

VESTIGES



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Monthly newsletter of URARA, the Utah Rock Art Research Association

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Presidents Message

MARCH 2008

With this issue of Vestiges, the major responsibility of assembling Vestiges passes from myself and my wife, Marion, to Layne Miller. As a point of interest, Layne was the very person who asked us to take the helm of Vestiges, almost four years ago. He was President of URARA at the time.

Layne has been a member of URARA for many years and has served in several capacities, the last as President in 2004-2005. His profession, also for many years, was newspaper reporting. So he is right at home with this responsibility. Layne was always very helpful and gracious to us. Now the roles are reversed, and I hope to be equally helpful in return.

"Thank you" to Bob Reed and Troy Scotter for their trip to Escalante to check out the facilities for the annual October Symposium. As noted in this issue, a reservation was made for the available rooms at the Prospector Inn, the largest motel there. We appreciate the time and effort it required for them to make this trip. As Bob noted in his report in this issue, arrangements are moving right along for the necessary meeting facilities, including banquet plans. We expect to be able to provide field trip information in April *Vestiges*.

Our thanks to Ben Everitt for his willingness to go another extra mile this year and continue to serve as Treasurer. His 2007 year end report has been included in this issue. An auditing committee from St. George, UT, consisting of Jeff Allen, Lois Mansfield, and Joe Brame met with Ben and they have gone over all the records to initiate an audit as requested by the Board at the January retreat.

We are in the process of updating the URARA membership. This has included efforts to contact many whose membership has lapsed, to determine current interest. The results to date have added well over a dozen names to our active membership roster, with 20+ names returned as unable to forward. As a result, we now have well over 350 active individual members. I am confident that with guidance and support of our excellent Board of Directors we can respond to the interests of this membership, while effectively supporting our goals to study, protect, and enjoy our Utah rock art treasures.

Happy Trails,

Steve Robinson

2008 URARA President

Escalante Symposium Plans

By Robert Reed

On President's Day, Troy Scotter and I made an advance trip to Escalante to meet several folks I had been communicating with regarding facilities and support for URARA if we held the symposium there. We found the town people to be welcoming and very friendly, and we began making arrangements for hosting our normal attendance of nearly 200 members.

The setting is lovely, and I recommend attendees plan to spend more than the symposium time in the area. With two national parks, Bryce Canyon and Capitol Reef a short distance away, wonderful natural and historical things to see, and an optimum time of year to hike and camp, you can't go wrong. Although a town of less than 900, it is changing. New art galleries are opening, artists are moving into town, lodging is improving and more eateries are available. My impression is that the community cooperates to improve itself. No doubt, the designation of the area as the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument adds to the town's appeal.

I will be writing articles in future Vestiges regarding activities and my impressions of the area, but lodging will be the first priority. We made arrangements at the Prospector Inn for 28 non-smoking rooms, and a reserve of three smoking rooms at a rate of two/room @ \$61.74, including tax, and one/room @ \$56.13. This assumes at least ten rooms will be reserved, which should not be a problem. Troy and I stayed there, and the rooms are large and comfortable. A restaurant is adjacent to the motel. Contact the inn at (435) 826-4653, or www.prospectorinn.com. It has 50 rooms, but the others are booked for a photography group.

The Circle D motel is across the road, and has about 20 rooms ranging from \$45-65. Our arrangement is for a 10% discount for URARA members. It is undergoing major renovation, which should be done this summer. We saw a room being remodeled, and it is very nice. The daughter and son-in-law of the former owner just bought the motel and moved from Salt Lake City. They will also be adding a small restaurant, and exterior pueblo styling and a new roof. Contact for reservations at (435) 826-4297, or <http://www.circledmotel@color-country.net/>

We visited Escalante Outfitters, where you can rent cabins for \$45, or tent sites for \$12. You can also rent the Vagabond Inn, a 3-bedroom house, through the Outfitters. There is a café, coffee, espresso, snacks, and free wireless Internet. I believe most motels offer free Internet too. Contact (435) 826-4266, or www.escalanteoutfitters.com for reservations.

There are several bed and breakfasts at a higher price. The newest is Slot Canyon Inn, with eight luxury units. Call 1-866-821-5181 or www.slotcanyonsinn.com for reservations.

We visited the ranger at Escalante Petrified Forest State Park. My wife and I have camped there and consider it to be an excellent campground with showers. We may reserve a small group site (only 5-6 campers), but I recommend individual site reservations at 1-800-322-3770 or www.stateparks.utah.gov. If you want to dry camp for free, you can pick a spot along the Hole-in-the-Rock road a few miles north of town.

Our presentations and vendors will be at the Escalante High School. It is an extraordinary facility with a 400-seat state of the art auditorium.

