prehistoric Anasazi, is necessary. In some places the trail is only one foot wide. Access into and out of the canyon is not hiking, it is climbing. Once in the canyon, an eight-mile round-trip hike in the canyon bottom is necessary to get to the sites.

The difficulty of the trip cannot be over-stressed. Sign up only if you are experienced and in good shape for hiking.

Craig and Tami Barney

## Letters to the Editor



*Editor's note: This letter originally appeared the St. George newspaper and is reprinted here with the writer's permission.*

Dear *Vestiges* editor,

I'm a passionate amateur archeologist who has always been captivated by Native American ruins. For over 40 years I've visited countless sites in the US, Mexico, and Peru.

When I moved here to St. George, Utah, 1½ years ago, I was excited that I was moving to an area with a high concentration of Archaic, Anasazi, and Paiute sites, spanning thousands of years.

The number of petroglyphs and pictographs in the area is astounding. At many sites the rock art obviously moves into the Sacred Art category. These were sacred temples for the native peoples. They lived in nature and built their sacred sites as part of nature. These petroglyphs are an irreplaceable treasure trove, as well as an important tourist draw, which you'd think would inspire awe and respect from everyone.

As elated as I've felt glimpsing and photographing these sites, I've experienced equal despair when I see initials and other graffiti obliterating pictographs and petroglyphs; petroglyphs bulldozed or blasted apart for road widening; as well as others chiseled off for private collections. Most Pueblo sites have been dug by pothunters, others have been bulldozed for pothunting or housing development. Not to mention pieces of clay pigeons and broken bottles near the spent rifle cartridges and shotgun shells littering the sites.

One particular sacred petroglyph panel on Anasazi Ridge was vandalized in December of last year. Rocks were tossed down on the large panel, gouging it, and the initials "IL" scratched into an adjacent, formerly-pristine, vertical panel. A few equally-powerful pictographs in the cave at Red Cliffs have been joined and overlapped by so many initials and graffiti as to render them almost illegible. It appears that if one person gouges in their initials, others think this acceptable. I realize that with so many sites around, people feel that to destroy a few doesn't matter because there are a lot more. Well, they said that about the buffalo, too, until it became almost extinct.

Please treat these sites as the Sacred Temples, which they are. To desecrate them is not only immoral, it is illegal!

Sincerely,

Ray Urbaniak, 125 S 2330 West, Hurricane UT 84737.

435-635-3981, [naturalfreq@yahoo.com](mailto:naturalfreq@yahoo.com)

# Special 2002 Symposium Section

**When: Veterans Day Weekend, Nov 9-11, 2002 Where: Cotton Town Village in the town of Washington in the St. George area, Utah (see map below)**

## Call for Papers

Abstracts should be about 200 words or less. The deadline to submit them is October 4. Presentations will be allowed a minimum of 20 minutes (last year 30 minutes were allowed).

The committee will review abstracts for suitability; balance of points-of-view, and to ensure that the number of papers does not exceed the time available for presentations. Papers that relate to Utah rock art will be given preference, if necessary.

Please send abstracts to David Sucec, Papers Coordinator, at 832 Sege Avenue, Salt Lake City UT 84102, or by email to [davids@networld.com](mailto:davids@networld.com). Use the same address for inquiries, or phone 801-359-6904.

## Second Speaker Engaged

In addition to Dr. James Farmer, the well-known rock art researcher Ken Hedges of the Museum of Man in San Diego has agreed to be a featured speaker. Hedges is a long-time ARARA participant, and manages the annual one-day rock art symposium in San Diego in November, as well as editing its volumes of proceedings. Farmer is less well-known to us. He wrote his PhD dissertation on the rock art of Green Mask Spring in Grand Gulch, studied at the U. of Texas in Austin, and is the chair of art historian Dito Morales' PhD committee.

## URARA Vendor Policy

Vendors interested in selling at the 2002 Symposium need to apply and submit examples (jpegs, photographs, or slides) of their work or material to the jury process. Vendors must complete the application and jury process in a timely manner in order to participate this year. Applications with examples of work need to be submitted by October 14th.

For information and an application form, please contact Jan Gorski, Vendor Coordinator, email [Wild4natur@aol.com](mailto:Wild4natur@aol.com) or phone 303-791-8118.

A fee of \$25 will be charged for each 4' x 8' table or space. Also a vendor must be (or become) a URARA member, the material to be sold must relate to rock art, and the vendor must donate one item to the auction.

