

VESTIGES



December
2005
Volume 25
Number 12

Monthly newsletter of URARA, the Utah Rock Art Research Association

Table of Contents

President's Message.....	1	Calendar	7
Field Trip Reports	1	Contact Information	7
Quilt Participants	5	URARA Membership Information.....	8
Regional Activities	5	ARARA Symposium 2006 and ARARA Emails.....	8
Think About It!.....	6	Lost and Found	8
Rock Art Recording Training in Moab	7	Editors' Message	9
ARARA Awards	7		

President's Message

Happy holidays. I'm still munching on left-over turkey and looking forward to the imminent URARA Christmas party. The food never seems to stop at this time of year.

The Board will be meeting in early December to organize for 2006. We will determine who will take which responsibility, establish the time and location of symposium, and start the big task of organizing the field trips for 2006. We have a need for volunteers. If you want to help with one of our committees, are willing to lead a field trip, help with symposium, or anything else, please let a board member know.

Next year is already looking to be very busy. In addition to all of the usual URARA activities we have the opportunity to participate in the ARARA symposium in May to be held in Bluff. That means you will get two opportunities for a big get-together. One in the spring and one in the fall.

We will be sending out a calendar in January.

Troy Scotter

2005 URARA President

Field Trip Reports

Volcanic Tablelands Rock Art, Bishop, CA, October 22,23

Leaders: Ann Fulton, 760-873-9261, ann_fulton@hotmail.com and George Johnston, 760-873-1133, johnst24@qnet.com

By Ann Fulton

The Tableland was formed approximately 760,000 years ago when the Long Valley Caldera to the north [of Bishop, CA] erupted, leaving a dense ash flow hundreds of feet thick. There are chalk bluffs partially bounding the Tableland along with numerous outcrops on the Tableland that were great surfaces for rock art. The pre-historic use of this area is attributed to the Owens Valley Paiute, closely related to the Coso Shoshone to the south. The rock art is predominantly abstract in nature.

While the sites we saw consisted mostly of rock art, there are also hunting blinds, rock shelters, and well-developed village sites with grinding slicks and other lithic materials.

We had a full day Saturday visiting and exploring 13 archaeological sites on, or adjacent to, the Volcanic Tableland. We consolidated our congenial group of 12 people into as few vehicles as

possible and made do with just three vehicles for one of the sites where space was very limited. Our first stop was at the Chalfant chalk cliffs site, where very large shield-like images are most striking.



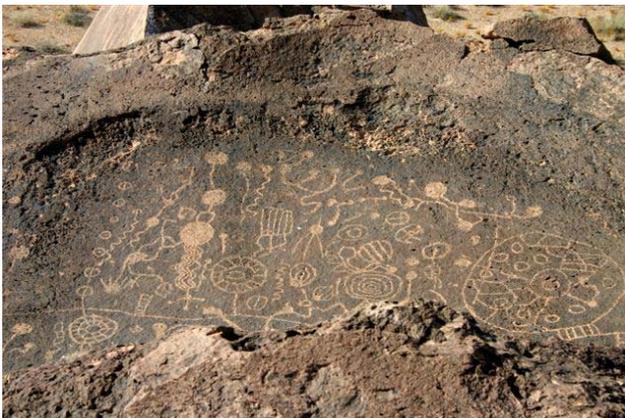
One highlight of the day was comparing two disparate sites named "Thirteen Moons." The site we deemed most fitting, for the panel has 13 circles in association with some sort of grid and probably represented an ancient calendar function when a year was determined to consist of 13 full moons.

While each of the sites we visited was unique in some regard, one site was of particular note--standalone, wave-shaped Womb Rock where there are several intriguing facets--vulviform petroglyphs enhanced with pigment and a large number of cupules adorning a concave expanse at the base of one side of the "wave." The rock itself is a resonator; it emits a ringing sound when gently struck with a stone.

This trip truly was a cooperative effort. Leslie Wertz was to have been a leader, but she had an intervening business matter. Two participants made significant contributions to our itinerary. Gary Clark took us to a marvelous site featuring 16 or so well-defined "house rings," all facing east. At the end of the day, Will Tapp guided us to a remarkable panel called Little Tablet, which consists of abstract figures within an irregular oval line around the entire panel.

We rounded out the day with a delicious lasagne dinner graciously hosted by co-leaders George and Jacque Johnston.

