

VESTIGES



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Monthly newsletter of URARA, the Utah Rock Art Research Association

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President's Message

May has been a busy month for me and many other URARA members. The ARARA symposium in Bluff went very well. URARA members provided a lot of support for this event.

One of the things that I learned from how ARARA organizes their symposium is the "cast of thousands" that organize the event. At the beginning of the day they recognized the many volunteers who had assisted, and by the end of the list I think there were almost as many people standing at the front of the room as there were people sitting in the audience. We need to figure out how to do that better. Margaret Grochocki has a list of areas of where she needs help in the [URARA symposium report](#).

I'd like to thank Jesse Warner for organizing monthly meetings in the Salt Lake City area. These will take place at the REI on 3300 South. See the [calendar](#) for upcoming events and times.

Troy Scotter

2006 URARA President

ARARA Annual Conference Report

May 19 -22, 2006, Bluff, Utah

Diane Orr

ARARA opened their conference at the Edge of the Cedars Museum in Blanding Friday evening. Close to 200 people attended the opening of the Utah's Vanishing Rock Art exhibit and program. I showed a Powerpoint presentation (thanks to Nine Mile Canyon Coalition former president Steve Hanson's assistance) summarizing URARA's efforts and concerns in Nine Mile Canyon. ARARA members are anxious to support our efforts to protect Nine Mile petroglyphs. Many expressed a willingness to work on our current campaign to register Nine Mile Canyon as a historic archeological site.

Fred Blackburn, the symposium keynote speaker, talked about the importance of historic graffiti at rock art sites. The rule of thumb seems to be, if writing is older than fifty years, leave it. I think he would oppose removing a rancher's misspelled warning "No Tresspassing" in Rasmussen Cave.

Todd Bostwick gave the most encouraging presentation. He has been given unusual authority to preserve rock art in the Phoenix area. A generous Arizona State Historical Preservation Office (SHPO) grant has created a powerful City Archaeology Office and long term program for rock art documentation, training and management. This is a program we need in Cedar City, St. George, Moab and other areas where subdivisions are adjacent to rock art sites.

URARA members and board made excellent presentations. Troy Scotter presented an overview of Utah cultural history and rock art. Layne Miller discussed historical Ute rock art, which I hope URARA members will hear at our symposium. Dr. Kevin Jones, Utah State Archeologist talked about the protection of rock art and other archeological sites in Range Creek. He showed slides of a number of rock art sites in Range Creek, which I had not seen previously. I was delighted with the new material. Bob Mark and Evelyn Billo presented two papers: "Picture Canyon: Petroglyphs and Politics" and "Panoramas of Desert View Watchtower Murals: Grand Canyon National Park." Of course, I admired the ingenuity of their 360-degree photographs of the amazing Hopi paintings in the Watchtower. Jesse Warner provoked the audience into a new line of thinking with his paper on "The Art of Coupling: Less Obvious Sex at Bluff." David Sucec proved he could deliver a dynamite paper in fifteen minutes: "Holy Ghost in Space; A consideration of Form in Prehistoric Barrier Canyon Style Rock Art." David pointed out that the major figure in the Holy Ghost Panel is 3-dimensional, something I didn't notice when I photographed the site.

Don Christensen, a former Utah native, analyzed the differences between Snake Gulch and Cave Valley rock art styles: "Preformative And Early Formative Rock Art Of The Kanab Creek Wilderness Area, Arizona. Ann Phillips offered an explanation for those strange lobe shapes found on so many Basketmaker Panels. I'd love to see her and Steve Manning discuss interpretations further, maybe at our symposium!

I enjoyed Jim Keyser's energetic and thoughtful presentation: "Bear Comes Out: A Distinctive Plains Rock Art Shield Image." Jim has a beautiful new book dealing with historic plains rock art which you'll hear more about in July Vestiges.

URARA members were well represented at the vendor tables. Dell Crandall delightfully drove up the prices of items at the Saturday night auction. Many URARA members led field trips formally and informally. Overall, the conference was a great opportunity to learn more, share enthusiasms and make new friends. We are definitely a bunch of oddlings, but full of fun and adventure.

The LAB DOGS, a Bluegrass Band of Archaeologists including Kevin Jones and Ron Rood were a hit at the final party.

Diane Orr Receives Oliver Award from ARARA



[Photo from past Vestiges] Board Member Diane Orr was presented the prestigious Oliver Award for Rock Art Photography at the annual meeting of the American Rock Art Research Association in Bluff, Utah. "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;" 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 the data obtained from photographs are valid and useful." [Quotations from ARARA.org] The Award is accompanied by a \$500 cash prize. CONGRATULATIONS, Diane !

