

VESTIGES



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Table of Contents

President's Message.....	1 -	Think About It!	8 -
Annual December Meeting – Potluck	2 -	New Publication of <i>Utah Rock Art</i>	9 -
2008 Symposium Notes.....	2 -	URARA Board of Directors 2009	9 -
Symposium Field Trip.....	4 -	Contact Information - 2008	9 -
Membership Meeting- During Symposium 2008 .-	5 -	Calendar 2008.....	10 -
Field Trip Report.....	6 -		

President's Message

First, many thanks for all who contributed to the success of our 2008 Escalante symposium. Initially, when a site was being selected, there was concern regarding the relative remoteness of that location. In addition, remember the over \$4 a gallon gas prices? Would we get a good turn out?

With almost 200 attending the positive “proof was in the pudding!” The facilities at the high school were excellent, especially for the presentations. We can thank Bob Reed for all the extra effort to find and secure the facility and arrange for the banquet.

The symposium started Friday evening with an artistic, masterfully designed and presented watermelon extravaganza, and ended with various field trips on Sunday afternoon and all day Monday. These well-done field trips to rock art sites are difficult to orchestrate.

For all who were able to attend I want to express, again, our mutual appreciation for the 2008 symposium-Escalante! Great job!

Elsewhere in this issue, you will find a report on the actions during the URARA membership meeting held in conjunction with the symposium.

I want to thank all those leaving the board at the end of the year. Margaret Grochocki, Troy Scotter and Ann Fulton have generously contributed their considerable talents for many combined years. In addition, I have great appreciation for those who continue to serve. Now a warm welcome to new board members, Jeff Allen, Jon Gum and Nina Bowen.

The board is here to address the interests, needs, objectives, and goals of our organization. Speaking for myself, as well as the current board members, I assure you we are always pleased to hear from you. You will find our names and contact information in the last pages of this issue.

The new board is provisionally scheduled for its first meeting—a weekend retreat in Cedar City—on January 24 and 25, 2009. A confirmation as to date and place will be communicated to all our membership before the end of the year. All members are welcome to attend. If anyone has suggestions or issues you would like to address please let me know.

This is a time of change for URARA. It hardly needs saying that change can be for the best—and that is clearly and correctly our expectation. We need to do more in the area of conservation and preservation. We may need to take a more proactive role in the protection of our treasured, enigmatic, beautiful, artistic, mysterious, complicated, complex, simple, touching, colorful, dramatic, and compelling cultural compositions. All that, while loving and appreciating these creative expressions of those who walked this land, ate its food, and cherished these hills hundreds, and at times thousands of years before us.

Happy Trails!
Steve Robinson
2008 URARA President

Annual December Meeting - Potluck

Contact persons: Barbara Saxon, 801-262-4432 and Barbara Green, 801-466-7702

The December Meeting and Potluck will be December 5, 2008, at 6:00 pm. The location is the same as last year--the First Unitarian Church, 569 South 1300 East, Salt Lake City, UT. It will be hosted by the Barbara's, i.e., Green and Saxon, who will do their traditionally good job of organizing the potluck dinner. They will be calling members and coordinating the food selections for the potluck.

A honey-glazed ham will be provided by URARA.

Barbara Green will present a video of her wanderings this year from Corn Springs, California to Three Rivers, New Mexico. Come and enjoy this special get-together; the meeting is open to all. Anyone is welcome to contribute to the program with rock art perspectives and presentations. Just be sure to coordinate with Barbara Green.

2008 Symposium Notes

By Ann Fulton

We always come home from our symposia with heads spinning with information, images, and impressions we need to mull over. It takes some reflection to best appreciate the new ideas and assimilate the full import of such rich input. A huge WOW for Escalante! So much in such a short amount of time...

It's more than rock art. Dr. Ron Ross did some research on "Moqui Marble" sites and took some of us to the Spencer Flats and Crosby Crater areas on Friday morning for some prime viewing of this geologic phenomenon. Ron has been involved with the NASA Mars landing projects and knows about the similarities between our Moqui Marbles and the Martian "Blueberries" (see utah.edu/unews/releases/04/jun/marsmarbles). I had been to this area my very first backcountry Utah trip with long-time URARA members Chuck and Margot Kopenec (they were instrumental in my joining URARA some time ago) and was happy to go again.

Moqui Marbles, Photo from Ann Fulton



Right after we'd parked, we were joined by a geology professor and a group of students from the University of Nebraska, off to see an adjoining section firsthand. The prof's theories were in accordance with those resulting from the extensive work conducted by Dr. Marjorie Chan, chair of geology and geophysics at the University of Utah.