Sunday morning we concluded the field trip weekend with a jaunt to the Birch Creek rock art site south of Big Pine, where there are number of interesting examples of mostly Archaic Style elements.



Participants were: George Johnston, Jacque [taking the picture] Linc & Sheila Anderson, John Fulton, Marion & Steve Robinson, Jeff Allen. Kneeling: Ann Fulton, Will Tapp, Inga Nagel. Gary Clark, not in picture. Photos: Ann Fulton

Black Rock, UT; Site Recording: November 12, 13

Text and photos by Troy Scotter

On a brisk Saturday morning 13 people converged on the town of Kanosh to assist the BLM in recording two rock art sites in the region. The group consisted of 6 URARA members, 2 BLM archeologists, and 5 local residents who are concerned about preserving the archeology of the area.

The group was a nice combination of people with experience in recording and people who were interested in learning. Everyone got a chance to see how different tasks were done. The areas were surveyed for panels, each was photographed, located using the global positioning satellite system, and an IMACS rock art site form prepared. Significant panels were drawn using string grids. Between the two locations, 138 panels were documented in a flurry of activity.



Not only did the group enjoy some wonderful rock art, but on Saturday evening, Joelle McCarthy, the BLM archeologist, invited everyone to her home where her husband had prepared a wonderful dutch oven dinner. Good weather, nice people, new rock

art, and food - what more can one ask for?

Participants were: Inga Nagel, Felicia Maxfield, Donna Davies, Richard Davies, Paula Reynosa, Eldon Oman, Richard Harris, Troy Scotter, Deloy Pierce, Vicki Nelson, Rita Robinson, Joelle McCarthy, and Sarah Creer.

Photos, counterclockwise from the top right: Many anthropomorphs had this interesting body styling, but the head and neck on this glyph were unusual. A complex panel on the basalt rock typical of the region. URARA member Inga Nagel works on a string-grid drawing of a panel.



Little Petroglyph Canyon, China Lake, CA, November 13

Leader: David Daniel, 909-215-9499, drdroad@earthlink.net.

Ten URARA members joined the trip into Little Petroglyph Canyon on Sunday, November 13. Little Petroglyph Canyon, also known as Renegade Canyon, is located on a Navy base, China Lake Naval Air Weapons Station near Ridgecrest California. Along with the other canyons in the area, it is considered the premiere petroglyph site in North America.

Participants included David Daniel (Tour Leader), Jeffrey Allen, Dawn Caillouet, Lillian Weitzner, Stephen Robinson, Marion Robinson, Christopher Rhodes, Marc Silverman, and Lili White. We had members from as far away as New York, and as old as 90! Great weather, some of the most diverse, memorable images anywhere and interesting people made for an outstanding day.

Photos from Little Petroglyph Canyon: David Daniel, Sheep, left top; Marc Silverman (New York) Reflection; Sheep, Circle, Sky.



Report of Trip to White Canyon and Short Canyon, Southern Utah **By Steve Douglas, Bountiful, UT**

In late October some rock art chums and I were able to visit rock art sites, arches and ruins in southern Utah's White and Short canyons. The wet weather season in the area had left the access roads to several sites washed out. We managed to visit the sites by hiking about 2 miles down the bottom of White Canyon to the mouth of Short Canyon. This area is located Southeast of Fry Canyon. Attached are some photos of the best panels. Hopefully, with the weather's cooperation, San Juan County will complete restoring some of the county access roads by the coming summer.



Photos: Stephen Douglas

Quilt Participants

The URARA Board would like to thank those who contributed squares for the quilt auctioned at our symposium in Price. The quilt is a wonderful tradition and always raises considerable funds for us. This year contributors to the quilt were: Peggy Wenrick, Linda Cutler, Janet Lever-Wood, Vera Currie-Carol Lindsay, Clari Clapp, Elva Ogden, Iris Evans, Dell Crandall, Jane Bush and Nina Bowen.

Regional Activities

The Nevada Rock Art Foundation offers tours at Valley of Fire State Park, north of Las Vegas, on the second Saturday of each month through May. The 3 hour tours begin at 9 am. To register call 702-804-6723. For information on Nevada Rock Art Foundation call 775-315-5497.

