

VESTIGES



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Monthly newsletter of URARA, the Utah Rock Art Research Association

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President's Message

"Who's the enemy?" That was the question asked of me a couple of weeks ago. I don't like to think in those terms. With the exception of a few dedicated looters there is no one acting with malicious intent towards rock art and archeology. Rather, we have a confluence of issues that make me very nervous about the preservation of rock art.

Last month, I talked about how the growing population of the western states combined with new attitudes and new technology pose difficulties for rock art preservation. This month I want to talk about the threats from business and government.

The primary issue is that increased prices for petroleum and uranium are encouraging development of these resources in Utah. In addition, we have a federal government that is encouraging development on public lands. Our state government is also acting in ways that may undermine the protection of cultural resources.

Let me be specific.

- Recently petroleum lease sales that would have allowed development immediately adjacent to Hovenweep National Monument and Parowan Gap were repealed after public outcry. But lease sales and development continue throughout Utah.
- I've been told that the number of permit requests for uranium is at a high not seen in 30 years.
- One of the legacies of the uranium industry is the Moab tailings pile. Located immediately next to the Colorado River, this radioactive waste is a federal government Superfund site. There is a proposal to move this waste to Crescent Junction, a location of some nice rock art.
- The rumor is that there will be a proposal for gas development in Nine Mile Canyon, on a scale that dwarfs previous proposals. One person said: "Nine Mile is lost, focus your attention on Range Creek so the same thing doesn't happen there."
- Coal bed methane and oil shale are other resources that are abundant in Utah's backcountry.
- The federal government wants to stimulate the economy and reduce dependence on foreign petroleum reserves. To do this a proposed energy bill, that has passed the house but not the senate, would significantly reduce the number of projects that require environmental assessment. Bill Barrett Corporation Vice President Duane Zavadil is quoted as saying: "The legislation could prove to be a real benefit...if not a majority, near a majority of the company's projects would come under the environment exemptions in the energy bill." Bill

Barrett Corporation is the company that is proposing development in the Nine Mile Canyon area.

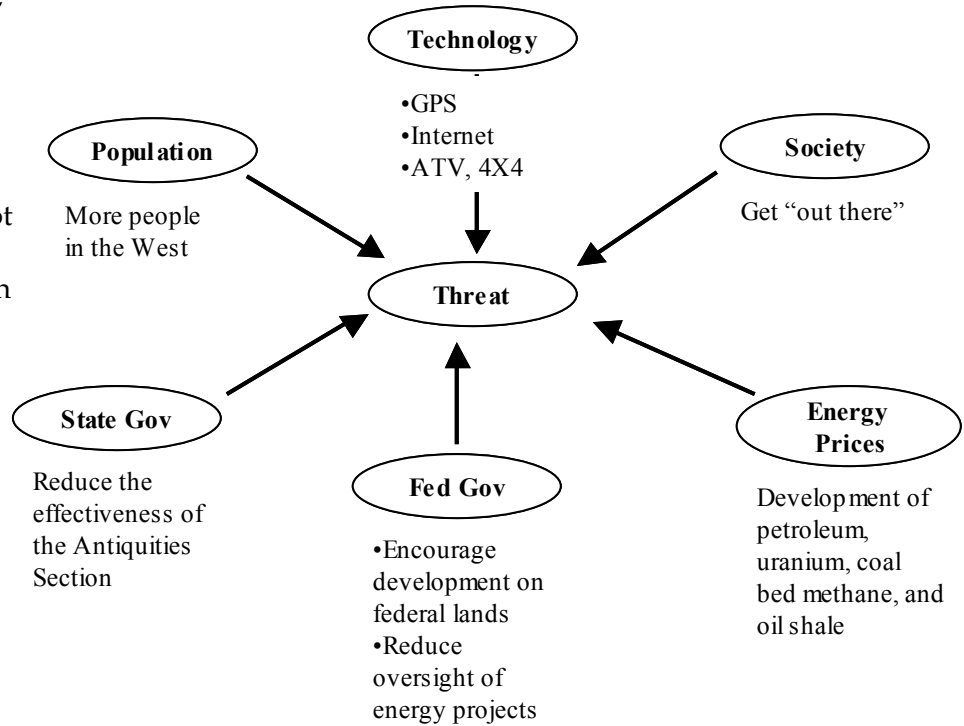
- In the Utah state government, House Bill 308, which is currently under study, has several implications. Dorde Woodruff, in the May 2005 Vestiges, wrote about part of the bill that moves the Antiquities Section. I am even more worried about the part of the legislation which requires Antiquities to provide options that do “not substantially increase the cost of the proposed undertaking.” In other words, “how do we do what we want to do, without paying for preservation of cultural resources?”

