

# VESTIGES



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Monthly newsletter of URARA, the Utah Rock Art Research Association

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## President's Message

It is time to be organizing the **Summer Picnic**. I have been remiss in getting this done. However, let us put **August 12, 13** on the calendar and plan on being together in the Boulder, UT area. We are hoping that some high elevation will help us beat the summer heat. I will arrange for a campsite with information to follow in the August *Vestiges*. I am hoping to arrange for a tour of the Anasazi State Park Museum in Boulder. The Coombs site, located at the museum, is the northern most extension of the Anasazi into Utah. There will be time for some rock art and food as well.

I look forward to seeing you there and hope you are enjoying a great summer.

Troy Scotter

2006 URARA President

## General Membership Meeting

**July 14, 2006, 7:00 pm, REI, Salt Lake City**

Nal Morris, Past URARA President and Vice-President will speak about "Venus symbols— Their Origins and Meaning". He has contributed significantly to URARA's growth and professionalism. He has conducted years of studies at Parowan Gap and Rochester Creek. The meeting will begin at 7:00 pm in the community room at REI, 3285 E. 3300 So., Salt Lake City. Nal is truly a gifted and engaging speaker who can give complicated early religious meaning that we can all understand.

## URARA Symposium-Vernal, UT, October 6-9,

Margaret Grochocki, Chair, 801-280-5850, margaret\_grochocki@yahoo.com

The annual URARA Symposium will be at the Western Park Convention Center in Vernal, Utah, October 6-9, 2006. There will be a reception Friday evening. All day Saturday and Sunday morning there will be presentations. Field Trips are planned for Sunday afternoon and Monday. The Awards Dinner and Raffle will be Saturday evening.

### *Volunteers Needed for Symposium*

- **Registration Table** - Help check people in on Saturday morning. 2 people
- **Friday Night Social** - Help with cutting up watermelon and distribute nametags. 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

### *2006 Raffle Quilt! Be a Part of the Tradition!*

URARA has a tradition of creating a quilt to be sold at raffle to raise funds for future activities. It is now time to create and contribute squares for the 2006 quilt. Everyone is invited to participate. Each square should be 12 ½", fabric of your choice, and contain a rock art design. Contact person will be announced. [If you would like to be the contact person, contact Margaret Grochocki.]

2004 Quilt. Andrea Bush, Jane Bush, Rachel Singh, Barbara Green, Elva Ogden, Nina Bowen, Photo Craig Bowen.



## Symposium Program Information

Diane Orr, Program Chairperson, [beecheerllc@aol.com](mailto:beecheerllc@aol.com)

Symposium 2006 will be October 6-9 in Vernal Utah.

We will have several special sessions, including Ute

Tribal Nation and Plains Indians prehistoric rock art and rock art preservation. I am pleased to announce that Dr. James Keyser will be Saturday's keynote speaker. Keyser, head archaeologist for the Northwest Region of the U.S. Forest Service, has written several outstanding books on the rock art of the Columbia Plateau and the Great Plains. Keyser is recognized internationally as an expert on North American prehistoric rock art, archeology, and cultural history. His studies on bison jumps, ledger art, ceramic chronologies, and long-term occupation sites of the Plains Indians are significant contributions. His current research focuses on the hundreds of shield figures in Bear Gulch, Montana.

You may want to check out Keyser's most recent and beautiful book, *Five Crows Ledger: Biographic Warrior Art and the Flathead*, before the symposium.