I haven't picked the caterer yet, but I lean toward having a Dutch oven western dinner served in the high school gym. Specifics will be made known as I choose and work with a business or the Lions Club to cater.

If you like pottery or unique sculpted furniture, you must visit the studio of Brigitte and David Delthony. Her pottery is made like and evokes ancient pots, yet have rock art designs on them. David is a master craftsman, and his work is a "must see." Brigitte will hold a primitive pottery workshop before or after the symposium if there is sufficient interest. Her workshops

are normally conducted as 3-day events using local clay and materials such as yucca brushes. If you are curious about how the Anasazi made these things, I recommend the experience. Cost is \$125 including materials. As a ceramic artist who has studied the techniques, I know the workshops are a lot of fun. You can contact the Delthonys at ddelth@scinternet.net and see their work at <http://www.SculpuredFurnitureArtandCeramics.com/>

That's a bit of a trip report. If things go bad logistically, there are plenty of rocks around to stone me with. My gut feeling is that this could be one of the finest symposium locations we have selected.

Photos by Robert Reed.



Escalante BLM Office



Escalante Park



Escalante High School



Gymnasium



Vendor Area

Escalante Accommodations:

Broken Bow RV/Camp	495 W. Main, P.O. Box 505, Escalante, UT, 84726 Phone: 435-826-4959, 1-888-241-8785
Boulder Mountain Lodge	P.O. Box 1397, 20 N. Hwy. 12, Boulder, UT 84716 Phone: 435-335-7460, 800-556-3446 Fax: 435-335-7461 info@boulder-utah.com www.boulder-utah.com
Cannonville-Bryce Valley KOA	P.O. Box 550, Hwy. 12 at Red Rock Rd., Cannonville, UT 84726 Phone: 435-679-8988, 1-866-KOA-4710
Campground & RV Park	bvkoa@color-country.net www.brycecanyonloa.com
Canyons Bed & Breakfast	P.O. Box 552, 15 South 100 East, Escalante, UT 84726 Phone: 435-826-4747, 1-866-KANYONS info@canyonsbnb.com www.canyonsbnb.com
Circle D Motel	475 W. Main, P.O. Box 44, Escalante, UT 84726 Phone: 435-826-4297 Fax: 435-826-4220 circledmotel@color-country.net www.utahcanyons.com/circled.htm
Escalante Petrified	Located one mile west of Escalante. P. O. Box 350,

Forest State Park	Escalante UT 84726 (435) 826 4466 Campsite Reservations Mon-Fri AM to 5 PM 1(800) 332-3770
Escalante's Grand Staircase B&B	280 W. Main St., P.O. Box 657, Escalante, UT 84726 Phone: 866-826-4890 Fax: 435-826-4889 escalbnb@direcway.com www.escalantebnb.com
Escalante Outfitters Bunkhouse Cabins & Camping	310 W. Main St., P.O. Box 575, Escalante, UT, 84726 Phone: 435-826-4266 Fax: 435-826-4388 info@escalanteoutfitters.com www.escalanteoutfitters.com
Escalante's Wild West Retreat	269 S. 200 E., P.O. Box 514, Escalante, UT 84726 Phone: 866-826-4890 Fax: 435-826-4889 yahoo@wildwestretreat.com www.wildwestretreat.com
Grand Staircase Inn & Country Store	105 N Kodachrome Dr., P.O. Box 180026, Cannonville, UT 84718 Phone: 435-679-8400, 877-472-6346 grandinn@color-country.net www.grandstaircaseinn.com
Kiva Kottage	Hwy. 12 mile marker 73.86, between Boulder & Escalante, UT 84726 Phone: 435-826-4550 kivakoffee@infowest.net www.kivakoffeehouse.com
La Luz Desert Retreat	P.O. Box 537, Escalante Phone: 888-305-4705 Fax: 435- 826-4708 stay@laluz.net www.laluz.net
Moqui Motel RV Park	480 W. Main, P.O. Box 634 , Escalante, UT 84726 Phone: 435-826-4210
Padre Motel	20 E. Main, P.O. Box 291, Escalante, UT 84726 Phone: 435-826-4276 padre.motel@gmail.com www.padremotel.com
Poles Place Motel	465 N. Hwy. 12, P.O. Box 1342, Boulder, UT, 84716 Phone: 435-355-7422, 1-800-730-7422
Prospector Inn	380 W. Main, P.O. Box 396, Escalante, UT, 84726 Phone: 435-826-4653 prospectorinn@colorcountry.net www.prospectorinn.com
Rainbow Country Bed & Breakfast	586 E. 300 S., P.O. Box 333, Escalante, UT, 84726 Phone: 435-826-4567, 800-252-8824 Fax: 435-826-4557 rainbow@color-country.net www.colorcountry.net/~rainbow/
Slot Canyons Inn & Isaac Riddle Cabin	P.O. Box 655, Escalante, UT, 84726 Phone: 435-826- 4901 Fax: 435-826-4773 jhrex2000@yahoo.com www.slotcanyonsinn.com
Southwestern Retreat	600 South 685 West, P.O. Box 537, Escalante, UT, 84726 Phone: 435-826-4708 stay@southwesternretreat.com www.southwesternretreat.com
Vagabond Inn	115 West Main St, Escalante, UT, 84726 Phone: 435-826- 4266, 866-455-0041 info@VagabondBnB.com www.VagabondBnB.com

