

VESTIGES



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Monthly newsletter of URARA, the Utah Rock Art Research Association

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Presidents Message

On April 23, six members of the URARA Board of Directors were able to participate in a very productive telephonic board meeting. Also, Diane Orr, who co-chairs the 2008 Symposium Program, was able to join in the discussions. (The other co-chair and board member, David Sucec, was in the field.) Progress is well underway in arranging for the symposium programs presenters. Also, thanks primarily to Bob Reed the related facilities, amenities, banquet arrangements and other symposium plans are going very well.

Elsewhere in this issue please see Jeff Allen's request for symposium field trip leaders. Jeff has agreed to be the Symposium Field Trip Chairperson. Having a symposium in the Escalante area is a first for URARA. Sites there will be new to many.

The Board discussed and refined the new URARA "Volunteer Fund" which you will find described later in this issue. Members may contribute directly to this fund.

Plans for the URARA remaining proposed monthly field trips were discussed. There have been no applications for the Rock Art Scholarship. It will be given further promotion at the Fall Semester.

Also, I was very pleased to report that the request in April Vestiges for help in editing Symposium papers had a small, but high quality response.

Our meeting ended on a serious and somber note as Troy Scotter discussed the BLM Resource Management Plans. We generally find them to be antithetical to our objectives and in favor of the drilling and mining interests. Communicating our concerns to the BLM is taking time and talent. We are fortunate that Troy Scotter, Diane Orr, David Sucec, Steve Manning and Nina Bowen have stepped forward to represent our position. Their work is being documented in Vestiges. Also, I encourage members to join me in expressing appreciation for their hard work and dedication. It is appropriate to note there are other URARA members who are helping through work with the Nine Mile Coalition, which supports efforts to protect the rock art throughout that area.

In closing, I want to express my appreciation to the Board members and all URARA members who contribute to our programs, activities, and overall goal to individually and collectively research, protect and enjoy our invaluable Utah rock art treasures.

Steve Robinson

2008 URARA President

Nine Mile reprint Article from Vernal Express

By Mary Bernard

Vernal Express

(Editor's note: Reprinted with permission)

A proposed natural gas project on the Tavaputs Plateau could generate millions in royalties and revenues for Utah. But getting the gas out of the ground could cost the state some of its premier archaeological resources.

Conservationists assert that the loose application of federal regulation in the canyon below the plateau will compromise Nine Mile Canyon's ancient rock art gallery.

"We're not trying to stop the drilling," said Steve Tanner of the Nine Mile Canyon Coalition. "We're just trying to get a responsible program."

At least 26 conservation groups have signed a letter addressed to the Bureau of Land Management expressing their dissatisfaction with the agency's programmatic intent and call for extended protection to Nine Mile Canyon's archaeology.

Of primary concern is the on-going exploratory work in the canyon by the Bill Barrett Corporation's West Tavaputs Natural Gas Full Field Development. While there are other operators, BBC has proposed to drill seven times the existing number of wells on 137,930 acres of BLM land.

"Sites have been damaged by the effects of this development already," said Jerry Spangler, of the Colorado Plateau Archaeological Alliance. "At least one historic site has been destroyed completely."

That damage has occurred despite existing federal regulation to protect cultural properties.

Over the years, the BLM partnered with conservation groups to protect Nine Mile Canyon but the working relationship has been sporadic.

"The initial process began in 1971, with the writing of a Nine Mile Canyon Archaeological District Nomination for the National Register of Historic Places," said Spangler. "The agency was supportive at first, but after a while the process stalled."

After momentum lagged for a historic district nomination, conservationists picked up the effort. In 2004, the coalition hired Spangler's firm to re-draft the nomination.

"The district follows the contours of the canyon bottom and side slopes covering over 47,000 acres and more than 800 archaeological sites," said Spangler. "It was completed in February, submitted to the state and now on its way to Washington, D.C."

Spangler explained that the archaeological district status will offer no more protection to Nine Mile Canyon than exists currently. That's because federal law mandates the federal agency to protect cultural properties on lands they manage.

"The law requires that the BLM consider the direct and indirect effect that a projects like the Tavaputs drilling will have on cultural resources," said Spangler. "Designating Nine Mile Canyon an archaeological district will not shut down the drilling nor is it intended to."

"But the nomination will provide a platform to get grants for the protection of fragile resources in the canyon," said Tanner. "We've been after this district nomination for years, but the BLM has dragged its feet."