Thank you, David Sucec, Chair, Symposium Committee



## REGISTRATION

XXII Utah Rock Art Research Association Annual Symposium

St. George, Utah, November 9–11, 2002

Please complete and mail with fees to: URARA, PO Box 511324, Salt Lake City UT 84151-1324.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

### *Symposium registration fees*

Member: Individual \$20.00, couple \$35.00, children living at home, 18 or under, free.

Non-member: Individual \$30.00, couple \$55.00, children living at home, 18 or under, free.

### *Banquet fee*

\$18.00 each (includes 15% gratuity and tax)

\*\*Buffet meal (B) with choice of Roast Beef, Mesquite Chicken Breast, and Salmon. Choice of potato, vegetable, and two salads in addition to tossed green salad, roll, and light dessert; water, punch and coffee.

\*\*Vegetarian meal (V) with a main pasta dish and the non-meat choices from above.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Choice of B or V \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Choice of B or V \_\_\_\_\_

Registration fee(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Banquet fee(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Total amount \_\_\_\_\_

Make check payable to *Utah Rock Art Research Association*.

## Lodging Information for St. George Area

St. George visitor information:

<http://www.ezeeee.com/Area%20Guide.htm>

### CAMPING:

- Gunlock State Park Campground, open sites, free
- Quail Creek State Park Campground - 23 sites, 800-322-3770, \$8
- Red Cliffs Campground - 10 sites, 435-688-3246, \$10

- Snow Canyon State Park - 14 RV, 21 other camp sites, 435-628-2255, 800-322-3770, \$12-14
- RV:
- Brentwood RV 150 N 3700 West, Hurricane 435-635-2320, \$19
  - McArthur's Temple View 975 S Main 673-6400, 800-776-6410, \$19.95
  - Redland RV Park 650 Telegraph Rd Washington 673-9700, 800-553-8269 Golf Package, Price Range: \$15.95 to \$24.95
  - Settler 's RV 1333 E 100 South 628-1624, \$12-22
  - Zion River RV/Campground 730 E Highway 9, Virgin, 635-8594, 800-838-8594, RVs \$32-38, Tents \$25, Teepees \$30, Cabins \$45-55

#### LODGING:

- AMBASSADOR INN 1481 S Sunland \$43 to \$64, continental breakfast  
handicap rooms, micro/fridge, heated pool, Jacuzzi, golf, 673-7900, 877-373-7900  
[www.ambassadorinn.net](http://www.ambassadorinn.net)
- BEST INN SUITES 245 N Red Cliff Drive \$48 to \$56, continental breakfast, meeting rooms  
heated outdoor pool, Jacuzzi, golf 652-3030, 800-718-0297  
[www.bestinn.com](http://www.bestinn.com)
- BEST WESTERN ABBEY INN, 1129 S Bluff \$65 to \$91, Full, hot breakfast, airport shuttle,  
meeting rooms, heated outdoor pool, golf, Tuachan 652-1234, 888-222-3946  
[www.bwabbeyinn.com](http://www.bwabbeyinn.com)
- BEST WESTERN CORAL HILLS 125 E St George Blvd \$\$\$, Continental breakfast, airport  
shuttle, exercise room, handicap rooms, outdoor pool, indoor pool, 673-4844, 800-542-7733
- BEST WESTERN TRAVEL INN 316 E St George Blvd \$50 to \$87, Free continental break-  
fast, micro/fridge, outdoor pool, Jacuzzi, 673-3541, 888-590-2835 [www.bestwestern.com](http://www.bestwestern.com)
- BLUFFS MOTEL 1140 So Bluff, \$49 to \$86, Continental Breakfast, kitchen, weekly rates  
heated outdoor pool, golf, Tuachan 628-6699, 800-832-5833 [www.bluffsinnsuites.com](http://www.bluffsinnsuites.com)
- BUDGET 8 MOTEL 1230 S Bluff \$39 to \$65, group discounts, micro/fridge, Jacuzzi, 628-  
5234, 800-275-3494
- BUDGET INN & SUITES 1221 S Main Street \$\$\$, fitness center, handicapped rooms, pool,  
Jacuzzi, golf 673-6661, 800-929-0790
- COMFORT INN HURRICANE 843 N Sky Mountain Blvd \$\$\$, continental breakfast, laun-  
dry, miniature golf, heated outdoor pool, golf 635-3500, 800-635-3577
- COMFORT INN ST GEORGE 999 E Skyline Drive \$\$, continental breakfast, safety boxes  
heated pool 628-4271, 800-221-2222
- COMFORT SUITES 1239 S Main \$64 to \$115, continental breakfast, safety boxes, handicap  
rooms, heated pool, Jacuzzi, golf 673-7000, 800-245-8602 [www.comfortsuites.net](http://www.comfortsuites.net)
- CORONADA VACATION VILLAGE 559 E St George Blvd \$49 to \$75, kitchen, daily or  
weekly rates, laundry, heated indoor pool, golf.
- DAYS INN THUNDERBIRD 150 N 1000 East 49 to \$119, continental breakfast,, \$5 pet  
charge, outdoor pool, Jacuzzi, golf 673-6123, 800-527-6543 [www.daysinn.com](http://www.daysinn.com)
- FAIRFIELD INN 1660 S Main \$61 to \$76, continental breakfast, exercise room, laundry, FAX  
heated pool, outdoor Jacuzzi, 673-6066
- HAMPTON INN 53 N River Road \$69 to \$115, continental breakfast buffet, banquet rooms  
indoor and outdoor pools, whirlpools, golf 652-1200, 800-892-1203, [www.hamptoninn.net](http://www.hamptoninn.net)
- HOLIDAY INN 850 S Bluff \$59 to \$99, restaurant, banquet rooms, handicap rooms, indoor  
and outdoor pools, golf, Tuachan 628-457-9800, 800-465-4329 [www.holidayinnstgeorge.com](http://www.holidayinnstgeorge.com)
- MOTEL 6 205 N 1000 East \$29.99 to \$51.99, free local calls, handicap rooms, HBO, morning