Horseshoe Canyon/Great Gallery Trip

By David Sucec

Camping for the trip is available at the main trailhead (with pit toilet) Friday night, March 28th.

Participants will meet at the trailhead 9 am, Saturday, 29th, descend into Horseshoe Canyon, and visit the *High Gallery*, *Living Quarters* site, and the *Big Alcove* site on their way up to the *Great Gallery*.

We will stay at the *Great Gallery* for a considerable amount of time, viewing and discussing the images at the major site of Utah's premier rock art style – the Barrier Canyon.

The *Holy Ghost Group* panel's spatial composition is truly unique – not only for Utah prehistoric rock art but, it seems, globally.

More than 80 figures have been painted and incised at the *Great Gallery*. Some of the figures were painted in techniques and have visual elements that appear in variations of the Barrier Canyon figure found in other regions of the style – although, their form (width to height, head to body proportions) correspond to the Horseshoe variant found at the Great Gallery.

We will return to the trailhead late afternoon, break camp Sunday morning, the 30th, and visit other sites in the area of the San Rafael Reef.

For more information contact David Sucec at david.s@networld.com, call 801-359-6904.

Coalition To Preserve Rock Art Update

By Jon Gum The Coalition to Preserve Rock Art (CPRA) is now, I believe, making some progress. The first key is to get the word out of our interest. Then we need to follow through with more information supporting the Awareness concept and more material to aid in the Education area.

We then need to couple this with Actions or Implementation to see some progress toward achieving the objectives.

Specifically:

1. We continue to support URARA and other organizations interested in Preservation by responding to the BLM Resource Management Plans in Utah. So far, we have responded on Moab, Kanab, Richfield, Monticello, Price, and Vernal. We should all give a lot of credit to URARA for their detailed analysis and thoughtful responses to the BLM. That effort is headed by Troy Scotter. If the BLM reads and listens, URARA and their associated organizations should have an impact.
2. BLM has announced the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the West Tavaputs Plateau Natural Gas Full Field Development Plan. This could mean the drilling of up to 807 new natural gas wells in the Nine-Mile Canyon area. The Coalition will respond to the EIS (due May 1, 2008) and will probably attend at least one Public Information Open House in the Price area if the BLM holds them as indicated. We urge all of our members to be active in responding to this EIS. Nine-Mile Canyon is a very important series of sites.
3. John Macumber arranged an on-site meeting with the St. George park planning manager at Telegraph Hill, a site that we have watched for over a year now. We have really struggled to come up with a plan to protect the Rock Art from residential development. There should be several future discussions, and we hope that the City will take an active position with the developers on a solution such as signage and designated trails on the hillside. It may not be possible to save the rock art on horizontal surfaces at the top but the city will be checking that out. John has put us in touch with the right people, now we have to work the issues as the city allows us to. We were fortunate to have Pam and Quent Baker from Moab join us at the meeting, and they offered some valuable ideas.
4. The city of St. George is also evaluating the Temple Quarry trail where it comes close to a couple of boulders with Rock Art. This area is presently BLM property, but the city will probably ask for the coalition's help in generating an acceptable RMP for the area, and

perhaps the city will have a very influential role in how the area is managed. We have indicated that we are willing to help.

5. Dixie Archaeology Society (DAS) is staying in touch with the BLM on Gunlock Wellsite #4. It's highly probable that the BLM will not take any action (my opinion), but will they allow DAS and CPRA to do something to prevent ATV and foot traffic on the site? Only time will tell.
6. DAS now plans the first road cleanup project in March of 2008. We were given a two mile section of St. George roadway to clean up 3 times a year. We accepted this project to get name recognition and to do something good for the community. St. George, in its own way, took it upon themselves to change the name on the sign to St. George Archaeology Society from Dixie Archaeology Society -- that must be the political push at the moment. Not exactly the name recognition we sought, but....

There is probably more to report (for instance we have offered to help URARA distribute rock art etiquette brochures if they initiate that project), but let's save those topics for next month or so.

The coalition is researching what is needed to become a recognized non-profit organization and then a 501(c)3 organization. We feel that will be needed to achieve our objectives. Membership is progressing. We will be making a presentation on March 11 that will introduce us to many new potential members and will probably be making short comments in front of supportive groups soon that should also add to membership.

