

# VESTIGES



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*Monthly newsletter of URARA, the Utah Rock Art Research Association*

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## President's Message

There is sad news this month regarding the death of Brent Higgins. I wish to express my condolences to his family.

On a more positive note, I have had discussions with the BLM regarding the use of Magnesium Chloride (MgCl) as a dust suppressant in Nine Mile Canyon. The BLM reports that they have decided to suspend the use of MgCl in Nine Mile. Layne Miller is following up with the counties to see if they are following suit. While there are no scientific studies that we know of regarding possible impacts of MgCl on rock art, we are concerned that it may be a corrosive agent. If you are aware of other areas in Utah where MgCl may pose a threat to rock art, please let me know. URARA will consider funding a study to determine the impact.

URARA is moving forward with our nomination of the Wall Street area near Moab to the National Trust for Historic Places. We are arranging to have Sally Cole come to Moab in August to assist us in writing a "Statement of Significance" for the rock art in that area. We are grateful to Sally for her willingness to help and for the URARA members who are helping arrange this event.

Finally, I look forward to seeing you at the URARA picnic in the Boulder/Escalante region. We will be camping up on Boulder Mountain where we hope the temperatures are moderate. Please come and join us!

Troy Scotter  
2006 URARA President

## Untimely Death of Brent Higgins

Brent Higgins, 29, a member of URARA, from Salt Lake City, UT, died July 15, 2006 while hiking on Vestal Peak in Southern Colorado. He and his wife Shannon, and their 11-month-old son Canyon, plus his in-laws, Glen and Margaret Stone, had been camping in the Vestal Valley area. He

left for an overnight hike, and when he did not return on schedule, search parties were formed. After several days, a camera was recovered by hikers, which provided clues as to his disappearance. Evidence suggests that he suffered a fall, perhaps of 1000 feet or more. Many volunteers and friends participated in the search and recovery of his body.

On behalf of all URARA members, we express our condolences to his wife and family on this tragic loss. Donations for the Brent Higgins search and rescue fund are being sent to Colorado Federal Credit Union, 516 28 road, Grand Junction, CO 81501.

## Welcome to New URARA Members!

Welcome to the 18 new URARA members who have joined us since *Vestiges* reported the 26 new members in May. Of the 44 total new members, one in three is from Utah. All the western states (including Utah) account for 33 new members or 75%. All share our common interest in, and desire to protect, our wonderful rock art treasure. Interestingly, one new New York member currently resides in Sweden! We hope many of you will be able to attend our October Symposium in Vernal, Utah. Again, WELCOME to URARA!

Kevin Auld & Mishal Weaver, Olathe, KS  
Lawrence & Jo Ann Baca, Alexandria, VA  
John & Sharon Beuttler, Berkeley, CA  
Suzan Bradford, Taos, NM  
Pamela Cramer, Las Vegas, NV  
John Juston, West Islip, NY

Ernest "Erny" Kuncl, Mountain Green, UT  
Bill Lawrence, Craig, CO  
F. Ellen Martin, Tempe, AZ  
Cathy & Dennis O'Bryant, Payson, UT  
Opal & Dan Paulson, Nampa, ID  
Brent Shipley & Ginny Luthy, WestValley City, UT

## General Membership Meeting Report

By Nina Bowen

The July 14th meeting at REI in Salt Lake City with Nal Morris as featured speaker was exceptional. About 20 people attended, and he gave us a tutorial on the Venus symbol and why it was so significant to the people of long ago.

The path of time was worked out along a line in rock art. The Venus symbol, or t-cross, is the path mentality in print. The classic human stick figure in rock art can also symbolize the Venus symbol. The figure is portrayed with arms up and three-fingered hands, then legs down with three toes on the end of each leg. Using this figure to count, there are three moons to the solstice, as signified by the right hand, three moons to the equinox, as signified by the left hand, three moons to the equinox, as signified by the right foot and three moons to the solstice again, as signified by the left foot. There is more to this figure, but this is the basic idea.

The movements of Venus through its path in the sky are also worked out in the elongated cross. The inferior conjunction is the top or shortest part of the cross, which is 8 days, the two arms signify the morning star and evening star, each of which has 263 days, and the longer bottom part of the cross is the 50 days of superior conjunction. This makes a total of 584 days, which is the cycle of Venus.

