

VESTIGES



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Monthly newsletter of URARA, the Utah Rock Art Research Association

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President's Message

This has been a busy season for many of us. As I described last month, URARA has been reviewing the complicated BLM documents that describe how they will manage public lands for the next decade. We have responded to the Moab and Price proposals and will be submitting our Vernal response before you read this message. We have substantially completed Kanab and will begin work on Monticello and Richfield shortly. We are learning a lot in the process. I have a whole new vocabulary of acronyms. If you would like to be involved in the crafting of our Kanab, Monticello, or Richfield responses, please let me know as soon as possible.

I know many of you are interested in symposium. I think the board has narrowed the choices down to a couple of locations, either of which would be new to us. The board will be spending a weekend together in January to plan the New Year and we will provide you with a firm date and location in the February Vestiges.

In our modern world, so filled with luxury, we lose track of the seasons. We turn on the furnace and leave the lights on a bit longer. Winter becomes a minor inconvenience considered only on long walks. For ancient people, however, this must have been a tremendously exciting time. They watched the sun losing its daily battle against darkness and experienced the resulting cold and hardship on a visceral basis. However, at this time of year [past the winter solstice] they saw victory in the sky. Hope for a better future was tangible with each longer day. I wish the same to each of you. Best of wishes for the season and for the coming year.

Troy Scotter
2007 URARA President

Annual December Meeting-Potluck

By Fred and Barbara Saxon

URARA's annual December party went smoothly despite some ominous winter weather warnings by our Salt Lake weathermen. True to their predictions, the ride home for some of us was a bit of a challenge.

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About 27 people arrived for a fun evening of good food and lots of socializing. Barbara Green presented an interesting video on rock art in the Mojave Desert. Barbara and Inga Nagel began with a field trip to Page, Arizona, and then south a short distance to Willow Springs. The trip then swung northwest to Death Valley National Park before ending the excursion in the vicinity of Bishop, California.

New Members since June 2007

We are pleased to present and welcome new members to URARA who joined since our June 2007 issue of *Vestiges*.

Donnie Alexander, St. George, UT
Marni Ambrose, Salt Lake City, UT
Wayne Anderson
& Bruce Pierini, Sacramento, CA
Anka & Burt Angrist, High Falls, NY
Dana Bailey, Minneapolis, MN
Vicki Barker, Moab, UT
Robert Bloomfield, Salt Lake City, UT
Paul Cahan, Passaic, NJ
Dennis Charles, Ventura, CA
Sherry Eberwein, San Diego, CA
Rob & Eileen Frazier, Torrey, UT
Amy Gilreath
& Paul Keyser, Boulder City, NV
Geri & Paul King, Aptos, CA

Francis Gohier, San Diego, CA
Robert & Gerry Haase, Scottsdale, AZ
Don & Pam Harrison, St. George, UT
Patricia Heisler, Austin, TX
Cinda Houston, Payson, UT
C. A. Kunkel, Navajo Dam, NM
Pricilla Murr, Austin, TX
Joanne Parsons, Bishop, CA
Andrienne Schipperus, Calgary, Canada
Emilie Somerville, GWS, CO
William Wallace, Grand Junction, CO
Barbara Webb & Jerry Shue, Moab, UT
John Wilson, Hollywood, SC
Robert Young, Farmington, NM

The 64 total for the new members above and those reported for the first half of the year are shown by state below. Surprisingly only one third of the members are from Utah.

<u>West</u>		<u>Other</u>	
Arizona	2	Calgary	1
California	10	Minnesota	1
Colorado	10	New Jersey	1
Nevada	8	New York	2
New Mexico	5	So. Carolina	<u>1</u>
Texas	3		6
Utah	<u>20</u>		
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URARA Membership and Address List

Troy Scotter, 2007 URARA President

URARA is planning to send out a contact list to all of our members in January. This list will include name, address, phone, and email information for our membership. We recognize that not all of you may wish to share this personal information. If you wish to opt-out of the contact list please contact the Robinsons at slrmar@cox.net, or write to the Vestiges Editors at 26717 Grayslake Rd. Rancho Palos Verdes, CA 90275.