So we are moving ahead. Never as fast as we want, but I think progress is upon us and actual accomplishments are just around the corner.

Nine Mile Outlook: Cloudy With Storms

By Troy Scotter, for ARARA

Clouds of dust permeate this canyon, coating every plant and rock surface and creating a permanent haze. The clouds are not the result of pleasant desert zephyrs, but from the hundreds of heavy oil and gas service vehicles using the narrow dirt road.

Located in the northeastern part of Utah, Nine Mile Canyon has been nicknamed the world's longest art gallery. The canyon, actually 70 miles in length, runs roughly east to west, linking the Green River with the San Rafael Swell and sits in the middle of ancient population centers in the Vernal and Moab areas. Over 1000 rock art sites are located within the canyon, most of them are concentrated within the central twenty miles that provided the best habitation resources.

"Nine Mile Canyon, an ancient thoroughfare, contains an invaluable history of habitation, agricultural and hunting activities. The rock art of early archaic, ancestral Shoshone, Fremont and Ute tribes are critical to our understanding of regional history. The archeology, while predominately Fremont, demonstrates a fascinating mix of both Fremont and Anasazi characteristics. (Spangler and Spangler; *Horned Snakes and Axle Grease*; p. 44-46; Uintah Publishing; 2003). This location presents an excellent opportunity to gain a better understanding of cultural groups that used the canyon through scholarly research and preservation activities." (URARA response to the BLM Price Field Office Resource Management Plan; 12/13/2007)

The canyon has been a flash point where local governments, conservation organizations, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), ranchers, and oil and gas companies seem to be competing with varying interests and objectives. 2008 will likely be the year that these conflicts come to a head and fundamental decisions are made that will dictate the future of the canyon and the implications for cultural resources.

By chance, several important issues are all in play this year. The BLM has issued Resource Management Plans (RMPs) for both the Price and Vernal field offices. These two offices cover different parts of Nine Mile Canyon. These RMPs set the land management agenda for the BLM for the next decade. At the same time, the Nine Mile Canyon Coalition (9MCC) has submitted a nomination of the canyon to the National Register of Historic Places. Meanwhile, an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for oil and gas development on the West Tavaputs Plateau has been submitted for public comment. This EIS is important because it uses the Nine Mile Canyon as an access route for the plateau. Finally, the Bush government has decided to promote oil shale and tar sands within the western states and has proposed development at Argyle Canyon, a tributary of Nine Mile Canyon with important cultural resources.

The BLM

Four years ago the canyon was listed as one of America's 11 Most Endangered Places by the National Trust For Historic Preservation. The situation since then has deteriorated. The BLM has not played the role that it should have in protecting this unique cultural resource.

"In our opinion, the Price regional office of the BLM has abrogated its responsibilities with respect to protection of cultural resources. This dereliction of duty is most visible in the Price BLM response to Nine Mile Canyon.

A few years ago URARA was privileged to host Jean Clottes, a UNESCO advisor on rock art around the world. His comment at the end of a day in Nine Mile was simple: "Tell me what I can do to help preserve this place and it will be done." For over 15 years, local groups have felt the same way. Over this period of time, The Nine Mile Canyon Coalition has attempted to work with the BLM to nominate the area to the National Register of Historic Places. Progress was slow, and in 2004 the National Trust For Historic Preservation listed the canyon in America's 11 Most Endangered Places. Regardless of concerns by local, national, and international experts and their own staff, the BLM has been adversarial to the process of nomination. It has delayed the process while pressing for smaller and smaller boundaries for the nomination district. Eventually, local groups moved the nomination process forward without support from the BLM. The Nine Mile Canyon Coalition has led this process, supported by URARA both financially and through the time and expertise of our members.

In the meantime the BLM has permitted the drilling of over 100 wells on the West Tavaputs Plateau without the benefit of an Environmental Impact Study. Commercial traffic supporting this drilling activity makes use of Nine Mile Canyon to access the Tavaputs Plateau. A 2007 Carbon County 24-hour road survey counted 340 vehicles using the Nine Mile Canyon road. The vast majority of these are large commercial vehicles supporting oil and gas activity. The Nine Mile Canyon road was not built to withstand this level of activity and vehicle weight. Its proximity to rock art and archeological sites raises concerns about dust, vibration, airborne pollutants including magnesium chloride, preservation of the visual and cultural landscape, and the safety of tourists who wish to visit cultural sites. We have witnessed and photographed the damage sustained by Nine Mile rock art adjacent to the dirt road through the canyon. It is our understanding that at least one Native American tribe has expressed concern about impact to cultural resources, and we have spoken with tourists who, despite using guidebooks with mileage and GPS positional data, cannot find sites in the canyon due to the level of dust overlaying the rock art. The BLM failed to plan for these concerns or to mitigate them after they have occurred.