One should read Nal's book for an understanding of what he is going for. He is almost finished with a second volume. He is the one that makes all this technical stuff easy for us to understand. He has put years of his life into the study of the heavenly movements, and Parowan Gap.

We are so lucky to have access to Nal and his vast knowledge of rock art and its meanings.



Nal Morris lecturing at Parowan Gap.  
Summer Solstice, 1998.



Rock Art at Parowan Gap, UT

Photos from Nal Morris Website, [www.parowan.org/city/pgap](http://www.parowan.org/city/pgap)

[Nal Morris, past URARA President and Vice-President, has contributed significantly to URARA's growth and professionalism. He has conducted years of studies at Parowan Gap and Rochester Creek. He may be contacted at 801-484-8356 or at [Solarnetics.com](http://Solarnetics.com). His book, *Parowan Gap Report, Volume 1: Space, Time, Light and Number*, is available, and *Volume 2: The Path of Discovery* is just coming out.]

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

Margaret Grochocki, Chair, 801-280-5850, [margaret\\_grochocki@yahoo.com](mailto:margaret_grochocki@yahoo.com)

The annual URARA Symposium will be at the Western Park Convention Center in Vernal, Utah. There will be a 'mellow' melon 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. Registration forms will be included in the September Vestiges.

### *Volunteers Still Needed for Symposium*

Let's help Margaret avoid a stress attack. We have three folks who have stepped up to help, and we need more to keep things going well. The best way to make this symposium run smoothly is with the help of the membership. Let her know, or me at 801-566-0741, or [bobreedclyartist@hotmail.com](mailto:bobreedclyartist@hotmail.com).

- **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! Will It Be a Part of the Tradition?*

We are in *serious* need of someone to pull together the traditional quilt project. Are you willing to help? If so, please contact Margaret Grochocki.

URARA has had 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. We invite everyone to participate. Each square should be 12 ½", fabric of your choice, and contain a rock art design. Please send panels to Margaret Grochocki, at 3760 Vista West Drive, West Jordan, UT 84088 for

storage. Without a quilt creator, we will have to live with much smaller auction funds to offset symposium expenses.

## Symposium Presentation and Papers

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

We are very excited about the terrific and diverse group of presenters scheduled for the Symposium. Details will be reported in September *Vestiges*. We will have several special sessions, including Ute Tribal Nation and Plains Indians prehistoric rock art and rock art preservation.

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.

## 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.] The latest information is that some rates are changing, so check when you call. We recommend you get your reservations soon, because the oil boom workers are filling the motels.

### *Camping Facilities*

Arrangements are made for camping at the event location. There will be electrical hookups, water, and showers. **Contact:** Bob Reed, 801-566-0741, or [bobreedclyartist@hotmail.com](mailto:bobreedclyartist@hotmail.com). Bob will be at the convention center a day early to assist campers with setup.

### *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

### ***URARA Picnic – Boulder/Escalante: August 12-13, 2006***

**Leader:** Troy Scotter 801-377-6901 [troyscotter@comcast.net](mailto:troyscotter@comcast.net)

Our annual picnic will be held in the Boulder/Escalante area this year. I have reserved the group camping area of the Singletree Campground on Boulder Mountain for our use Friday and Saturday night. The campground is 17 miles southeast of Teasdale on Highway 12, and is located at 8,000 feet on Boulder Mountain. I am hoping that it can give us some respite from the August heat.

Fieldtrips are still being developed. There is a broad range of possibilities in the Boulder/Escalante region and I will work with the local land managers to choose some interesting sites. To some degree, the sites we choose will be based on the weather. Long hikes in hot temperatures are not that appealing to me. I have also arranged for a tour of the Anasazi State Park Museum late Saturday afternoon. It is located at the Coombs site, which represents the northern most expansion of Anasazi habitation.

I will bring some meat for the picnic. If you plan on attending, please bring a side dish and contact me so that I have some idea of how much food to bring.

### ***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 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!

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 "Rock art is *landscape art*. It consists of pictures, motifs, and designs placed on natural surfaces such as cliff and boulder faces, cave walls and ceilings, and the ground surface. Rock art is also sometimes referred to as cave art or *parietal* (wall) art. Regardless of appellation, the defining characteristic of rock art is its placement on natural rock surfaces, thereby distinguishing it from

murals on constructed walls, paintings or carvings on canvas, wood, ceramics, or other surfaces, and freestanding sculptures.