The nomination includes 50 kilometers of Nine Mile Canyon Creek - from the confluence with the Green River almost to the mouth of Big Sulphur Canyon - and 10 kilometers of Dry Canyon and Cottonwood Canyon. Nominated areas includes 1 kilometer on either side of the canyon bottom.

The Utah State Historic Preservation Officer Wilson Martin recently contacted county officials in Uintah, Duchesne and Carbon counties asking for their comments. Martin has invited the counties directly affected by the expanded drilling to address the Nine Mile Canyon Nomination at the annual meeting of the board on June 19.

Much of the problem concerns the road on the canyon bottom, which is the only transportation artery for gas fields on the plateau. On any given day, the road is choked with heavy field truck traffic raising dust and rattling rock walls.

Measures taken to control dust with magnesium chloride have altered the patina of the rock art panels, which may affect their preservation. The NMCC states that dust, chemical erosion and vandalism threaten the archaeological sites and there is an urgent need for their protection.

In an article published last month in the Utah Rock Art Research Association, Troy Scotter stated that the BLM "has abrogated its responsibilities with respect to protection of cultural resources...in the Nine Mile Canyon."

BBC, although contacted for comment, did not respond. However, several advertisements published by the company in the Vernal Express, Uintah Basin Standard and Sun Advocate say they wish to pursue the letter of the law in protecting cultural resources. That includes their stated support of Alternative E, the preferred alternative of the BLM's Environmental Impact Statement on the BBC drilling proposal.

The EIS preferred alternative evaluates the transportation impacts on the canyon floor and recommends that drilling-related traffic be restricted from certain areas. Other measures recommend that operators reduce redundant traffic, but by and large, the canyon alignment was retained as the primary access.

"In my opinion," writes Scotter, "there are options that allow for both oil and gas development and preservation of cultural resources. Paving the road ... and developing different access routes."

Bill Barrett and several conservation groups contributed to the preservation of one site more than three years ago.

"The road has been moved in front of at least one rock art panel, the Great Hunt Panel," said Spangler. "However, the site is located on state land, SITLA property. They closed off the old access underneath the panel and moved the road meters away to protect the site."

Undoubtedly, re-alignment and road paving could rescue some sites from further damage. Spangler recommends that the BLM, BBC, other operators and conservationists cooperate in developing a cultural information area similar to Pintado Canyon, outside Rangely, Colo.

The Pintado Canyon Archaeological District includes paved roads, pullouts, protective fencing and interpretive signs that offer a self-guided auto tour for rock art enthusiasts. The district was developed with the cooperation of the BLM, private groups and industry representatives.

Spangler suggests the nomination of Nine Mile Canyon as a historic district is the first step in duplicating protections at Pintado Canyon.

"It's a no brainer," said Tanner, speaking of needed historic preservation measures. Yet Tanner fears the clock is already running out. "But by the time the BLM get this thing nominated, there won't be anything left to protect."

Rock Art Artist Featured At CEU Museum

Fine Art of the Shaman-the link between contemporary and prehistoric art. It is with great pleasure that the College of Eastern Utah Prehistoric Museum announces their upcoming art gallery exhibition "Fine Art of the Shaman" featuring Charles M. Huckeba.

Mr. Huckeba is a contemporary painter with a fine arts degree and a graduate of the University of California at Santa Barbara. It was there that he studied under an outstanding faculty of contemporary artists such as Larry Rivers and Irma Cavat. Mr. Huckeba believes that rock art is the first American Abstract art and what brings a petroglyph to life is the stone beneath the patina. His paint application is multi-layered and textural. The image elements are scratched, etched and

scoured under and over the stratas of pigment much as the numerous superimpositions found in petroglyphs. Mr. Huckeba's goal is to build a link between contemporary and prehistoric art. This exhibition will runs through June 2008.



Artist Charles Huckeba's artwork will be featured at the CEU Prehistoric Museum during May and June.

URARA Symposium Oct 10-13, 2008

Call for symposium papers issued

The Symposium Committee announces a call for presentations and papers for Utah Rock Art Research Association 28th Annual Symposium during the Columbus Day weekend, October 10- - 13, 2008, in Escalante, Utah.

Abstracts should be kept at about 150 words but enough so we get an idea of your presentation. Deadline for abstracts is July 15, 2008 and we ask that everyone honor the deadline so we can develop our program for printing, publicity, etc. Proposals arriving after the deadline, without the prior approval of the Symposium Committee, will not be considered.

