

# VESTIGES



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Monthly newsletter of URARA, Utah Rock Art Research Association

## President's Message



# Macumber's Final Message

Wow! What a great symposium! For those of you unable to attend you missed some excellent and informative presentations, a fine panel discussion on public lands, a banquet with delicious food, a fun and profitable auction, wonderful field trips, a productive annual business meeting and an enjoyable Sunday evening social with a slide presentation of URARA field trips conducted this past year.

On behalf of URARA I want to express appreciation and thanks to each and every one of you who contributed in any way to the success of this year's symposium. We want to thank our keynote speakers Ken Hedges and Jim Farmer for their excellent presentations. Thanks to all presenters for their work and to all the field trip leaders.

Special thanks go to 2002 symposium chairperson David Sucec, URARA Vice President and Annette & Al Scholl for everything they did in putting together a great event.

It's a pleasure to announce the amended Articles of Incorporation and new By-Laws that will bring us into compliance for IRS 501-3-C Non-Profit Status were approved. This will allow us to complete the process so we can apply for funding grants that will enable us to provide some exciting, rewarding and worthwhile service projects. Your support is appreciated!

Congratulations to the newly elected Board of Directors. Please give them your support. Let them know if you can volunteer to assist URARA in any way.

Thank you Layne Miller for the outstanding job as *Vestiges* editor, continue the fine work!

This is the last time you'll be hearing from me as President of your organization. It has been a challenging and rewarding year. Thanks to the Executive Committee members, committee chairpersons/members, field trip leaders, monthly meeting speakers and everyone who has stepped forward this year to help make URARA stronger. You're all important. The future is bright. May URARA enjoy continued success!

John Macumber

URARA President-2002

**Merry Christmas From  
Vestiges Staff And Writers**

Greetings! If you missed the St. George symposium you missed being a part of history and missed some of the best papers ever.

The big news coming out of the symposium was a vote to change the bylaws, which will allow us to become a formal nonprofit group, and allow us to accept donations and grants. The vote will also change the basic way URARA is operated. It will change from a group operated by an Executive Committee to one guided by a Board of Directors. Members will no longer vote for the various offices- president, vice-president, etc- they will vote for various Board members and they in turn, will pick the leadership. This is a big change, but one many feel was due.

The results of the election indicate that Al Scholl, Barbara Green, Craig Bowen, David Sucec, Dorothy Lynn, Layne Miller, Nancy Mason, Nina Bowen and Troy Scotter will form the new Board. It is not known when the board will meet to select the new officers.

Also, the membership voted to pursue the idea of URARA developing a 10-year research design for studying the rock art in Range Creek. I have taken steps to do this and will keep everyone posted. For now it looks like we will be cooperating with the Utah Museum of Natural History and three archaeologists. They are pursuing two grants- one from the Utah State office of the Bureau of Land Management and one from the National Science Foundation. Their proposal will include a rock art component proposed by URARA. Museum Archaeologist Duncan Metcalfe will oversee the entire long-range project and URARA will oversee the rock art portion.

Think about this for a minute- URARA will be in charge of a possible 10-year project to study the rock art in Range Creek. If you have any doubts we can carry this off, let us know immediately. A small committee of URARA members is working on the research design. It is a short document, we will need to flesh it out later and that's where you come in. If you have expertise in this area, please volunteer now by sending me a message. Here are some of the areas of expertise we will need.

1- Camp cooks



*Kirk Neilson receives a special award from President John Macumber for his longtime dedication and devotion to URARA. His dog, Babe, also received honorable mention.*

- 2- Artists (drawing panels on IMACS forms)
- 3- Photographers
- 4- Map experts
- 5- Computer experts
- 6- Organizers (to help organize and deploy the project)
- 7- Camp hosts (people to organize and run the project headquarters)



*Dell Crandall presents a special award to outgoing URARA President John Macumber for doing such a fine job as president this year.*

Many of us believe the symposium help set a course that will propel URARA into the future on a straight line to success. We need to remember, however, that the type of structure an organization has does not guarantee success, it's the people. We can only be successful if you, the membership, step up and take charge. It takes a lot of good people to run the organization but it some times feels like we drag the leadership kicking and screaming to their positions. Please lend a hand in making the future bright and successful!

Layne Miller  
*Vestiges* Editor

## Letters To The Editor

Dear Editor,

What a great quilt!!! I want to thank everyone who went to the trouble of making and donating the blocks. You did a fantastic job. Also, a special thanks to all those that put it all together.

Thanks again  
Dell Crandall

*Editor's note:* The following letter was sent to the head of the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources and the Bureau of Land Management by ARARA in support of protecting the resources in Range Creek.

Dear Kevin Conway,

The American Rock Art Research Association (ARARA) wishes to express its support for your efforts to protect the cultural and natural resources at the federally acquired Waldo Wilcox Ranch and the Range Creek Watershed.

It appears clear from reports received from Layne Miller of the Utah Rock Art Research Association that the preliminary recording of thirty-five rock art sites during this past summer reveals a wealth of pictograph panels and other archaeological resources in pristine condition. This valuable record, stretching from the Archaic to the Classic Fremont and Barrier Canyon Styles, may prove to be unparalleled in the State of Utah - a true National Treasure.

Native Americans, archaeologists, rock art advocates, and the American Public will all have a deep interest in the inherent value of protecting these irreplaceable resources.



*The lecture hall at the symposium was lined with numerous tables filled with interesting items from vendors, like these rock art replicas.*

As the State of Utah, under Congressman Jim Hansen's leadership, progresses in transferring title to these unique lands to the State from the Bureau of Land Management, the American Rock Art Research Association will show its active support in helping you insure the protection of these cultural resources and the landscapes which provide their natural context. Please place our organization on your mailing list for any public hearings, which may affect the status of these lands.