The Museum of Northern Arizona has organized a series of Saturday and Sunday presentations to dovetail with its exhibit of Stories on Stones. [This exhibit is scheduled to close January 31, the lectures continue through the summer.] These lectures address the fact that "Peoples all across the Earth have long created rock art and the people who lived on the Colorado Plateau were no exception. These lectures and films unlock the stories held in the intricate symbols and images of rock art." The presentations are at 2



Ann Fulton, the purchaser of the 2005 URARA quilt.

pm in MNA Branigar Hall and are free with Museum admission. Complete program and speaker information is available at www.musnaz.org. This series is co-sponsored by the Northern Arizona University Anthropology Department.

Old Pueblo Archaeology Center, Tucson, AZ is offering a Dig for a Day. Old Pueblo Center is helping the town of Marana manage portions of the Yuma Wash Hohokam archaeological site and the nearby historic Bojórquez-Aquirre Ranch site in the new Cortaro-Silverbell District Park for purposes of preserving the Tucson-Marana area heritage.

As part of the park development program Marana is making it possible for Old Pueblo to offer a public assisted excavation and research program at the Yuma Wash site. Experience the excitement of archaeological excavation and research your self by participating in this unique program. Contact information: infor@oldpueblo.org, 520-798-1201.

Workshop on Ceramics of SE Utah to be held at the Edge of the Cedars Museum in Blanding on Saturday, December 10 from 9:00 – 4:00. Winston Hurst will be teaching the class. There is no fee. To register call Liam Downey at 435-678-2238 or liamdowney@utah.gov

Sierra Club Rock Art trip to Snake Gulch in the Kaibab National Forest in Northern Arizona, May 15 – 19. This is a pretty easy-going trip ---participants will carry only daypacks as we travel since a pack of llamas will transport all of our heavy gear. Our outfitter will set up the tents and cook all the food. The well-known archaeologist Joe Pachak from Bluff, Utah will guide us.

The brochure with the trip's itinerary can be viewed here: <http://www.sierraclub.org/outings/national/brochure/06054A.asp>. Please contact Rochelle Gerratt (520) 696-0495 or rgerratt@comcast.net with questions.

Conservation and Preservation

Chairperson Jan Gorski asks the question, "Would anyone be interested in organizing one, or more, field trips to participate in some of the above Regional Activities?" If so, contact Jan at Janglyph@msn.com, 303-791-8118; or Troy Scotter, President of URARA at troyscotter@comcast.net, 801-377-6901.

Think About It!

"Rock art is compelling. There is no more visual remnant of a past peoples than mute figures lingering on cliff faces and cave walls, mountain sheep trooping along to unknown destinations, or rows of splayed human hands in stark red or white paint. Human response to these carved and painted images is almost universally immediate and deep. But using rock art data to enlarge our understanding of the past in a scientific or testable way has been challenging. . .



Deriving meaning from rock art is more complex than dating. Meaning is as elusive as the images themselves as elements seem to come and go with shifting shades of light and the passage of time. . .

The essence of rock art attraction is that interpretations lies largely outside the materialist realm of traditional archaeology and it appeals to the aesthetic and mystic. Most fundamentally I would suggest that rock art appeal lies in the very slipperiness of knowing for a certainty what the artist had in mind or his/her motivations; in most cases, there is no possibility of a final conclusion regarding meaning.

As a consequence, approaches to understanding rock art are as variable and voluminous as the literature on the topic. And a professional view is often hindered by the same barrier as that of the amateur; a bias deriving from our emic perspective."

New Dimensions in Rock Art Studies, Edited by Ray T. Matheny; Museum of Peoples and Cultures, Occasional Papers No. 9; Brigham Young University, 2005. From Introduction by Joel C. Janetski, Serial Editor, pp 1, 2.

Rock Art Recording Training in Moab

URARA and the Moab BLM Field Office would like to hold another rock art recording session in Moab. To help with the planning, we would like to gauge the interest in participating in such an event. If you would be interested in attending the training, please let Pam and Quent Baker know. We will generate a list and notify you when a date is set. We are probably looking at sometime after the first of the year. You can contact us via e-mail (pnqbaker@citlink.net -please note the address given at symposium is incorrect) or by telephone (435-259-5558).

ARARA Awards

Many people and organizations have made great contributions toward improving rock art conservation and research. ARARA would like to recognize the best of them. Please consider if you have any nominees.

Deadlines are coming up for the ARARA awards:

- The Conservation and Preservation Award for excellence in the conservation and protection of rock art - December 31.
- The Wellmann Award for excellence in service to the field of rock art - March 15.
- The Castleton Award for excellence in writing about rock art - February 15.
- The Oliver Award for excellence in rock art photography - February 15.