- coffee, small pets, heated pool, golf 628-7979, 800-466-8356 [www.motel6.com](http://www.motel6.com)
- QUALITY INN 1165 S Bluff \$54 to \$109, deluxe continental breakfast, heated pool, hot tub golf 628-4481, 800-231-4488 [www.qualityinn.net](http://www.qualityinn.net)
  - RAMADA INN 1440 E St George Blvd \$69 to \$135, free full breakfast, conference rooms, handicap rooms, heated Jacuzzi, golf, Tuachan 628-2828, 800-228-2828
  - RANCH INN 1040 S Main \$39 to \$110, kitchenette, continental breakfast, weekly rates heated pool, Bar-B-Que, golf 628-8000, 800-332-0400 [www.ramadainn.net](http://www.ramadainn.net)
  - RED CLIFF INN 912 Red Cliff Dr Washington \$\$, micro/fridge, weekly rates, pool, hot tub golf 673-3537
  - ROCOCO'S (Sullivans) 511 S Airport Road \$31 to \$85, suites, fridge, wet bar in each room, outdoor pool, Jacuzzi 628-3671, 888-628-3671 [www.rococo.net](http://www.rococo.net)
  - ST GEORGE RESORT & SPA \$89 to \$109, convention facilities, tennis courts, complete health spa, golf, Tuachan 628-0463, 800-662-2525
  - SINGLETREE INN 260 E St George Blvd \$39 to 60, golf 673-6161, 800-528-8890
  - TRAVELODGE EAST 175 N 1000 E \$36 to \$99, continental breakfast, large vehicle parking available, heated pool, golf 673-4621, 800-574-8552

#### BED AND BREAKFAST:

- Green Gate Village 76 W Tabernacle \$65 to \$165, conference center, fireplaces, pool, hot tub 628-6999, 800-350-6999 [www.greengatevillage.com](http://www.greengatevillage.com)
- Quicksand & Cactus 346 N Main Street \$60 to \$85 gourmet breakfast 674-1739, 800-381-1654 [www.infowest.com/Quicksand/](http://www.infowest.com/Quicksand/)
- Seven Wives Inn 217 N 100 West \$75 to \$150 murder mystery & jazz dinner, pool, golf 628-3737, 800-600-3737 [www.sevenwivesinn.com](http://www.sevenwivesinn.com)

#### Call for Nominations

The URARA Nomination Committee requests nominations for URARA officers for the upcoming year 2003. Please send them to David Sucec, Vice President, 832 Segoe Ave, Salt Lake City UT 84102; or email to [davids@networld.com](mailto:davids@networld.com) or phone 801-359-6904. Those offices include: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Archivist/Historian, and two At-Large Executive Committee Members.

Nominations will close October 12<sup>th</sup>, except for write-in votes during the voting process at the St. George Symposium, November 9–11, 2002.

# Pecos Conference, A Report

By Steve Manning

The 75<sup>th</sup> annual Pecos Conference was held August 8-11, 2002, at the Pecos National Historic Park in New Mexico. Over 600 people registered for the conference. Quite a few URARA members attended.

Several papers discussed the archeology of Utah. Bruce Huckell's paper "Basketmaker I – Seventy five years of Preceramic Archaeology in the Southwest" was an excellent discussion of the history of the Basketmaker I designation and its relevance to today's archeology.