URARA Symposium-Vernal, UT October 6-9,

Margaret Grochocki, Chair

The annual URARA Symposium will be at the Western Park Convention Center in Vernal, Utah, October 6-9, 2006. Friday will be a reception, Saturday and Sunday morning will be presentations. Field Trips will be Sunday afternoon and Monday. Lodging information is available at <http://www.utahconvention.org/lodging.html>. We have made arrangements for camping at the event location. There will be electrical hookups, water, and showers.

Our symposium is getting bigger and better each year. We have now reached the point where the board can no longer do everything. We need Help!!!!

- **Quilt:** Nina Bowen is unable to collect the squares and put the quilt together. 1 person
- **Registration Table** - Help check people in on Saturday morning. 2 people
- **Friday Night Social** - Help with cutting up watermelon and distribute name tags. 2 people
- **Field Trips** - Help with paper work and answer questions at the symposium. May also involve recruiting and coordinating trip leaders. 2 people
- **Auction** - Help collect and display items for the auction. Assist auctioneer. 2 people
- **Miscellaneous** - Be willing to assist wherever needed. 2 people

Margaret Grochocki can be contacted at 801-282-5850 or Margaret_grochocki@yahoo.com.

Call For Presentations And Papers

Twenty-Sixth Annual Symposium, Vernal, Utah, October 7- 9, 2006

Diane Orr, Presentations Chairperson

All interested URARA members are invited to submit proposals for presentations for the 2006 Symposium. The 2006 Symposium Committee is interested in a broad range of subject matter. For example, presentations which:

- further the study and understanding of Utah rock art
- consider rock art preservation issues
- explore the current threats to rock art
- heighten the experience of visiting rock art
- bring historical understanding to rock art studies
- are aesthetically inspired by rock art visitation

The Symposium Committee focuses on Utah rock art but realizes the importance and relevance of out of state work. State lines should not limit research. We are very interested in effective out of area conservation programs. The content of your presentation should dictate the length of your presentation. Most presentations will be limited to a maximum of thirty minutes. Presentation times will be determined with your input upon proposal acceptance. Interested presenters should submit a short abstract or description, which expresses the main topic or goal of the presentation. Deadline for proposals is August 1, 2006. We greatly appreciate early submissions!

We encourage presenters to make their research, ideas and observations available in a final written paper suitable for publication. However, we realize that publication may not be practical for all presenters. **We** encourage you to make 2006 the year that you present your ideas, research or observations to the URARA membership.

Please send abstracts to Diane Orr at 67 R Street, SLC, UT 84103 (telephone 801-583-4354) or email to: beecherllc@aol.com

All presenters will receive an honorarium to help defer travel costs.

Field Trip Reports

Site Stewardship and Rock Art Recording Training Completed

Pamela Baker

On April 20, 21, and 22, [2006] eight new participants and three returning graduates joined Donna Turnipseed, BLM archaeologist, and Pam & Quentin Baker, URARA volunteers, for three intense days of training. The new trainees were: Desiree Beaudry, Lee Elmgreen, Richard Jenkinson, Julie Jones, DeLoy Norton, Darrell Thomas, Marty Thomas, and Judy Turner. Old hands included Dell Crandall, Tom Getts, and Troy Scotter. We were also joined by Nina and Craig Bowen at the field site, and attended a Bar-B-Q hosted by Claudia Berner assisted by Dell Crandall. Also, former trainees Craig Barney and Paul Janos attended the potluck.

The URARA effort in Moab is progressing steadily. In coming weeks Donna Turnipseed will be assigning sites for the new stewards to monitor and, or, record. Everyone was enthusiastic and eager to be helping with this important project.



Working at the field site. Photo Quentin Baker.
Tom, Donna, Darrell, Julie in back, Marty Richard, Judy, Troy, Dell, DeLoy, Desiree, Lee, Pam.



Working a string grid. Photo Tom Getts.



Inside sessions at BLM office. Photos Tom Getts.



Donna Turnipseed, BLM Archaeologist.



Field Trips

Devil's Kitchen, UT; Site Recording: September 22-23, 2006

Leader: Joelle McCarthy BLM Archeologist 435-743-3122; Joelle_McCarthy@blm.gov

The BLM is asking for assistance in re-documenting the Devil's Kitchen Rock art site 11.5 miles west of Fillmore. The site was originally recorded in 1973 by BLM staff, but its inclusion as a point of interest in the new Pahvant Valley Trail System will bring more exposure to the site and increases the need for updated documentation. In addition to recording approximately fifty panels, participants may have a chance to watch Ken Mears of M2 Technical Services use 3-D Laser Scanning to record some panels. The BLM will also lead a rock art driving tour field trip on Sunday the 24th for interested parties.