The Symposium Committee will give preference to presentations that relate to Utah rock art. We encourage research projects dealing with the Escalante area, Grand Staircase/Escalante National Monument and Capital Reef National Park area. Presentations, with the exception of featured speakers, will be a maximum of 30 minutes.

The Symposium Committee is interested in a broad range of presentations, including those which further the study and understanding of rock art, bring historical understanding to rock art studies, heighten the experience of visiting rock art both culturally and aesthetically, and consider rock art preservation issues and current threats.

The committee will review the abstracts for suitability; balance of Symposium points-of-view, and to ensure that the number of papers does not exceed the time available for presentations.

Diane Orr

David Sucec

Symposium Committee chair

*Please send abstracts and inquiries to David Sucec, at email: davids@networld.com and Diane Orr at email: beecherllc@aol.com, or mail to: David Sucec at 832 Sego Avenue, SLC, Utah 84102 (phone 801-359-6904).

*Symposium presenters must use the Power Point medium that will run on a PC laptop (or bring their own). There will be no exceptions. URARA may be able to help accepted presenters in need of converting their presentations to Power Point.

*Symposium presenters will have their symposium registration fee waived, receive a modest honorarium to offset their travel expenses, be a guest of URARA at the banquet, and participate on a special rock art field trip on Friday, October 10.

Symposium Field Trip Leaders Needed

Leaders are needed for the Sunday (half day) and Monday (full day) field trips to be held during the October symposium in Escalante, Utah, October 11-13. Possibilities include the Confluence sites, Pleasant Valley and Capitol Reef sites as well as others in Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument. With nearly 200 participants at the symposium, we will be needing many diverse field trips. If you are interested in being a field trip leader, please contact Jeff Allen at 435-986-0977 or allenjeffrey@beyondbb.com.

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 Campground & RV Park	P.O. Box 550, Hwy. 12 at Red Rock Rd., Cannonville, UT 84726 Phone: 435-679-8988, 1-866-KOA-4710 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 Forest State Park	Located one mile west of Escalante. P. O. Box 350, 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

News Briefs From Around the Rock Art World

Meeting on Nine Mile National Register Designation

On June 19, 2008 there will be a meeting of the Board of State History at 1:00 at the Utah State Capitol in Salt Lake City, Capitol Board Room to review the nomination of Nine Mile Canyon to the National Register of Historic Places. This meeting is open to the public but is not a public hearing. This meeting is the second last step in the process. After this meeting the BLM will decide whether to forward the nomination to the Keeper of National Register of Historic Places.

Las Vegas Paleontology Report from a Nevada Resident, Elaine Holmes

Saving this paleo site in the upper Las Vegas Wash seems to me to be of great importance. Rather than me giving you the info, please take a moment and go to www.tulespringslv.com. The website is beautifully done and is very informative. The best thing about it is that you can sign the petition right there--yes--even if you don't live in Nevada! Since this concerns federal lands anyone can sign from anywhere in the nation. Please take a moment and read about this wonderful discovery and the efforts to preserve it. Thanks, Elaine Holmes

Think About It!



By Steve Robinson

The forty millennia of prehistoric art saw human groups, some of them very small, leave an impressive legacy – estimated at five hundred million items in all – of images and signs, messages engraved, pecked or painted on rocks, cave walls, cliff faces, chaotic scree, the slopes of sacred mountains, stone and bone plaquettes, standing stones and objects modeled in clay. This is what remains of the distant times of our ancestors, who also doubtless left us traces made in sand, wooden sculpture, esparto and bark objects, feathered ornamentation, songs, rhythms, and dances that gradually fragmented and finally vanished from human memory.

Yet the visible survivals remain impressive: as Picasso acknowledged, our anonymous ancestors brought a more than modern skillfulness to their work, creating not illustrated plates of animal anatomy, but entire imaginary worlds as they adorned sanctuaries where the dramas of human and animal life were played out. The magic of the image functioned in circumstances that are still unclear; but the long tradition of prehistoric art stands as an effective expression of the needs of early societies throughout the world.

The list of theories about prehistoric art is a long one, embracing art for art's sake, hunting magic, willful injury, totemism, sites and sanctuaries founded on sexual dualism or image hierarchies, and the straightforward illustrations of major or trivial events with a historic meaning. Yet no single theory can account for the nature and sheer variety of the art forms concerned.