The BLM Price field office has violated the Historic Preservation Act, Section 110, failing to inventory, pro-actively manage and nominate the canyon rock art and archeology to the National Register of Historic Places. The failure of the BLM to follow through on its legal responsibilities with respect to Nine Mile Canyon archeology puts to question the BLM's

policies toward cultural resources in the entire region. It certainly creates a lack of confidence amongst groups concerned about cultural resource preservation.” (URARA response to the BLM Price Field Office Resource Management Plan; 12/13/2007)

Dust

The concern for rock art in Nine Mile Canyon from drilling is indirect. Wells and drill pads are located on the mesa tops and out of sight of the archeologically dense area of the canyon. However, the access route to the drilling area is through the canyon, and pipelines and compression stations also use the canyon.

Over 300 heavy vehicles use the Nine Mile Canyon road each day. It is projected that over 500 heavy vehicles will soon be in the canyon on a daily basis. They create a dust plume that rises over 300 feet within the canyon. This dust coats surfaces containing rock art. Mixed with the dust are magnesium chloride (a dust suppressant) and vehicular exhaust particles, both of which are corrosive. Constance Silver was hired by the BLM to study the impacts of the dust. She commented in a *Science* article that magnesium chloride is:

“flying all over the place” along the edges of the road and settling on the pictographs: “You can see the deposition taking place” on the art. Magnesium chloride is “vicious stuff,” says Silver. “It peels concrete.” Over time, she says, the salt will corrode the rock and damage the paintings on its surface. (*Science*; Keith Kloor; 25 January 2008; p. 394)

The BLM intimated in the *Science* article that it is unhappy with the results of this study and may hire new experts to refute the results of the work they already commissioned. It is clear the result that the BLM is trying to achieve. URARA has also contacted Claire Dean regarding the issues of dust, magnesium chloride and rock art. She concurred with Constance Silver’s points and raised an additional concern -- that the permanent dust plumes in the canyon may act as a sandblasting agent during windy periods.

West Tavaputs EIS

The West Tavaputs EIS, of which Constance Silver’s study was a part, arrived in my mailbox this morning. Weighing in at 10.5 pounds the four volumes are going to require some serious attention. My initial review is that they reflect little concern over cultural resources. The BLM has included five alternatives, one of which will significantly reduce vehicular traffic in the canyon, however, that is not their recommended option. None of the alternatives considers alternatives to using Nine Mile Canyon as the primary transportation route.

Nomination to the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP)

For over 15 years the Nine Mile Canyon Coalition (9MCC) has been attempting to nominate the Canyon to the NRHP. 9MCC was set-up as a neutral organization that would recognize the various interests of the many people who live in, use, and have responsibility for the canyon. The BLM was an early member of the 9MCC and supported the nomination of the canyon to the NRHP. However, the BLM never followed through on its obligations as part of the nomination process. A few years ago, 9MCC decided that they would have to take sole responsibility for completion of the nomination process. They raised \$15,000 and began the complicated process of describing such a large region with so many archeologically significant sites. The BLM originally stated that they would support a rim to rim border for the district. However, they backed away from this and requested borders around specific sites. A compromise was finally achieved with borders a fixed distance on either side of Nine Mile Creek. In 2007 the 9MCC submitted the nomination. The Utah State History Preservation Officer requested minor changes to the plan regarding private land boundaries. These have been made. Land owners must now be notified and indicate whether they are supportive of the nomination. If that succeeds it moves to the Federal Agency Preservation Officer for review.

The NRHP grants no specific protection, it is a purely honorary designation. I believe its value is two fold: 1) The process of documentation is important; 2) The designation is a way of quickly demonstrating to the public that a region is important.

Oil Shale Development

This is another recently released EIS. It is not limited to Nine Mile Canyon, but covers Utah, Colorado, and Wyoming. However, there is a specific proposal regarding Argyle Canyon, a tributary of Nine Mile Canyon. I haven't had a chance to read this EIS yet. But I am particularly concerned about it because the typical oil shale/tar sand development uses an open pit style of access to the resources.

Either/Or Solutions

Debates regarding Nine Mile Canyon tend to polarize quickly. In my opinion, there are options that allow for both oil and gas development and preservation of cultural resources. Paving the road through the canyon would eliminate dust problems. Perhaps an even better solution would be developing different access routes that either cut across the canyon rather than following it or bypass the canyon completely. Both are feasible. My greatest disappointment in this process has been the action of the BLM. Rather than trying to balance multiple needs their intent seems to have been to support oil and gas development at all costs.