As multiple interests apply for access to and enjoyment of Wilcox Ranch

and Range Creek, ARARA requests that access remain restricted while final disposition of the holding's conservation status is determined. Locked gates, on-site caretaker(s), signing sensitive areas, and range patrols are all important parts of an early protection strategy. We look forward to future generations enjoying opportunities to experience this pristine holding, preserved with all of its cultural resources in tact as Waldo Wilcox intended.

Sincerely,  
Leigh Marymor

ARARA Vice President, and  
Acting Conservation Committee  
Chairperson

Thanks to Nina Bowen for proofreading this issue of Vestiges.

## North Salt Wash: Observations of a Rookie

I joined the association about a year ago to explore new places with like-minded people who enjoy hunting for rock art rather than game. That makes me a rookie, humbled by folks like Craig and Nina Bowen who have been with URARA since the 80's.

Nancy Mason, another veteran who makes the trip from the Boulder, CO area, organized the outing in the San Rafael swell. On a blustery day, October 11th, I turned east from Ferron to join the group near the Little Wedge area. About 16 miles in, I came across Nancy in her truck heading back to an alternate campsite. I followed her to Bellevue flats, set up along with Craig and Nina and John Remakel. We still had some light, so we drove over to Horn Silver Gulch to see some panels. Folks trickled in until we had about 14 for the camping that night. The wind ebbed and Nancy got a nice fire going. That provided a focal point as we circled the chairs and had introductions. Good conversations ensued, and talk of a lot of places I had never heard of and wished I had been on some of those trips.

Nancy declared an 8:30 a.m. start the next morning, and being an old military man, it was “yes ma'am” to that. More folks, including Barbara Green, who came over from a trip in Arches, joined us. We formed a caravan to the trailhead for a beautiful descent.

Into the North Salt Wash we went. Though this association focuses on rock art, experiencing the myriad of sandstone formations is a big part of the fun.

It was pretty much a full day of hiking in the wash, and we periodically encountered quicksand, which I learned you can get across if you move fast. It was kind of like walking on Jello. The rock art panels were worth the scramble—we saw many symbols such as rainbows, snakes, buffalo, sheep, rivers, sun signs, shamen and archaic anthropomorphs. As the day waned, we clambered out by a couple of routes, had some watermelon, and worked our way back to camp. Troy Scotter served as our “tail end



Executive Committee member Tami Barney shows off the quilt auctioned off at the symposium. The quilt was constructed by a dedicated group of artists and auctioned off for \$670. Proceeds of the auction raised \$1,580.

Charlie,” keeping an eye on the stragglers. It was apparent that Nancy had spent many hours exploring this region and doing precise planning with detailed map work.

Another campfire Saturday evening, more sharing stories, but we could feel a cold night setting in. By morning, any water jugs left out were iced up. Nancy got us rolling again at 8:30, this time for shorter hikes off into Horn Silver Gulch from Dutch Flat road. We started the day hiking to Funk Cavern for more rainbows and shamanic figures. At the next site, we hiked across some flats to a rocky mound with spiral petroglyphs. We found many potsherds, and possible evidence that walls had been built on top of the mound. The pinnacle of the day was a trek to the Ferron box, a canyon with many panels so high up you wonder how the ancient ones could get there to paint. The figures were the most colorful and detailed I have ever seen. At day’s end, we were a tired but fulfilled group thanks to Nancy’s planning and organization. It isn’t easy, for guiding a URARA group is like herding cats.

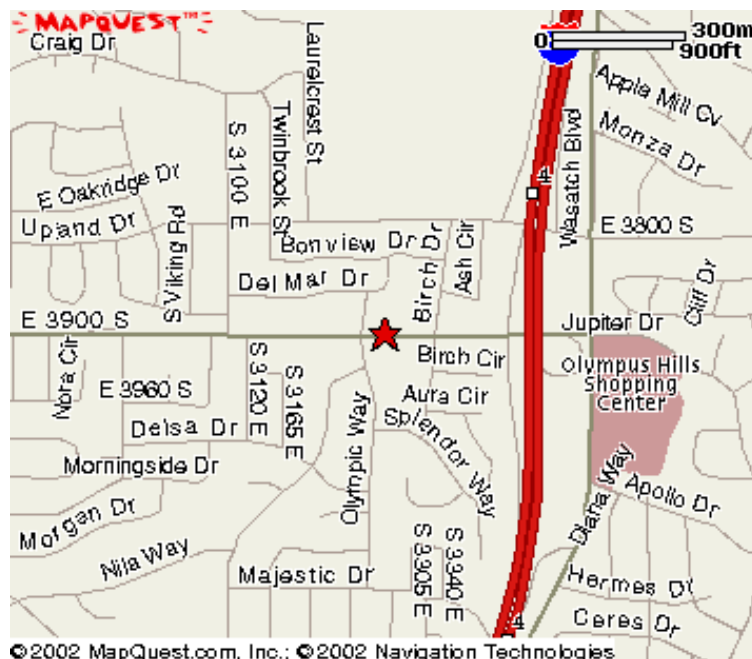
I met a lot of fine people on this trip, including Glenn and Margaret Stone, Ray Freeze, Carol Georgopolis, Doak Heyser, Harold and Roberta Snyder, Paul Janos, Mary Grande, Gary and Janet Burningham, Debbie Stonehouse, Richard Raczowski, and Ken Andresen. Hope I accounted for every-one. It was a great trip, and one of the last opportunities this year to camp in slick rock country.

