

VESTIGES



July
2005
Volume 25
Number 7

Monthly newsletter of URARA, the Utah Rock Art Research Association

Table of Contents

President's Message.....	1	URARA Quilt For 2005.....	7
Update on Potash Road Rock Climbing	3	Anne Carter Receives Award.....	8
Upcoming Field Trips.....	3	Stories on Stone	8
Moab Site Steward/Rock Art Recorders Meeting ...	4	Puzzlements	9
Conservation and Preservation	5	Member Profile: Ben Everitt.....	9
Diane Orr's Exhibit in California	6	Calendar	11
Think About It!.....	6	Contact Information	12
Coso Rock Art: Dedicated as National Historical Landmark.....	7	Editors' Message	12

President's Message

After the last couple of messages that sounded all doom and gloom, I thought it was time to talk about some of the positive developments in rock art and for our group. There are many of them.

Nine Mile Canyon

The Nine Mile Canyon Coalition has contracted for the completion of the proposal for National Register status for Nine Mile Canyon. A great deal of writing needs to be done and it will be quite costly. URARA has agreed to help fund \$3000 of the cost. While there is still a lot of work, negotiations, and approvals required before national register status is obtained, at least there is momentum developing.

Moab BLM Partnership

Many of the people involved in the Moab site stewardship program gathered last month to discuss what has happened there. Donna Turnipseed, the BLM archeologist reported that there has been documentation of over 30 sites in the past year. If I would get off my butt and start typing, I could increase that number by at least six! We also discussed a proposal to create national register status for the area along the Wall Street corridor of the Colorado River and up into Kane Creek. Donna hopes to use the documentation completed in the last year as the primary input for the nomination. Pam and Quentin Baker agreed to help coordinate this work. Please contact them if you would like to help. I expect we will need assistance in mapping, photography, writing, and good computer based document creation. And, of course, there are still more sites to document and steward.

Utah Lake Site Stewardship

Our newest site stewardship program is getting off the ground. We had a training meeting at the 106th South REI store in Salt Lake City in May. Ron Rood, the assistant state archeologist conducted the training. In addition to volunteers from URARA and USAS, we had Kenny Wintch from the School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration (SITLA) and Lori Hunsaker from the Salt Lake City Bureau of Land Management (BLM) office in attendance. Nina Bowen is coordinating this effort, if you would like to be involved, please contact her.

Division of State History Funding

The Division of State History has agreed to a \$3000 matching grant for URARA this year. We appreciate their generosity. We will use these funds primarily to help defray the cost of producing this newsletter and symposium.

House Bill 308

Both myself and Dorde have written about this bill in previous Vestiges. This state bill has gone through various incarnations and, in my personal opinion, posed a threat to Utah archeology. It is now in its third revision, and requires reporting of information by the State Historical Preservation Officer (SHPO) on an annual basis to a legislative committee. I attended a meeting of this committee where the bill was discussed. The language of both the bill and committee members displays a bias against archeology that concerns me. But the actual provisions of the legislation no longer pose a threat, in my opinion.

ARARA Symposium

The American Rock Art Research Association (ARARA) will hold their annual symposium in Bluff next May. The URARA board has agreed to collaborate with this symposium. We will still hold our own symposium in the fall. So, URARA members will get two chances to hear about great research and to network with friends in 2006! URARA will assist in the speaker selection for the opening session, which will be focused on Utah rock art. We will also help ARARA think about appropriate field trips, and we will ask many of you to lead field trips in our backyard. We will also be involved in conservation and education projects associated with the symposium. I am excited to be working with ARARA and I believe the collaboration will be beneficial for both of us.

Temple Mountain Wash

We have been talking about doing a project at Temple Mountain Wash for years. For various reasons, it has been difficult to get a project off the ground until now. Recently Steve Manning and I met with Kenny Wintch from SITLA to discuss what could be done. We came to general agreement on an approach. Now we need to do the hard work of determining budgets, finding funding, getting approvals, and actually doing the work. I expect that you will hear about a weekend project where we will ask for your help this fall.