The Turkey Tale

By Kat Johnson

This story is not about rock art. However, let's see how it plays out when we tell it.

On a recent trip to the Lion's Mouth Rock Art Site, we traveled across snow covered back-country roads, and saw many large flocks of wild turkeys. The turkeys looked sleek and well fed, in spite of the snow cover. It was obvious that the local ranchers must have been putting grain out for them.

Further, on down the road, as we moved away from the ranches and deeper into the forested area, we came upon a site that left us gaping. A large flock of wild turkeys ambled across the snowy road, followed by a male peacock. His tail feathers were tattered and bedraggled, and he was having some difficulty keeping up with the wild bunch. Some of our comments were:

"What's HE doing HERE?"

"He'll never last the winter."

"Someone should SAVE him!"

"Wild turkeys fly up into the trees at night- he can't fly- what does he do?"

Only Jon Gum had the coolness to stick his head out the car window and take a photo.

However, the call of freedom was loud and clear and well demonstrated by the proud peacock, head held high, in spite of the tattered tail.

My candle burns at both ends

It will not last the night

But ah, my foes, and oh, my friends-

It gives a lovely light.

Edna St Vincent Millay

Obviously, there is a message in this story, but what is it?

"Dare To Be Different" ...

"Follow Your Path" ???

You get to pick the motto.

Just as, obviously, a passion for archaeology and rock art makes one different from "regular folks." After trying to explain to dubious family members for the umpteenth time the appeal of petroglyphs and the importance of preserving them.....my own metaphorical tail feathers feel bedraggled also!

This story was not about rock art.....or was it?

[Editors note: We do not know about this particular peacock, but peacocks do roost in trees. A flock lives in our neighborhood in Southern California and gives us this insight.]



Christmas Story – an Opinion Piece

Written and Submitted by Diane Orr, 801-231-2065, beecherllc@aol.com

Late fall, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) released twelve large volumes of plans for the Moab, Kanab, Vernal, Price, Richfield and Monticello areas. Many citizens have commented on the Moab plan. However, it's almost impossible to carefully read the thousands of pages of BLM draft plans, to form and express a view regarding each area, before the deadline for public comment. Utah BLM Director Selma Sierra refuses to extend that deadline. The BLM's preferred alternatives could offer nearly half of our public lands – close to 5,000,000 acres – to oil and gas leasing. The future of Utah's public lands is too important to be decided without public input. This unfortunate situation inspired the following poem. The citizen and lawyer are fictional characters; Selma Sierra is not.

THE NIGHT BEFORE BLM's CHRISTMAS

Original by Clement Clarke Moore

'Twas the season of Christmas, when all through the state
Not a citizen protested Utah's impending fate.
Soon thousands of drill pads, miles of pipelines and roads
Would disrupt what had been a pretty, great abode.

While citizens shopped, wrapped gifts and cooked,
One opened BLM's draft plan and looked.
Energy execs read all 12 books with care.
They grinned 'cause St Nicholas soon would be there.

The citizens were nestled all snug in their beds,
While visions of red rock danced in their heads.
Boss Selma Sierra had no time to sleep,
She had deadlines to hold and promises to keep.

When out on the lawn there arose such a clatter,
she grabbed her phone and asked what was the matter.
A citizen had read the voluminous draft plans--
All 5,000 pages with bad maps and words like SANS.

How did this happen, Selma cried with a gasp?
Surely, at Christmas the plans should slip past.
Away to the window the citizen flew like a flash,
Tore open the shutters and threw up the sash.

He called to his neighbors across new fallen snow.
"Wake up, write comments, tell the BLM No."
Save Moab, Kanab, Monticello and Price,
Save Vernal and Richfield; these plans are not nice."

The citizen called out elected officials by name!
He hoped they would hear and jump in the game.
Now Huntsman! now Matheson!
now Bennett and Hatch!

Please Cannon! Or Bishop! Give them a match!

He wrote to the Tribune and raised the alarm,
11,000,000 acres of beauty may soon come to harm!
Ancient rock art will be buried in layers of dust,
Vistas and wildlife sacrificed to Big Energy's lust.