"Ledger art derives from Plains Indian Biographic art. Because it recorded actual events important in the lives of individuals and groups, Biographic art usually comprises naturalistic action scenes composed primarily of horses, humans, weapons, and tipis. The earliest drawings remain relatively unknown; some have been lost, while a few still exist in various archives. One of these is the "Five Crows Ledger," a series of thirteen drawings collected, described and annotated by Fr. Pierre-Jean De Smet during his missionary work to the Flathead Indians of western Montana from 1841 to 1847. Deposited in a Jesuit archive for more than one hundred and fifty years, it was rediscovered in the early 1990s. The first eleven drawings in the ledger were done by the Flathead

chief Shil-che-lum-e-la (Five Crows), also known by his baptismal name, Ambrose; drawings twelve and thirteen were likely done at a different time by a different artist. The Five Crows Ledger makes these important works widely available for the first time, and includes significant evaluation and interpretation by James Keyser. Complete with reproductions of all the "Five Crows": drawings and a generous sample of other comparative Geographic art, this exquisite and captivating book will be an invaluable resource for all those interested in Plains and Plateau art." Amazon.com.

Keyser co-authored (with Michael A. Klassen) *Plains Indian Rock Art*. "Archaeologists James Keyser and Michael Klassen show us the origins, diversity, and beauty of Plains rock art. The seemingly endless variety of images include humans, animals of all kinds, weapons, masks, mazes, handprints, finger lines, geometric and abstract forms, tally marks, hoofprints, and the wavy lines and starbursts that humans universally associate with trancelike states. Plains Indian Rock Art is the ultimate guide to the art form. It covers the natural and archaeological history of the northwestern Plains; explains rock art forms, techniques, styles, terminology, and dating; and offers interpretations of images and compositions." Amazon .com.

The 2006 Symposium program is rapidly filling. If you are interested in making a presentation, please send me an abstract or summary of your presentation soon! We are going to have a very interesting program this year!

## 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](mailto:beecherllc@aol.com)

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

## Vernal Motels, Camping, RV Parks

### Vernal Area Convention Bureau

[Note: The prices of motels listed below were quoted when they were checked for October. The price is for one person without tax. It usually is \$10 more for two. Only one (Rodeway Inn) would quote a special conference, or "Government" price.]

#### Camping Facilities

Arrangements are made for camping at the event location. There will be electrical hookups, water, and showers. **Contact** Margaret Grochocki, 801-282-5850, [Margaret\\_grochocki@yahoo.com](mailto:Margaret_grochocki@yahoo.com)

#### Motels

**Best Western Antlers**, 423 West Main Street, Vernal, UT, 435.789.1202, Fax: 435.789.4979, \$75.

**Best Western Dinosaur Inn**, 251 East Main Street, Vernal, UT 84078, 435.789.2660, Fax: 435.789.2467, \$75 (discounted) [www.bestwestern.com](http://www.bestwestern.com)

**Econolodge**, 311 East Main Street, Vernal, UT 84078, 435.789.2000, Fax: 435.789.0947, \$60.

**Motel 6**, 1092 West Hwy 40, Vernal, UT 84078, 435.789.0666, Fax: 435.789.0723, \$54.

**Rodeway Inn**, 950 W. Main, Vernal, UT, 435.789.8172, Fax 435.789.0380. \$56 (gov't. rate).

**Split Mountain Motel**, 1015 East Hwy 40, Vernal, UT 84078, 435.789.9020, Fax: 435.789.9023, \$60.

**Super 8**, 1624 West Hwy 40, Vernal, UT 84078, 435.789.4326, Fax: 435.789.8844, \$70 (2).

**Weston Lamplighter**, 120 East Main Street, Vernal, UT 84078, 435.789.0312, Fax: 435.781.1480, \$80.

**Weston Plaza Hotel**, 1684 West Hwy 40, Vernal, UT 84078, 435.789.9550, Fax: 435.789.4874, \$120 (2).

#### Vernal RV Parks

**Dinosaurland KOA**, 930 North Vernal Avenue, Vernal, UT 84078, 435.789.2148 - 1.800.KOA.7574, [kamp@dinokoa.com](mailto:kamp@dinokoa.com), RV Sites 65, Tent Sites: 30, Cabins: 5, Full Hookups, Picnic Tables, Flush Toilets, Drinking Water, Fees Charged.