Moqui marbles, if not rock art per se, have significant archaeological value. Reportedly, to the Hopi "Moqui" means "dearly departed one." Legend has it that departed ancestors played games with these marbles in the evening when spirits were

allowed to visit the earth. When day would break, they would return to the heavens and leave the marbles behind as symbols of their well-being.

Melon balls and 5 stars. Nancy MacLean, chef extraordinaire, and Ron Ross, engineering guru, created a beautiful artistic tableau for our Friday night melon social. John and I just wielded the cutlery to get out the copious amounts of melon slices our attendees consume. Part of our crew was

delayed...Joanne Parsons and Paul Befell had hit high winds and had to slow down en route with their camper and towed Jeep. They assisted with the all-important clean up.

The program. A big part of the "WOW" is for this part of our weekend. What an incredible amount of work goes into preparation by our speakers! We had a stellar program, did we not?..each and every presentation was of abiding interest. Without denigrating the contributions of any of you men (you all are stalwarts with most worthy material and scholarship and we thank you mightily), I want to compliment the women. I notice there are always fewer of us on the agenda for some reason. Your studies and in-depth analyses have a ready audience with us. I hope we can make the time to personally thank each of you, too, for your part in making the symposium special, Lynda McNeil, Pam Baker, Anne Carter and Elaine Holmes.

We love your papers. To all of you presenters, we hope you will get your papers to our editors in a timely fashion for consideration for our next volume of *Utah Rock Art*. This means you too, David and Art (that's David Sucec and Art and Marie Cloutier)...we need your respective input on Barrier Canyon style and archaeoastronomy sites.

"New" faces. I was delighted to finally meet Mike Bies. Haven't we all heard his good name forever in connection with the Worland, Wyoming, BLM field office and the preservation of rock art? We had an especial interest in making his acquaintance as our oldest lived in Worland for five years, and one of our young women from the Bishop, California area interned last year at Legend Rock.

Leigh Grench, new Moab BLM Field Office Archaeologist, was top bidder for the lovely library of 15 volumes of *Utah Rock Art* donated to URARA by Anne and George Stoll.

The venue. That auditorium was tops--the first time ever, I believe, that every seat in the house was A-okay. And, miracles of miracles, I heard more than one accolade on the excellence of the Saturday night banquet. Quality of the victuals is always of paramount consideration for many.

As we know, Escalante is a hub, not only for rock art, but also for spectacular scenery, historic and prehistoric cultural sites, and contemporary art and entrepreneurial enterprise. How about the 96, that's NINETY-SIX, heritage structures in Escalante itself; the marvelous interagency visitor center; the unique Kiva Koffeehouse on the heights east of town; Anasazi State Park Museum in Boulder; and on and on. We have a long list of things to go back for whenever we can schedule another trip

The field trips. We've often heard that the field trips are the overriding reason most people have for coming to the symposiums. I think most of us experience a personal thrill of discovery even though the sites we visit may have been poured over by experts on many occasions prior to our coming--see more about this in a separate field trip report for "Hogsback to Deer Creek Canyon" in this *Vestiges* issue.

From a lame duck. It is with deep regret that I felt I should not run for the permitted second two-year term on the board. We are making up for lost time in traveling, our own country and abroad. In our working years, John and I both had jobs that precluded more than a week off at any one time. We know we are going to be away from home for extended periods this next two years, traveling and spending time with our extended family. I could not, in good conscience, fill a seat on the board with other than my most focused participation. I very much appreciate the opportunity I've had to work with such a remarkable and talented group of people. I love you all.

Symposium Field Trip

Hogsback to Deer Canyon

By Ann Fulton

Quent and Pam Baker took on leading this Sunday afternoon field trip, though they had not been there before. The scheduled leader was unable to make it due to a debilitating injury [broken ankle] earlier in the week. Our destination highlight was the pictographs at Deer Canyon Site #1, referenced briefly in Castleton's *Petroglyphs and Pictographs of Utah*, according to Pam. This is a very scenic over-hill, over-dale sort of hike, 4-5 miles round trip, through juniper, powdery red rock sand, and expanses of slickrock with lofty vistas of the Escalante drainage and the Henry Mountains.

We tried to be mindful of the cryptobiotic soil crusts on our cross-country trek after leaving the fading remnants of an old mining road. There was a large tenaja in the depths of the canyon, which accounted for the myriad animal tracks we spotted in the sandy stretches. The route finally culminates with a scramble to a pretty alcove part way up a broad cliff face.