The leaders rolled over in their soft warm beds,
Selma was pleased, her plans moved ahead.
SUWA may protest this gift to the boys in D.C.
Then Labyrinth Canyon was placed under the tree.

Nine Mile Canyon was tied with a bow.
Land near Zion Park to the ATVs would go.
Wrap 5,000,000 acres for gas leases, hardly too much.
What a bother, if laws may protect granaries and such.

Then a lawyer appeared on the porch with a bound,
Selma heard a loud knock and turned around.
His eyes how they twinkled, his mouth like a bow,
He grinned and said, "I know what to do,

Keep 100 feet between the trucks and old stuff,
Rock art and pit houses," then he took a puff.
The stump of his pipe he held tight in his teeth,
And the smoke it encircled his head like a wreath.

A wink of his eye and a twist of his head,
The lawyer vanished and Selma climbed into bed.
The citizen drove south for one long last look,
At the scenery his grandchildren would see only in a book.

I heard him exclaim, 'ere he drove out of sight,
"Happy Christmas to all, and to all, there's still time to fight."

Diane Orr is a freelance photographer, specializing in 360-degree photographs of archeological and rock arts sites in the western states. [She has participated in preparing the URARA Comments to the BLM Regional Management Plans. She reminds us that there is still time to comment on Kanab, Richfield, and Monticello.]

BLM Regional Management Plans

Comment Period Calendar

Kanab ends on January 10, 2008

Richfield ends January 23, 2008

Monticello ends on February 8, 2008

See December Vestiges pp. 4-5 for details on submitting comments.

BLM Regional Management Plans

Troy Scotter [Excerpted from December 2008 Vestiges.]

The various BLM regional offices are responsible for creating plans that describe how they intend to manage the many resources over which they have responsibility. It must be a daunting task. The contradictory views of people interested in mineral rights, off-road vehicles, wilderness, and archeology combine to make this a task that even Solomon would wisely choose to avoid. URARA is committed to reviewing the plans for each of the following areas that require comments in the next couple of months:

Richfield, Kanab, Monticello. [We have submitted formal comments on Moab, Price, and Vernal.]

Our biggest concern has to do with methodology for rock art protection. In general, the BLM is not using their known site inventory in planning. Rather they are using computer modeling to make best guesses as to whether archeological sites will occur. The computer uses multiple factors that tend to be associated with archeological sites and then assigns weights to regions based on how many factors they exhibit to determine the likelihood of sites. You and I do the same thing. We arrive in an area, look around, and say, "I bet there is a site over there." We know that sites tend to be on smooth rock faces, south facing, and at canyon junctions. The difference between our approach and that of the BLM is that we strap on a pack and hike over to look. We also know that most of the time we are wrong in our prediction. The BLM is satisfied with using its theoretical modeling without ever having taken that look. In addition, the BLM approach identifies the likelihood of a site occurring rather than the importance of sites.

COMMENTS ON THE MOAB BLM REGIONAL MANAGEMENT PLAN

We thank the BLM for this opportunity to reply to the Moab Regional Management Plan (RMP).

The Utah Rock Art Research Association (URARA) is the largest organization dedicated to Utah rock art. Our mission is:

- To lead in the preservation and understanding of the value of rock art.
- To encourage the appreciation and enjoyment of rock art sites.
- To assist in the study, presentation, and publication of rock art research.

Our 300 members have professional, academic, and avocational interest in Utah rock art. Combined, our membership represents the largest body of knowledge regarding Utah rock art. In October 2007, our membership held their annual symposium featuring over 20 speakers in Moab. Our membership has a strong interest in the cultural resources in the Moab area.

We recognize that alternative C provides more protection than the current management plan. That said, Alternative B offers superior protection to cultural resources.

In the words of the RMP:

Alternative B offers the most protective plan for cultural resources within the MPA, because it would place greater restrictions on surface-disturbing activities such as mineral development, recreation use, and OHV travel. Additionally, it would provide more special designations, which, in turn, would reduce the possibilities for inadvertent adverse impacts to cultural resources. Alternative B also provides a proactive approach to cultural resources through the development and implementation of integrated cultural-recreational management plans.