URARA Thrives and Grows

Best of all, URARA continues to thrive and grow. I appreciate having a group of friends I enjoy hanging out with in front of a rock art panel. As we grow, the nature of the group is slowly changing. We are now at a point where we can be a positive force for rock art in Utah. What a wonderful thing.



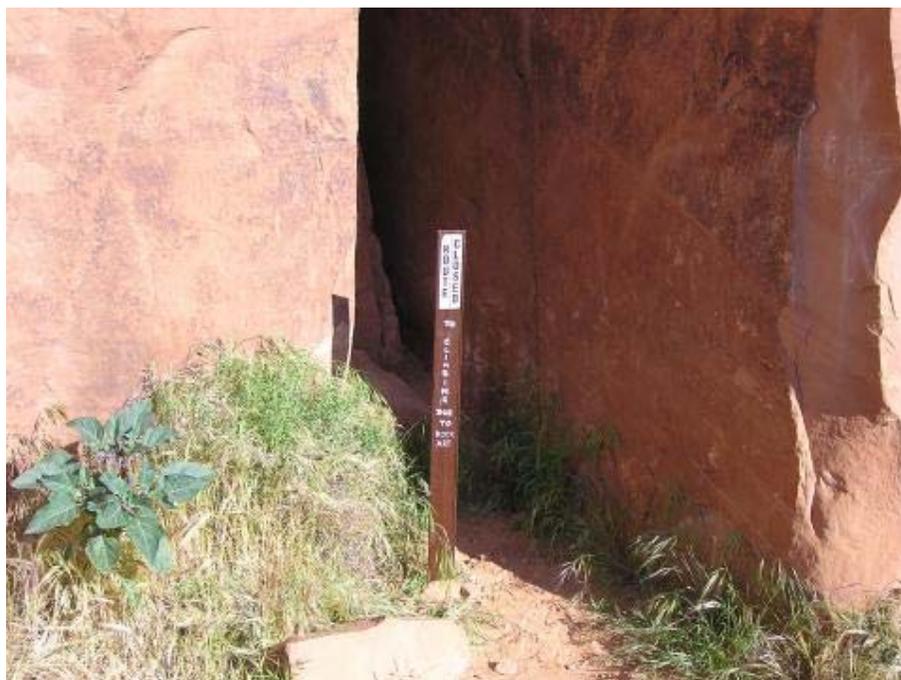
Kenny Wintch and Steve Manning get a good look at the Temple Mountain Wash panel

Troy Scotter
2005 URARA President

Update on Potash Road Rock Climbing

By Pamela Baker, photo by Quentin Baker.

The Moab field office of the BLM has installed a sign below the panel on the Potash Road which had experienced spring climbing activity. The sign reads "Closed to Rock Climbing due to the Rock Art". Further management plans will be implemented as management for the entire area is evaluated in conjunction with the nomination of the corridor to the National Register of Historic Places. [The rock climbing problem, bolts, slings, chalk, graffiti on or near a major rock art panel, had been reported by URARA rock art recorders. See May issue of *Vestiges*, p.3.]



Upcoming Field Trips

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, sun showers, 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!

Nampaweap, Tuweep; Arizona Strip: September 16-17, 2005

Leader: Diana Hawks, 435-673-1878 evenings, TDHawks@sisna.com

On Saturday the group will visit the Nampaweap site. Sunday sites will not be guided, but the trip leader can provide advice for sites in the region including Tuweep.

Nampaweap is a one-half mile long rock art site in a side canyon leading from the ponderosa pine forest of Mt. Trumbull to Toroweap Valley near the north rim of the Grand Canyon. Rock art at the site appears to date to the Archaic, Ancestral Puebloan, and Southern Paiute. It is scratched and etched on fine grained basalt rocks on the south facing canyon rim of the side canyon. Locals call the site "Billy Goat Canyon" because of all the figures of mountain sheep on the rocks.

The site requires a 2-3 hour drive on graveled and sometimes maintained county roads from Fredonia or Colorado City, Arizona or St. George, Utah. The hike to the site is relatively easy, consisting of about a half mile along a two track road.