This rock art site consists of several disparate panels of handprints, some positive, some negative, and some with internal lines. Several different colors of pigments were used. Additionally, there are two reddish stick figures, anthropomorphs with three fingers on each hand, on the right side of the wall below the overhang. The most interesting aspect of this site was a black drawing on an inner wall of a snug shelter cave beyond the eastern verge of the wide alcove. Paul Bedell had scooted sideways into this little cave, spotted the drawing on a section of rock not covered with soot, and called it to our attention. A new discovery? Castleton does not mention this feature. Paul says finding this made the 600-mile drive to Escalante worth the whole trip.

On the way back to our vehicles, we examined more closely that stretch of old road on the hogsback. It was most likely engineered to facilitate hauling ore to a processing facility elsewhere—we guessed it might have been uranium-bearing ore. In addition, a prominent feature of the disused road is an overpass-like construction with a framed cutout whereby an ore cart on top could dump a load into a truck pulled beneath.

[Note: The editors asked Ann to define the word tenaja used above. Her reply follows.

Here's the info on "tenaja":

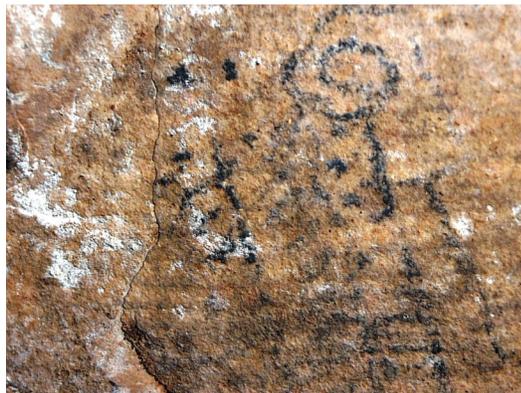
Tenaja from Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

A **tenaja** is a water basin or [retention](#) area. Usually implies a "natural" or "geologic" cistern in rock, which retains water. Often created by erosion processes within intermittent streams, they were a valuable source of water for early Native Americans traveling in the desert areas of the Southwest.

Ann]



Photos, Ann Fulton. Overview of Deer Canyon.



Pictograph found by Paul Bedell.



Group photo at Hogsback. Photo from Ann Fulton.

Kneeling: Quent Baker, Ann Fulton, 2nd row: David Delthony, LoAnne Barnes, Brigitte Delthony, Pam Baker, Joanne Parsons, Carol Garner-Geller. Back row: Dale Barnes, Larry Spanne, Paul Bedell, Marty Geller

Membership Meeting- During Symposium 2008

October 11, 2008, 4:30 pm, Escalante High School Gymnasium

Conducted by Steve Robinson, URARA 2008 president. The meeting was open and there were 31 members present.

- URARA Board of Directors—Nomination and Election of board members for 2009.
 - Troy Scotter and Margaret Grochocki have served for two consecutive two-year terms and are term limited by URARA by-laws. Consequently, they will leave the board at the end of the calendar year. They were given a warm vote of thanks.
 - Walter Layton and Ann Fulton have served for two years and were eligible to serve another term. Ann will be doing extensive traveling this year and so turned down the opportunity to be re-nominated. She was thanked for her service. Walt Layton agreed to to serve again, and Jon Gum and Jeff Allen agreed to be nominated. They were elected unanimously.
 - Nina Bowen, who has served on the board previously, including one year as president, was nominated in her absence. She was unanimously approved and has accepted.
- Symposium 2008
Unanimous appreciation of the membership was extended to all who had responsibilities in planning, producing and implementing an EXCELLENT 2008 symposium.
- Concerns of the Members
 - David Sucec noted that it could be preferable to have a single symposium coordinator in the future.

- At the suggestion of Robert Mark the field trip coordination and sign-up process was discussed. Steve Robinson noted the importance of the subject and agreed that the matter would be considered by the board prior to the 2009 symposium.
- Diane Orr suggested the board consider quarterly Vestiges with a 1-3 page communication or bulletin concerning conservation and preservation in the interim months. A lively discussion ensued. There was a motion from David Sucec and a second from Inge Nagle to implement the quarterly schedule of Vestiges and interim bulletins. The validity of a decision in this matter with so few members present, even though the meeting had been well publicized, was questioned. Quent Baker suggested that the membership be surveyed.
The vote was called and the motion carried
- Al Copley raised the issue of our new edition of *Utah Rock Art*, and how it is to be distributed. He suggested the cost of symposium be raised to cover the publication and that everyone receive a copy, as is the ARARA practice. This will be discussed later.