Christine Ward and Catherine Cameron presented a paper on the Bluff/Comb Ridge Project. An interesting discovery was the dating of features on the east side of the great house. The dates, ranging from AD 1150 to 1300, indicate the site was used following the abandonment of Chaco Canyon. The site is believed to have been a Chacoan outlier.

Bill Lucius presented a paper discussing new discoveries in the distribution of Blanding Red and Ivie Creek Black-on-White wares. These ceramics were manufactured in specific localities, and apparently traded over surprisingly large areas. While their general area of manufacture is known, the exact location is still a mystery, as is the reason why they were so highly prized.

Daniel Cutrone discussed the Nancy Patterson site in Montezuma Canyon and stated that new discoveries there will change our ideas about what happened at the site. This information will soon be published. He said the artifacts from the site are at the Edge of the Cedars Museum in Blanding, and a website being developed will include seven CDs of pictures of the site and the artifacts.

Following the conference I went on a field trip to two petroglyph sites on top of Glorieta Mesa west of Pecos. All of the more than 250 petroglyphs were on horizontal bedrock. The repatination levels suggested considerable age, but still the glyphs were easily discernable. Soil overlying the images contained charcoal in three layers, yielding dates from 5,000 to 6,000 years ago. Also a geologist determined that the formation of caliche over the images indicated they were about 5,000 years old. Additionally, rock varnish dating techniques determined them to be about 5,000 years old.

A surprising feature of the images was the presence of archeoastronomical symbolism believed to predate the adoption of agriculture and sedentary life ways. More images are likely buried beneath the soil.

Next year's conference will be at Casas Grandes, Chihuahua, Mexico. In 2004 it will be held in Blanding, Utah, an opportunity for more URARA members to attend this great meeting.

## *28<sup>th</sup> GBAC Set for Elko October 9 - 11*

### *A Session Focuses on Range Creek*

Several URARA members are participating in this biennial meeting. The preliminary schedule, pre-registration form, and other information are available at the conference website, <http://www.isu.edu/GBAC/> or write to Patricia Dean, GBAC Program Chair, Dept. of Anthropology, Campus Box 8005, Idaho State University, Pocatello ID 83209. Preregister by Sept 15 or pay \$10 more.

On Wednesday evening from 5 to 9 p.m. is the welcome and registration at the site, the Elko Convention and Visitors Authority, 700 Moren Way. Registration continues on Thursday from 8 a.m. and the welcoming ceremony is also at 8 a.m.

Several different tracks will be going on, making it hard to choose. Of particular interest to URARA members are Symposium 2 from 10 a.m. to noon and 1:30 to 3:15, entitled Rock Art and Archaeology: An Opportunity for Integration, including our members Evelyn Billo and Robert Mark. Also on Thursday morning from 8:45 through noon is The Archaeological and Historic Treasures of Range Creek, with Kevin Jones, our state archaeologist, Layne Miller, John Macumber, and Steve Manning, among others. Papers continue through 5 p.m.

On Friday from 8:30 through 5 p.m. attendees again can chose from among several tracks. Papers continue Saturday morning, and from 11:30 to 5:30 field trips go to the dry caves of Bonneville Estates and Danger Cave, guided by current excavators. These are limited to 60 people, and advance registration is needed for them.

Various social events continue throughout, including a Basque family-style banquet on Friday night.

## A PAINTED LAND

*The rock canvasses of Australia's  
Aboriginal artists celebrate the beliefs of a people steeped in ancestor worship.*  
By Margaret Grove

Across the warm, weathered sandstone of the northern Australian coast, extinct Tasmanian tigers prowl and hippopotamus-like marsupials graze, bright blue dingoes playfully wrestle, giant cranes gather at sacred breeding grounds, and ceremonial figures—humans with attributes of animal and insect bodies—engage in exotic rituals. These are among the region's thousands of paintings, some created over 50,000 years ago, others as recently as the 1950s. Archeological science finds them difficult to date with confidence or precision.

The north Australian terrain, created by Ancestor Beings eons ago during what the Aboriginal people know as the Dreamtime, is so rugged that many sites remain unknown to outsiders. Nonetheless, new discoveries, like those on these pages, occur every dry season. Aboriginal land-owners accompany researchers on explorations by foot, four-wheel drive, or helicopter. Last year's research season yielded 24 new sites in less than a week.

*This is the abstract of an article in the Sept/Oct issue of Archaeology. Author Margaret Grove has done rock-art research in Australia for the past seven years. She is an associate professor of women's spirituality at New College of California in San Francisco, where she teaches Archaeomythology, a combination of archeology and oral traditions.*



Australian dingoes in rock art.