Long-term beneficial impacts to local economic conditions resulting from cultural resource management decisions would be greatest under Alternative B. The identification, preservation, and restoration of sites within the MPA would attract the greatest number of visitors interested in the area's cultural history. Economic contributions to local towns from these visitors would be greatest under this alternative.

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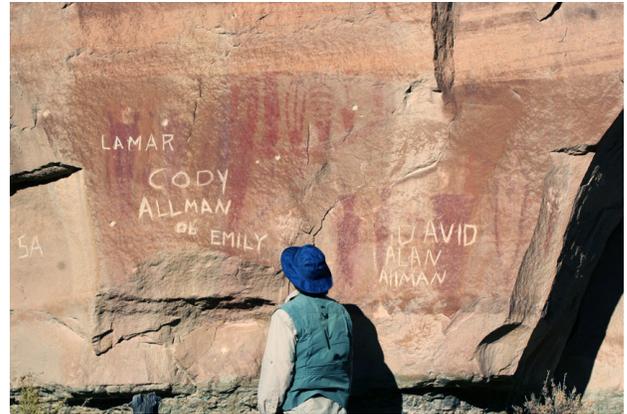
The social benefits resulting from cultural resource management decisions such as visitor experience, Native American connections to historic sites, and social connections that tie the landscape to a rich cultural history would be greatest under Alternative B. The long-term social benefits would be directly related to the restrictions on surface disturbing activities, the opportunities for public interpretation, and the implementation of cultural-recreational management plans.

This statement alone is enough for us to recommend Alternative B. We believe that the BLM has failed to protect the rich cultural resources with Alternative C.

Bitter Creek Vandalism



Bitter Creek before vandalism.



Bitter Creek, degraded, 11-07.

Photos by David Sucec.

For Your Information

Attention: If you have pictures or information that would be suitable for the URARA Archives please contact Nina Bowen at 801-292-5012 or nina_bowen@comcast.net.

Utah Prehistory Week 2008 Poster Contest and Art Show

From Ronald Rood, rrood@utah.gov, 801-533-3564

Utah Prehistory Week is scheduled for May 3 through May 10, 2008. This will mark the 20th anniversary of Utah Prehistory Week. State History and the Antiquities Section will sponsor the Utah Prehistory Week Poster Contest but we also think it is a good idea to celebrate the last 20 years of art inspired by Utah's cultural and natural past.

To enter your artwork or photographs in the 2008 Utah Prehistory Week poster contest, please send your submissions to the Utah Antiquities Section, 300 Rio Grande, SLC, UT 84101 by **January 15th, 2008**. Please label your entry with your name, address and telephone number. For more information, go to www.history.utah.gov or contact Ron Rood at 801-533-3564 or at rrood@utah.gov.

ARARA Annual Conference

Farmington, New Mexico, May 23-26, 2008, www.arara.org

ARARA Library Special

ARARA is clearing their stock of out-of-print books. Libraries are being offered a special. A set of American Indian Rock Art volumes 20-33 plus Occasional Papers 1, 2, 3, & 5 are being offered to

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libraries for \$200 (this includes postage). This offer is limited to stock on hand. No back orders will be accepted. Please contact Peggy Whitehead whw-pjw@att.net to place an order.

Nominations for the Annual ARARA Awards

Nominating procedure is now underway.

The statement of nomination must include the action(s) or accomplishment(s) that warrant the award and the significance of the action to the promotion of rock image education.

Nominations should be sent to the ARARA Awards Chairman, Janet Lever-Wood, 608 Sunlit Lane Santa Cruz, CA 95060-9304, blueglyph@jps.net

ARARA Photos Wanted

Photos of ARARA's early days are wanted for a presentation at the 2008 ARARA meeting in Farmington, NM. We are also looking for early members who remember ARARA in the 1970's and who are willing to share their stories. Phone numbers, street addresses, and/or email addresses would be most helpful. Original photos and all other materials will be returned. If you know of an early member, who was active in ARARA and is deceased, that information would also be most appreciated. Contact Anne Stoll at 909-621-7521 or annestoll@verizon.net.