I believe that it is important that URARA take an active interest in these events. Nine Mile Canyon is a significant cultural resource. The BLM has an obligation to manage its lands from a multi-use perspective. That means that we can't expect cultural resources to always trump development. Neither does it mean that lowest cost energy development should trump cultural resources. I believe that energy development in culturally rich areas should reflect solutions that, while possibly higher cost, will recognize the preservation needs of cultural resources.

What You Can Do

If you are interested in Nine Mile Canyon, then join the 9MCC. They are an excellent group and strong advocate for protection of the canyon. <http://www.ninemilecanyoncoalition.org/> If you are interested in reading the West Tavaputs EIS it can be found at:

http://www.blm.gov/ut/st/en/fo/price/energy/Oil_Gas/Draft_EIS.html responses are due by May 1, 2008. Likewise, the Oil Shale and Tar Sands EIS can be found at:

<http://ostseis.anl.gov/documents/dpeis/index.cfm> and requires comments by March 20, 2008. URARA will be responding to both programs.

Editor's Message

By Layne Miller

Well, this feels like old times. Most of you know I resigned from the board a few months ago because my lifestyle changed, and I just don't have as much time as I used to. My wife and I travel a great deal, and I'm very involved with outdoor tours in Nine Mile Canyon, the San Rafael Swell and Range Creek. This summer I will be doing four-day workshops on photography and rock art, which will be fun but also more time consuming. But, I found I really miss the involvement with the wonderful folks from URARA. So when Troy asked me if I would consider taking over *Vestiges*, I agreed. I need to introduce myself to those of you who don't know me and bring the rest of you up to speed on what I'm doing now. I work as a children's mental health case manager at Four Corners Community Mental Health, teach classes in rock art, Dutch oven cooking and outdoor photography at the College of Eastern Utah and lead the above-mentioned public tours. My wife and I have been foster parents for 8 years and currently have one foster son. The last few years we have taken in kids with pretty serious learning disabilities or behavior problems. It is very rewarding work.

I am appealing to you members for help with *Vestiges*. I am looking for four or five people to write a regular column (every other month) on a subject of your choice. It should be a subject related to rock art and of interest to URARA members. Give me a call or send an email to me with your suggestions.

I thought you'd be interested in reading what Kevin Jones, State Archaeologist, said about URARA's involvement in the public comment process. He said: "Superb piece of work Troy. URARA is showing itself to be a leader in the efforts to protect our valuable cultural resources. I appreciate the great amount of work you and others have put in to this effort. I hope the BLM listens.

And, you have my everlasting admiration for coming up with the following paragraph:

Anti-human bias

We note with some amusement the limitations placed on humans activities in certain areas. For example, the Comb Wash C-SRMA alternative E requires packing out human waste and people being limited to designated trails at the same time as cattle grazing is permitted. We believe the cattle "hoofprint" on the land is significantly larger than that of the human "footprint." Cattle consume local vegetation, damage riparian zones, and defecate in high quantities. We believe that if cattle are allowed in the region they should be required to follow the same rules as humans – be limited to designated trails and pack out their own waste. Comb Wash is only one example of this anti-human bias. We believe that all other similar discrepancies should be avoided.

It makes the point beautifully, illustrates with very memorable imagery the absurdity of the restrictions, and provides a witty departure from the generally dry language we must use in such correspondence. Keep up the fine work. "

Kevin Jones,

Utah State archaeologist

And finally this from Troy Scotter:

"We have received an invitation to comment on the proposed Pahvant Valley Heritage Trail. This trail will designate several existing roads west of Fillmore as a heritage trail and provide location signs, parking lots, brochures, and interpretation for heritage tourism. It includes several rock art sites. URARA has been involved in documenting two of the major sites in the past couple of years. I am excited about what is happening in the Fillmore region. We have an opportunity to comment on the EA prior to its publication. It seems to me that this is exactly the role that URARA should be playing – that of a trusted partner with public land agencies as they make decisions regarding cultural resources."

URARA's Involvement With The BLM RMP Process

By Troy Scotter

I thought you might be interested in a review of URARA's involvement with the Resource Management Plans (RMPs) that the BLM has released this year. The resource management plans identify the land use plans for the next decade. They are significant because they specify which areas will be given special cultural protection, are open for ATV use, available for oil and gas exploration, etc. The Bush government has made it a priority to complete these RMPs while they are in power. As you might imagine, cultural resources get little emphasis while resource development is encouraged.

The Utah RMPs cover the following field offices:

- Moab
- Richfield
- Kanab
- Vernal

- Price
- Monticello

These are some of the most important regions for archeological resources. The plans for these six regions comprise over 5000 pages of text and maps. They are written in a style where various alternatives are presented and contrasted. The current “no action” alternative is always presented. The good news is that all of the alternatives are an improvement for cultural resource protection over the current state. However, the extent of protection for cultural resources varies widely across the alternatives. The BLM preferred alternative is never one that affords the kind of cultural resource protection we would hope to see.