**Fossil Valley RV Park**, 999 West Hwy 40, Vernal, UT, 435.789.6450, 1.888.789.6450, RV Sites 45, Tent Sites, Full Hookups, Showers, Dump Station, Laundry, Picnic Tables, Flush Toilets, Drinking Water, Fees Charged.

**Outlaw Country RV Park**, 1900 South 2800 West, West Highway 40, Vernal, UT, 435.789.9676, [vandam@easilink.com](mailto:vandam@easilink.com), RV Sites 30, Full Hookups, Dump Station, and Drinking Water

**Western Heritage RV Park**, 271 South 500 East, Vernal, UT, 435.789.3324, RV Sites 32, Tent Sites, Full Hookups, Fees Charged.

#### More Information

[www.utahconvention.org/lodging](http://www.utahconvention.org/lodging).

## Field Trip Reports

### *Antelope Island Survey, April 27-29, 2006*

Report by Steven Manning



*Antelope Island and reflection during April URARA survey of the island. Photo by Steve Manning.*

URARA members spent three days on Antelope Island in the Great Salt Lake surveying for rock art and other cultural artifacts left by prehistoric people. We camped adjacent to the Fielding Garr Ranch near the southeastern end of the island. Thursday evening participants were treated to a “cook’s tour” of the ranch and museum by Park Curator Clay Shelley. The ranch house is the longest continually lived-in building in Utah and the oldest building built by the Mormon pioneers that stands in its original location. My grandmother, Zillah Walker Manning, who was born September 21, 1891, lived on the island until she was 12 years old. Her father started as a ranch hand and in a few years was foreman at the ranch.

The area chosen for this survey was the remote southwestern side of the island. It has been closed to public access since Antelope Island State Park was created in 1967; before that, it was private property. We were permitted to drive on seldom-used roads to access this area. The view from the top of the island at this point is something few people have seen. You do not realize how huge the Great Salt Lake is until you see it from there. It’s almost like looking at the ocean.

We were able to visit a cave where a black pendant was recently found, and sharp-eyed Richard Rodgers from Arizona found two unusual round flat manos.

Participants also enjoyed a barbecue at the ranch on Friday evening. Saturday afternoon we were privileged to visit the southern tip of the island where we walked on the salt flats to the remains of a sunken ship. We also had several almost too close-up views of bison. That evening calm spread across the water and we were treated to unbelievable reflections.

Unfortunately, we did not discover any rock art - this time.

Participants were Craig and Nina Bowen, Julie Jones, Walter Layton, John Liegel, Steven and Elna Manning, Layne Miller, Diane Orr, Kirk Robinson, Stephen and Marion Robinson, Richard Rodgers, and Troy Scotter.



*A mano. Photo, Steve Manning.*



*Remains of a sunken ship on salt flats. Photo by Elna Manning.*



*BackRow: Craig Bowen, Clay Shelley, Walter Layton, Layne Miller, Richard Rodgers, Front: Nina Bowen, Diane Orr, Steve Manning, Elna Manning, Marion Robinson, Steve Robinson, Kirk Robinson. Photo by Troy Scotter.*

## ***Nine Mile Canyon Tour with Questar, June 7, 2006***

### **Report by Diane Orr**

Last February representatives from Questar invited URARA input on the location of their new 24" pipeline, which will cross Nine Mile Canyon to hook up with their compressor station on the plateau near Water Canyon.

On June 7, Steve Manning and I joined Nine Mile Coalition board members Steve Hanson, Steve Tanner and Coalition President Pam Miller for the survey with folks from Questar, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, pipeline contractors, Keith Montgomery who is the consulting archeologist for Questar, and BLM archeologist Blaine Miller.

The group met at the Walker parking lot where we tried to remember names and organizational affiliations. Fortunately, half of the men were named Steve! I think everyone expected long and likely difficult day in Nine Mile Canyon. We launched with a disagreement. Montgomery felt that Nine Mile roads had improved and were less dusty than five years ago. Coalition President Pam Miller voiced our disagreement.