If you put it all together, there is a very real threat to cultural and environmental resources. I am not anti-development. I have many friends in the petroleum industry and have done a lot of work in that industry. I appreciate being able to turn on my furnace in January and put reasonably priced gasoline in my car. The issue for me is not to develop, but how to develop in a reasonable manner.

When I lived in Calgary, I used to audit an oil and gas company that specialized in exploration and

development in the far north. Costs of working in this environment were extreme. Millions of dollars were spent just to get roads to their drill sites. The company did not say “it is too expensive to work in this environment, we will go somewhere else.” Rather they made rational economic decisions about current costs and potential future rewards. I take much the same approach to development on public lands. Public lands are held in trust for all of us; those who appreciate wilderness, the people who like rock art, and those who would like economic benefit from them. It should be more expensive to drill on public lands, but that is appropriate to protect the lands for all of the interested parties who have a right to them.

Troy Scotter
2005 URARA President



FieldTrip Reports

URARA Comb Ridge Trip, Sunday, May 08, 2005

Leaders: Ray Freeze and Carol Georgopoulos

By Carol Georgopoulos,

We had two days of glorious weather. We spent Saturday in "lower" Butler Wash, below highway 163, and Sunday in Comb Ridge.

Participants were Pam & Quent Baker, Claudia Berner, Carl Gutnecht, Carolyn Kercheck, Marv Poulson, Bob & Carol Reed, John Sarracino, Jack Scaparro (a new member from New York), and Greg & Renée Spanuth, along with group leaders Ray Freeze and Carol Georgopoulos. Dell [Crandall] lurked in the background.



Some of the group in Butler Wash - Photo Quent Baker

One of the Comb Ridge sites - Photo Carol Georgopoulos



Caliente, Nevada, Field Trip, April 23, 24... and on....

Leaders: Inga Nagel, Margaret Grochocki

By Dorde Woodruff,

Participants in addition to the Leaders were Albert and Zella Copley, Vera Currie, John and Jann Dillon, Barbara Green, Marilyn Macumber, Lois Mansfield, Jim Olive and Dorde Woodruff

Skillfully led by Inga Nagel and Margaret Grochocki, this trip to eastern Nevada is surprisingly varied, to those who don't know it, from the high Great Basin slopes of Mt. Irish, to valleys with wet meadows, lakes, and hot springs, to hot, dry Mohave mesas.

We met Friday night at the comfortable Cathedral Gorge State Park campground outside Panaca. However, it seems like all the rain the Southwest didn't get in the last five years is coming down this spring. That made it difficult for the field trips to proceed as planned.

Our first site (*right*), is one of the famous Great Basin long-time habitations with thousands of years of stratified deposits. It was excavated in the 30s.

It was the height of spring at this latitude and elevation, and the wildflowers included a hillside of thriving Purple Sage, *Salvia dorrii*, as in Zane Gray's *Riders of the Purple Sage*.