Field Trip Report

By Harold A. Widdison, Leslie Wertz, and Carol Georgopoulos

Trip to Rancho Puerto Blanco, near the Town of Caborca, Mexico. December 3-6, 2007

Leslie Wertz and Will Tapp (San Diego, California), Larry Todd (Klamath Falls, Oregon), Carol Georgopoulos and Ray Freeze (Albuquerque, New Mexico), and Harold Widdison (Flagstaff, Arizona) made the trip to Mexico to see the rock art near the town of Caborca in December of 2007. Leslie Wertz made reservations for the six of us to visit the site from December 3rd through the 6th. We met at Organ Pipe National Monument near Tucson, Arizona on December 2.

We had no delay crossing the border and headed east on Highway 2. The drive to Caborca is about two hours and the road in general is good. Weekend traffic was quite heavy. We were careful to adhere to the speed limit even though it did not seem to apply to the nationals who were passing us. There were a few detours for bridge construction. We would suggest that no one planning a trip such as this drive at night.

We met the owner of the ranch, Jose Mendez, in Caborca at a motel that his father owns and he guided us to the ranch. He told us that the ranch comprises some 1,600 hectares, which is about 3,840 acres. When we got to the ranch, Mr. Mendez unlocked the gates and guided us to a place at the base of some hills where we could camp for the night. This campsite was strictly primitive. It was dark when we arrived so we could see nothing of our surroundings and were amazed when we woke up in the morning to see that we were surrounded by rock art.

We felt quite secure, as the ranch is gated and fenced. Other than ranch hands, we saw no one else during our entire three day stay at the ranch. The town of Caborca is six miles away, with restaurants, hotels, and gas stations. The roads are not bad and high clearance two wheel drive cars would have no trouble.

We saw a dizzying amount of glyphs to which we hiked and climbed. We could have stayed several more days and still not seen everything. More than 5,000 glyphs have been recorded in the area by the University of Mexico, and they did not make a complete inventory.

There are anthropomorphs and zoomorphs, but it was the geometrics that were especially large, numerous, complex, and beautiful. The anthropomorphs ranged in size from a few inches to over seven feet in height. Some have distinctive features such as eyes, eyebrows, noses and lips.

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Some have two or three circles for their heads. The zoomorphs included sheep, deer, lions or cats, and dogs with large stomachs giving the impression of advanced pregnancy. We saw a snake with a large bulge carved in its middle.

Panels ranged in size from relatively small to billboard size. The rock art was carved from the bases of the hills all the way to their tops, necessitating climbing up over rocks and boulders. We were busy from sunup to sunset all three days we were there, and were worn out by the end of each day.

The sites are spread over two large hills, Proveedora and Calera. For the photographer, that meant you would have plenty of both morning and afternoon sites. Most panels are on dark rock and show well even in shaded light.

In addition to the rock art, the vegetation was beautiful and very impressive. There were saguaros with a base of at least 6 feet in diameter and 37 arms. These massive cacti along with the pipe organ, elephant feet, and many other bushes and trees indigenous to the area made for some interesting photographs.

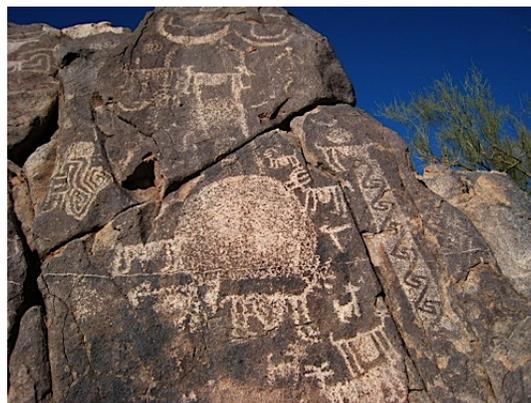
We were told that the best season to visit is November to April as the temperature is not too hot and the snakes are not out. We did not see a single snake the whole time we were there. The temperature highs were between 60 and 70 degrees in early December and we saw only lizards, jackrabbits, and a few cows.