The new pipeline will climb the Tavaputs plateau up Rock Canyon, cross the plateau and then drop into Nine Mile Canyon at the Nutter Ranch operated by Hunt Oil. The pipeline will be adjacent to the BBC pipeline where it enters Nine Mile. Questar plans to bury the pipeline 30" deep and revegetate disturbed areas.

As Questar led the car caravan down the canyon, we were immersed in deep dust. We could scarcely see the vehicle in front of us. At Nutter Ranch, URARA and Coalition members felt that placing the pipeline in the area already disturbed by the BBC pipeline was the best choice. Blaine Miller saw advantages to Olson canyon, but agreed that either choice had pros and cons.

We were impressed that Questar project manager Jack Ahern and other Questar and pipeline representatives were seeking input. We had expected this trip to be a courtesy trip. It was refreshing to be with a group who wanted to do the best possible job. We proceeded to Water Canyon where we were disappointed to see that the BBC still had large equipment in use at the canyon confluence. Pam Miller noted that BBC had agreed to clear the Confluence in an earlier environmental assessment. FERC Project Manger Rafael L. Montag advised URARA, the Coalition and the BLM to seek enforcement of the EA.

Questar had also installed smaller equipment in Water Canyon within sight of Nine Mile Canyon. We discussed the possibility of moving their station up the wash. Ahern did not feel Questar would be willing to pay for an expensive equipment move. He did think Questar would put four or five thousand dollars into a creative solution, which improved the appearance of this important rock art site. We discussed the possibility of housing their equipment in historic cabins or a covered corral similar to one across the road.

Questar will finance a picnic table and interpretive sign at Water Canyon, which Steve Manning agreed to oversee.

URARA needs to insist that the BLM enforce Environmental Assessment agreements. In our discussion, it was not clear as to whether an EA is legally binding. I recommended that we consult Steve Block of Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance on this matter.

*Water truck illegally drawing water from the canal!  
Steve Manning Photo.*



We hiked to the place in Water Canyon where the pipeline would ascend to the plateau. Questar plans to run the pipeline underground on the east side of the canyon furthest from rock art panels.



*Photo by Steve Manning.*

Blaine Miller and URARA then guided the group on an ad hoc Nine Mile field trip. We wanted the group to see, appreciate and understand rock art and our concerns. We showed them rock art barely visible under sticky dust at Rasmussen cave and elsewhere. We showed them finely crafted panels including The Owl Panel. In spite of the heat, interest was high and everyone wanted to see more panels. We were encouraged by their enthusiastic response to what hooks all URARA members.

Our requests to Questar were as follows:

To finance rock art recording in the section of the canyon outside of the right-of-way where Questar will be moving heavy vehicles, primarily between Gate and Water Canyon. Steve Manning had prepared an impressive map, which showed which areas of Nine Mile Canyon rock art were recorded. We did not receive an answer to this request, but we did not present actual costs or completely explain the nature of this request. We should follow up with more information.

To protect Nine Mile Canyon rock art by taking all possible measures not to contribute to the dust continuing to coat rock art sites. To accomplish this we suggested that Questar advocate a hard surface road and not support the extensive use of chemical dust suppressants to control dust. The Questar project manager said Questar could not resurface the road but could make strong requests to Carbon County that the road be bladed regularly thereby limiting dust. He said Questar would make all reasonable efforts not to contribute to the problem.

To consider the dangers to rock art on fractured cliff walls when moving heavy equipment. We voiced our concerns about vibrations, which could cause rocks to fracture. Questar responded that they would be willing to reduce vehicle speeds of construction equipment to reduce vibrations.

To contribute to Nine Mile Canyon archeology. To create a positive experience for visitors at the mouth of Water Canyon.

To do the job they said they intend to do; to bury the pipeline, remove construction roads and revegetate disturbed areas. Overall, we left Nine Mile Canyon with a positive feeling about our time with Questar representatives. We enjoyed sharing the rock art of Nine Mile with this group.