All night Saturday it rained. After most of us met for breakfast in Caliente Sunday morning in the rain, with things to do and places to go, most scattered in all directions like a covey of



Photo: Dorde Woodruff



Photo: Inga Nagel

baby quail, not wanting to wait out a rain day for the optional Monday. The four of us remaining, Inga, Barbara Green, Jim, and myself, toured the quaint semi-ghost town of Pioche with its antique shops and two museums. Then we drove east to Echo Canyon Reservoir with its striking columnar lava cliffs, past a pioneer register in axle grease from the late 1800s, and then semi-lost, we ended up in the small town of Eagle Valley, where we found Farrel and Manetta Lytle at home. We talked about Farrel's ongoing study of X-ray Fluorescence (XRF) dating of petroglyphs; and he gave us a personal presentation of a paper he'd just given at the annual meeting of the Nevada Archaeological Association, on eastern Nevada archeoastronomical sites.



Pahranagat Man holds an atlatl. Photo: Dorde Woodruff

Upcoming Field Trips

Moab Site Stewardship: June 4

Contact: Pam and Quent Baker, 435-259-5558, pnqbqker@citlink.net

On Saturday, June 4 there will be a meeting in Moab for all people involved in, or interested in becoming involved in, the Moab rock art conservation projects. These projects include site stewardship, site recording, and preparation of a national register nomination for rock art sites.

Come and meet the other participants and bring any questions/problems about your site. We will meet at 3:00 PM at Pam and Quent's house for a general meeting chaired by Donna Turnipseed, Moab District BLM archaeologist. After the meeting we will have a pot-luck allowing time for open discussion, and a slide show by Donna. Please send her any images you have from the Moab recording. She would especially like photos of volunteers working on their sites. She can use slides or digital images. The digital images need to be sent on a CD as BLM computer security won't allow email attachments.

The meeting agenda includes an update on the current recording efforts, site steward projects, and future planning. Donna will present information on the nomination process for a National Register District along the Colorado River corridor near Moab and how URARA could help.

Pam and Quent will provide a chicken dish for the potluck as well as all utensils, plates, etc. Please bring a salad or dessert to share, as well as your libation of choice. You can contact us by leaving a phone message (435-259-5558) or sending an email (pnqbaker@citlink.net).

Mill Creek, Moab, Utah: June 18-19

Leader: Claudia Berner, 435-260-8560, glyphics@preciscom.net

The group will be hiking in the south part of Mill Creek, approximately three to four miles roundtrip. Hiking is moderate with some climbing to the panels. Most of the day we will be exploring. Four wheel drive necessary to get to the trailhead, carpooling encouraged. Sunday we could look at sites along Potash Road.

Range Creek Documentation Project: September 8 - 11.

Contact: Steve Manning (801) 936-4630 sjmanning@yahoo.com

URARA has an opportunity to assist in the Range Creek project this year. Access to the Range Creek area is very difficult, and only by permit this year. So this is an excellent opportunity to see this spectacular area and assist in the documentation of the rock art and other archeology. Participants should be prepared to camp, as there will be limited access to the bunkhouse. You must also be willing to hike and work in difficult conditions and in hot weather. Base camp will be at the Wilcox ranch house where port-a-potties, sunshowers, and meals will be provided.

Participants must commit to the full period of time because we will go in by van, rather than in individual vehicles. No prior experience in documentation is required. This is a good opportunity to develop some new skills!

Lincoln County, Nevada: Rock Art and Touring

By Dorde Woodruff, Photos and Text

Of the great wealth of places with rock art in eastern Nevada's Lincoln County, six are public sites or archeological districts. BLM Fact Sheets explain the White River Narrows and Mt. Irish Archeological Districts, and there are trail guide booklets with maps for two Crystal Wash areas, and Ash Springs. An information sheet on Rainbow Canyon prepared by the Lincoln County Chapter of the Nevada Archaeological Association, assisted by the BLM, contains not only directions to the rock art and historical sites but also a bit of geology, prehistory, and history.

Much but not all of this information is available at the Lincoln County website, www.lincolncountynevada.com/parks.html. This link doesn't always work. If not, go to the Lincoln County homepage www.lincolncountynevada.com/ then to Parks and Points of Interest, then Archeological Sites.