The Tuweep Overlook on the North Rim of the Grand Canyon is only 45 minutes away from the site on dirt roads. A national park primitive campground is available at Tuweep Overlook but no water or services. The view from this campground is into the Grand Canyon itself.

High clearance vehicles are recommended. Roads may be impassable when wet – they are heavy volcanic clays. Two spare tires recommended, or strong sidewalls on the tires. No services or facilities are available. So fill your gas tank and tell someone where you are headed and when you expect to be back. If weather is extremely wet, we may postpone this trip because it is difficult to access in wet weather. [Eds. Note: This trip was originally scheduled for the spring, but due to the extremely wet conditions was postponed until September.]

Water and camping can be found at Nixon Spring on the south side of Mt. Trumbull. The BLM Administrative Site at Nixon Spring is available Friday evening, September 16 for a group campout. It is located in a ponderosa pine forest at 6500 feet in elevation. Evenings may be cold in September.

Information on road and weather conditions, maps, and publications can be obtained from the BLM Visitor's Center in St. George, Utah, 435-688-3200.

Meeting times and locations will be provided to registered participants.

Moab Site Steward/Rock Art Recorders Meeting

By Pamela Baker

On June 4, eleven URARA members met with Donna Turnipseed, BLM archaeologist, to work on plans for the Moab area rock art recording project. Donna is very pleased: 34 sites have been recorded and 42 are currently being monitored. Donna is going to send documentation to the State Historical Preservation Officer (SHPO) as the next step in nominating the Colorado River Corridor sites along the Wall Street area of Highway 279 to the National Register of Historic Places.

After SHPO concurs with our site forms and National Register eligibility determinations, we will start to work on the actual paperwork for the nomination. Recorders who worked on sites within the proposed area are being asked to write a narrative of one or two short paragraphs regarding your site for inclusion in the nomination forms. This should be no more than half a page using font size 12. They need to be concise, and informative, and include the type of rock art, element forms and numbers, and range of variation. Unique aspects of panels should be noted. Donna will be getting and sharing copies of recently approved nomination forms so we can see examples to guide us.

I have accepted a position as liaison between URARA and the BLM. My role will be to organize details and paperwork and contact URARA recorders as we move forward with this process. My phone number is 435-259-5558.

Those in attendance were Pam and Quent Baker, Claudia Berner, Nina Bowen, Dell Crandall, Tom Getts, Paul Janos, Margie and Roger Kendall, Troy Scotter, and Ann Vandergriff.

Conservation and Preservation

Text and photos by Jan Gorski



The URARA Conservation and Preservation “committee” needs your help. We have a number of activities we would like to pursue but need volunteers to help make it happen. Thank You to Pam and Quentin Baker for all the work they are doing in Moab. Steve Manning, Troy Scotter and others are helping to kick-off a major activity at Temple Mountain Wash. We will need a lot of volunteers to make our proposal a reality – stay tuned for our plea for assistance. Please contact Jan Gorski to volunteer.

I learned a lot of new things at the ARARA Conservation Committee meeting in Reno, NV during the annual symposium. The bag shown in the photo above is part of a “Conservation Care Package” that ARARA has developed. The package includes ten of these heavy duty trash bags, along with a letter addressed to “Concerned Rock Art and Archaeological Site Visitor.” The letter thanks the recipient for helping to maintain a clean and litter free environment and notes the importance of picking up trash upon **leaving** the area, not upon arriving. In case of vandalism at the site they do not want potential evidence to be removed inadvertently. Along with the letter are copies of Guidelines for Managers of RA Sites on Public Lands, Guidelines for Visitors to RA Sites, a Membership Application and a copy of their Conservation and Preservation Committee Brochure. I think it would be great if we could do a similar thing for URARA and I will be bringing it up to the board for discussion.