*Nine Mile tour group at Owl Site-note Vestiges owl above orange sleeve. Steve Manning Photo*

## **Field Trips**

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

**Leader: Joelle McCarthy, BLM Archeologist 435-743-3122; [Joelle\\_McCarthy@blm.gov](mailto: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 24 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.

## Think About It!

“It has become increasingly clear that any attempt to categorize the rock art of Nine Mile Canyon is fraught with problems. Not only were the canyon walls used as a canvas for scores of generations but also quite possibly different groups with different ethnic identities and different worldviews used them. This has resulted in the confusing array of panels that are visible to canyon visitors today. However, there are very few clues as to who made them or when or why. Adding to the confusion is the fact that canyon visitors today look upon the rock art with an entirely different perspective than that of the ancient artists.



Consequently, all modern interpretations will be clouded by the fact it is impossible to know the mind of the prehistoric person who made it. We can appreciate rock art; we can marvel at it, we can say it looks like ‘this or that’. But we can never really understand it, at least not in the same way prehistoric peoples did.”

*Horned Snakes and Axle Grease: A Roadside Guide to the Archaeology, History and Rock Art of Nine Mile Canyon*, Jerry D. Spangler and Donna Spangler, Chapter 7, *The Intrigue of Rock Art; Classifying Rock Art Styles*, p. 72, Uinta Publishing, 2003.

## More Graffiti on Wall Street

**Pamela Baker**

While working on recording her site along Moab’s Potash Road, Ann Vandergriff noted the recent addition of more graffiti, which was reported to the BLM. Recording work continues to be a high priority in Moab to gather baseline data for site conservation and protection.



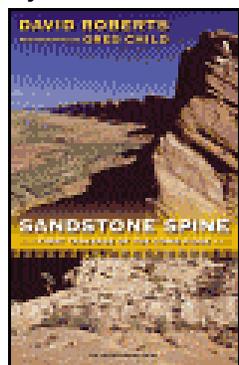
*Ann Vandergriff. Photo Quentin Baker.*

## Book Review

### *Sandstone Spine: First Traverse of the Comb Ridge*

David Roberts, Photography by Greg Child, *The Mountaineers Books, Seattle, Washington, April 2006.*

**By Steve Robinson**



This exciting, expertly written, cannot wait to turn the page; book describes the fascinating adventure of the first full-length traverse of the 125 mile Comb Ridge. This is a rugged, precipitous, challenging, trail-less ridge, which stretches from Kayenta, Arizona to a few miles northwest of Blanding, Utah, where the traverse ended in Whiskers Draw on the 18<sup>th</sup> day. The Comb Ridge separates Comb Wash on the very steep west side from Butler Wash on the east. The San Juan River intersects the ridge just south of Bluff, as does highway 167. A few miles south of Blanding, Highway 95 horseshoe turns over Comb Ridge going towards Natural Bridges National Monument. Approximately 60 miles of the ridge lies within the Navajo Reservation and tribal permission was obtained to traverse the reservation.

The author tells us that the ridge is a “topographic anomaly . . . a single fold in the earth’s crust . . . a striking sear across the desert landscape of the Southwest: an upthrust ridge of sandstone--virtually a mountain range.”

The east slope of the ridge is “relatively gentle”. It has slabs and terraces ranging from “twenty degrees to a maximum of fifty” from the horizontal. The west side is a “sheer precipice”. The ridgeline “looms only 300 to 900 feet”: above the plain. The east side was the only reasonable traverse, but to hike it “is to run a gauntlet of up-and-down severities” with “fiendishly convoluted redrock slabs – always at a sideways, ankle-wrenching pitch.”

These were the conditions facing Roberts, the 64-year-old author, Child, 47, the photographer, and the third member of the intrepid trio, Vaughan Hadenfeldt, 53. Both Roberts and Child are experienced mountaineers with extensive climbing experience in challenging ranges throughout the world. Hadenfeldt, a well-seasoned backpacker, has extensive wilderness guide experience, especially in the Four Corners Area. He resides in Bluff.