## California Dreaming: Include Little Petroglyph Canyon in Your Winter Trip South

By Dorde Woodruff

Many aspects of our life were changed by 9/11, its tentacles reaching even into the world of rock art. The Naval Air Warfare Center Weapons Division, the landlord of the China Lake ranges of more than 1.1 million acres in the Mohave desert, has re-opened Little Petroglyph Canyon in the Coso Range to tours, with increased security.

Check out the Navy's web site at <http://www.nawcwnd.navy.mil/%7Epao/pg/Ptrglyph.htm> or the Ridgecrest, California, Maturango Museum site at <http://www.maturango.org/pettoursF02.html>

Little Petroglyph Canyon at only 1.2 miles long is small in extent, but not in the amount of petroglyphs it contains, estimated at about 6,000. It's said to be the best canyon of those in the area, and is the only one open to tours. Only organized tours are allowed, and there are three ways to do it, a museum tour open to the public, a museum tour organized for a specific group, or a self-organized tour arranged with the Navy. The museum has a number of dates scheduled for this fall, but they say the trips fill up fast.

The museum charges \$35 per person for non-members and \$25 for members. Only 18 people plus

two escorts can go, in not more than five vehicles. Everything has to be spelled out well ahead of time; regulations are extremely picky and red tape is tedious. After the list of participants is sent to the Navy, persons can't be substituted. Cars are searched on the base, and cameras and other recording devices must be packed away until reaching the canyon. Two volunteer escorts must be engaged from a list of them to accompany each group. Food, water, and clothes for the day in the high desert's variable weather must be carried in backpacks.

It's a typical canyon hike with sand and rocks underfoot and low canyon walls on each side, with no climbing up to panels allowed. Most of the way down the 300' of vertical descent is mild but the end part is steep, and those who are not steady hikers often don't do that part. People say the animal and bird watching are outstanding, in addition to the rock art, also spring wildflowers in a good spring.

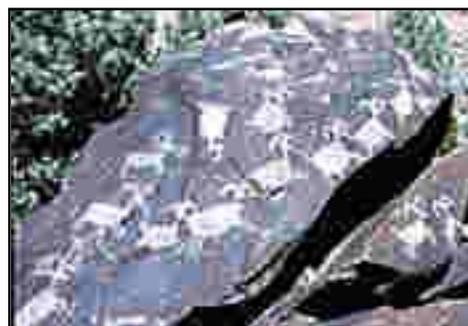
For more details see the web pages listed above, or get in touch with the base or the museum.

The Navy facility's Public Affairs Office person Peggy Shoaf is knowledgeable and helpful. Catch her by phone at 760-939-1683 or email at [shoafpa@navair.navy.mil](mailto:shoafpa@navair.navy.mil)

The museum's Petroglyph Tour Coordinator may be reached at 760-375-6900, Wednesday through Friday, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. or 3-5 p.m.

Occasionally tours must be cancelled due to Navy happenings or the weather. In that unfortunate case, the museum has information about other rock art sites nearby.

The navy is planning to put a virtual tour of the canyon on their website later this year.



The graceful sheep from the Coso.

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### **Resources**

Published by and available from the Maturango Museum, also available from Piedra Pintada Books: Grant, Campbell, Jim Baird and Ken Pringle

*1987 Rock Drawings of the Coso Range.* Descriptions, drawings, and photographs of the Coso Range rock art. The definitive work on the Coso Range by the late, well-loved artist and others. Sixth printing, paperback, 147 pages.

Pahuta, Mark (director) & Cliff Lawson (writer)

*1998 Visions in Stone: Rock Art of the Coso Range.* A joint production of the U.S. Navy and the Maturango Museum. With haunting background music by John Huling, it includes some of the best rock art videography ever. Theories of the how, when, and why of the petroglyphs are explored in interviews with those who study rock art. Maturango Museum, color, VHS, 59 minutes.

Whitley, David

*1998 Following the Shaman's Path.* A walking guide to Little Petroglyph Canyon, and Whitley's interpretations of what some of the glyphs might mean. Paperback, 67 pages.

Younkin, Elva, ed.

*1998 Coso Rock Art, A New Perspective.* Changes and advances in interpretation and dating of Coso rock art. A collection of essays by rock art authorities. Paperback, 182 pages.

Available from [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com):

Arnold, Caroline and Richard Hewett, Photographer

*1996 Stories in Stone: Rock Art Pictures by Early Americans.* A well-illustrated book for older grade school children on the rock art of the Coso Range. Hardcover, 48 pages.

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