The site is accessed from four-wheel drive roads. Camping is available on-site or in developed campgrounds in Fillmore. Hotels are available in Fillmore and Delta. The BLM will provide lunches.

No experience in rock art recording is necessary. We will provide training and equipment for rock art recording. There is a limit of 10 people for this project.

Beneath the Milky Way

Steven J. Manning

This panel is located near Price, Utah. It was created on the vertical surface of a section of the broken rimrock of a small canyon, and it faces approximately east. It is 91 inches long by about 65 inches high. The panel appears to have been created in two episodes. One of these was pecked into the rock and the other was abraded and lightly pecked. The abraded images are not visible when sunlight is illuminating the panel. In addition to the construction techniques, the style of the two types of images is different; suggesting that either some time had elapsed between the two periods of creation or one was done by people from a different region.

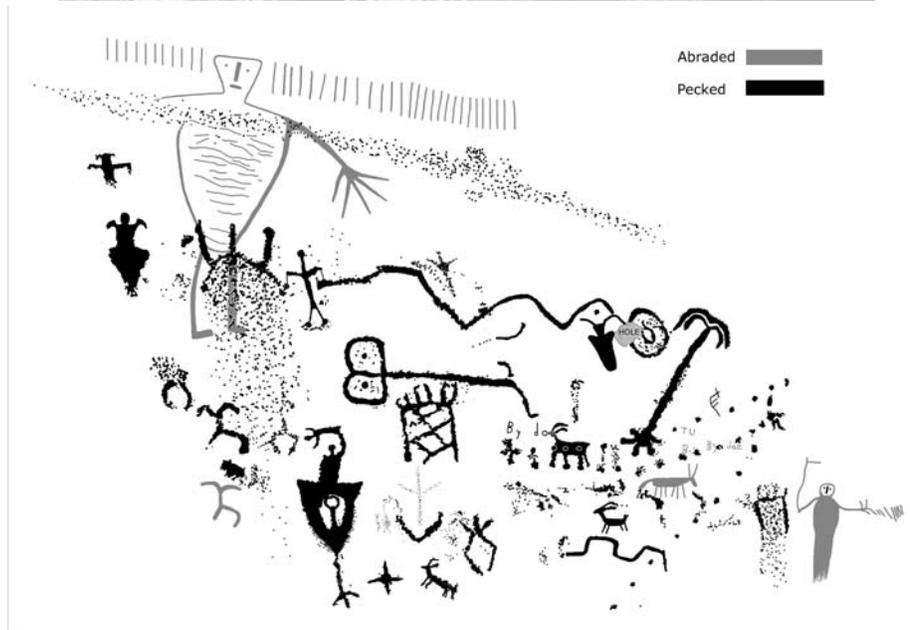
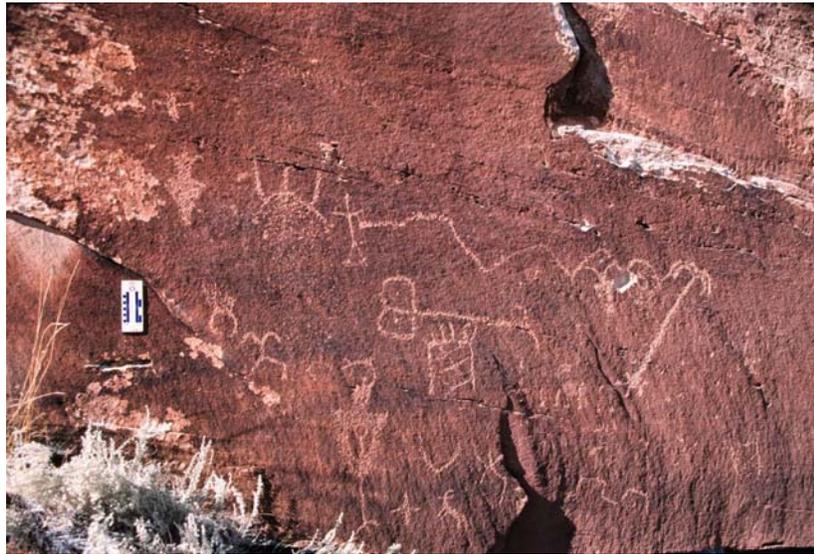
It is difficult to distinguish which was created first because the abrasion is so faint. However, it appears evident that the abraded images were placed in the panel after the pecking because some of the abraded images were placed in areas that avoided the pecked images. One figure appears to have been copied and placed beneath the other image. This panel, then, is important because it provides a relative chronology between the two different types of images.