Roberts is an excellent and widely published writer, with several books to his credit. These include *In Search of the Old Ones*, which focuses on his love of the Four Corners Area. Coincidentally, the March 2006 issue of *National Geographic Adventure* has an excellent 8 page article by Roberts with Child’s photographs titled “The Lost World of Comb Ridge.”

This *Adventure* article obviously provides a much quicker read than the book. In addition, I would recommend it to all, regardless of whether or not you have read the book. The author ends the article pointing out that the 11 days spent hiking within the reservation “was by far the least visited sector of Comb Ridge. And I know now, from the dazzling discovery we had made during the previous five days, which nothing in the rest of the hike would compare in archaeological richness to the terrain we were leaving behind, where the Chinle snaked back and forth through the comb, carving a landscape that had once been an Anasazi paradise.”

The book has six chapters. The first, *Dry Run*, describes the initial mutual interest shared by Roberts and Hadenfeldt for the challenging passage over the rugged spine – a conversation that started in January 2003. This was followed by considerable discussion, research, and planning, then storing the caches for resupply at appropriate locations along the rugged route. It all became a dramatic reality when within the first two hours of the traverse, on September 1, 2004; they came upon the ruins of an unknown “small prehistoric village.” They believed it to be of the AD 1300 period. However, they identified pictographs “chimerical creatures with human heads and trunks but reptilian appendages, they seemed to be caught in the act of scampering up the arching wall, as if fleeing some unfathomable predicament.” From past experiences, they “knew that the art predated the structure perhaps by at least several thousand years” (!)

Chapter 1 also weaves in information about the Native American Cultures in the area, as well as arrangements made with the Navajo for resupply of provisions while traversing their territory.

The following five chapters chronologically describe their passage over the spine to the end. They are: *Rounding Monument Valley*, *Chinle*, *Leaving the Rez*, *The Comb Gets Rough*, and *Last Days*.

There are 16 pages of excellent color photographs of habitation ruins, rock art, and flora. This visual documentation of the trek is most informative and welcome.

Roberts is a gifted writer. His text is well organized and clear. It is richly descriptive – never minimalistic or florid. He readily succeeds in helping us to take his word pictures and connect them to our own mind’s eye. In addition to describing the physical variables and challenges of their trek, he never side - steps the dynamic factors associated with the different personalities of these three intrepid explorers. Were there disagreements, some unpleasant feelings over these physically and emotionally demanding 18 days? Of course. Were they satisfactorily resolved? Roberts does not paint a polyannaesque picture of the interpersonal relationships, but does provide a sense of the variables involved and how they, in the end, meshed very well. Moreover, imagine backpacking with upwards of 12 quarts of water in packs weighing as much as 75 pounds. Then, picking one’s way across the rugged, barely traversable sandstone spine. No trail! Only a general direction that had to be followed. “Over hill and dale” does not express it! The challenge was mental, emotional, and least of all physical, tough as it was.

Of course, we URARAItes are especially interested in the rock art. Roberts makes it clear that it is abundant. Much is described but never clearly located.

The site found on day one has been mentioned. On day 14 he says, "We traversed the apron of the comb and reached the draw that led up to the Procession Panel...By 9:20, we were face-to-face with the single most extraordinary rock art panel on the whole Comb Ridge – one of the finest panels, for that matter in all the Southwest. Though by now its details were familiar to me, I felt all over again a shiver of awe at beholding this prehistoric masterpiece. Greg, with his camera was beside himself." Roberts then discusses in detail the history of the discovery and rediscovery of this panel. He devotes a page and a half to deciphering it. Its name comes from "... a tight column of human figures marching from right to left across a rock canvas that stretches an astounding twenty eight yards from end to end." He states he has counted 154 "humanoids" on each of his three visits. "No rock art tableau that I have seen anywhere in the world tantalizes me more than the Procession Panel. After counting the marching figures, I simply stared, as I lapsed into a trance, begging the unfathomable meaning of the whole composition to slip into my subconscious." He states that all three were united in the opinion it was the expression of a single artist... "A Michelangelo of the first millennium before Christ, whose name and identity would remain forever lost."