Rock art includes *pictographs* (paintings and drawings), *petroglyphs* (engravings and carvings) and *earth figures* (intaglios, geoglyphs, or earthforms). Some researchers also include pecked *pits and grooves*, sometimes called cups and rings or *cupules*, as another form of rock art. Pictographs and petroglyphs are found on rock art panels. These are approximately flat surfaces that are the fracture or weathering planes of a natural rock outcrop.”

“Some researchers object to the inclusion of the term art in ‘rock art,’ implicitly or explicitly arguing that the Western concept of art is not appropriate for traditional, non Western cultures. They hold that the use of the term *rock art* is an essentialist projection on the past, a way of applying

our own contemporary cultural conceptions inappropriately to others. They suggest, as alternatives, terms like *rock graphics art* or the hyphenated *rock-art*. I prefer the old, unhyphenated term rock art for a variety of reasons, not least of which is my interest in continuing reasonable and long-standing archaeological traditions. As an archaeologist, my concern is with preserving the past. This necessarily includes archaeological traditions, unless they are convincingly shown to be pernicious or simply wrong.

More important, it is clear both that our Western artistic tradition includes the kinds of performative and religious art found in rock art created by non-Western, traditional cultures, and that these same non-Western cultures are capable of appreciating the aesthetic qualities that are (for some) the hallmarks of Western art. As Sven Ouzman has sagely observed, the argument that the term *rock art* is somehow inappropriate for traditional non-Western cultures necessarily implies that ‘we’ create ‘art,’ whereas traditional cultures create something else—and something less. This seems unreasonable. Accordingly, I use this term without apology throughout this book.”  
*Introduction to Rock Art Research*, David S. Whitley, Left Coast Press, Inc. 2005, pp 3, 4.

## Regional Activities

From ARARABoard@gmail.com

### *Old Pueblo Archaeology Center*

Verde Valley Summer Overnighter, Arizona, September 16-17, 2006

Early Bird Special-Sign up by August 4, 2006

Archaeology and History of the Cottonwood-Jerome, Arizona Area tour with Dr. Stephen H. Buck, departing from Tucson International Airport. Tour includes walking tour of the historic Jerome mountainside town, a ride on the Verde Canyon Railroad through the Verde Valley, and the amazing rock art site at the V Bar V Ranch. ADVANCE RESERVATIONS REQUIRED 520-798-1201 or infor@oldpueblo.org

### **BARARA: Saturday, August 26th**

Suisun Rock Art, Fairfield, California

Local historian, Clyde Low, has graciously agreed to guide members of Bay Area Rock Art Research Association to visit Suisun rock art and other cultural sites in Fairfield, California. Clyde is retired from Solano Community College and shares endless stories of local native and early settlement history. For more information contact barara@prodigy.net.

### ***Nevada Rock Art Foundation: August 23, 2006***

The Great Rock Art of Chaco Canyon  
Wilbur D. May Museum, Reno, Nevada

Jane Kolber has worked at Chaco Canyon for many years, documenting the rock art. She will share her insights from years of experience. Free to the public, at Wilbur May Museum in the beautiful Rancho San Rafael Regional Park, 1595 N. Sierra St.  
<http://www.nevadarockart.org/events.cfm>

### ***Special Exhibit at the Maturango Museum: August-Sept 12, 2006***

The Maturango Museum, in Ridgecrest, California, is presenting a special exhibit on "High Desert Archaeology and History". The exhibit features artifacts and photographs from the Museum collection and from the collection of the China Lake Naval Air Weapons Station curation facility, and highlights prehistoric life ways in the high desert and southwestern Great Basin. Of particular interest is a pair of Numic bows, recovered recently from the Coso Peak area of the China Lake NAWS, and representing some of the few examples ever found. Interpretive materials explain ancient life ways, along with historic photographs of early archaeological expeditions in the area. In addition, historic photographs and artifacts from the former town of Brown, north of Inyokern, give glimpses of life during the homesteading era. Of particular interest to ARARA/URARA members is a display of Coso rock art. The exhibit runs through September 12, 2006.