URARA formed a team to review each RMP. Myself, Nina Bowen, Steve Manning, and David Sucec were involved. We have also collaborated with Jerry Spangler of the Colorado Plateau Archaeological Alliance and have benefited from reviewing his assessments of each RMP. In addition, we have involved local members in some of the regions to provide additional suggestions to our draft comments. I estimate that each RMP response required 10-12 person days of effort. This considerable commitment over a short time period has really stretched our capabilities.

Our responses followed a general format. First, we explained who URARA is and what our interest is for each region. We reviewed the process used by each RMP for assessing cultural resources and identified deficiencies in the process. Then we identified which alternative, if any, we supported. We made specific comments regarding archeological sites that we felt had been overlooked or mis-assessed in the analysis. Finally, we provided comments specific to the region regarding oil and gas development, ATVs, roads, and other relevant topics. Our responses totaled almost 50 pages and were detailed, especially with respect to rock art sites that we felt had been missed in the analysis.

Identifying these sites was not an easy process. The BLM provided maps of areas with special protection. But these maps were so small that it was difficult to determine what was in the boundaries and what wasn't. At times we were not even able to determine if whole canyons are included within map boundaries, let alone individual sites. We got varying degrees of cooperation from different offices regarding these maps. We were surprised that most BLM staff couldn't answer simple questions such as “Is John's Canyon included in the proposed Cedar Mesa C-SRMA?” In the end, we were often forced to say: “We are not sure if this site is included in this proposed area, or not. If it isn't, it should be.”

The most surprising thing we learned in reading these RMPs is the BLM's lack of effort in proactive protection of cultural resources. Most regions have only surveyed about 5% of their land for cultural resources. Most of this surveying has been done as a result of clearance work for roads, pipelines, and mineral development. These are known as Section 106 surveys. As the Kanab RMP notes: “Most surveys take place in compliance with Section 106 of the NHPA, meaning the surveys are conducted as needed to identify cultural resources in a project-specific context and generally are not statistically valid samples of a region.” (Kanab RMP 3-60) Or to be even more specific:

In order to make sound management decisions regarding land uses, cultural resource specialists and managers within the Monticello PA must understand how cultural resources are distributed and which portions of the FO planning area have been subject to cultural resource inventories, and which areas have not. At the present time, no comprehensive overview of known cultural resource sites and cultural resource survey projects conducted to date within the Monticello PA exists. (Monticello RMP 3-17)

It is rather stunning that the Monticello office can, in effect, say: “we don't have a clue what cultural resources we manage.” In the end, each of the six offices said they didn't have a good handle on cultural resources in their region. Our response was: “how can you make land use decisions without data regarding cultural resources?”

The lack of interest, or resources, allocated to the protection of cultural resources is further indicated by the BLM's lack of nomination of sites to the National Register of Historic Places. The BLM has a responsibility under the Historic Preservation Act, Section 110 to inventory, pro-actively manage and nominate rock art and archeology sites to the National Register of Historic Places. We don't believe that the Utah BLM has nominated an archeological site to the NRHP in over 20 years, despite the fact that there are over 8000 sites located on BLM land that are deemed eligible by professional archeologists.

Working on the RMPs was a depressing process. It is hard to support a process that doesn't believe that areas like Indian Creek, Montezuma Creek, Recapture Wash, Cottonwood Wash, and major portions of the San Juan River are worthy of protection. Over and over I asked myself: "What is the point?" URARA has put in significant effort and I hope the BLM will read and seriously consider our responses. If it doesn't, at least responding gives us status to sue. This is an outcome I hope we don't have to pursue but which may be inevitable. We are trying to be proactive and positive. We have sent one letter to Selma Sierra, State Director, and are preparing a much longer report with recommendations for her. When that is done, we can start thinking about the West Tavaputs EIS, coal shale development, forest service plans...

URARA Financial Report for 2007

Ben Everitt

Income

Gifts, grants and contributions (including auction)	7601	
Membership revenue	3518	
Symposium revenue	7357	
Publication sales	0622	
Interest income	0412	
TOTAL Revenue		19,510

Expenses

Business expense	1475	
Conservation and Preservation Activities	1330	
Capitol expense (library acquisitions)	0535	
Monthly meetings	0226	
Symposium Expense	7599	
Vestiges printing and mailing	1732	
TOTAL Expenses		12,900

Net Gain 6,610

Year-end cash assets (1 Jan 2008) 31,718

Audit Report on URARA Funds

We examined the financial records for the Utah Rock Research Association and found them to be consistent with standards for non-profit associations on a cash basis. We verified the cash positions as of December 31, 2007, and found them to be accurately reported. Deposits have been made regularly and copies retained of checks sent to URARA. We verified the supporting

documentation for all expenses for calendar years 2006 and 2007 and found no inappropriate payments or unsupported transactions.