Hardcopy Fact Sheets and pamphlets are available at BLM offices in Ely and Caliente, the usual tourist outlets such as the Nevada state welcome station at the north end of Mesquite (only open until 4 p.m.), the regional information center at the headquarters of Cathedral Gorge State Park, and the museum in downtown Pioche. You could also call or write the BLM Ely Field Office, HC 33 P.O. Box 33500, Ely NV, 89301-9408; phone 775-289-1800.

The Ely BLM website is at www.nv.blm.gov/Ely, but at this writing BLM websites are down due to an ongoing security problem with Indian Trust Lands. They will be coming back online individually, as serious security problems are fixed. You may have to ask for these materials, if only a general publication on rock art with a little explanation and a conservation message is displayed in the racks of information.

Mark Henderson, the BLM Ely District archeologist, is unusually helpful, enthusiastic, and kind about rock art. Although overscheduled, as often happens to BLM archeologists, he feels an obligation to help legitimate public land users. He says his experience has shown him that secrecy doesn't work. A couple of dozen rock art sites in his district are regularly visited, and as resources are available, he wants to make more information on them accessible to interested, responsible people.

Though these six sites are but a taste of Lincoln County rock art, it's a big taste, even quite a full meal, as it would take a few days to see it all. But just a taste compared to what's there – take a look at Nevada Places, www.nevadaplaces.com/files/Petroglyphs/vp1.html and www.nevadaplaces.com/files/PahranagatTrail/PahranagatTrail.html

White River Narrows

The White River Narrows runs parallel to Nevada route 318 north of Hiko, with 7 locations indicated on the map of the archeological district. There are even Fremont glyphs here, among others, on light-colored igneous rock. Here is a northern appearance of Pahranagat Man, a fat creature with solid or stippled body, rectangular, peanut-shaped, or oval, a topknot, straight arms with fingers, and round eyes; legs may have toes or not. See Leigh Marymor's searchable rock art bibliographic database for written material on this and other Lincoln County rock art sites, archived at the Bancroft Library at Berkeley: <http://bancroft.berkeley.edu/collections/rockart/search.html>

Mt. Irish

*Mt. Irish:
scattered sites on
outcrops*

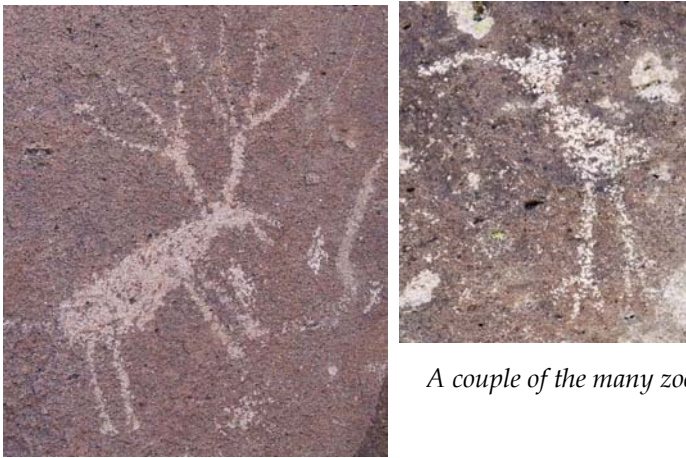


Access this district by turning west on a county road south of the White River Narrows, opposite Nesbitt Lake in the Key-Pittman Wildlife Management Area, and ½ mile north of the Hiko post office sign on Nevada highway 318.

The Patterned Body Anthropomorph (PBA), found at many of the same sites as Pahranaगत Man, is somewhat similar to the distinctive Coso Range anthropomorphs. PBAs are rectangular, with geometric body designs, fringes at the bottom, often holding objects like atlatls; extensions of the sides of the figure form the legs.

The Mt. Irish Archeological District consists of many separate panels or sub-areas over a few square miles on the eastern flank of the range. The BLM Fact Sheet for the district, also the website www.lincolncountynevada.com/images/Maps/MapsMtIrishTopo.pdf has a map of some of the

sites; it would be a good idea to compare this to a larger, better quality map, specifically the USGS 7½' map Mt Irish SE, to help find them. You might want to stay overnight; there's a lot to see here. Superimposition shows that this area was used for a long time. At about 5600', more or less, this is the highest and coolest of these public sites.