I also attended a Conservation Workshop in Reno. We visited a vandalized site on Peavine Mountain. The site is very close to suburbia and surrounded by an open space area that is heavily used. Two men drove up to the site and stole three of the five boulders by winching them out. Luckily they were turned in by a neighbor who saw the boulders in their yard. The perps are serving some jail time and paid a hefty fine. The center photo shows one of the two boulders that still remain. The photo on the right is the impound evidence locker where the other three boulders are being held. The Forest Service asked for ARARA’s expertise to help them decide on the next course of action. Should the boulders be returned? Should the site be signed? Should a trail with interpretive information be developed? They have done some amount of mitigation already but have the usual problem of too many sites to monitor and not enough staff. We spent a fair amount of time brainstorming different ideas and we will eventually provide a recommended course of action to the Forest Service office. Is there a site in Utah with a similar problem that we should be addressing?

Upcoming events: URARA will be co-hosting ARARA’s 2006 conference in Bluff. We are hoping to set up a poster contest for 4th and 7th graders. The topic would be Rock Art Conservation and the winning poster would be displayed at the conference and potentially used as the logo on the t-shirt.

Diane Orr's Exhibit in California

[Refer also to *Vestiges*, February 2005, p.5]

Panoramic Photos Reveal Ancient Native Culture

By The Lompoc Record Staff

[Beginning June 6, 2005] the summer exhibition at the Wildling Art Museum entitled "Visionscapes: Vanishing Rock Art Sites of the West," will feature a series of very large 360-degree color photographs by Utah-based artist and award-winning filmmaker, Diane G. Orr.

These photographs depict Native American pictographs in Utah, Wyoming, Nevada and Arizona, in their dramatic landscape settings. The pictographs captured in Orr's photographs, some of which may be 1200 years old, are threatened by mining, natural gas development, tourist predation and random vandalism.

It is Orr's concern for the preservation of these artworks by America's first artists that has lead her to photograph them, both to record them before they are further destroyed and to draw attention to our neglect of these irreplaceable rock art images which are valuable culturally and well as aesthetically.

To help her understand the meaning of these images, Orr has enlisted the help of Larry Cesspooch, an Ute spiritual story teller, who believes in the enduring importance of rock art communication. Together Orr and Cesspooch created a video documenting the pictographs and petroglyphs in Nine Mile Canyon, an ancient thoroughfare connecting Northern Utah with the Green and Colorado Rivers that is being impacted by natural gas exploration and development. This project led her to photographing other rock art sites in the West with her 360-degree panoramic camera, allowing the viewer to see the pictographs up close as well as the entire landscape which surrounds them.

From what she has learned from Cesspooch and others, Orr concludes: "Rock art recorded historic events, served ceremonial purposes, marked thoroughfares and territorial claims, functioned as calendars and seasonal markers and, no doubt, had other unrecognized purposes. We may never unravel the deepest meanings of these mysterious and beautiful communications from the past, but hopefully we can and will preserve these extraordinary links to our shared landscape and history."

"Visionscapes: Vanishing Rock Art Sites of the West" opens Tuesday, June 19 and will continue through Sept. 11. The Wildling Art Museum, 2329 Jonata St., Los Olivos, [CA] is open 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesday through Sunday. A donation of \$2 per person is requested; members and children 12 and under are free. For more information about the exhibition or other summer events at the Wildling, call 688-1082.

Think About It!



"Recent theories for the study of rock art and other archaeological materials have emphasized the roles played by context and symbolism. It has been proposed that symbols such as rock art images are most likely to be meaningful when examined within the context of time, place, culture, and society and with the knowledge that symbolism is part of information exchange, communication systems, and acts to express and reinforce group identities." *Legacy on Stone*, Sally J. Cole, Johnson Books, Boulder, 1990, p. 37.

Coso Rock Art: Dedicated as National Historical Landmark

By Steve Robinson

The Coso Rock Art District, which consists of 36,000 acres within the Naval Air Weapons Station at China Lake, California, was dedicated as a National Historical Landmark on May 20, 2005. This is the highest recognition the Federal Government can give to an area of our country. The district includes the well known Big and Little Petroglyph Canyons which were dedicated in 1965.

It is estimated there are more than 25,000 pre-historic rock art drawings within the district boundaries. Most of the rock art is thought to be 1,000 to 3,000 years old.