We recommend that a copy of Quicken 2008 Deluxe Edition be purchased for use by URARA. The current version is Quicken 2002. We also recommend that the Quicken reconciliation feature be used and that regular back ups of Quicken data be made and stored in a secure place.

Jeff Allen

Lois Mansfield

Joe Brame, Jr.

ARARA Symposium

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

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.

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 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

Think About It!

By Steve Robinson



“Among the most mysterious and awe-inspiring rock art anywhere in the world is Barrier Canyon Style, believed to be the work of Archaic hunters and gatherers of the northern Colorado Plateau. These figures are usually painted in red, and they are imposingly large. The style is named for an area in Canyonlands National Park where there are dozens of the images. Recent research indicates these images could have been painted between about 1900 B.C. to A.D. 300, and they may have been precursors to Fremont rock art so common in the same region. The dominant motif is the long, dark form of the human torso, often with no arms or legs, or if they do occur they are disproportionately small. Rarely do they depict any activity at all,

but when they do the images they appear to represent is seed gathering. Barrier Canyon panels have been documented in Range Creek Canyon, and possibly in Nine Mile Canyon and Desolation Canyon, although the evidence there is not as convincing.”

Treasures of the Tavaputs: The Archaeology of Desolation Canyon, Nine Mile Canyon and Range Creek, Jerry D. Spangler and Donna K. Spangler, pp. 5,6. Published with the support of Questar Pipeline and the Utah Division of State History.

Note: The co-author, Jerry D. Spangler is the Executive Director, Colorado Plateau Archaeological Alliance. “CPAA is a group of dedicated archaeologists, historians and scholars who are similarly awestruck at the remarkably well preserved remnants of the thousands of years of human adaption in this harsh desert environment.” (Inside back page.)

Contact Information

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

www.utahrockart.org

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

Board of Directors 2008

Steve Robinson	310-378-0320	slrmar@cox.net
Troy Scotter	801-377-6901	troyscotter@comcast.net
Walter Layton	801-561-5228	walter.layton@granite.k12.ut.us
Ann Fulton	760-873-9261	ann_fulton@hotmail.com
Margaret Grochocki	801-282-5850	margaret_grochocki@yahoo.com
Robert Reed	801-566-0741	bobreedclyartist@hotmail.com
Kathleen Liuzzi	801-673-3426	kliuzzi@dunndunn.com
Albert Copley	928-759-3263	mamacat8_2000@yahoo.com
David Sucec	801-359-6904	davids@networld.com

Vestiges Staff

Editor: Layne Miller, layne@preciscom.net, Price, Utah; copy editing: Robert Reed, bobreedclyartist@hotmail.com, 801-566-0741; proofreading: Nina

Bowen, nina_bowen@comcast.net, Carol Georgopoulos, geocar27@gmail.com, Barbara and Fred Saxon; printing and mailing: Barbara and Fred Saxon, fredbarb100@aol.com 801-262-4432; Postal & E-mail Databases: Margaret Grochocki, margaret_grochocki@yahoo.com, 801-282-5850; website: Tom Getts, getts@mindspring.com, 970-533-1861

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

Mar 28-30	Field Trip to Great Gallery, leader David Sucec, 801-359-6904, davids@networld.com
Apr	Proposed, St, George documentation, Jackson Spring area, Dawna Ferris of BLM
Apr	Proposed, Seven Mile, or Mill Creek, Moab, Craig Barnery
May	Proposed, Ferron area, Layne Miller and Troy Scotter in conjunction with Emery County historical society
May 2-4	CRAA Symposium, La Junta, CO. Contact www.coloradorockart.org

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, Contact www.arara.org
June 5-8	USAS Convention, Price, UT. Contact hack2ney@emerytelcom.net
June	Proposed, Nine Mile Canyon, Steve Manning. Transitional figures in the canyon demonstrating the migration of people
July	Proposed, Brown's Hole, Larry Evans
Aug 16-17	URARA Annual Picnic, Henry Mountains
Sept	Proposed, Fillmore documentation, Joelle McCarthy, BLM
Oct 10-13	URARA Symposium
Nov	Proposed, Bluff, UT, Bob and Sue Ludtke
Dec 5	URARA Holiday Meeting and Potluck
Dec 13-14	Proposed, Arizona, Al Copley
Jan 2009	Proposed, Arizona, Arthur and Marie Cloutier

Membership Information

Our year 2008 begins with a total membership of 324 individuals. Of this number, 94 – slightly less than 1 of 3 live in Utah. By address only, we find: Arizona 15, California 30, Colorado 34, Nevada 7, New Mexico 9, Utah 56 for a sub-total of 151. All others equal 59, making a total of 210 mailing addresses.