Membership meeting. Photo M. Robinson

Field Trip Report

Equinox Weekend – Bluff Area- September 20,21, 2008

Report by Trip Leaders, Bob and Sue Ludtke

The announcement of an equinox weekend field trip in the Bluff, Utah area attracted the interest of 36 URARA members. Of those interested, 28 participated in one or more days of the trip. Many of the participants were on their first URARA field trip. Others had long-time connections to URARA. In spite of our large numbers, the group was uniformly cooperative and appreciative of the interesting sites we visited together. The BLM field office in Monticello kindly issued us a permit to visit BLM sites with a party not to exceed 25 people, a limit that we met on two of our 4 days.

On Friday, we explored the Gold Hill/Ledge site along the San Juan River just south of the airport. Several participants had visited this site before, but none had viewed all of the extensive panels extending down the ridge toward the Butler Wash confluence, so it was a wonderful morning of discovery for everyone. In the afternoon, we tried to hike upstream in lower Butler Wash from the bottom of the old wagon road west of the airport. We were able to visit some sites just below the road, but overgrown vegetation, swarms of mosquitoes and high temperatures prevented us from reaching our main goal up the canyon. This site is better visited in April or May, before the vegetation and bugs block access. The participants who were not worn out by our aborted hike up the wash then followed Walter Layton to the "Yei site" just outside Bluff. There we were thrilled to find two extensive panels of old petroglyphs, with more recent graceful horse figures superimposed on them, in addition to the awesome Yei figure.

Saturday we had arranged to visit the Lance solar site outside of Blanding. Two local Blanding residents who had studied the solar interactions at the site for 5 years accompanied us. Dale Slade and Don Smith spent the morning showing us the several solstice, equinox and cross quarter indicators they had researched there. Blanding mayor Toni Turk and several members of his family

were also there to observe the 11:24 a.m. occurrence of a shaft of light across one of the many concentric circles at the site. In the afternoon, Dale Slade guided us to another site of interest to the LDS Church. They have found many meaningful connections between the symbols in the panel and the Book of Mormon. Regardless of his or her interpretation, everyone agreed it was a worthwhile visit.

On Sunday, Don Smith had agreed to take our group to another solar site they have studied. Although most of the solar interactions at this site are speculative, the setting of the site on a point overlooking Montezuma Canyon and the petroglyphs placed strategically on walls or in little nooks were very thought provoking. Don believes fallen rock structures at the site once created the shadows on the concentric circles and one unusual concentric diamond at the site. Several participants headed home after our morning visit. The remaining participants followed Ed Delay back to Bluff, where we visited the vast "Sand Dune" site just west of town and saw the "ladder" glyph among hundreds of others.

Monday we visited Cedar Point with a much smaller group. We spread out and located most of the many panels on the huge boulders below the cliff. It was a pleasant morning and a good way to end an intense weekend of rock art viewing.

Participants on the trip included: Carina and Alan Ravelly, John Beuttler and Sharon Wheat, Ed Delay, Joe Brame, Walter and Ann Layton, Larry and Georgia Scarbrough, Claudia Berner, Dell Crandall, Barbara Green, Jeff Allen, Rod and Eileen Frazier, Glenn Omundson, Anita and Ron Lahue, Jon and Sue Gum, Bob Young, Bob Beckwith, Gus and Sandra Scott, Bob and Sue Ludtke, and Bob's cousin Gene Kraklow.



*Participants of the Equinox weekend field trip led by Bob and Sue Ludtke
Joe Brame, Sue Ludtke, Ed Delay, Jon Gum, Sue Gum, JeffAllen, Anita Lahue, Ron Lahue.
Kneeling, Barbara Green, Bob Ludtke. Lahue photos.*



Think About It!



“As I wandered through natural rock rubble beneath the granary – boulders shattered wide open where they had fallen – I noticed an ivory curve in the ground. I flicked it out with my fingers, startled to see it was a seashell. A little olivella as delicately scrolled as a shaving of white chocolate, it had come from the sea seven hundred miles away. In all these years, I had never encountered a single shell artifact in Utah, and now I could not suppress an astounded smile, the rush of promise quickening my blood. In my imagination lines of trade routes suddenly fired across the continent, long threads winding through deserts, over austere, cracked mesas to arrive here. It completed a triad for me: feathers from Mesoamerica, bighorns from the canyons, and a shell all the way from the sea.

I rolled the shell into my palm, thinking it had come from a necklace, someone’s prized possession carried through who knows how many years and villages and hands to end up in Canyonlands. Its string had snapped one day, a tinkling of a hundred small shells on the ground. The owner had crouched to pick each one up like grain of rice, recovering all except this one, which had rolled under the nearby couch of a boulder, impossible to find until it washed out eight hundred years later.