A couple of the many zoomorphs at Mt. Irish

Ash Springs

Route 318 intersects Nevada 375, the so-called Extra-Terrestrial Highway, just below Hiko, which, going east, quickly meets US 93 where it turns the corner from E-W to N-S. Just 5 miles south down 93 is Ash Springs. A short drive to the east, up a dirt road just south of the gas station, leads to a BLM register box where you may borrow a trail guide if you don't already have one. There is also rock art above the closed gas station property on the east side of the highway.

Gas is expensive here. The station at Alamo 7 miles south of Ash Springs is where we found the cheapest gas in Lincoln County at \$2.56 a gallon.

Crystal Wash

Going back north on U.S. 93 and to milepost 55, after you turn the corner and are going more or less easterly, is the Crystal Wash area, in very complicated topography, a wilderness of boulders and branch washes.

Here are two trails with a brochure for each, the Entrance and the Main sites. We had only the booklet for the Main Site, and could not find the start of the trail, the markers, or the rock art. The wildflowers were nice, and we did see a house ring.

Henderson says he depends on site stewards or other volunteers to write the booklets and place the trail markers, and does not yet have any site stewards for Crystal Springs. Recently someone took all the trail markers out at Ash Springs and laid them in a pile by the side of the road. Now they're set in concrete. Perhaps something similar happened at Crystal Wash; we couldn't even find the BLM signpost box. When the booklet was developed GPS coordinates weren't commonly available, but now the Ely office has them for these sites. Enquire.

Rainbow Canyon

Then there's Rainbow Canyon. You turn south on Nevada 317 in Caliente for four sites in a very scenic canyon shared by the main line of the Union Pacific as well as Meadow Valley Wash and the highway.

The name Wash belies the volume this major hydrographic feature can carry at times. Much work remains to be done on both the railroad right of way and the highway after the huge January flood, though the highway is passable, with care. (For flood photos, see www.trainweb.org/brettrw/derail/uprr/mvwashout/mvwashout.html.)



Access to Rainbow Canyon, however, will be iffy for a year or two. The first ten miles south of Caliente is in better shape than the second 11 miles to Elgin. It's open for local access, primarily for ranchers. The second 11 miles is rougher, and is a construction zone, though not barricaded nor all of it active (at this writing). When we were there on the URARA trip big earthmovers were working on the railroad right of way just north of Elgin, and being transported on the highway. The highway is fractured or undercut in places, and it could be dangerous to an inattentive driver, or at night. A

BLM employee is reported to have had a narrow escape down there last week.

This information sheet is the hardest one to get. It was at the Nevada tourist center at the north end of Mesquite, and you can ask for it at Cathedral Gorge so they can copy it for you. The rock art sites are online at the Lincoln County website, but the printed information also contains some ranching and railroad information. For natural history buffs, Rainbow Canyon is an interesting Great Basin-Mohave interface, a hotbed of unusual species.

When you can go, the highway ends at Elgin, and a good unpaved road will take you southwest back to US 93 if you wish; the Kane Springs rock art site is along this road; Kane Springs is also a major obsidian source.

Maps used to show that the Rainbow Canyon road continued south to join the Glendale cutoff road, state route 168 between US 93 and I-15. Many but not all Nevada maps have removed it. As it goes south, it becomes the railroad right of way access road, and you would be driving on the coarse, sharp gravel of the trackbed ballast. This is a remote place, closed in, hot and dry in summer – although a very scant amount of traffic does go through, and trains about every hour.

It's so remote and so rough and hard on vehicles that it's possible to have an adventure here; I've done it myself, and had to be (most gratefully) rescued by Union Pacific guys because of a truck breakdown.

When you can access Rainbow Canyon, it's a special place, one of those tucked-away places like Nine Mile Canyon used to be.