Bob Reed

URARA member

## Annual URARA Christmas Party Coming December 14 At Olympus Church

*Editor’s note: An erroneous date was released previously!*



The annual URARA Christmas party will be held December 14 at the Mount Olympus Church in Salt Lake City from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. The event is scheduled for the church’s Fellowship Hall. Members are encouraged to bring their own utensils, plates, cups and non-rock art (people) slides. This is almost the only time during the year when slides of people in a rock art setting are shown. It is also one of the highlights of the year.

Directions: Exit from the east side belt route, I-215, at 3900 South and proceed west. A left on Birch Drive will take you to the church parking lot, which is behind (south of) the church. Contact Cindy for food assignments.

***New URARA members of the URARA Board Of Directors include: Al Scholl, Barbara Green, Craig Bowen, David Sucec, Dorothy Lynn, Layne Miller, Nancy Mason, Nina Bowen and Troy Scotter***

# New Research Conducted On Giant Rock Art Figures In Central Mexico

*Editor's note:* The following press release was submitted by Carol Patterson.

A team of archaeologists and scientists from Mexico, Argentina, Australia and New Zealand is revealing that the giant human and animal figures painted on rocks in the Sierra de Guadalupe, Baja California Sur, Mexico are at least 6500 years old. This is long before the Aztecs established their culture in the valley of central Mexico and at least a thousand years before other rock paintings were made in North America. The research is financed by the National Council of Science and Technology of Mexico (CONACYT), the National Institute of Anthropology and History (INAH) and the National Geographic Society.

Rock shelters in Baja California are well known for the fabulously spectacular paintings of giant humans and animals, mostly in red and black, but also in white and yellow. These greater than life-size figures have never been previously dated. Little information is known of their association with material cultural objects of the hunter-gatherers who lived in this region for many years before the Spanish conquest.

The team leader, Maria de la Luz Gutierrez, an INAH archaeologist and specialist in the rock art of the central Sierras of Baja California, says that “these dating results for the Sierra de Guadalupe confirm the great antiquity and World Heritage significance of the giant mural paintings which have been recognized by UNESCO in the adjacent Sierra de San Francisco.”

The ages for the paintings were obtained from small samples collected in 2001 by Dr Alan Watchman, a geoscientist at the Australian National University, and an internationally recognized specialist in the direct dating of rock art. The samples were processed at the Rafter Radiocarbon Laboratory in New Zealand. Thirty-one radiocarbon age determinations have so far been made with several paintings giving ages of more than 5000 years, and one of 6500. A series of age determinations for other large paintings indicate a long tradition of rock painting by prehistoric people in Baja California. The great ages for these paintings surpass the previous estimates obtained by earlier researchers.

Rock carvings in the same region have also been dated at 3700 years and these are the first results for petroglyphs in Mexico. The presence of these ancient paintings and carvings within the central Baja peninsula is regarded by Dr Marisabel Hernandez Llosas, an archaeologist and international specialist in rock art of the National Council of Science and Technology of Argentina (CONICET), as indicating territorial marks and expressions of religious beliefs and social relationships of hunter-gatherer people.

Before the team started work in 2001 only ninety sites with paintings were known and now their systematic research has discovered more than 320 sites. The painted rock shelters are located in rugged terrain within spectacularly steep and pristine canyons. The types of painted figures range from male and female humans, different species of deer, fish, mountain lion and sheep, and small animals, birds and various rectangular patterns.

The current field campaign is extending the range of investigations previously undertaken with the aim of determining the spatial and temporal distributions of the paintings. The on-going project is devoted to differentiating episodes and periods of paintings with the goal of establishing changes in the functions of sites, different regional territories and variations in ideology through time. The research team believes that more archaeological discoveries, and older paintings and carvings will be found during the present project. They believe that the scientific investigations justify an extension of the World Heritage area beyond the present boundaries so that these precious ancient relics of Mexico are properly protected and preserved for future generations.

*Don't Forget The URARA Christmas Party December 11*

# *Legislation Would Protect Nevada Rock Art From City Encroachment*

By Keith Rogers  
Las Vegas Review-Journal  
*Used with permission*

Five years ago, when archaeologists catalogued the gallery of American Indian rock art in a canyon south of Las Vegas, bulldozers were just beginning to carve roads for nearby neighborhoods.

The rock art symbols etched in basalt by generations of a dozen different tribes represent a span of American Indian heritage from about 900 years ago to the late 1800s. Some depict rifle-wielding cowboys on horseback as they were seen, perhaps as early as 1829. That's when Antonio Armijo, a New Mexican trader, journeyed from Abiquiu, near what is now Santa Fe, through the south Las Vegas Valley.

One hundred seventy-three years later, as Henderson continues its rapid growth, the fate of the 1,700 Sloan Canyon images hinges on an act of Congress that Nevada leaders hope has come in time to protect the state's largest collection of petroglyphs from vandalism and urban encroachment.

On Friday, the unanimously approved, bipartisan Clark County Conservation of Public Land and Natural Resources Act was sent to the White House for President Bush's signature. It was the only public lands measure passed by Congress this session out of some 130 proposed.

Bush has 10 days to sign the sweeping lands bill. When he does, and Nevada leaders have said he will, the Sloan Canyon National Conservation Area will spring into existence, triggering a three-year process by the Bureau of Land Management to develop and finalize a plan for managing what amounts to a 48,438-acre buffer zone for the rock art.

Creation of the conservation area has been a long-sought goal of Sen. Harry Reid, D-Nev., whose staff spent two years developing that part of the bill.

"Doing nothing was not a solution for protecting this place," said one congressional staff member who helped craft the legislation.