### ***Unsolved Mystery: What Happened To The Ancient Peoples Of The Four Corners? Series Aug 17, 2006, 7:00 pm.***

*Mark Varien, PhD, director of research, Crow Canyon Archaeological Center.*

For the past 23 years, Crow Canyon Archaeological Center has conducted excavations at 20 sites, surveyed 500 sites, and created a database of 9,000 sites. Varien will explain how these projects have provided insights into Pueblo history and shed new light on why Pueblo peoples moved from the region and resettled in areas of New Mexico and Arizona. Varien joined the Crow Canyon research staff in 1987. He has a PhD in anthropology from Arizona State University and has published many books and articles. He has conducted research in a variety of locales, but his primary area of expertise is the Mesa Verde region, where he has worked since 1979. Thursday, August 17, 7:00 p.m. Ricketson Auditorium, Denver Museum of Nature and Science, Denver, CO. Series ticket: \$40 Museum and Crow Canyon member, \$52 nonmember. Individual tickets: \$12 Museum and Crow Canyon member, \$15 nonmember.

## **Online Articles on International Rock Art**

Excerpts are from articles suggested by Jan Gorski, member of Board of Directors, [janglyph@msn.com](mailto:janglyph@msn.com)

Subject: FW: [arte\_y\_rupestre] Engrave danger/Australia July 01, 2006

Governments have to find a path between encouraging exports and protecting our rock-art capital, writes Victoria Laurie.

When it comes to choosing between heritage and economic progress, Western Australia finds itself between a rock and a hard place. More precisely, between rock-art precincts of great antiquity and a China-driven resource boom that is demanding some parts be bulldozed out of industry's way.

Subject: FW: [arte\_y\_rupestre] More Ice Age art is discovered at Church Hole at Creswell Crags during detailed study by the research team this year 26 Jun 2006

New research this year at Creswell Crags has revealed the World's most elaborately carved cave ceiling dating to around 13,000 years old according to the research team who have been studying the art.

Subject: FW: [arte\_y\_rupestre] Wollemi rock art shows Aboriginal Dreaming 26 Jun 2006

Wollemi rock art shows Aboriginal Dreaming, Judy Skatssoon, ABC Science Online, Friday, 2 December 2005

Some of the rock art found in Wollemi National Park is believed to represent paths associated with Dreamtime beings, such as the eagle ancestor (Image: Paul Taçon). Archaeologists surveying rugged bushland outside Sydney have discovered evidence that an ancient Aboriginal Dreaming track runs through wilderness where the Jurassic-era Wollemi Pine was found.

## 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.
- Aug 12, 13 Summer Picnic, Boulder, Utah. General Membership
- 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.

## Editors' Message

Our June 2006 Think About It! quoted from the book *Discovering North American Rock Art* published by the University of Arizona Press, 2005. The authors are Lawrence L. Loendorf, Christopher Chippendale, and David S. Whitley. We are giving some thought to reviewing selected chapters of this book for *Vestiges*. If we do this, Chapter 11, The Role of Avocational Archaeologists in Rock Art by William D. Hyder and Lawrence L. Loendorf will be our first priority. Other possibilities are Rock Art Research in the American Southwest (Bostwick, Chapter 3); Pictographs Petroglyphs, and Paradigms: Rock Art in North American Archaeology (Francis, Chapter 8); In Steward's Shadow: Histories of Research in the Far West and Western Europe (Whitley and Clottes, Chapter 7); and, From Fertility Shrines to Sacred Landscapes: A Critical Review of Gendered Rock Art Research in the Western United States (Hays-Gilpin, Chapter 9). We would be delighted to hear from anyone familiar with this excellent book that would be interested in reviewing one or more of these chapters for our *Vestiges* readers.

We were very interested in Nina Bowen's report on the General Membership Meeting featuring Nal Morris. On one of our several visits to the Parowan Gap, we had the good fortune to arrive in the early evening of the summer solstice. We noticed a distinguished gentleman explaining the rock art to a small group. We joined, and found his comments interesting and informative. It was Nal Morris. He had copies of his book on the Parowan Gap ready to share. We considered ourselves fortunate to obtain an autographed copy.

Jesse Warner, a Board Advisor, has accepted the responsibility to arrange these General Meetings this year. They are off to an excellent start. Contact Jesse for questions about the next meeting September 1<sup>st</sup>.

Happy Trails,  
Steve and Marion Robinson

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



*"Ok—so it looks like me—so what?" Photo by Bob Reed*