Roberts writes, "Ultimately, whatever pride I might feel at having completed the traverse is inextricable from the dozens – no, the score – of moments of the most piercing happiness that came over me during those eighteen days, moments whose joy was all the keener for having shared them with two of my best friends."

He continues: "The Comb was different. For the rest of my life, those enchanted moments – spotting the perfect gray-green arrowhead in the orange sand, finding the Basketmaker pictographs in the obscure north facing alcove...eating lunch on the tiny summit of the Mule Ear, wading the San Juan, staring at petroglyphs I thought I could almost comprehend, even holding the Basketmaker skull in Cave 7 – those, and so many other moments, will remain imperishable in my memory. And as I think back on the comb, another realization dawns in my head: that no matter how long I live, no matter how many more years I can hike, there will always be canyons in the Southwest down which I can set off for the first time, or cliffs and mesas yet to climb, where I will have the chance to discover ruins and rock art panels that, no matter who else may have found them before me, are like nothing else I have ever seen."

## June Board Meeting Report

**Steve Robinson, board member**

The board met at 7:30 pm on June 21, 2006 at the home of Margaret Grochocki. In addition to Margaret, Troy was present and the following participated by conference call: Ben Everitt, Layne Miller, Diane Orr, and Steve Robinson. The following subjects were discussed and action recommended as indicated.

- Nine Mile Canyon--Diane Orr reviewed her report on the June 7<sup>th</sup> Questar Survey she and Steve Manning attended, along with others. [See her report in this issue of *Vestiges*.] There was considerable discussion about the need to press the BLM to follow up on the review of the proposed oil exploration activities. To scientifically evaluate the potential damage, possibly use \$1000 to obtain the service of a graduate student from Arizona State Univ. Follow-up action – Ben Everitt.
- October Symposium – Diane reported that Dr. James Keyser has been confirmed as the keynote speaker for Saturday morning, with a short talk on his special interests for the Saturday evening banquet.
- Margaret reported that we have a \$500 grant from the Utah Humanities Council and a possibility for a \$5000 grant, which would give us money for a public outreach education program.

- Symposium Vendors – same approach as last year.
- There will be T- shirts for sale.
- Field Trips – Identification of location and leaders is urgent. We need a coordinator familiar with the Vernal area.
- General Membership Meetings at REI – Jesse Warner has responsibility.
- URARA Board 2007 – Tom Getts has responsibility for nominating committee, 4 slots
- Summer Picnic – Probably in July, Escalante/Boulder are best prospect – Troy follow-up.

## Contact Information

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

[www.utahrockart.org](http://www.utahrockart.org)

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

### Board of Directors 2006

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### Library, Archives, and Publications

Nina Bowen [nina\\_bowen@comcast.net](mailto:nina_bowen@comcast.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](http://www.utahrockart.org). If you do not 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.
- July 14 Nal Morris "Venus Symbols - Their Origin and Meaning" Salt Lake City REI, 3285 E. 3300 So., 7:00 pm.
- Sept 1 Matt Seddon, Utah State Preservation Office, "National Trust Nominations", and Utah State Preservation Office/URARA relations, Salt Lake City REI, 3285 E. 3300 So., 7:00 pm
- Sept 12-14 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument Science Symposium, Cedar City, UT. Contact Marietta Eaton, 435-644-4320, [www.learningfromtheland.com](http://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](mailto:Joelle_McCarthy@blm.gov).
- Oct 6-9 URARA Symposium, Vernal, UT, Chair: Margaret Grochocki, 801-282-5850.
- Oct 19-22 30<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:dap@unm.edu).
- Dec 1 Christmas Meeting.

