



Newsletter of URARA, the Utah Rock Art Research Association

President's Message

Greetings,

I hope the New Year is off to a promising start for all--perhaps in contrast to what we see on the national economic scene. I do extend my best wishes for a successful 2009.

This is the second issue of *Vestiges Brief*. As some will recall, this approach was approved at the board and general membership meeting at the Escalante symposium last October. We currently plan to utilize the traditional *Vestiges* format of a dozen or so pages in the March, June, September and December issues. These format changes will be evaluated at the board and general membership meeting at the symposium in October. In the meantime, comments, suggestions and recommendations are always welcome.

As noted below, the URARA board of directors met in Cedar City for an all day meeting and evening dinner session on Saturday, January 24. There were seven members present, including our secretary, Cindi Everitt. On behalf of all our membership, I wish to thank everyone who attended. It was a very productive day.

Happy Trails,

Steve Robinson

2009 URARA President

URARA Board Meeting

The URARA board of directors met for an all-day meeting in Cedar City, Utah on Saturday, January 24, 2009. Those present were Jeff Allen, Jon Gum, Walt Layton, Robert Reed, Steve Robinson, and David Sucec. Marian Robinson, Cindy Everitt, and Al Matheson were also in attendance. The draft minutes of the meeting will be available upon request to the secretary, Cindi Everitt, rockdoc@xmission.com for anyone who may be interested. There were several subjects on the agenda. They ranged from the 2009 symposium, student grants, the summer picnic, monthly field trips, *Vestiges*, a URARA message board/blog, volunteerism, our website, our organizational structure, i.e. conservation and preservation committees, etc., and then our financial status and dues. There will be more information on these subjects throughout the year. However, please see the note on dues in this issue.

The main topic of discussion was the 2009 symposium. It was unanimously voted by those present to hold the 2009 symposium in Cedar City, Utah. Board members Bob Reed and David Sucec, along with Al Matheson, who lives in Cedar City, will have the major responsibilities for symposium planning, organizing and presentation. The next issue of *Vestiges* will have more about the symposium, including information on the excellent facility in which the presentations will be given and where the banquet will be held. Other details will be published as appropriate.

URARA DUES

The board has determined that effective October 31, 2009, which is the universal membership renewal date, dues will be increased.

Membership Status

Year 2009

Year 2010

Student	\$12	\$15
Single	\$17	\$25
Family	\$20	\$30

(Note: Add \$5 for postal *Vestiges*)

News From the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance, SUWA

****Note the Following Article***

On Saturday, January 18, judge Urbina of the U.S. District Court ruled in favor of SUWA and other conservation groups to temporarily block the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) from leasing more than 110,000 acres of Utah wilderness. (Although we were not part of the suit, we appreciate their efforts.)

SUWA Update

Today, [email dated 4 February 2009] Interior Secretary Salazar canceled the sale of 77 oil and gas leases on wilderness-quality lands, which were offered for sale in December 2008 by the Bush administration. SUWA and our environmental partners filed suit to stop the leasing, and in January a federal judge granted a temporary restraining order that prevented the Bureau of Land Management from finalizing the sale. Secretary Salazar's decision is a tremendous step forward, ensuring that spectacular public landscapes like Desolation Canyon, areas near Arches and Canyonlands National Park, Dinosaur National Monument and Nine Mile Canyon will be given a reprieve from the chopping block.

BLM Requests URARA's Help!

From Troy Scotter, URARA's representative to governmental agencies

The BLM by certified mail has asked URARA to act in a consulting capacity with regards to dust effects from the West Tavaputs EIS. I have contacted Don Stevens at the Price office to indicate our willingness to participate. He is expecting the first meeting in the next couple of weeks to discuss the issue. [This email message was dated January 10, 2009.]

Southeastern Utah, Bluff

Comb Ridge Heritage Initiative Project, University of Colorado and BLM

From ARARA online February 2009

"The Comb Ridge Heritage Initiative Project, conducted by the BLM and University of Colorado, is looking for volunteers willing to spend one or more days sketching rock art panels in the San Juan River - Comb Ridge area, between now and May 31, 2009. As part of our ongoing Comb Ridge survey for the University of Colorado and BLM, my crew and I are trying to line up volunteers to help with this daunting task.

Recording materials and tools will be provided, and some help with gas and limited subsistence support is negotiable. We have a number of interested people, but none have yet committed to a specific date or laid claim to a specific site. Contact Winston Hurst, 435-678-3305, winstonhurst@frontiernet.net

The Owl

By Steve Robinson

The owl at the top of *Vestiges'* title page, used as URARA's logo on our business cards and other URARA literature comes from a well-known and readily accessible site in Nine Mile Canyon. It has been used this way from the early days of URARA. For the first time, to our knowledge, a question

has been raised regarding the appropriateness of our use of this petroglyph in the manner just described. Though it was not a subject on the agenda at the board meeting it was suggested at that time that we consider discontinuing the use of the owl in favor of something more "appropriate". Membership input would be appreciated. For those who suggest it be changed it would be nice to have your suggestion for a new image.

The board looks forward to your input. Members are invited to contact a board member or email slmar@cox.net.

URARAContacts

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Library, Archives, and Publications

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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.

Calendar 2009

Mar Proposed Field Trip, Arizona, Arthur and Marie Cloutier, cloutier@canyoncountry.net, 928-645-9395

Oct 9-12 Utah Rock Art Research Association's 26th Annual Symposium, Cedar City, Utah.