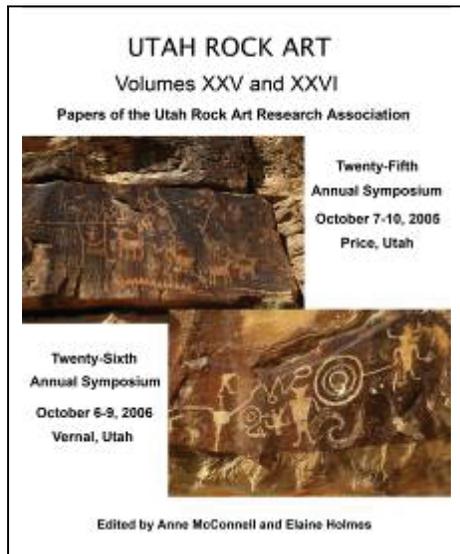
Looking for this? I asked silently, holding the prize between the tips of two fingers.”

House of Rain: Tracking a Vanished Civilization Across the American Southwest, Craig Childs, Little, Brown and Company, 2006, page 189.

[Note: Childs was the keynote speaker at URARA symposium 2008 in Escalante, Utah this past October. He quoted frequently from this highly regarded book during a very interesting presentation. This is the fourth time that his writings have appeared in Think About It!

He, his wife and two young children had camped nearby the night before he spoke to us, and were to return to camp that night. The family spent part of the day with us and were URARA guests for our banquet. My wife, Marion and I, had the pleasure of entertaining their two extraordinarily bright young sons, while the parents had a chance to relax while eating dinner with URARA members.]

New Publication of *Utah Rock Art*



Utah Rock Art, Volumes XXV and XXVI is now published and available for sale for \$20. Contact Craig Bowen.

These are the papers from the years 2005 and 2006. It was edited by Ann McConnell and Elaine Holmes with cover pictures by Anne Carter. We owe them a vote of thanks. We can thank Troy Scotter for getting the printing and binding accomplished.

The symposium papers from the years 2007 and 2008 will be published this coming year.

URARA Board of Directors 2009

Steve Robinson, 2006-2007; 2008-2009

Robert Reed, 2008-2009

Kathe Liuzzi, 2008-2009 (Resigned 10/23/08)

Albert Copley, 2008-2009

David Sucec, 2008-2009

Walter Layton, 2007-2008; 2009-2010

Jeff Allen, 2009-2010

Jon Gum, 2009-2010

Nina Bowen, 2009-2010

[Note: Ten days following the above meeting, when the new board was elected it was confirmed that Kathe Liuzzi has found it necessary to resign as Board Secretary due to a very demanding schedule as an attorney. Her resignation was accepted with regret.]

Contact Information - 2008

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

Board of Directors 2008

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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.

*Resigned 10/24/2008 due to professional responsibilities.

Calendar 2008

Nov 14,15,16 Site steward/rock art recording training. Contact Pam and Quentin Baker, pnqbaker@citlink.net

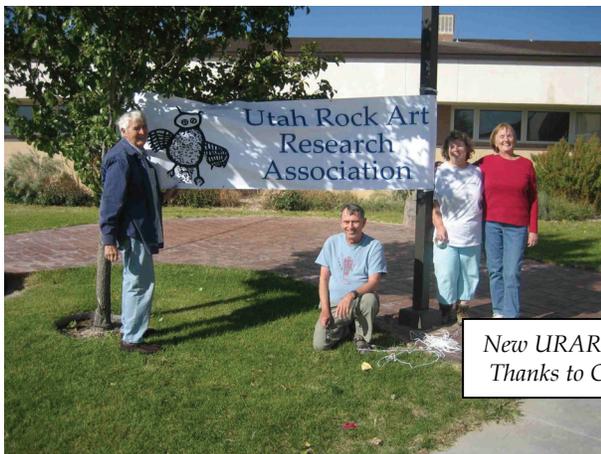
Dec 5 Annual URARA December Meeting and Potluck. 6:00 pm First Unitarian Church, 569 South 1300 East, Salt Lake City, UT. , Contact Barbara Green, 801-466-7702 and Barbara Saxon, 801-262-4432 for assignments.

Jan 2009 Proposed Field Trip, Arizona, Arthur and Marie Cloutier

Jan 24-25 URARA Annual Board Retreat - dates tentative. Location to be announced.



Steve & Marion Robinson,
Elaine Holmes, Anne McConnell,
Anne Carter, Barbara Saxon,
Carol Reed, Fred Saxon, Eileen Bond
Photos, M. Robinson



New URARA Sign,
Thanks to Cindi Everitt

Steve Robinson, Bob Reed, Margaret Grochocki, Carol Reed



Preparing for the presenters' field trip