However, prehistoric images and signs seem to be the product of a liberated creative imagination striving to portray supernatural worlds linked to oral traditions and non-verbal behaviors recalling the group's mythic and ritual origin. It is as if the appearance of a line or a patch of color and its miraculous self-transformation into a recognizable outline or sculpture were a kind of birth; as if this new presence could not remain inert when faced with human curiosity or some specific technical exigency on the part of its creator-provocateur.

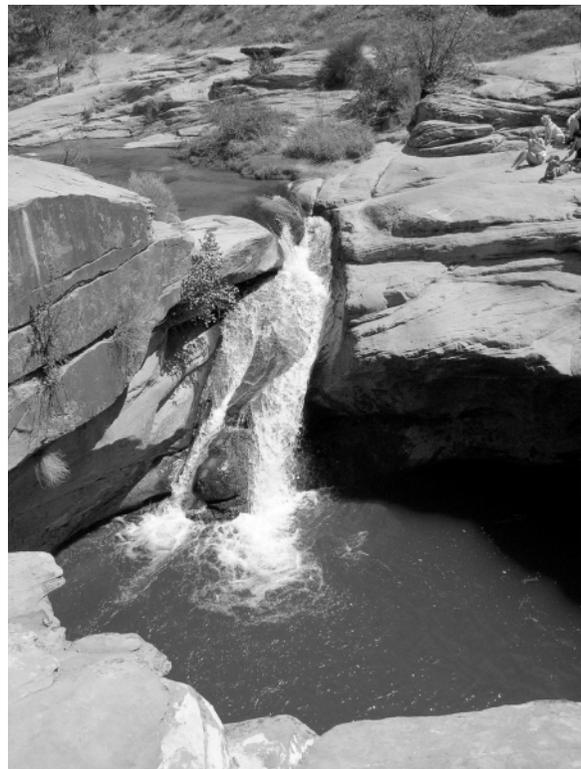
The distinctive character of the arts of prehistory lies not only in their subject matter, but also in the cosmic force that imbues them. This is the result of a determined quest for the invisible and the supernatural of whose existence prehistoric peoples had such a potent intuition. The created image is the vehicle for an exploration charged with danger but vital to the life of the group: this is the great lesson passed on, albeit with a certain discretion, from those peoples to the societies of today. Dream beings are possessed of a mythic dimension and a sense of life that must be preserved as part of humanity's cultural heritage. Those early human beings shared with the animal kingdom the breath of life, a force more given to silence than to empty chatter, but supernatural in its scope. Animals and their secrets were closely observed, the better to reveal men and women not only in

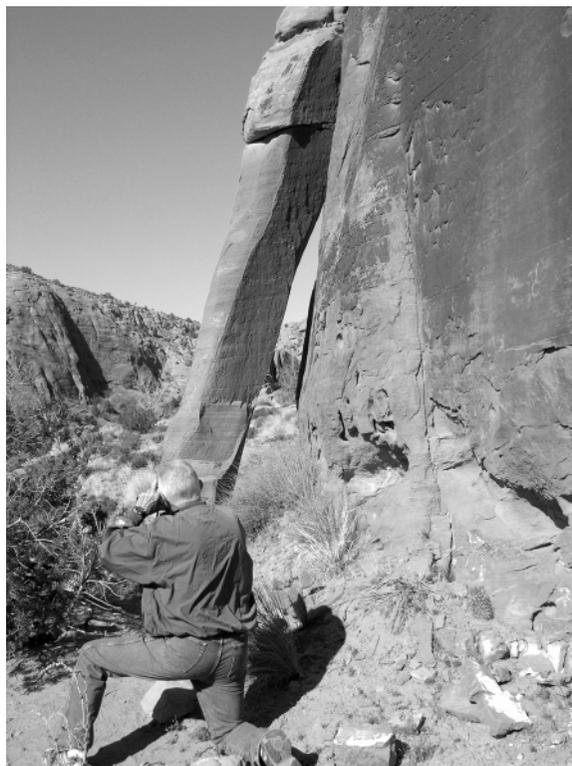
their vital, sexual dimension, but also in terms of their imaginary capacity, their exploration of area of the unknown approached with a certain rationality via conscious, concretely expressed dreaming. This phase brought the worldwide revolution of recent prehistory and with it the birth of modern humanity.

Prehistoric Art; The Mythical Birth of Humanity, Jean-Pierre Mohen, Finest S.A. Editions, Pierre Terrail, Paris, 2002, pp. 200-201.