Several years ago the American Rock Art Research Association held the annual conference in Ridgecrest, California. Both the Big and Little Petroglyph Canyons were included in the field trips. My wife and I were among the URARA members who attended the conference. We were fortunate to be able to participate in a field trip to each canyon. They are extraordinary rock art sites. At present only Little Petroglyph Canyon is regularly open to public tours. Tours can be arranged through the Public Affairs Office of the China Lake Naval Air Weapons Station or the small, but excellent, Maturango Museum in Ridgecrest, California. [We thank Jan Gorski for forwarding the announcement regarding the National Historical Landmark www.news.navy.mil/search/]

David Whitley, who was a professor of Archaeology at UCLA where he received his PH.D, is the author of *A Guide to Rock Art Sites of Southern California and Southern Nevada*, Mountain Press Publishing Company, 1996, p. 49. He describes the Coso Range rock art as "one of the most spectacular concentrations of rock art sites in North America – if not the world." He places this rock art in what he terms The Great Basin Tradition. Geographically, this includes all of Nevada, portions of southeastern Oregon, Southern Idaho, northern Utah and westernmost Wyoming, in addition to eastern California.

In his book, *The Art of the Shaman: Rock Art of California*, University of Utah Press, 2000, p. 57, he states that the most common Coso motifs are geometric patterns, but this rock art "has as its hallmarks elaborate 'patterned-body' human figures and depictions of big horn sheep." The latter are shown very beautifully in a full two page [12"x20"] photograph from Big Petroglyph Canyon.

URARA Quilt For 2005

Preparations are being made for the next in a series of URARA quilts to be auctioned off at this year's symposium. The backing has been found, which has a number of different Native American images on it, and some quilt blocks have been turned in. We would love it if everyone who has an interest in participating in this project would take the opportunity to do so.

The quilt blocks will be made from 12 ½" squares of fabric of your choice, and can be decorated by your application of whatever medium you choose to create an image of a rock art design. Many people have told me that they enjoyed reproducing their favorite glyph or panel, and grew to appreciate the efforts of those ancient ones as they created a block for us.

For those of you who feel that you have limited time or talent, you can find a creative way to get a block or two for us; either by having it done by a friend or local t-shirt shop, or by bribing someone else in the group to do one for you. This is truly a time to contribute in a small way to a big effort. In the words of Larry the Cable Guy, "let's get 'er done!"

Please try to have your quilt block done and sent to Nina Bowen by August 1st. Mail to 225 South 800 East, Bountiful, UT 84010.

Anne Carter Receives Award

By Steve Robinson

Anne, a URARA member, received the prestigious Oliver Rock Art Photography Award at the annual meeting of the American Rock Art Research Association conference in Sparks, Nevada. It was presented at the conference banquet on May 28, 2005. "The Oliver Award recognizes exceptional works that master the *art* and *science* of rock art photography with a degree of superior satisfaction." It is given for excellence of "photography in the service of the study and appreciation of rock art." The photography "must illuminate and educate. . . capturing the experience of the site, not just reproducing what is printed or etched," thereby "capturing the experience of the site," and "evoking a sense of place and the feelings and emotions that invariably one experiences at a rock art site. This is art. The science "must meet the criteria for objectively evaluating and measuring the subject so that judgments drawn from data obtained from photographs are valid and useful." [Quotations from the ARARA.org site with thanks to ARARA President Leigh Marymor.] A cash prize of \$500 comes with the award. Congratulations!!

[Anne was kind enough to provide the following information at the request of the editors. *Photo by Marion Robinson*]

I grew up in California and then lived in New York for 35 years. I worked as a reinsurance broker in NY before I retired. I moved to Las Vegas in 1997 to live in the desert and be close to the Colorado Plateau. I was a rock art and ruins junkie even before I moved to the Southwest. I do photography for the Nevada Rock Art Foundation recording projects, and work with the Ely (Nevada) BLM office doing baseline documentation of rock art sites and other archaeological sites. I am involved, also, with the Nevada Site Steward Program and I am a regional coordinator for the Ely BLM office in Lincoln County. I have three kids; a son in Vermont, a daughter in New Jersey and a daughter in Arizona. That pretty much sums it up. Anne



Stories on Stone

Museum of Northern Arizona – Flagstaff

Exhibit June 4, 2005 – January 31, 2006

"The Colorado Plateau has a rich heritage of rock art left by cultures spanning over 12,000 years and across many archaeological time periods," says Museum of Northern Arizona Deputy Director Stefan Sommers. "This exhibit brings together many of the most beautiful examples that remain today." Visitors have the opportunity to see how scientists study rock art using scaled photography, dating techniques, and spectral analysis.