The intent of Congress, he said, was to build a visitors center in Henderson to educate people about the petroglyphs so they understand the importance of preservation. Volunteer docents would be available to guide visitors on tours and prevent accidental damage of the site, the aide said.

The bill calls for the auction of some 500 acres adjacent to the conservation area within a year, with the proceeds providing a nest egg for building and operating facilities for the area.

"It's a win-win situation," said Scott Higginson, a consultant for Del Webb Corp., a division of Pulte Homes and developer of Sun City Anthem, the Henderson community projected to build up to 10,000 homes in view of the planned conservation area.

"It makes sense," he said, that the 500 acres "would likely be an extension of the Anthem community."

As part of a zoning agreement, Del Webb provided Henderson with \$500,000 to build a trail system in the area. The city also has access to funds generated through public lands auctions to build trails on another right-of-way provided in the lands act. Neither of the trail systems are supposed to access the Sloan petroglyphs.

On a visit to Sloan Canyon last week, Tim O'Brien, manager of Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area on the west side of the valley, said the BLM would launch a wide-ranging process to attempt to strike a balance between protecting Sloan Canyon's cultural and natural resources and keeping the area accessible to the public.

"The process isn't going to be done in a vacuum," O'Brien said on his first trip to the petroglyphs



since becoming Red Rock Canyon's manager three months ago. "It's impressive," O'Brien said. "Just the canyon itself. Then you start adding rock art and the history. We want people to see these areas. We want to get people involved and find solutions for the best ways to manage it."

According to the bill, the purpose of the Sloan Canyon National Conservation Area is "to conserve, protect, and enhance for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations the cultural, archaeological, natural wilderness" and other resources.

BLM district archaeologist Stanton Rolf said American Indians associated with the site are primarily the Yuman-speaking tribes along the Colorado River. Development of any plan for the conservation area will rely heavily on their input, he said.

The setting, with the petroglyphs, remnants of rock blinds for hunting bighorn sheep and smoothed rock surfaces for grinding food, indicates the canyon has been a special place in American Indian culture for centuries.

"The images themselves are very unique in the Southern Great Basin," Rolf said.

Mike Carey, president of the Sun City Anthem Hiking Club, said walking through the canyon is like taking a hike through history.

"This has been an education," he said.

Carey said he hopes the club can help ensure the canyon's spectacular etchings stay intact.

"We're more interested in the protection of this to make sure this is preserved," he said.

## **Dampier petroglyphs: urgent call for help**

The Dampier Archipelago in the Pilbara region of north-western Australia features what is regarded as the world's largest concentration of petroglyphs. It also possesses a major corpus of standing stones, similar to megalithic monuments in Europe, probably the largest such occurrence in Australia. This outstanding body of Aboriginal rock art is considered to be the greatest non-European cultural heritage property in Australia, and is thus one of the major heritage sites in the world. Estimates of the number of petroglyphs by different researchers have ranged from 250,000 to over one million figures. The main concentration is on Murujuga, which the government named Burrup Peninsula in 1979, extinguishing the traditional Aboriginal name. Among these petroglyphs are depictions of the thylacine or Tasmanian tiger, a marsupial that has been extinct on the Australian mainland for millennia, but was exterminated by British settlers in Tasmania only in the 1930s.

The Aboriginal inhabitants of Murujuga, the Yaburara clan, were almost annihilated in the Flying Foam Massacre and other events of 1868, which resulted in only six survivors. To this day, the state government of Western Australia has not handed back the rock art to their descendants who are currently in court demanding the return of their cultural sites.

Not only does this government fail to return the sacred sites it has stolen from their rightful owners, it has despoiled them by turning the tiny peninsula into a wasteland. Major industrial facilities were established in the remote archipelago during the 1960s and again in the 1980s. To top it off, current plans by the Western Australian government of further extensions to this industrial complex designate 38% of the entire land area to be occupied by petrochemical plants.

To see the gravity of this state vandalism in proper perspective, it must be appreciated that the region in question is one of the least populated in the world, with vast tracts of land nearby that are totally unoccupied. Murujuga comprises no mineral deposits, oil or gas, it consists largely of huge rock piles on which the rock art occurs. A great expanse of land called the Maitland Heavy Industry Estate has been set aside on the nearby mainland, specifically for the purpose of accommodating the overflow of industrial development, but the present government refuses to locate new industry in this area.

Two recent studies (Bednarik 2002; Vinnicombe 2002) have presented substantial evidence of systematic neglect and destruction of the rock art on Murujuga (Burrup). At present levels of atmospheric pollution, many

of the petroglyphs will disappear during the second half of the 21st century. However, if the emissions are trebled, as proposed by the government, it will greatly accelerate the process, and scientific data predict that the rock art will begin to disappear by about 2030. Already degradation of the rock patina, on which the petroglyphs depend for their continued existence, has become evident, but the new industries will add dozens of millions of tons of acidic gases.

In February 2002, the International Federation advised the state government of Western Australia that further degradation and destruction of the Dampier rock art would not be tolerated. Since then there has been a great deal of correspondence with the Premier of the state and four of his ministers, by both IFRAO and AURA. Legally the state government is responsible for the protection and preservation of the state's cultural heritage. In relation to the petroglyphs of the Dampier Archipelago, it has consistently abrogated its responsibility and has asked various companies operating at Dampier to take responsibility for the rock art. This has been the case since I rediscovered and reported the Dampier rock art 35 years ago. The government's continuing refusal to accept its legal responsibility has left IFRAO with no choice but to campaign to save the Dampier rock art. We request that the new industrial development, which is of massive magnitude (involving many billions of dollars), be located at Maitland, the alternative site, and that the Dampier Archipelago be returned to Aboriginal possession with the condition that it be leased to the Federal Government as a National Park. This would mean that the state government would lose control over the area.