Four-wheelers, climbers, summit baggers, birders, ghost town adventurers, railroad buffs (www.trainweb.org/brettrw/maps/calientesub/calientesubmap.html), night sky observers, hunters and anglers, and such love the Lincoln County area; there's a lot to see if you want to go beyond rock art.

If you need more information on the rock art, plan ahead so that you have time to contact Mark Henderson, at 775 289-1884 or mark_henderson@blm.gov. It may require a few days; be persistent. This would also be a rewarding area in which to do volunteer work; one of the things Henderson envisions site stewards doing in the future is helping people find this rock art.

Stormy sunset at the free campground at Upper Pahrnagat Lake. Camping in Lincoln County varies from well-developed state parks to plenty of opportunity for wild camps.



Think About It!



“. . . .rock-art, and the landscape that it sits within, was part of a symbolic system that was at once layered with nuanced meaning, yet was ultimately logical and coherent in its conception. The point of rock-art interpretation, then, is not to despair at the seeming ambiguity that is present in any symbolic system, but instead to find the cognitive keys that give coherency and meaning to the whole.” David S. Whitley, “Finding rain in the desert: landscape, gender and far western North American rock-art”.

The Archaeology of Rock-Art, Edited by Christopher Chippindale and Paul S. C. Taçon, Cambridge University Press, 1998, p.24.

Member Profile: Margaret Grochocki

[Information from “Cedar City Community Update”, March 2005, used with permission.]

Please meet Margaret Grochocki. She is serving as Secretary on the 2005 URARA Board of Directors. Margaret works as the Cedar City [Utah] Grants Coordinator and is responsible for obtaining funds from various outside sources to aid in Cedar City programs. She has worked there for three years. Margaret was recently honored as Employee of the Month by the Cedar City Employee Advisory Council.



She moved to the Cedar City area from West Jordan, where she served two terms as a member of the city council and worked for Salt Lake County, engaged largely in recycling efforts.

She moved to Utah from Lynwood, CA, however, she was raised in Oregon. While in Salt Lake City she worked part-time in the office of the Mayor, Ted Wilson, while earning her bachelor's degree in accounting from the University of Utah. She also earned an MBA degree from BYU.

She enjoys living in the Cedar City area "because the people here are great." She also loves the ruggedness of the area. As an avid backpacker she has made sojourns over the years to points in Europe, Peru, Nepal, and, to many western states as well as trips "all over Utah."

Among her passions while traveling is the study of rock art and archeology in general. She was an early worker and researcher in Range Creek after it was first opened to archeological study.

She is a very welcome, energetic and helpful addition to our organization.

Report on Dr. Clottes' Presentation

30,000 Years of World Rock Art, by Dr. Jean Clottes

By Stephen Robinson

As reported in last month's vestiges, Dr. Jean Clottes was scheduled to present "Thirty Thousand Years of World Rock Art" at the Bowers Museum in Santa Ana, California. We attended. His presentation included all that was suggested by the title. It did include rock art from all areas of the world, including 30,000 year old examples from the spectacular Chauvet Cave in south east France. From our perspective, Utah rock art was seriously under-represented since there was only one photo – that from the Great Gallery. It was poor one, and shown primarily to provide commentary on the striking difference in the height of the human figures compared to the likely normal height of the artists. (He showed several photos from California causing us to wonder that perhaps if he were presenting in Utah, the differences would likely be reversed.) In commenting about the Great Gallery site he did state that it should be included in the UNESCO World Heritage list. It may be remembered that this was pointed out in the May *Vestiges*.

Dr. Clottes obviously deserves his reputation as one of the preeminent experts on worldwide rock art. His knowledge, appreciation, insight and exceptional ability to articulate the issues in clear English, are well deserving of our admiration and respect. His presentation lasted over an hour and a half and was excellent, informative and spiced with welcome humor. He had the complete, supportive attention of all.

There are two fundamental points which he underscored in his discussion. First, he pointed out there is an inherent "spiritual" dimension in all rock art, regardless of the culture with which it is identified or associated. This characteristic may be difficult to articulate clearly, but is felt at the subliminal level rather than the fully conscious one.