## Thank You Note

### *From Mary Allen's Siblings*

In a card reading, "Your kind expression of sympathy will always be held in grateful remembrance", a hand written note was included. It reads:

Dear Rock Art Group,

Rick, Janet and I want to thank you for the lovely rose bush you gave in honor of our sister. It was so thoughtful of your group to remember us at this difficult time. Mary loved the outdoors and always wanted to show us rock art that Janet and I could get to. Rick had no problems seeing it all. We will miss our adventures. They just won't be the same without her.

Sincerely, Rick, Janet, and Anita (Mary's siblings).

## Editors' Message

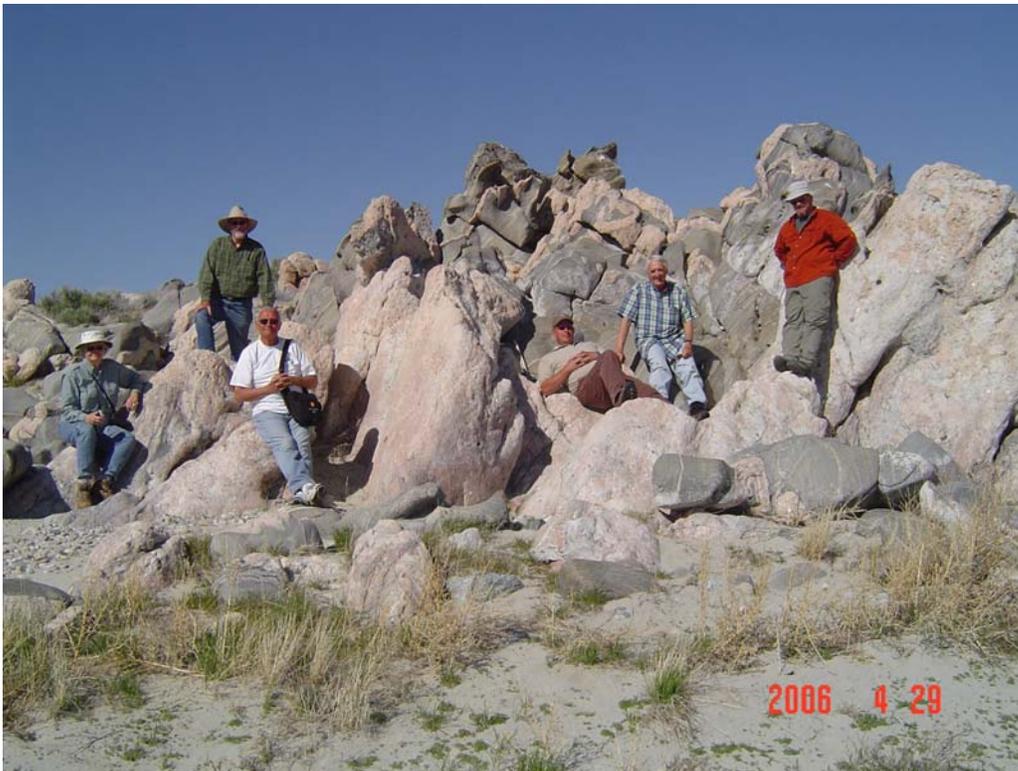
We understand that earlier this year, David Roberts, the author of *Sandstone Spine* [see review this issue] appeared at the bookstores in Moab and Salt Lake City to discuss his book. We would welcome comments from any URARA members who attended and would like to share their views with *Vestiges*.

We want to echo, strongly, the Call for Volunteers for help with the Symposium. In addition, we underscore the need for someone to step up and take the responsibility for the famous Rock Art Quilt, which is auctioned off every year. Please someone do it! Others please continue preparing your rock art quilt squares.

Happy Trails,

Steve and Marion Robinson

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*Lounging around – not touching any!!-- rock art at the south end of Antelope Island, after the surveying was finished.*