Our plan has the support of all stakeholders other than the state government and the large companies, about a dozen of them. Nearly the entire local population supports it, partly because people fear the increased level of pollution, but also because the region's residents admire the rock art and feel that it should be allowed to survive. The National Trust of Australia has declared Murujuga an "Endangered Site", and if the area can be excised from the control of the state government it will be nominated for World Heritage listing. Our plan has the complete support of the environmentalist movement, and of many politicians from the entire spectrum. ICOMOS has now also written to the Premier of Western Australia on this matter, as have numerous prominent international scholars.

I need to emphasize that this is not a confrontation between those who are for or against development. None of the parties opposes the proposed industry as such, they merely want it located away from the Aboriginal rock art sites. It has become evident that the Premier of Western Australia and his advisers believe that the rest of the world does not care what happens to the rock art in some remote semi-desert location. This seems to be the government's main motivation, plus the attitude that sovereignty over the land grants it the right to do as it pleases. Perhaps it is time to remind the government of Western Australia of how it acquired this sovereignty back in 1868: by state-sanctioned 'pacification'. In 2002 we have state-sanctioned cultural vandalism at the same location where the Yaburara were once massacred.

This is a call to all readers of *Vestiges* to help IFRAO convince the government that the rest of the world does care about this rock art. There are two ways to do this:

1. Visit <http://mc2.vicnet.net.au/users/dampier/index.html>, scroll to the AURA/IFRAO Petition and enter your name as a signatory, preferably with your own commentary.

2. Write directly to the Premier of Western Australia, preferably on an official letterhead, and tell him what you think about his treatment of the world's greatest petroglyph site. His address is:

Dr Geoff Gallop MLA  
Premier of Western Australia  
197 St George's Terrace  
Perth, W.A. 6000  
Australia

**Robert G. BEDNARIK**

IFRAO - P.O. Box 216, Caulfield South, Vic. 3162, Australia  
E-mail: [auraweb@hotmail.com](mailto:auraweb@hotmail.com)

# Alex Apostolides Fights To Protect New Mexico Rock Art

By Umut Newbury

New Mexico Current-Argus Staff Writer

*Used With Permission*

OTERO MESA - One of the quieter issues of last week's midterm election in New Mexico was about whether to open Otero Mesa - some 460,000 acres of public lands southwest of Carlsbad - to oil and gas exploration.

Democratic Gov.-elect Bill Richardson opposed such development of the area during debates and at his rallies.

During the election campaign, Republican gubernatorial candidate John Sanchez told voters in Alamogordo he would support oil and gas leasing in Otero Mesa because of heightened national security concerns.

In the final television debate, Green Party candidate David Bacon said oil and gas revenue from Otero Mesa could help fund research of renewable energy resources in New Mexico.

Sen. Pete Domenici, R-N.M, and both candidates for the 2nd Congressional District, Steve Pearce and John Arthur Smith, also favored opening the wilderness area to oil and gas companies, citing the economic development needs of southeastern New Mexico.

Still, this last stretch of the Chihuahuan Desert, a 2-hour drive from Carlsbad, has defenders who believe the Bureau of Land Management should turn the grasslands of Otero Mesa into 19 wilderness areas instead of drilling it for energy resources.

Recently, Coalition for Otero Mesa members from Carlsbad, Las Cruces, El Paso and Albuquerque met at the grasslands to discuss ways to get their voices heard.

"This needs extraordinary measures," said Stephen Capra, media coordinator for the Albuquerque-based New Mexico Wilderness Alliance. "This place is in a difficult position, and it is going to be a multi-step process."

Capra urged Otero Mesa visitors to not only write to senators and representatives, but to make appointments with their staff to discuss the issue in person.

Steve West, a Carlsbad High School biology teacher and member of Carlsbad's Chihuahuan Desert Conservation Alliance, spoke to the group about the biological and ecological significance of Otero Mesa.

"When people think of all the unique spots, this place is just as rich as the Everglades," he said.

West said Otero Mesa's ecological makeup has changed over the years, quoting from U.S. Army Capt. John Pope's expedition diaries.

A Feb. 23, 1854, entry in Pope's diary about Otero Mesa reads, "The water is situated on the north face of



*URARA member Alex Apostolides, an archaeologist from El Paso, points to an Apache petroglyph at Alamo Mountain in Otero Mesa. Apostolides said the ecological and historical characteristics of the Greater Otero Mesa Area make it a must to protect it. One of the many Apache petroglyphs, located in the foothills of Alamo mountain in Otero Mesa, tells the story of a family's migration from the area.*

(Alamo) mountain, about a half a mile from the road ... Indeed it cannot be mistaken, as there are a few cottonwood trees near the springs, and nowhere else in the vicinity.”

Alamo Mountain no longer has a spring or cottonwood trees, but Otero Mesa is still worth protecting, West said.

“It’s not to say that it hasn’t already been altered, but if we’ve lost some of it, that doesn’t mean we shouldn’t protect what we have,” he said.

Grasslands across the nation are endangered, West said, and Otero Mesa is home to a diversity of plants and wildlife species.

“The pronghorn antelope herd here is the last in New Mexico,” he said.

West said Otero Mesa is also prime habitat for both endangered and sensitive bird species such as the bald eagle, golden eagle and the Aplamado falcon.

“Of all groups of birds, grasslands birds are declining the fastest,” he said. “I’ve given a lot of tours in this area that were very depressing.”