This panel is also significant because above all of the pecked images there is a long horizontal line of pecked dots. There is a concentration of dots in one area that are outside of the long line. This appears to be a depiction of the Milky Way, first because it is above all of the other pecked images and second, because it appears to contain an approximation of the cloudy or mottled section of the Milky Way. This suggests that the images below it are related to the night sky. This panel then, may be illustrating things that are rarely, if ever, seen in the rock art of Utah.

Superimposed over the long row of dots and the abstract figure composed of dots is a large abraded and lightly pecked anthropomorph. On both sides of the head is a row of vertical lines. The area on the left side of the panel is eroded so only one arm is visible with its five splayed fingers. The head is triangular and it contains eyes, a mouth and a long vertical line between the eyes. This line is also present on the small abraded figure on the opposite side of the panel. The body contains wavy short horizontal lines.

These abraded images were likely created when a solid pigment was rubbed on the cliff face. The pigment could have been a semi-hard piece of a mineral like manganese or hematite, that when rubbed on the stone abraded the surface, while leaving behind a brightly colored image. When the pigment eroded away, all that was left was the abrasion.

While providing a lot of useful information, the panel also creates many questions. Does the long row of vertical lines suggest a different depiction of the Milky Way or does it represent the aurora borealis, or is it something entirely different?



Drawing by Steve Manning

Think About It!



“No other kind of archaeological material is more direct and thrilling on first encounter than rock art, the actual images made by prehistoric people.

It is clear that rock art is a kind of cultural resource that is very different from other archaeological and historical sites, and the importance of rock art as a traditional cultural property to Native Americans is a theme that is discussed by several authors in this book. But how different is the rock art, this other kind of human trace?

First, rock art is fixed in place. A human being once came to *this* very place and chose *this* very point on *this* very panel to make *this* very image. Walking

or scrambling up to *that* place and standing in front of *that* panel to see *that* mark, observers today – even if their bodies are cluttered with cameras and recording gear and their minds with the concerns of another age – repeat that physical journey and that physical presence. Often, the view from the rock art will be much as it was in the past. Other times, sadly, it is of the modern world.

Second, rock art is full of meaning in a direct way unmatched by stone or pottery fragments.

Third, rock art is enduring in time – at least some of it. Almost everywhere that rock art survives there is ample evidence that many more images on less-protected surfaces have eroded away and perished. In landscapes once full of colors and imagery, today fragments of sheltered panels are all that chanced to survive. Most human artifacts disappear from view as soon as they are no longer made and used. Rock art endures to be seen decades, centuries, and millennia later not just by the sons and granddaughters of those who made it but also by *any* other people who subsequently come into the land.

So this is the strength of the pictures; they are direct statements by ancient people of how they saw and knew their worlds, statements that are fixed in place and –when we are fortunate – enduring in time so that we may see them.”

These are direct quotations taken from Chapter 1, *The Discovery of North American Rock Art and Its Meanings* (pp 3-5), Lawrence L. Loendorf, Christopher Chippendale and David S. Whitley; from the book *Discovering North American Rock Art*, Edited by Lawrence L. Loendorf, Christopher Chippendale, and David S. Whitley. The University of Arizona Press, 2005.

Regional Activities

Mogollon Rim Ruins and Rock Art, June 21-25, 2006

This Old Pueblo Archaeology fund-raising tour from Tucson includes stays in Payson and Holbrook and day learning about the Arizona Archaeological Society excavation project at the Q-Ranch Pueblo. Old Pueblo Archaeology Center in Tucson is a nonprofit educational research organization. Contact Steve Buck, PhD., steve.buck@healthtrio.com.

Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument 10th Anniversary Science Symposium, September 12-14, 2006

The symposium will focus primarily on research on the Monument, with findings relevant to the Monument from a larger area. We encourage proposals for thematic sessions or posters.

Proposals for papers or posters are due June 1, 2006 and should be submitted electronically.

Sessions will consist entirely of volunteered papers, designed to promote the exchange of current scientific information with respect to thematic topics. Sessions will include, geology, paleontology, archaeology, history, botany, wildlife, range, hydrology, climate, soils, and social sciences. Call Marietta Eaton at (800) 435-644-4320 for information.