The owner of this immense rock art site, Mr. Jose Mendez, prides himself on the appearance of his ranch, and his place is free of litter. He is interested in having people who love rock art visit his ranch. He told us that he prefers reservations two weeks in advance. If you just dropped in, the chances are good that no one would be available to assist you, as he lives in town and not at the ranch. Mr. Mendez does speak English but his ranch hands do not.

Mr. Mendez charges \$20 per day per person to visit the ranch. There is a house at the ranch that is available on a first come basis. It has two bedrooms and hot water for a shower, that is, if someone remembers to light the water heater. Arrangements must be made in advance for use of the house. He also manages a very nice motel in town, and I suspect that if you did not want to rough it on the ranch you could arrange to stay in the motel.

You can contact Mr. Mendez at 011-521-637-110-0972; or e-mail him at rpuertoblanco@hotmail.com. Mr. Mendez is very personable and is happy to show you where some of the better sites can be found.

If you would like more information about travel in Mexico, the ranch and our experiences there, feel free to call me.



Carol Georgopoulos photos from Rancho Puerto Blanco, near the town of Caborca, Mexico



Carol Georgopoulos photos from Rancho Puerto Blanco.

Think About It!



“While many archaeologists show great interest in rock art, direct dating remains critical to the interpretation of rock art research into mainstream archaeology. When the production of rock art can be situated in time, it can be analyzed alongside other concurrent cultural practices and a more richly textured study of prehistoric human behavior developed. Only when rock art can be placed within its larger social context can it be reasonably understood as a part of the complex life ways of indigenous peoples.

This comprehension is, however, not necessarily the case in analyzing the *use* of rock art, since these sites appear in many cases to have been utilized over very long periods. Once a monument (like rock art) becomes a part of the landscape, it begins to influence later inhabitants, perhaps even drawing people to it. These places probably accumulated meanings

throughout time and came to be perceived as places where ancestors had left their mark (i.e., rock art), thereby becoming points of articulation between time and space through re-use. In this way rock art may have been instrumental in the shaping of social relationships through reference to the past and the place as a part of the cultural landscape created by the ancestors for subsequent use by their descendants.”

Chapter 9, “Petroglyph Dating on the Massacre Bench”, Eric W. Ritter, Alanah Woody, and Alan Watchman, *Great Basin Rock Art: Archaeological Perspectives*, Angus R. Quinlan, Editor, University of Nevada Press, 2007, pp. 126-7.

Contact Information

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

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Library, Archives, and Publications

Nina Bowen 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 which members are encouraged to use.

Calendar 2008

Jan 19-20 Annual URARA board of directors retreat, St. George, Utah
May 3-10 Utah Prehistory Week 2008 poster contest and art show. Contact Ronald Rood, rrood@utah.gov, 801-533-3564
May 23-26 ARARA annual conference, Farmington, New Mexico, www.arara.org

Membership Information

A single annual renewal date for membership dues has been established as October 31. The Membership includes electronic *Vestiges*, the monthly newsletter. Annual dues are Student \$12, Single \$17, Family \$20. Add \$5 if you prefer to receive a printed black and white version of *Vestiges* by mail.

Editors' Message

We take the liberty of speaking for all members in expressing our appreciation for the "well-beyond-the-call-of-duty" effort made by those who so cogently, intelligently and appropriately stated the URARA position with respect to the BLM proposed "management" of our treasured resources. Thank you all!

A very warm welcome to the new URARA members named in this issue. We are glad you have chosen to join us and trust your membership will contribute to your increased knowledge of and appreciation for the wonderful Utah rock art treasure.

We take the liberty of expressing our best wishes to the Board for their annual retreat in St. George. This will be the key event in determining our course for the year. The retreat meetings are open to all URARA members.

We take this opportunity to wish you all a great 2008!

Happy Trails,

Steve and Marion Robinson

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Photo by Dell Crandall. December 2007 snow in Moab, UT. Dell says, "Unusual for this country."