Development by the oil and gas industry - specifically roads, pipelines, power lines and toxic waste ponds - would disrupt the ecological balance, West said.

“People who want to drill here are motivated by greed,” he said.

In its initial environmental impact statement, the BLM had three alternatives for Otero Mesa, each promoting oil and gas development.

“They didn’t have a no-drilling option,” West said. “But this is public land, and the people in the U.S. have as much right to say what they want with this as much as the BLM. People just need to say, No, we don’t want this.”

Alex Apostolides, an archaeologist from El Paso, said the two mountains in Otero Mesa - Alamo and Wind Mountain - also are home to ancient Native American petroglyphs that date back 5,000 years.

“This is not a thing of whether you’d like to preserve it. You have to preserve it,” he said. “There are petroglyphs almost every step of the way along the foothills of the mountain.”

Greta Balderrama, grassroots organizer for the New Mexico Wilderness Alliance, said Alamo Mountain was designated as an area of critical environmental concern by the BLM because of the wide cactus variety.

“The mountain is safe, but as soon as it flattens, there is no protection from development,” she said. “The flatlands are a part of the Chihuahuan Desert grassland. There is no evidence this area can be reclaimed.”

Ron Eagan, another CHS biology teacher and coach, said although he is a Republican, he disagrees with most of the state’s GOP politicians about Otero Mesa.

“There is no compelling reason to drill out here. This is not the last place in New Mexico to explore for gas and oil,” he said. “It’s a place worth saving and preserving like it is. It’s unique.”

As a hunter, Eagan said he believes in conservation of deer and birds.

*The Bureau of Land Management in Price is pushing to have Range Creek and the Waldo Wilcox Ranch designated an ACEC (Area of Critical Environmental Concern) to help protect the cultural resources found there. Please send your letters of support for the idea to: Bureau Of Land Managment Price Field Office, 125 South 600 West, Price Utah 84501, attn: Floyd Johnson. Include in your letter your support for the ACEC and the reasons why the area should be protected. Please write a letter immediately.*

*Layne Miller  
Vestiges Editor*

# Group Works To Protect Rock Art

By Debby Babillo

Bakersfield Californian correspondent

*Used with permission*

EAST KERN — For thousands of years, the scrubby desert canyons of eastern Kern County have hidden and protected pictographs created by the Kawaiisu, indigenous people who first made their home here.

The pictographs, images drawn with paint on stone, have become part of a crusade for some. One spot in particular, out in the nowhere land between Rosamond and Tehachapi, has attracted a small band of Southern California allies who have decided it's time to protect it from vandals or careless visitors.

The site consists of one large pictograph on a boulder and a smaller one nearby, as well as mortars used to mix the paints. Although the painting is estimated to be more than 3,000 years old, David Laughing Horse Robinson, chairman of the Kawaiisu tribe, puts the actual age at about 56,700 years. Robinson has been studying indigenous calendar systems.

The painting is a calendar site, documenting a specific astrological moment, Robinson said. The painting documents cycles of time, including tracking the planet's "wobble" as well as the turn of its axis. A wobble occurs every 25,000 years, he said.

The large pictograph depicts two cycles of the wobble of the earth, Robinson said.

The calendars of the Aztecs, Mayas, and Incas coordinate with the calendars developed in North America, including the Kawaiisus', Robinson said. Those calendars are still in effect, he added.

"We still (have this knowledge), we just haven't disclosed it yet," Robinson said. "That's why it's important. It's not prehistory, it's history. "You hear the anthropologist's side, but not the Indian side."

Robinson, 48, was elected in August to his fourth term as chairman of the Kawaiisu, whose members have dwindled over the past couple of hundred years from 50,000 to 150.

The large pictograph holds a lot of ungathered astronomical and cultural data, making it imperative to protect it for the future because "all we've got left is the rocks," Robinson said.

Robinson is not alone in his crusade to save the site.

Claudia Rae, a member of The Keeper of the Sacred Paintings Foundation in Los Angeles, is spreading the word about the pictograph and trying to organize fund-raisers to set up some kind of "Be Careful" sign or fence at the site.

The late artist Charles LaMonk did a painting of the pictograph in the mid-1950s, and the foundation is negotiating with the Southern California Archeological Survey Society to create and sell reproductions of the LaMonk painting, which the archeological group now owns.

Rae and others tell of dirt bike riders shooting guns near the paintings, or souvenir hunters chipping off bits of the rock. There's also evidence that someone tried to haul away a stone paint mortar, which now has a large hole partially dug under it.

"I've heard that one time a group ... once camped right next to the rock and smudged it with their campfire smoke," Rae said. "I mean there's just all this stupid stuff."

Rae was first taken to the site four years ago by her "adopted father" Chief Gray Wolf, a Chitimacha originally from Louisiana, who has visited the site since 1933. They believe the site has healing power.

Others also feel the pictograph's pull, either as a spiritual focal point or a place of peace.

"It gets me through life," said Rosamond resident Jim Holzer. He and his friend Gary Palm, also of Rosamond, have hiked up to the pictograph for 15 years.

They joke about being "two white guys" trying to save an American Indian site, but they're serious about

how important it is.

They're encouraged to learn about the foundation's efforts, as well as a possible plan that would make the site part of the Tomo-Kahni State Park in the Tehachapi Mountains.

"The vibe's there, the energy, it's all coming together with people wanting to save it," Palm said. "I want my grandchildren to see it."

But although some are ready to tell the world about the site, others hesitate to go public for fear of causing more destruction to the site.

State Assemblyman Phil Wyman, who represents the 34th District, is reluctant to see the site mentioned in print because he doesn't want it destroyed by people rushing to behold this cultural treasure.