May Board Meeting Report

Steve Robinson, board member

The Board of Directors met by conference call on May 24. The following participated: Troy Scotter, Margaret Grochocki, Ben Everitt, Diane Orr and Steve Robinson.

The following items were discussed:

- Nine Mile Canyon and Magnesium Chloride utilized as a dust suppressant. The possibility of funding a graduate student from the University of Arizona to sample and study the impact on the rock art patina was considered. It was decided to wait until the design of the environmental impact study is made public to see if this will be studied by the BLM.

- The ARARA Conference and URARA participation and presentations all went very well.
- The status of all aspects of the URARA October Symposium were discussed in detail. All seems to be moving along very well under the direction of the Chair, Margaret Grochocki. Diane Orr is pleased with the progress on identifying speakers and presenters. Jan Gorski has agreed to do vendor relations. Various possibilities for guest invitees were considered from the political and tribal areas. A field trip coordinator is needed. Troy will address the question of work shops. Help is needed on registration and field trips. The process of officer nominations and voting was considered. It needs some clarification and will be reported in *Vestiges*.
- The Fillmore BLM office will conduct site documentation utilizing new laser technology at the Devil's Kitchen rock art site on September 22-23, 2006. URARA is invited to participate. Troy will coordinate.
- The Hutchings Museum in Lehi is helping with a local school program to educate students about the American Indian culture. Troy is exploring ways to inform them about rock art.

Contact Information

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Library, Archives, and Publications

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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.

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 under Contact Information.

Calendar 2006

May-Dec 31	"Utah's Vanishing Rock Art", Photo Exhibit by Diane Orr at The Edge of the Cedars Museum, Blanding, Utah.
June 3-9	"Ancient Visions: Rock Art of the Wind River Basin", Lucas Burch Center at Trail Lake Ranch, Dubois, WY. Cost \$895. Contact Jane or Dioc Bandr Wayden, traillakeranch@dteworld.com , 307-455-2353.
June 21-25	Old Pueblo Archaeology fund raising tour, Old Pueblo Archaeology Center, Tucson, AZ. Cost \$795. Contact Steve Buck, steve.buck@healthtrio.com .
July 14	Nal Morris "Venus Symbols - Their Origin and Meaning" Salt Lake City REI (3285 E 3300 S) 7:00 pm
Sept 1	Matt Seddon "National Trust Nominations" Salt Lake City REI (3285 E 3300 S) 7:00 pm
Sept 12-14	10 th Anniversary of the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument Science Symposium, Cedar City, UT. Contact Marietta Eaton, 435-644-4320, www.learningfromtheland.com .
Sept 22-23	Recording and mapping Devil's Kitchen RA site using 3-D Laser Scanner. Contact Joelle McCarthy, Joelle_McCarthy@blm.gov .
Oct 6-9	URARA Symposium, Vernal, UT, Chair: Margaret Grochocki, 801-282-5850.
Oct 19-22	30 th Great Basin Anthropological Conference, Golden Nugget, Las Vegas, NV.
Nov 11-12	NMAC Conference, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM; David Phillips, dap@unm.edu .
Dec 1	Christmas Meeting.

Editors' Message

We thank Diane Orr for promptly submitting the very nice report on the Annual May ARARA conference enabling us to include it in the June *Vestiges*. And, we congratulate her for receiving the prestigious ARARA Oliver Rock Art Photography Award.

The Think About It! piece quotes from a new book edited by Loendorf, Chippendale and Whitley: eminent archaeologists, rock art researchers and professors. Chippendale and Whitley, as either authors, editors, or both, have been quoted previously in Think About It! Interestingly Loendorf was to have been the featured speaker at the ARARA Conference in Bluff this year, but other obligations precluded it.

This is an interesting, strongly academically oriented book. The book flap states it "explores the history of rock-art research in North America and is the only volume in the past twenty-five years to provide coverage of the subject on a continental scale."

Also, we want to call members' attention to the current (June) issue of *Smithsonian*. There is an excellent article by David Roberts titled "First People of the Grand Canyon—Who Were They?" There is rock art! Very interesting. Roberts is also the author of *Sandstone Spine*, the just published book about an exciting, challenging 18 day adventure hiking the Comb Ridge from Kayenta, Arizona to the end, northwest of Blanding, Utah.

On behalf of all, we congratulate the URARA members who contributed to the ARARA Conference in Bluff. These contributions undoubtedly contributed to its success.

Happy Trails,

Steve and Marion Robinson

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