Moab Field Trip Draws Six Members

The URARA field trip to Moab last month drew six members. URARA's ever-young Craig Barney led the group to sites east of Moab in Millcreek Canyon on Saturday and near Dead Horse Point on Sunday. Here are a few photos taken during the trip.





Field Trips

Antelope Island Rock Art Survey May 9 - 10

Contact: Steve Manning sjmanning@yahoo.com 801-935-4630

You are invited to participate in the second rock art survey on Antelope Island State Park, which for those of you out of State is a large island (28,022 acres) in the Great Salt Lake.

We will be surveying in an area closed to the public on the southwest side of the island. On Saturday, we will also visit nearby Headbanger Cave that was excavated by archaeologists. This area has a good potential for rock art. I need to stress that this is not a field trip to see rock art. It is a survey to find rock art. No rock art has yet been found on the island.

We will be camping at the Fielding Garr Ranch near the southeastern end of the island. We will tour the ranch complex Friday evening where we will have a barbeque. The ranch house is the longest continually lived-in building in Utah and the oldest building built by the Mormon pioneers that stands on its original location. It was constructed in 1848 by Garr who moved out to Antelope Island at the request of Brigham Young to manage the herds of the LDS Church.

Be prepared to walk most of the day over rough uneven terrain – unless we find rock art, then we will be recording it. We will be walking slowly! Bring warm clothing. Temperatures this time of year in northern Utah are unpredictable. If it rains or snows the roads become impassable, so if it is bad weather we have a contingency of postponing it to the next weekend. Please contact Steve if you are planning on participating so you can be notified if the date is changed or for any additional information.

To get to the island, take Syracuse exit 335 off I-15 and proceed west for seven miles to the causeway across the lake. We will meet at the entrance station at 9:00 Friday morning. From there we will follow the signs south to the ranch house, which is 11 miles along the east side of the island.

CAMPING: Please bring all of your own food and whatever you need to prepare it. Don't forget something for the barbecue. Water and restrooms are available at the ranch. In addition, you will need lunches each day since we will be several miles from the Ranch.

We will need high-clearance four-wheel-drive vehicles to reach the survey area. If you have a four-wheel-drive vehicle, please bring it. If you do not, please come anyway. We can carpool to the location where we will be surveying, and if necessary, we can shuttle people. After all, it is an island.

Northwest St. George May 17th and 18th

Contact: John Macumber jpmac@questoffice.net 435-674-2704

John Macumber has volunteered to lead a survey and recording field trip to the Jackson Red Sands area northwest of St. George. This trip is planned in conjunction with the St. George BLM. Knowing John, he will have planned several divergent paths to show us additional highlights as we "go to" and "come from" our assigned area. This adventure will permit participants to be trained in completing important paperwork needed in documenting designated cultural sites. This will be a two day adventure, May 17th (Saturday) and 18th (Sunday). We will meet at 8:00 AM Saturday morning in the parking lot of Lins Super Market located on the NW corner of Sunset and Dixie Downs Drive in St. George.

San Rafael Swell May 17th and 18th

Contact: Troy Scotter troyscotter@comcast.net 801-377-6901

Troy Scotter will be leading a field trip into rock art sites in the San Rafael Swell May 17-18. In a unique twist on traditional field trips, the Saturday portion will include members of the Emery County Historical Society and will feature a potluck dinner and presentation on Friday night.

The Friday potluck dinner will take place in Castle Dale Friday night at 6:30 p.m. at a location yet to be determined. The field trip will leave from the Museum of the San Rafael Swell at 9 a.m. on Saturday morning. The Emery County residents have chosen some of their favorite sites to visit on Saturday. These include Rochester Creek, Head of Sinbad, Fox-In-The-Box, and Black Dragon. The URARA portion of the trip, on Sunday, will visit other nearby rock art sites suggested by participants.

Roads in the area can be rough and it is suggested that you bring a high clearance vehicle. There is limited accommodation in Castle Dale or there is a broad range of hotels in Price, approximately 30 minutes away. I will be truck camping, you are welcome to join me. Let's get together at the Museum on Friday night.

URARA Volunteer Fund

The URARA board has decided to make funds available to reimburse volunteer expenses related to our projects. Examples of eligible activities include site documentation, field trip leadership, and site preservation. Members participating in these activities will be eligible for mileage and per diem reimbursements. There will be a cap on the amount of the reimbursement for each project. We are working on a form to be used for the reimbursement request. It will be available on the website soon.

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.

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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

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

Jan. 2009- Proposed, Arizona, Arthur and Marie Cloutier