Check the www.ARARA.org website for more information or contact Jane Kolber, Awards Chair, ARARA <jkolber@theriver.com>, PO Box 1844 Bisbee, AZ 85603, USA. Phone or FAX - 520-432-3402.

Continuing Exhibits

[See July 2005 *Vestiges* for details]

"Stories on Stone", Museum of Northern Arizona, Flagstaff, AZ, until January 31, 2006.

Calendar

- | | |
|---------------|--|
| Dec 2
2006 | Christmas Meeting, First Unitarian Church, 569 S. 1300 E., Salt Lake City, UT, 6:00 pm. Potluck. For information or questions call Barbara Saxon, 801-262-4432 |
| May 19-22 | ARARA symposium in Bluff, UT. |

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	beecherllc@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.

URARA Membership Information

Membership is open to anyone interested in the study, protection, enjoyment, and preservation of rock art. Cost is \$17 for one person, \$20 family, \$12 student, for one year's membership. The membership form, including liability release, is available on our website at www.utahrockart.org. If you don't have access to the Internet, send a self-addressed stamped envelope to the URARA post office box address listed above.

Address Changes

Please send change of postal or email address promptly to the URARA address above, or email to the secretary.

ARARA Symposium 2006 and ARARA Emails

The American Rock Art Research Association will be holding their 2006 symposium in Bluff, on May 19-22, 2006. URARA will be assisting with this conference. In order to increase the information flow about the ARARA conference and rock art issues, in general, we will be sharing our membership email list with ARARA. URARA members will begin receiving emails from ARARA Online shortly. If you do not wish to receive these emails, you will be given the chance to opt-out.

Lost and Found

A rubber eyepiece for a camera was found at the Buckhorn Wash panel on the way home from symposium by Patti Genack. Since many of our members visited that panel in the preceding days, she wondered if it might not belong to one of you. If you are missing an eyepiece, let Patty know at whimwham@fone.net

Editors' Message

We always read, with great interest, the reports regarding the rock art field trips sponsored by URARA, almost all of which are in Utah. Because of our California residence it has not been practicable for us to participate unless they were in conjunction with the Symposia. However, good fortune! As noted in earlier *Vestiges* there were two recent field trips in California. We were able to participate in both.

Ann Fulton, from Bishop, had the principal responsibility for planning, organizing and leading the Bishop Tablelands trip. She, and all those assisting, did an excellent job. Ann was the primary source of information about the rock art. She is very knowledgeable. (And fortunate too – you may remember, she left the Price Symposium with the beautiful rock art motif quilt safely tucked under her arm.) She occasionally contributes columns to the Inyo Register, the local Bishop newspaper. Her excellent column of April 16, 2005 is titled "Protecting Owens Valley Rock Art". It discusses the multiple-faceted issues of protecting rock art, at the same time making it available to the public. Her article says, "It is incumbent upon each and every visitor to treat all archaeological sites as outdoor museums, leaving everything intact so every subsequent visitor can experience the full import of each site." She makes the point that the rock art is "Not for Mine Eyes Only", and comments, "The awe-inspiring sites are here for all to treasure and enjoy--they are a part of our shared national heritage." Well said, Ann!

Little Petroglyph Canyon in the Coso Mountain range near Ridgecrest, CA was organized and lead by David Daniel who lives in Moreno Valley, CA. We were very happy to join him and other URARA members who participated, including Jeff Allen from St. George, who was also on the Tablelands trip with us, and Marc Silverman and Lili White who came from New York City. David did a great job with this trip. He has extensive rock art experience, and received the required training to be a trip leader from the China Lake Naval Air Weapons Station. He was assisted by two escorts who are also trained, and serve as volunteers at the Maturango Museum in Ridgecrest. There was a leader in front, the middle, and the rear of the group. Readers are invited to refer to July 2005 *Vestiges*, p. 7, for information regarding the National Historic Landmark Dedication of the Coso Rock Art District.

As the holiday season is upon us we extend our warmest greetings to all. We especially appreciate all who have contributed to *Vestiges* this past year. We feel very fortunate to be in such good company. Thanks to you!

Happy Holiday Trails!

Steve and Marion Robinson

Price Symposium 2005 Field Trips, Photos: M.Robinson



Dell Crandall, center, leads to two tiny sites north of Rochester Creek



Sunnyside Canyon, JohnMacumber leader, yellow jacket.

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



Dell Crandall provides this festive photo of a site which he contends shows Santa's sleigh and reindeer.