Why did people go to such great effort to chisel out intricate images and prepare a rich array of natural pigments for their paintings? *Stories on Stone* explores many purposes that rock art may have served. It also explores the preservation of this fragile antiquity. [From the Museum of Northern Arizona website, June 13, 2005. www.musnaz.org/exhibits/StoriesonStone.html]

Puzzlements

This poor sheep has four atlatl darts in him. Does anyone know of one who has more?? If he is still alive, he can be found in Upper John's Canyon.

Photo by Quent Baker.

Reported by Dell Crandall.



Member Profile: Ben Everitt

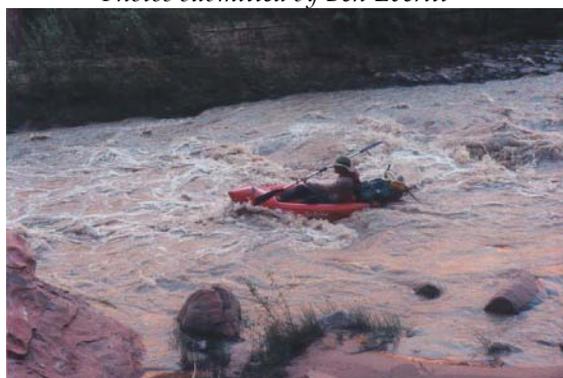
[Submitted by Ben as requested by Editors.]

Ben Everitt was born in Tucson, Arizona. He has a bachelor's degree in geology from Princeton University and a doctorate in geography from John Hopkins. He served some time in Texas, teaching at Texas A & M University and as geographer for the International Boundary and Water Commission in El Paso, Texas.

With his wife Cindi and son David, Ben moved to Salt Lake City in 1977, to work for the Utah State Geological Survey in its newly developed earthquake hazards program. After spending the past 25 years in the state Division of Water Resources, he retired last fall, and now lives in Ivins, Utah.

In 1977 the Everitts found in the newly organized URARA some kindred souls who loved the desert and accepted folks with a mentally disabled child. Ben formerly served as president and has been treasurer since 2004. Ben's interests include archaeoastronomy, the history of irrigation in America, early man in America, and techniques for dating rock art. A man of many talents! See river photo.

Photos submitted by Ben Everitt



CRAA Symposium Report

By Jan Gorski



The Colorado Rock Art Association (CRAA) annual meeting and Symposium was held May 6-8 in Norwood, CO. The subject of the meeting was "Rock Art in a Cultural Landscape." Sally Cole and Mark Mitchell were keynote speakers. Over 55 people made their way to this beautiful, out-of-the way location. Even the locals listened to a few of the papers. Most attendees stayed at the quaint hotels and inns in the town of Norwood. I was fortunate to stay in a very rustic cabin with views of Lone

Cone Mountain as well as the San Miguels. The *Photo by Alan Watchman* *Speaker: Carol Patterson*

aply named "Faraway Ranch" was a challenge for a tall person but a very homey place to stay.

The CRAA board members hosted a Reception on Friday evening at the Norwood Community Center, followed by a board meeting at the Lone Cone Restaurant. Some folks made it out early on Friday for a visit to the Ute Mountain Museum and Shavano rock art site near Montrose. Saturday was filled with excellent presentations, followed by a group dinner at the Hitching Post. Sunday we split the group in half for a fascinating field trip to the beautiful Paradox Valley area. A good time was had by all. Many thanks to all who put in a lot of effort to make this first symposium a success and an open invitation to all URARA members to join us next year.