Secondly, he showed a dramatic photo of the lions or tigers poised to focus, follow, then presumably pounce on its prey, which was found in the Chauvet Cave. He made the point that there has been no fundamental evolution in the basic artistic talent or ability of the Homo sapiens over these 30 millennia. The inherent artistic talent that a person had then is the same as one would have today.

Following his presentation and a short question and answer period, we were joined in a line of some twenty persons in order to have him autograph our well-read copy of his book, *World Rock Art*. (He said, "Oh, you have one of my children!" when he saw us carrying it in to the reception for him.) Most people bought his book at the gift shop, which had copies readily available. After obtaining his autograph in our copy, we presented him with the May 2005 issue of *Vestiges* which contains the article about him.

One last point. There will be an opportunity for people in Utah to attend one of his presentations. For information see, September 10 in this issues' Calendar section.

Calendar

- June 4 Moab Rock Art Recording/Site Stewards/National Register Meeting, Moab, UT, 3:00 pm General Meeting with Donna Turnipseed(BLM); Potluck, 5:30. Contact Pam and Quent Baker, 435-259-5558, pnqbaker@citlink.net
- June 4-10 "Ancient Visions: The Origins of Art and Belief", Dr. David Whitley, Trail Lake Ranch, near Dubois Wyoming. Contact Jane or Dick Vander Weyden, 307-455-2353, traillakeranch@dteworld.com
- June 18-19 Mill Creek, Moab, Utah, Leader Claudia Berner, 435-260-8560, glyphics@preciscom.net, 3-4 mile roundtrip, moderate. Four wheel drive
- Aug 11-14 2005 Pecos Conference, Los Alamos, New Mexico. Sunday tours to ruins and rock art sites. www.swanet.org/2005_pecos_conference
- Sept 8-11 Range Creek Documentation Project, Contact Steve Manning, 801-936-4630, sjmanning@yahoo.com
- Sept 10 Public Symposium, Dr. Jean Clottes, featured speaker: *Art, Cognition, & Brain Evolution*. Saturday, Utah Museum of Fine Art, Salt Lake City, UT, 9:30-4:30. Sponsored by The Leakey Foundation.
- Sept 16-17 Arizona Strip - Nampaweap, Tuweap field trip, Leader Diana Hawks tdhawks@sisna.com (435) 673-1878 (evenings)
- Sept 15-18 Rocky Mountain Anthropological Conference, Park City, UT
- Oct 7-10 URARA Symposium, Price, Utah
- Oct 22-23 Volcanic Tablelands - Bishop, CA field trip
- Nov 13 China Lake, CA field trip
- Nov 19 Rock Art in Big Bend National Park, Bob Hext, Fee \$75. Big Bend Natural History Association, 432-477-2236, P.O. Box 196, TX 79834, www.bigbendbookstore.org
- Dec 2 Christmas Party, First Unitarian Church, 569 S. 1300 E., Salt Lake City.

Contact Information

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www.utahrockart.org

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URARA has an extensive library of rock art publications, a collection of articles, and Clifford Rayl's photo collection, which are available for use by members. URARA also has educational materials: a slide presentation on Utah rock art; a slide show with accompanying notes oriented for the fourth grade; and we are working on new presentations in Powerpoint.

Editors' Message

We just realized that the May 2005 issue of *Vestiges* represents our first full year in organizing/editing URARA's monthly newsletter. Overall, it has been a very positive and enjoyable experience for us. We have been challenged. We have learned. And, we have come to appreciate much more knowledgeably, the excellent leadership and assistance of all the members who have enthusiastically stepped forward to contribute to the value and success of URARA. To all we express our personal appreciation, as well as that of the membership in general, for all who have contributed during this past year of our editorial service. We are surprised that the year has gone by so quickly.

As always we welcome suggestions and contributions. We hope everyone has a great summer.

Happy Trails,

Steve and Marion Robinson

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