However, he noted there is a preliminary plan to acquire the private property that holds the pictographs and perhaps include it as part of a planned expansion of the Tomo-Kahni State Park, which is located on 240 acres.

Wyman is pursuing a plan to purchase 160 acres near Highway 58 in the Capital Hills area and develop it as a visitor center with interpretive displays on Kawaiisu culture. An American Indian language linguistic center is also part of the plan.

Wyman said he's working with state archeologists to determine the best course for preserving the site.

## *Petroglyph National Monument Update*

There has been new road construction on the mesa top above Boca Negra Canyon, the developed area of the park. Albuquerque mayor, Martin Chavez, allowed construction of the paved road to commence without public review or any type of announcement because the developers paid for the access. Sage Council [<http://www.sagecouncil.org/petroglyphs.html>] is a very active group with these types of matters and they were among the protesters attempting to stop the machinery.

It was a very sad day for all of us here when we discovered that construction had begun, which will allow for a new housing development on the mesa top abutting the petroglyphs. This will alter the natural flow of water to the petroglyphs, cut them off from the volcanoes, increase erosion of the escarpment, and contribute to the overall encroachment of the petroglyphs. This road essentially paves the way for our petroglyph park to be surrounded with no buffer zone.

I should make it clear that this road is not the infamous Paseo del Norte road. This is a smaller road further south that will provide access for developers to build homes on the mesa top and increase traffic flows through the Boca Negra canyon section of Petroglyph National Monument.

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**Petroglyph National Monument**

Judith Cordova, Superintendent

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Albuquerque, NM 87120

Received from Dara Saville

# Symposium Evaluations Released

Your comments will assist us in crafting a more informative and rewarding symposium for our members. Additional comments are welcome.

## 1. Do you have a suggestion for the location for the 2003 Symposium?

“Blanding.”

“Cedar City/St. George.”

“Blanding or Monticello.”

“Richfield, Kanab in October, St. George.”

“Cortez, CO or Blanding.”

“Escalante.”

“Hanksville.”

“Kanab.”

“Bluff, Monticello, Green River.”

“Hanksville.”

“Reno, Nevada.”

“Don’t care but sometime outside a rainy season for the area, not summer heat, not snowy; good luck; holiday weekend needed.”

“Blanding.”

“I would assume that those people putting on the symposium did as good as they could given the available resources.”

“Vernal or Price? Haven’t been to Richfield for a while. I think it would be fun to have it in Hanksville one of these years.”

## 2. Do you have any suggestions concerning the Field Trips?

“As many as possible.”

“Repeat most of the 2002 trips, there are so many nice sites that it is hard to choose between them. (focus on Utah sites rather than Az. and Nv.)”

“They were terrific.”

“Prior to field trips have meeting with trip leaders to review and make sure they understand trip leader’s guide (two-way radios, etiquette, respect site.)”

“Like them the way they are.”

“Northern Grand Canyon.”

“Trips to Kaibab Piute Reservation led by Paiutes.”

“Various Cedar Mesa and Comb Ridge trips.”

“Good job on limiting number of people on field trips.”

“Training for trip leaders so that there is a consistent method – apparently a handout for trip leaders is not enough (five points for trip leaders were included).”

“Add another half day block to allow seeing more sites.”

“Some local self doing sites on a list/map, etc.”

“Since I’m a stranger to this part of the country, would like to see – need – better instructions to the meeting location.”

“Publicize the nature of the trips in Vestiges. Give specific directions – if streets, gas stations, etc. (*illegible*) named – also include the towns, highway, etc.”

**3. The 2002 Symposium departed from past symposia by featuring two important scholars in rock art rather than one keynote speaker. With the possibility of (non-profit) public funding, URARA would be able to increase the number of significant symposium speakers and, at the same time, reduce the registration fee to symposium participants. Do you favor soliciting more scholarly speakers (4 to 5), about the same number (2 to 3), or return to mostly amateur (0 to 1)?**

“2 – 3.”

“3 scholarly speakers, don’t exclude the amateurs.”

“2 is plenty.”

“2 – 3, speakers were great.”

“2 – 3.”

“4 – 5.”

“2 – 3.”

“Scholarly speakers, whether amateur or professional.”

“Increase scholarly speakers, see #6 below.”

“Solicit more scholarly speakers, especially like the Art Historian.”

“4 – 5, yes – very interesting and refreshing to hear other informed points-of-view.”

“More scholarly.”

“4 – 5.”

“4 – 5.”

“4 – 5, more scholarly.”

“Favor to keeping featured speakers to 2 – 3.”

“About the same – 2 to 3.”

“I think I like the invited scholarly papers at the symposium rather than a banquet speaker. Banquet speaker plus the auction is too much. Two or three (featured speakers) are fine. It’s a good way to foster interaction between the amateur community and academia.”

**4. For the last two symposia, a panel discussion on Public Lands and Rock Art has been presented. Do you favor the continuation of such a panel? Do you have any suggestions concerning panelists, topics, or structure?**

“If in St. George, again, include Park Service representative.”

“Cultural site management, photography techniques and archiving – digital.”

“It wasn’t a panel, just people sitting down giving lectures.”

“Yes, favor, better public education.”

“Yes, continue panels.”

“Yes, panel was excellent.”

“Yes, favor.”

“Topic: How to set up rock art “branch” groups/organization.”

“I liked the panel presentations, well done, well thought out, interesting and very important.”

“Yes – continue the Public Lands panel discussions but keep it a discussion – not slide shows or being read to (which were nice).”

“Reduce time of the panel presentations and have more discussion time. Reduce total time allotted to the topic.”