Photos © Jan Gorski



Photos © Jan Gorski



Calendar

- 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 Arts, Salt Lake City, UT, 9:30-4:30. Sponsored by The Leakey Foundation
- Sept 15-18 Rocky Mountain Anthropological Conference, Park City, UT
- Sept 16-17 Arizona Strip – Nampawep, Tuweap field trip, Leader Diana Hawks tdhawks@sisna.com, 435-673-1878 evenings
- 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

Utah Rock Art Research Association, Box 511324, Salt Lake City UT 84151-1324

www.utahrockart.org

With financial support from Utah State Historical Society/Division of Utah State History

Board of Directors 2005

Troy Scotter	President	801-377-6901	troycotter@comcast.net
Tom Getts	VP and Website	970-533-1861	getts@mindspring.com
Margaret Grochocki	Secretary	435-865-5113	margaret_grochocki@yahoo.com
Ben Everitt	Treasurer	435-986-0075	rockdoc@xmission.com
Craig Bowen	Publication Sales	801-292-5012	bch8@qwest.net
Diane Orr	Education	801-583-4354	beecheerllc@aol.com
Layne Miller	Field Trip Coordinator	435-637-8954	layne@emerytelcom.net
Jan Gorski	Conservation, Preservation	303-521-8094	janglyph@msn.com
Steve Manning	Con. & Pres. Committee	801-936-4630	sjmanning@yahoo.com

Publication Chair

Carol Patterson urracapro@aol.com

Vestiges Staff

Editors: Marion and Stephen Robinson, slrmar@cox.net, 26717 Grayslake Rd, Rancho Palos Verdes CA 90275-2241, 310-378-0320; Copy Editing: Troy Scotter; Proofreading: Nina Bowen, Carol Georgopoulos, Barbara and Fred Saxon; Printing and Mailing: Barbara and Fred Saxon, fredbarb100@aol.com 801-262-4432

Library and Archives

Nina Bowen bch8@qwest.net 801-292-5012

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 attended the 32nd Annual Conference of the American Rock Art Research Association in Sparks, Nevada on May 27-30. It was held at the Nugget Hotel. The Nevada Rock Art Foundation was the host and did an excellent job. Alanah Woody, the Executive Director of the Foundation, was the Local Program Chairperson. (She was featured in a one page article of the magazine Smithsonian in May 2005.) In terms of content and presentation, the Saturday sessions for the most part were very interesting and well presented. In addition to his presidential responsibilities, M. Leigh Marymor, the current ARARA President and member of URARA, was the moderator for the first Saturday morning session. Sunday he gave a very interesting presentation entitled, Serving the World Entire: Grassroots Rock Art Site Conservation in the Urban Setting. For us, it was applied urban archaeology. Unfortunately, there were several Sunday presentations which did not come close to the high bar he set.

The Sunday banquet featured Polly Schaafsma as the speaker. She gave an excellent presentation. We feel she is among a small handful of the most knowledgeable rock art professionals researching and writing about Utah rock art. Remember – she will be one of the two featured speakers at our 25th Annual Conference in Price.

We were fortunate to find ourselves seated at the same banquet table as Anne Carter, the recipient of the prestigious Photography Award as mentioned earlier in this issue.

Field trip sign-ups were based on “the luck of the draw.” We were lucky to be assigned the Lagomarsino site. And, further good fortune – Jan Gorski rode with us. This was our first opportunity to become personally acquainted with Jan and we welcomed her encouraging suggestions for our four-wheel drive. The site is located about 30 miles east of Sparks. There are over two thousand panels spread for about a quarter of a mile along a fairly steep talus sill running to a cliff face of about twenty feet. The rock art is predominantly abstract. There are only two big horn sheep and a very small number of anthropomorphic motifs. There is a well-organized project by the northern section of the Nevada Rock Art Foundation to document the site.

Our compliments to ARARA and the Nevada Rock Art Foundation for an excellent conference. The Spring weather smiled on us. [We crossed paths with approximately 50 healthy wild horses.]

Happy Trails,

Steve and Marion Robinson



Photo montage compliments of Dan Wood.

URARA
Utah Rock Art Research Association
Box 511324
Salt Lake City UT 84151-1324