**5. What did you value most about the 2002 Symposium?**



“Moving forward on the non-profit status.”  
“Meet old friends and share rock art ideas.”  
“Hearing new papers, not old ones or repeats, great variety, good and bad – doesn’t matter.”  
“Variety of papers.”  
“Quality of presentations much better except for 1 (paper).”  
“More informative, scholarly papers; new information. “  
“Some good talks, some good books for sale, some good field trips.”  
“The scholarly speakers and empirically-based talks.”  
“Quality of papers, the building was good.”  
“James Farmer’s (Art Historian) talk and Ekkehart Malotki’s talk.”  
“Speakers and presentation were more professional for the most part.”  
“Cotton Town Village is a great location – easy access, rooming, very attractive and congruent locale.”  
“Diversity of topics and seeing old friends once a year.”  
“Seeing my old friends, seeing Saturday’s speakers’ slides.”  
“Meeting old friends.”  
“That it was held. November timing is O.K. but September or October is also O.K.”  
“Presentations – especially slides of Range Creek and update of survey.”  
“The indoor presentations were planned for rainy days, and the field trips for sunny beautiful weather. However you arranged this, can you pass it on to next years committee?”

### **Suggestions:**

“Thank you for your hard work organizing such an excellent symposium. Please ask people to identify the locations of their discussions with a map if possible as to where in a state the rock art is – e.g., Long Lake, Elaine’s southern Nevada, not just say so and so canyon or creek – mention the nearest towns for example.”  
“Shouldn’t charge vendors for tables.”  
“Would have been nice to publish the start time in the newsletter.”  
“All indications I get are that unless you are one of the “in” group, you are on the outside – i.e., the time of the Symposium was only known by the “in” group. Also, to begin with – how do you join URARA without knowing whom to ask? The membership list is a big help.”  
“Quality of vendors is much better than in past symposia. Continue the vendor policy.”  
“I heard people grumble about the lighting in the barn. Well, its not the Hilton, but the price is right. The committee did a great job of keeping the cost down. And, people grumbled about the short notice on the final program and field trip schedules, and the fact that this info wasn’t in Vestiges. Particularly, it appears that the unwired and those folks on the road the week before didn’t get the final announcements. Maybe we can work of this next year.”

Additional comments and opinions can be sent to David Sucec, Vice President, 832 Sego Avenue, Salt lake City, Utah 84102. (801) 359-6904, email address: [davids@networld.com](mailto:davids@networld.com)

## **Final Symposium Chair Comments**

Perhaps we were good luck to St. George and Washington and we brought the rain. Although it was inconvenient for getting around, at first, and a couple of field trips had to be cancelled because of muddy roads, at least no one had to eat dust during the field trip drives.

Your Symposium Chair, me, failed to make it on time to start the Sunday morning program (my alarm failed to ignite, really). Members, unknown to me, got everything set up (not an easy task considering

everything was taken down for the Saturday night banquet) and ready to start by the time I arrived on the scene. I want to thank those members for their efforts.

First, to Al and Annette Scholl, our principal contact in St. George. Al and Annette researched and secured the meeting site in Cotton Town Village. Al did a terrific job on the field trips – a diplomatic task as well as time consuming. Annette was a gracious hostess for the Friday Night Social for the early arrivals. She provided a generous spread and hot chocolate, which was welcomed amid the heaviest downpour that St. George has experienced for quite a while. Annette also helped with the refreshments, and probably other things, during the Symposium.

Margaret Grochocki also helped out everywhere her assistance was needed. Jan Gorski put together our new vendor policy, which resulted in the best quality objects and images that I've seen at any symposium in the last six years. Jan also had the difficult task of explaining the new policy, which included a fee of \$25 per table for commercial vendors.

Craig Barney video taped the presentations and the tapes, when transposed to VHS, will be made available for lending to members who were unable to attend the symposium or wish to study the presentations further.

Troy Scotter was responsible for the smooth running of registration (although he could have used some additional help). Troy took care of the prior and on-site registrations, designed and printed the name tags, assisted with the flyer, manned the lap top to keep track of everything, and took care of the finances. Along with John Macumber, he made sure that the non-profit information and copies of the new by-laws and articles of incorporation were available to members.

Thanks to Craig Bowen for reviewing URARA's 2002 field trips and activities (with Nina's assistance, of course) during the Sunday night social.

To all those others who informally grabbed a chair, switched off, or on, the lights, bid on auction items, purchased from the vendors, or helped with any of the many tasks that needed to be completed – thanks!

We are at least ten months away from the 2003 Symposium. Please, if you have not; volunteer your comments and points-of-view concerning all aspects of the symposium and field trips. You can send them, postal or email, to me.

It was personally gratifying to see the favorable response to the increase of featured speakers. Seventeen out of 18 respondents want to see two to three or more featured or scholarly speakers. Only one response preferred going back to one featured speaker. On the other hand, eight responses prefer four to five or more scholarly speakers per symposium.

Diversity of topics, new papers and information rather than "old ones or repeats," was also frequent preference valued by the respondents.

Meeting and seeing old friends was important to several respondents as well as a desire for more free time during the program schedule. Perhaps the next symposium should have fewer presenters and more time, between blocks of papers, so that more socializing and exchange of ideas can occur.

There was also some concern about the "lack of advance information" about the symposium. To a great extent, the problem falls on me. I did not get all of the information together early enough to get everything into the October Vestiges. Sometimes this was out of my control but sometimes I just did not foresee how complicated it would be to coordinate all of the symposium parts and participants and the amount of time to wrap things up.

However, over all, I agree with many – it was a good symposium (rain and mud, faulty alarm clock, and all).

David Sucec

Symposium Chair

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